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Move clocks ahead one hour for March 8

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC



JERRY KESSENS

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades signs the "Book of the Elect" during the Enrollment of Names at the Fort Wayne rite on March 1 at the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception. After participating in the Rite of Election, the catechumens are referred to as the "elect," because they will have been officially declared ready to receive the Easter sacraments this year.

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — The Rite of Election of Catechumens and the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates have been celebrated in the cathedrals of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, taking place in St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, on Feb. 15, and in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne on March 1.

Catechumens are those unbaptized individuals who will be entering the Catholic Church by receiving all the sacraments of initiation — Baptism, Confirmation and the Holy Eucharist — at the Easter Vigil on the night of April 4.

Candidates are those who are already baptized and are now preparing to complete their initiation or enter into full communion with the Catholic Church.

The catechumens and candidates come from parishes throughout the diocese. During the liturgy, each catechumen and candidate, as well as his or her godparent or sponsor, was presented for recognition to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

Altogether, several hundred catechumens and candidates — along with their godparents, sponsors, families and guests — attended the liturgies.

The catechumens inscribed their names within the "Book of the Elect," which was presented for Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades to sign in an event called the Enrollment of Names. After participating in the Rite of Election, the catechumens will be referred to as the "elect," because they will have been officially declared ready to receive the Easter sacraments this year.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades spoke of the wonder and gratitude he felt: "The wonder at the working's of God's grace that has led so many to the Catholic Church; gratitude for the gift of faith that you have received and opened yourselves to. I also feel joy — joy that you are becoming part of the family that is God's Church, that you will soon be joining all of us, your brothers and sisters, at the Eucharistic table of the Lord."

Speaking of the second reading from St. Peter: "Come to the Lord, a living stone, ...

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Rest in peace, Father Ted

Higher education leader, diplomat, touched lives of many

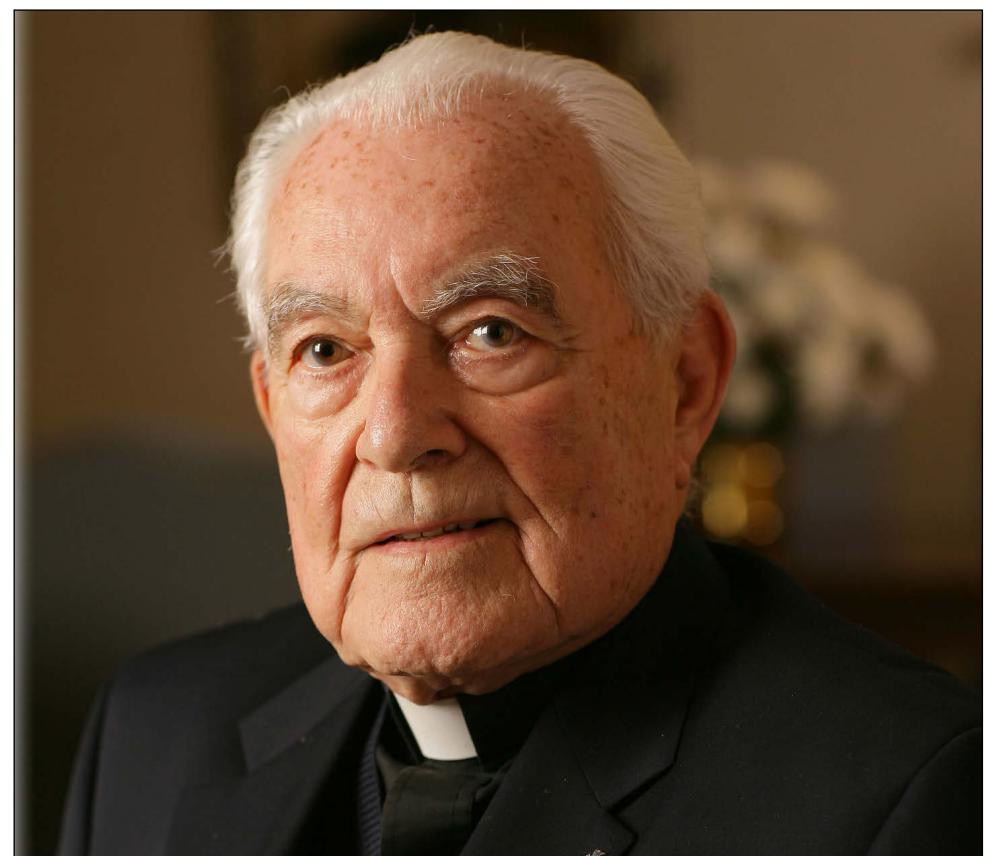
NOTRE DAME (CNS) — Holy Cross Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, who led the University of Notre Dame through a period of dramatic growth during his 35 years as president and held sway with political and civil rights leaders, died Feb. 26 at the age of 97.

As the longest serving president of Notre Dame, from 1952 to 1987, Father Hesburgh built the university from a small college primarily known for its prowess on the football field into one of the nation's premier higher education institutions.

In announcing the highly regarded priest's death, the university did not cite a specific cause.

Visitation and prayer services were held March 3 with a funeral Mass celebrated in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart and memorial tribute on the Notre Dame campus on March 4.

"We mourn today a great man and faithful priest who transformed the University of Notre Dame and touched the lives of many," Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, Notre Dame's current president, said in a statement. "With his leadership, charism and vision, he turned a relatively small Catholic college known



CNS PHOTO/MATT CASHORE, COURTESY UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, former president of the University of Notre Dame, died Feb. 26 at age 97 in the Holy Cross House adjacent to the university in South Bend. He is pictured in a 2006 photo.

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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IN TRUTH
AND
CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

On the approaching Third Sunday of Lent, we will hear the Exodus account of the Ten Commandments revealed by God to Moses. The Ten Commandments are called the "Decalogue," meaning "ten words." These "ten words" are said to be written "with the finger of God," unlike the other commandments written by Moses (CCC 2056). Both the Book of Exodus (20: 2-17) and the Book of Deuteronomy (5: 6-21) hand on to us the Ten Commandments.

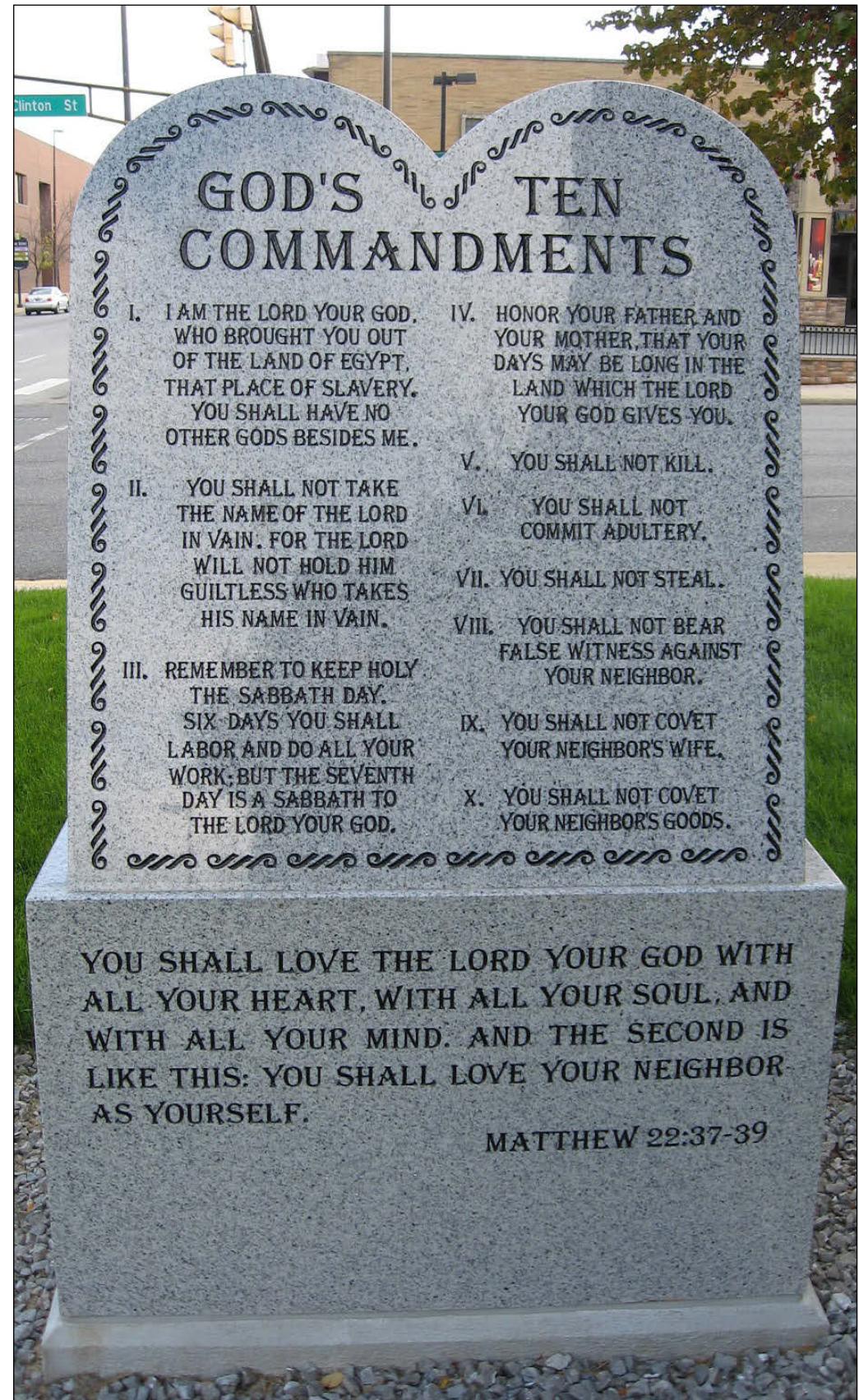
The Ten Commandments are truly a gift to us from God. In truth, God engraved the Ten Commandments in our hearts from the beginning. They express the requirements of the natural law. Though the Ten Commandments can be known by human reason, God chose to reveal them specifically since original sin has clouded human understanding. One of the effects of original sin is that human nature is now subject to ignorance. We can be thankful that God has made His will known to us through His revelation of the Decalogue on Mount Sinai.

When I visit our Catholic school religion classes and our parish religious education programs, I am glad to see our children memorizing the Ten Commandments and learning about the meaning of each. This instruction is very important for their moral formation. Through the Ten Commandments, we learn right from wrong and our obligations to God and neighbor. For many centuries, the teaching of Christian morality has followed the order of the Ten Commandments.

Jesus not only acknowledged the Ten Commandments, He went more deeply into them, especially in His Sermon on the Mount. Jesus unfolded all their demands. For example, within the prohibition of killing that is the fifth commandment, our Lord calls us also to avoid anger and malicious speech. Christian morality, life in Christ, is more than external conformity to the law. It touches the inner person, our attitudes and thoughts. Jesus gives us the twofold commandment, love of God and love of neighbor, according to which all the commandments must be interpreted and conformed.

It is significant that God revealed the Ten Commandments to humanity during the Israelite Exodus from Egypt. God gave the people His law after freeing them from slavery. It seems logical since God did not want His people to become slaves again, in other words, slaves of sin. Actually, spiritual slavery is even worse than physical slavery. So God gave us the Ten Commandments to make us free! This goes against the opinion held by some who think of the Ten Commandments as oppressive or even of Judaism and Christianity as oppressive religions because of their

The Gift of the Ten Commandments



The Ten Commandments are on display at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne and was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

laws and norms. The opposite is actually the case. The more obedient we are to God and His commandments, the freer we are. God's commandments help free us from selfishness and liberate us from egoism. We can look at each single commandment and see how obedience to that commandment helps us to avoid vices that might enslave us and bring misery to our lives. The Ten Commandments, together with Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, show us the path of life. We don't walk this path alone. We are united with Jesus our Redeemer, who,

through His Spirit, guides us to keep the commandments.

The Ten Commandments are permanently valid. They don't change. They express serious obligations, not mere suggestions. May these commandments not only be on our lips, memorized words, but words that illuminate our hearts and minds. In this Lenten season of conversion, may the Ten Commandments help us to stay on the right path or return to it: the path of life, the way of Jesus.

During Lent, pope offers handy tips for preparing for Confession

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As Catholics are encouraged to make going to Confession a significant part of their lives during Lent, Pope Francis offered some quick tips to help people prepare for the sacrament of Penance.

After a brief explanation of why people should go to Confession — “because we are all sinners” — the pope listed 30 key questions to reflect on as part of making an examination of conscience and being able to “confess well.”

The guide is part of a 28-page booklet in Italian released by the Vatican publishing house. Pope Francis had 50,000 free copies distributed to people attending his Angelus address Feb. 22, the first Sunday of Lent.

Titled “Safeguard your heart,” the booklet is meant to help the faithful become “courageous” and prepared to battle against evil and choose the good.

The booklet contains quick introductions to Catholic basics: it has the text of the Creed, a list of the gifts of the Holy Spirit, the Ten Commandments and the Beatitudes. It explains the seven sacraments and includes Pope Francis’ explanation of “lectio divina,” a prayerful way of reading Scripture in order to better hear “what the Lord wants to tell

us in His Word and to let us be transformed by His Spirit.”

The booklet’s title is based on a line from one of the pope’s morning Mass homilies in which he said Christians need to guard and protect their hearts, “just as you protect your home — with a lock.”

“How often do bad thoughts, bad intentions, jealousy, envy enter?” he asked. “Who opened the door? How did those things get in?”

The Oct. 10, 2014, homily, which is excerpted in the booklet, said the best way to guard one’s heart is with the daily practice of an “examination of conscience,” in which one quietly reviews what bad things one has done and what good things one has failed to do for God, one’s neighbor and oneself.

The questions include:

- Do I only turn to God when I’m in need?
- Do I take attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation?
- Do I begin and end the day with prayer?
- Am I embarrassed to show that I am a Christian?
- Do I rebel against God’s plan?
- Am I envious, hot-tempered, biased?
- Am I honest and fair with everyone or do I fuel the “throw-

away culture?”

- In my marital and family relations, do I uphold morality as taught in the Gospels?

- Do I honor and respect my parents?

- Have I refused newly conceived life? Have I snuffed out the gift of life? Have I helped do so?

- Do I respect the environment?

- Am I part worldly and part believer?

- Do I overdo it with eating, drinking, smoking and amusements?

- Am I overly concerned about my physical well-being, my possessions?

- How do I use my time? Am I lazy?

- Do I want to be served?

- Do I dream of revenge, hold grudges?

- Am I meek, humble and a builder of peace?

Catholics should go to Confession, the pope said, because everyone needs forgiveness for their sins, for the ways “we think and act contrary to the Gospel.”

“Whoever says he is without sin is a liar or is blind,” he wrote.

Confession is meant to be a sincere moment of conversion, an occasion to demonstrate trust in God’s willingness to forgive His children and to help them back on the path of following Jesus, Pope Francis wrote.

Assyrian Christians released, but many concerned for those still held

BY DALE GAVLAK

AMMAN, Jordan (CNS) — Christians in the Middle East welcomed the release of nearly 20 Assyrian Christians abducted by Islamic State militants in northeastern Syria, but expressed concern that more than 200 others remained in captivity.

“I can confirm the release of 19 persons (17 men and 2 women) who were captured by the Islamic State in the Khabur region,” said Father Emanuel Youkhana, who heads the Christian Aid Program Northern Iraq, CAPNI.

“We pray and hope for the others to be released,” he added.

Bashir Saedi, a senior official in the Assyrian Democratic Organization, said all those released were around 50 years of age or older, suggesting that age might have been a factor.

Osama Edward, who heads the Assyrian Human Rights Network, told Vatican Radio that the Christians were released because jizya, an Islamic protection tax levied on non-Muslims, had been paid.

They are now “in the church of the city of Hassakeh,” Edward said.



Pope Francis talks with Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, after a meeting with Nechirvan Barzani, prime minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq, at the Vatican March 2.

The network published photographs on its Facebook page that appeared to show people in Hassakeh greeting the returnees.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported that an Islamic court had ruled the captives be freed, but it

said the reasoning behind the decision was unknown.

On Feb. 23, Islamic State militants raided a cluster of villages along the Khabur River near Syria’s northeastern province of Hassakeh and abducted Assyrian Christian residents and other minorities.

There have been conflicting reports about the actual number of the captives still held by the extremists, and their fate remains unclear. The Observatory said there were 220. Other activists said the figure was higher than 260.

Sunni Muslim Arab tribal leaders have been mediating with the extremist militia to secure the captives’ release. Many observers believe most captives were taken to Shaddadeh, about 30 miles south of Hassakeh.

The abductions have added to growing fears among religious minorities in the Middle East who have been repeatedly targeted by the Islamic State group, especially in Syria and Iraq. During the militants’ campaign in Syria and Iraq over the past year, minorities have been repeatedly targeted and killed.

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PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Monday, March 9 — Meeting of USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life, and Youth, Washington, D.C.
- Tuesday, March 10 — Pastoral Visit to Mount Saint Mary’s Seminary, Emmitsburg, Maryland
- Wednesday, March 11, through Thursday, March 12 — Meeting of Board of Directors of Catholic Relief Services, Baltimore, Maryland
- Saturday, March 14, 4 p.m. — Mass at Day of Reflection for Black Catholics, Saint Augustine Church, South Bend
- Saturday, March 14, 6 p.m. — Dinner and Auction, Saint Joseph High School, South Bend

Lenten Penance Services

- St. Mary of the Lake, 124 College Ave., Culver, March 7 at 10 a.m.; and another service March 10 at 7 p.m. at the Culver Military Academy Chapel
- St. Joseph Church, 226 N. Hill St., South Bend, March 10 at 7 p.m.
- Queen of Peace, 4508 Vistula Rd., Mishawaka, March 10 at 7 p.m.
- St. Paul of the Cross, 315 S. Line St., Columbia City, March 10 at 7 p.m.
- Immaculate Conception, 500 East Seventh St., Auburn, March 11 at 7 p.m.
- St. Thomas the Apostle, 1405 N. Main St., Elkhart, March 14 at 11 a.m.
- St. Michael the Archangel, 1098 County Road 39, Waterloo, March 15 at 5 p.m.

Charles Rice dies



CHARLES EDWARD RICE

MISHAWAKA — Charles Edward Rice, professor emeritus of law at the University of Notre Dame Law School, died Feb. 25. He was 83.

A member of the Notre Dame law faculty since 1969, Rice specialized in constitutional law and jurisprudence.

A 1953 graduate of the College of the Holy Cross, Rice earned his juris doctor degree from Boston College in 1956 and his master of laws and doctor of juridical science degrees from New York University in 1959 and 1962, respectively. After private practice in New York City, he taught at C.W. Post College, New York University and Fordham University before joining the Notre Dame law faculty.

“Professor Charles Rice epitomized all that is best about Notre Dame,” said his friend and colleague Holy Cross Father Wilson Miscamble, professor of history. “His contribution as a teacher and scholar in the law school influenced at least two generations of students to become lawyers who saw their work as a vocation and not just a career. His profound commitment to the pro-life cause and to the truths of natural law, which were so evident in his writings, and in his speaking and television appearances, gave him an influence far beyond the Notre Dame campus.”

A popular and colorful teacher and a staunch pro-life advocate, on campus and nationwide, Rice co-authored numerous legal briefs involving right-to-life and right-to-die issues. He also was the author of 13 books, including “Freedom of Association,” “The Supreme Court and Public Prayer,” “The Vanishing Right to Live,” “Authority and Rebellion,” “No Exception: A Pro-Life Imperative” and, most recently, “Contraception and Persecution.”

Throughout his years at Notre Dame, Rice was a prominent coach, referee and faculty adviser of the university’s annual Bengal Bouts men’s boxing tournament, a fundraising event for the Holy Cross Missions in Bangladesh.

From 1981 to 1993, Rice was a member of the Education Appeal Board of the U.S. Department of Education. He has served as a consultant to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights and to various Congressional committees on constitutional issues, and was an editor of the American Journal of Jurisprudence. He proudly served in the United States Marine Corps and was honored as an outstanding recruit by the Daughters of the American Revolution. He also served in the Marine Corps Reserve, retiring as a Lt. Colonel. He was a contributor and columnist for Today’s Catholic newspaper.

Rice is survived by his wife Mary, their 10 children and spouses, and grandchildren.

A funeral Mass was celebrated on March 2 at St. Joseph Church in Mishawaka.



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Restorative Justice: Face-to-face with the effects of crime

BY MADELEINE RICHEY

FORT WAYNE — "What kind of monster — what kind of human being ... would walk into a parking lot, shoot a woman in the face, rob her, and leave her in a puddle of her own blood, and not even think about it? You're looking at him." Keith, now well into middle age, reflected on the man he once was while standing beside his friend, Misty, who he met when they were both only 18, when he shot her in the face and left her on the pavement to die.

On the evening of Feb. 25, a group of 75 people or more gathered in the auditorium at the University of Saint Francis to listen to a lecture on restorative justice, led by a survivor of a violent crime and her offender-turned-friend. The audience was composed of ex-offenders, veterans of the criminal justice system, educators and students hoping to learn more about this revolutionary system: not only to punish offenders but to try to repair some of the damage that was done.

Misty Wallace was 18 in October of 1992, enjoying the company of her friends during senior year while she looked forward to a full-ride scholarship to play softball during college. One evening, in the days before cell phones, she stopped at a parking lot to use the payphone to tell her parents that she would be late getting home. As she was speaking, a car pulled up and a man got out of the passenger side. As she hung up the phone, he shot her in the face.

Miraculously, she survived, but life couldn't go on as before. Due to inju-

ries, she lost her scholarship, but was lucky to have survived with her life. Eventually she married, but even that road was shaped by the crime that had almost killed her. Various encounters in courtrooms with her offender were all she knew of him until one evening she reached out through Facebook. They exchanged phone numbers so she could finally get the answers to all her questions of why and how it had been her.

Now Misty and Keith are friends, working together to speak about their experiences and help other victims and offenders come to terms with the effects of crime through restorative justice. Bridges To Life, the program with which Misty works, connects offenders with victims of crimes similar to her own. The idea is to help offenders realize the true nature of their crime and see the ways in which it has impacted not only their victims, but the families and friends of the victim, society as a whole and even their own family and friends.

Keith, a product of this system, believes that restorative justice is more difficult than the average punishment dealt by the criminal justice system. He says that to serve his sentence of 20 years and never face Misty would have been easy. But to see her and know what he did to her was where the difficulty truly lies.

The small groups are mediated, and often weeks or months of preparation take place before victims and offenders actually meet. But restorative justice offers something healing to both parties, which traditional justice does not. To offenders, it offers the chance to apologize, and to victims, it offers the chance to see

their offender, confront their humanity and forgive them.

Restorative justice, such as that practiced by Bridges To Life, not only works to better the lives of victims and offenders, but also has a much wider reach. According to the Bureau of Justice Statistics, a study in 2005 concluded that almost 70 percent of released prisoners will be rearrested within three years. Bridges To Life boasts only a 14 percent recidivism rate.

Overall, restorative justice offers a message of hope. It focuses on addressing the harms and needs of victims, offenders and their communities; calling to attention the responsibilities of offenders, and society as a whole; working together to address the problem; and above all, trying to make amends for the crime.

There is also a strong element of faith. Bridges To Life expresses their mission statement as being "to minister to victims and offenders in an effort to show them the transforming power of God's love and forgiveness."

Keith, now a minister who holds a Master of Divinity, bears testament to the extraordinary power of prayer. "My mother continued to pray for me," he says. Even when he screamed and swore at her, she prayed. He attributes his conversion to his mother and his cellmate who he says, "shared with me this Jesus of the Bible."

The University of Saint Francis School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Department of Philosophy and Theology, and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Jail Ministry presented the lecture.

ASSYRIANS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

driven from their homes, had their women enslaved and places of worship and cultural artifacts destroyed.

The attacks along the Khabur took place just weeks after video was released of Islamic State beheading 21 Egyptian Christians that it called "crusaders."

At the Vatican, Pope Francis called on everyone to help the people of Syria and Iraq, many of whom are suffering because of their faith.

After praying the Angelus with those gathered in St. Peter's Square March 1, the pope underlined his dismay over the ongoing "dramatic" events unfolding in the area — the "violence, kidnappings and oppression to the detriment of Christians and other groups."

He said the Church has not forgotten about the minorities and their plight and said Catholics were "praying urgently that the intolerable brutality" they are suffering "may end as soon as possible."

"I ask everyone, according to their means, to work to alleviate

the suffering of all those who are afflicted, often just because of their faith," the pontiff said.

Nechirvan Barzani, prime minister of the Kurdistan regional government of Iraq, met Pope Francis at the Vatican March 2 to discuss concerns about Islamic State extremists and the fate of religious and ethnic minorities in the Middle East.

Ra'ed Bahou, Catholic Near East Welfare Association's regional director for Jordan and Iraq, called the release of the first batch of Assyrian Christians "positive," but said the attacks on Christians in Syria were troubling.

"We spoke about the problem of Hassakeh publicly for seven or eight months before this incident. We said that Hassakeh and the nearby villages are all surrounded by Daesh," the Arabic term for Islamic State, Bahou told CNS. "Despite the warning, nothing happened to protect them."

A prominent Syrian Christian, Bassam Ishak, president of the Syriac National Council of Syria, added that he raised concerns earlier about the Islamic State presence in the Hassakeh region as well in Washington, but no real measures were taken.

"If you go back to July 22, 2014, we warned publicly that Daesh

will enter the Nineveh Valley, and it happened 14 days later," Bahou said, referring to massive attacks on Iraqi Christian villages last summer that sent thousands fleeing for safety to northern Iraq and neighboring countries.

"When there is warning, the international community must act," Bahou said.

He said he believed with the announcement of a military campaign by Iraqi troops and the U.S.-led coalition to retake Mosul, Iraq, this spring, the militants will try to take over more territory.

"They want to take more lands because they will lose Mosul and go back to Syria. They want more lands because that is the only way they can survive," Bahou said. "We (Christians) will have more pressure in the future."

"It's been a cleansing of the Iraqi Christians. I think it will be a domino effect. It's now happening in Syria. It's happening in Egypt, in Lebanon," Bahou added.

"Thank God we have stability in Jordan, and we hope it will continue. But we are losing Christians in our region," he said.

Contributing to this story was Carol Glatz in Rome.

Bill to dissolve human remains defeated in House

STATEHOUSE — Legislation allowing the use of a process to dissolve human remains as an alternative to cremation or burial was defeated in the House, 34-59. The Indiana Catholic Conference opposed the bill.

The legislation, House Bill 1069, would allow a process called alkaline hydrolysis to be used in Indiana, a process which is currently not authorized by law. The alkaline hydrolysis process uses chemicals to dissolve the human body. The liquefied person's body is then drained into the sewer system. The remaining solid matter could be placed in an urn and returned to the family.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference testified in opposition to the bill during a public hearing before the House Public Health Committee. Tebbe said, "We believe that every human being, created in the image and likeness of God, deserves dignity." He said that people deserve dignity when the person is living, and once the person has died. "Flushing the fluid remains of a person down into the sewer system does not provide, in our opinion, the dignity due the person, nor the reverence due the body which is the temple of the Holy Spirit."

Tebbe also said the Church questions whether having the liquid processed into the water table or through the municipal sewer system is acceptable either culturally or aesthetically. "For us it seems unnecessarily disrespectful and offensive and we respectfully oppose the bill," said Tebbe.

The legislation was touted by advocates as a "greener," more environmentally-friendly process of dealing with the dead. Corporate representative, Joe Wilson of Bio-Response Solutions, Inc., explained that his Indiana-based company is one of the leading manufacturers of the equipment to provide the alkaline hydrolysis human remains decomposing process. Wilson explained the reasons the alkaline hydrolysis process is superior to cremation or burial saying it is cheaper in the long run, easier and less labor intensive for the funeral director.

Rep. Jeffrey Thompson, R-Linton, author of the bill, said Wilson, a constituent of his, came to him requesting that Indiana change the law to allow the use of alkaline hydrolysis. Thompson, a retired science teacher, presented his bill on the House floor said he was "completely comfortable with the science" of human dissolution through the alkaline hydrolysis, but said he had talked to a few of the legislators who were "uncomfortable for religious

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BRIGID CURTIS AYER

reasons." Thompson said, "If that's the reason, I respect that. That's a very valid reason to not vote for it."

Rep. Ed Clere, R-New Albany, chairman of the House Public Health Committee, asked lawmakers during the floor debate to support the bill. Clere said that the members of the health panel gave the bill "careful consideration," and that the bill passed committee in a 9-1 vote. Clere also pointed out that the manufacturer of the alkaline hydrolysis equipment is an Indiana company creating Indiana jobs, and there is a market for this process in the U.S. and abroad.

Rep. Richard Hamm, R-Richmond, gave an emotional

plea during the House debate urging the members to vote against the measure. Hamm, who has worked in the funeral business for decades, said that there have been a lot of changes in the industry over the years. He noted that currently cremation accounts for about 50 percent of the funeral business. "When you cremate somebody, 20 percent doesn't cremate," said Hamm. "It must be crushed-up or beat-up with a hammer. Now we're talking about how we're going to put them in acid and let them dissolve away, and then we're going to let them run down the drain, out into the sewers? We keep going backward, and backward in taking care of supposedly the people we love." Getting choked up, Rep. Hamm said, "You can tell I feel very passionate about this. I urge you to vote no."

Shortly after Rep. Hamm's comments, the House voted the bill down, defeating it by 34-59. In addition, to House Bill 1069, a

similar bill dealing with alkaline hydrolysis, Senate Bill 333, failed to pass out of the Senate committee.

Tebbe said he was "surprised but very pleased" the bill was defeated. However, he said the session is only half-way over. "Although it is unlikely, it's possible to resurrect a bill that has been defeated by stripping the contents of a live bill and replacing it with the alkaline hydrolysis language," said Tebbe.

Tebbe added, "Given the unnecessarily disrespectful and offensive nature of this process to the dignity of the human person, the ICC will continue to monitor this issue."

As the ICC tracks bills, the ICC posts legislative update on its Web page. To receive legislative updates via email pushes, join the Indiana Catholic Action Network (ICAN). These and other public policy resources are available at www.indianacc.org.

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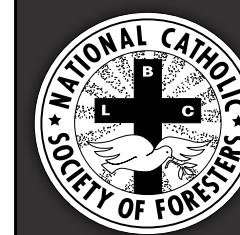
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Bishops' communications chairman welcomes FCC vote on net neutrality

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Federal Communications Commission's vote Feb. 26 to preserve an "open Internet" and safeguard net neutrality was welcomed in many quarters of the country, including by the chairman of U.S. bishops' Committee on Communications. "The Internet is a critical medium for religious speech. Radio, broadcast television and cable television are, in large part, closed to noncommercial religious messages," said a Feb. 26 statement by Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City. "From the inception of the Internet until the mid-2000s, Internet service providers were not permitted to discriminate or tamper with what was said over those Internet connections," he added. "Today, the FCC restores this protection for speakers, protection particularly important to noncommercial religious speakers." The issue had heated up significantly over the past four months, after President Barack Obama in November called on the FCC to preserve an open Internet. Groups of all types and stripes bombarded the FCC with email messages and phone calls beseeching the agency to act decisively to prevent preferential treatment for some content providers and to keep the Internet from splitting off into "fast lanes" for those willing to pay. Among the groups advocating for net neutrality was an interfaith group, Faithful Internet. Helen Osman, secretary of communications for the U.S. bishops, recorded her own plea for an open Internet, saying, Pope Francis' "message of hope" could not have inspired millions of people around the world as it has "without an open Internet."

New home for Detroit Archdiocese brings hope amid changes, transition

DETROIT (CNS) — Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron said the move from the old chancery to the new downtown home of the Archdiocese of Detroit two blocks away was akin to what Socrates discussed in Plato's dialogues. "You have a 'second sailing,'" said the archbishop in a recent video message to archdiocesan employees. "It's not a totally new reality; you always bring your past with you." But nonetheless, "it's a chance to recapitulate (that reality) and start fresh," he said. On Feb. 13, the 183 employees of the archdiocese's Central Services officially moved into a new chancery building in the first major transition for the archdiocese's headquarters in nearly 80 years. Archbishop Vigneron said the move is bittersweet: "I feel sad about leaving behind those buildings which have been such an important part of the life of the diocese," he said. The former chancery had served as the archdiocese's central hub since

NEWS BRIEFS

POPE FRANCIS CELEBRATES MASS AT END OF FIVE-DAY LENTEN SPIRITUAL RETREAT



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Francis celebrates Mass at the end of a five-day Lenten spiritual retreat with members of the Roman Curia in Ariccia, near Rome Feb. 27.

1926. However, the changes are "working cooperatively, knowing what we are doing and being able to contribute to one another's work," he explained. Msgr. Robert McClory, moderator of the curia, noted that the consolidation of the archdiocese's central operations from multiple buildings into one is not unlike what many parishes have undergone in recent years.

San Francisco archbishop forms theology teachers' committee

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — San Francisco Archbishop Salvatore J. Cordileone is forming a committee of theology teachers from the archdiocesan high schools to expand and adjust the language of proposed statements on Catholic teaching on sexual morality and religious practice to be included in the faculty and staff handbooks of the four archdiocesan high schools. In a Feb. 24 letter to archdiocesan high school teachers, the archbishop said he would recommend that this committee submit a draft of their additions before the next school year. He also asked that they keep "what is already there" in the proposed statements he announced in early February. The addition of these detailed statements of Catholic

teaching on sexual morality and religious is scheduled to take effect in the 2015-16 school year and is not part of the teachers' contract. The statements cover Church teaching on abortion, same-sex marriage and artificial contraception, and other tenets of the faith. In the letter to teachers, Archbishop Cordileone stressed that Catholic schools provide a unique role in the mission of the Church: "equipping our young people to be spiritually and morally fit for life, serve faithfully in their parishes, and carry on the Church's legacy of service to the poor, sick, marginalized, vulnerable and destitute in any way, as well as to respond to and faithfully persevere in the calling God gives them in their life." The archbishop praised Catholic school teachers for helping "young people attain these goals."

Willke, a Catholic doctor and longtime pro-life advocate, dies at 89

CINCINNATI (CNS) — Dr. John "Jack" Willke, an obstetrician and a former president of the National Right to Life Committee who is credited with helping shape the pro-life movement, died Feb. 20 at his home in Cincinnati. He was 89. A funeral Mass was

celebrated Feb. 26 at St. Clare Church in Cincinnati. "There is no way to quantify the contributions Jack Willke, along with his wife, Barbara, made to the right-to-life movement," said Carol Tobias, the current president of National Right to Life, as it is now called. "Jack's generous heart and wonderful sense of humor will be greatly missed. He and Barbara devoted their lives to the right-to-life movement, and we will be forever in their debt," Tobias said in a statement. Born April 5, 1925, in Maria Stein, Ohio, Willke was a son and grandson of doctors. He earned his medical degree from the University of Cincinnati in 1948 and was a family practitioner in Ohio for much of his medical career, from 1950 to 1988. He also was on the senior attending staff of Providence and Good Samaritan hospitals. In the early 1970s, Willke and his late wife, Barbara, co-founded Right to Life of Greater Cincinnati.

Pope's 'Mexicanization' comments not meant to offend, Vatican says

SALTILLO, Mexico (CNS) — A private email from Pope Francis to a personal friend was never meant to offend Mexican sensibilities, the Vatican said in a statement

after the message — which suggested Mexico was synonymous with drugs and violence — was made public. In a note to Mexico's ambassador to the Vatican, Mariano Palacios Alcocer, the Vatican said the pope's use of the term "Mexicanization," presumably to describe problems in Argentina, "did not attempt in any way to hurt the feelings of the Mexican people, for whom he nurtures a special affection ... much less undervalue the commitment of the government in the struggle against drug trafficking. The expression 'avoiding the Mexicanization' was utilized by the pope in a strictly personal and informal email, in response to an Argentine friend very committed to the struggle against drugs, who had used this phrase," the Vatican said. Use of the term "Mexicanization" caused consternation for an increasingly image-conscious and embattled Mexican government and President Enrique Pena Nieto, who previously promoted an image of Mexico modernizing under his administration and largely stayed silent on the issues of drugs and crime. Pena Nieto's plans unraveled with his awkward handling of the kidnapping and presumed killing of 43 teacher trainees last September and subsequent revelations that he, his wife and finance minister purchased properties from prominent government contractors.

Politician calls for coalition airstrikes to help Syrian Christians

AMMAN, Jordan (CNS) — A prominent Syrian Christian political leader has called for U.S.-led coalition forces to use airstrikes to aid fellow Christian and Kurdish fighters battling Islamic State militants following reports of flagrant abductions and church burnings in northwest Syria. "There is a need for immediate action similar to what took place in Kobani," Bassam Ishak, president of the Syriac National Council of Syria, told Catholic News Service, referring to a key Kurdish city in Syria. There, near the border with Turkey and with help from international airstrikes, the Kurds drove out the extremist militants in January after a four-month siege resulted in a victory against the extremists. Ishak's appeal to stop the Islamic State advancement has been echoed by Syriac Catholic Archbishop Jacques Hindo of Hassakeh. "I wish to say quite clearly that we have the feeling of being abandoned into the hands of those Daesh (the Arabic acronym for Islamic State)," Archbishop Hindo told the Vatican's Fides news service. "American bombers flew over the area several times, but without taking action," he said. Analysts in Washington confirmed his information. They said U.S. planes flew overhead, but there were no airstrikes made against Islamic State militants in the Hassakeh area.

Sankofa Black Catholic Day of Reflection set March 14

SOUTH BEND — The Black Catholic Advisory Board (BCAB) of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend invites all to register for the fourth annual Sankofa Black Catholic Day of Reflection to be held on Saturday, March 14, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at St. Augustine Parish, 1501 W. Washington St., in South Bend. The theme will be the "Evangelization and Pastoral Care of Blacks" in the diocese.

An invitation is extended for all races to attend. The event will be an opportunity to gather a broad, critical mass of Black Catholics as well as diocesan and religious leaders who minister to Blacks, including educators, pastors, youth ministers and professionals for a historic dialogue about evangelization and pastoral care of Blacks in the diocese.

The Day of Reflection will host keynote speaker, Chicagoan Vince Guider, who is the director of Community Development for the North Lawndale Kinship Initiative, a partnership of churches, community organizations, businesses, schools and government agencies working together to bring about economic and social advancement and justice for the west side of Chicago. Guider, a seasoned educator, speaker, businessman, community organizer, workshop and retreat facilitator, and youth and young adult minister, will talk on developing partnerships across the diocese to enrich the faith lives of African Americans within the diocese.

The event will also include youth and young adult sessions for those 15-21 years old with Martell "Mem" Tardy; breakout sessions on Black Catholic evangelization, education, history, pastoral care and vocations; a performance from the IUSB African Dance and Drum Group, and a "town hall" group discussion.

Additionally, BCAB's "Strategic Plan for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of Blacks in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend" will be promulgated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. The day will conclude with a 4 p.m. Vigil Mass celebrated by Bishop Rhoades and will feature the Indianapolis Holy Angels Parish Gospel Choir.

Saint Mary's Press will provide a limited number of its new African American Catholic Youth Bibles at the Day of Reflection for a reduced price of \$20. Order forms with the reduced rate (add \$3 for shipping) will also be available. Cash or check made to Saint Mary's Press. Keynote speaker Guider is one of the key contributors to this first-of-its-kind Bible.

Registration fee of \$15 includes lunch. To register go to www.diocesefwsb.org/dbcm or contact Mary Glowaski at 260-422-4611.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

SACRED HEART SCHOOL RECEIVES GENEROUS DONATION



PROVIDED BY SACRED HEART SCHOOL, WARSAW

Grand Knight Dan Hampton presented Father Phil DeVolder, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw, and Principal James Faroh a check for \$1,000 from funds raised at the annual Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast during Catholic Schools Week. Sacred Heart School is appreciative of the Knights' generosity to Catholic education over the years.

Sacred Heart to host Day of Reflection

WARSAW — "Bread of Life" Day of Reflection will be held at Sacred Heart Parish on Saturday, March 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Mary Pohlman, pastoral associate of St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne, will be the presenter. The day will include continental breakfast and box lunch. Cost is a free will offering. Must be 18 years or older to attend. The event is co-sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Register by March 24, with sign up after Mass at Sacred Heart on March 7-8, 14-15, 21-22 or call the parish office at 574-267-5842. Sacred Heart Church is located at 125 N. Harrison St., Warsaw.

Opus Dei Deacons, Langan ordained

ROME — Bishop Javier Echevarría ordained 32 new deacons for Opus Dei, in St. Eugene's Basilica in Rome.

The ordained deacons, who will be ordained priests in six months time, come from 14 countries: Spain, Poland, Ecuador, United States, Nigeria, Mexico, Taiwan, Kenya, Brazil, Guatemala, Colombia, Austria and Argentina.

Jeffrey Joseph Langan, who was a member of the Opus Dei commu-

nity near Notre Dame and served as a director, was one of the deacons ordained.

Retreat for teens with Down syndrome offered

FORT WAYNE — A retreat hosted by the Franciscan Brothers Minor and Franciscan Sisters Minor, for teens with Down syndrome will be held on Saturday, March 21, from 1-4 p.m. at St. Andrew Church, 2610 New Haven Ave.

This Lenten retreat "... Love one another.," from John 13:34-35, will include prayer, breakout sessions for teens and an opportunity for parents and caregivers to find support and community. A light snack will be provided.

Those interested in attending or for more information contact Missy Reuille at 260-466-8399 or mreuille2@comcast.net.

RSVP is needed by March 16. Please include the need for special accommodations and dietary considerations.

St. Joseph Right to Life essay contest deadline set March 13

SOUTH BEND — St. Joseph County Right to Life is sponsoring its fifth annual Right to Life Essay Contest. It is an opportunity

"What would change in our country if abortion was illegal?" (seventh and eighth grades); and "How would the pro-life movement change if abortion were to become illegal in our country?" (ninth through 12th grades). Essay rules can be found at the St. Joseph County Right to Life Facebook page or on the website, prolifemichiana.org/essaycontest. Teen participants may also contact the Right to Life office at 574-232-LIFE (5433). Deadline for entries is March 13. Winners will be invited to receive their awards at the Respect Life Prayer Dinner on April 14.

Notre Dame launches online theology program for Hispanic Catholics

NOTRE DAME — The University of Notre Dame's Institute for Church Life (ICL) has launched a new online adult faith formation program for Hispanic Catholics.

The program, Camino, is a collaborative initiative of ICL's Satellite Theological Education Program (STEP) and the Southeast Pastoral Institute (SEPI).

"When Pope Francis addressed the Pontifical Council for Social Communications in the first year of his pontificate, he challenged those of us working in technology and social communications to consider how we use these tools to walk with others and lead to an encounter with Christ," said Esther Terry, program director of Camino. "Ultimately, that encounter is the goal of Camino courses."

Designed by university professors and national leaders in Hispanic ministry, Camino courses concern catechetical topics and particular needs in Hispanic ministry. Participants engage in the program through video lectures, homework assignments and interactive discussion forums.

More information on Camino is available on the program's bilingual website at camino.nd.edu.

VOCAL STUDENTS EARN ISSMA GOLD



ROSE WORMAN

Vocal students from St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, Fort Wayne, participated in the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) competition on Jan. 31. Soloists and ensembles all received gold for their performances. Pictured are Coach Carol Sarasien, Sage Herber, Bethany Bauer, Addie Knipp, Gretchen Spenn and Coach Tom Neuer.

'Making God known, loved and served'

A life of service to the University of Notre Dame, Church and nation

REMEMBERING FATHER HESBURGH

HESBURGH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for football into one of the nation's great institutions for higher learning.

"In his historic service to the nation, the Church and the world, he was a steadfast champion for human rights, the cause of peace and care for the poor," he said.

Father Hesburgh was born May 25, 1917, in Syracuse, New York, to Anne Murphy Hesburgh and Theodore B. Hesburgh, an executive of the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co.

He was educated at Notre Dame and Rome's Pontifical Gregorian University. He was ordained a priest of the Congregation of the Holy Cross in 1943 in Sacred Heart Church, today the basilica, on the Notre Dame campus. He received a doctorate in sacred theology from The Catholic University of America in 1945.

After doctoral studies he joined the university faculty, teaching in the religion department, and served as chaplain to World War II veterans on campus. In 1949 he was appointed executive vice president of Notre Dame. He became the university's 15th president in 1952.

Under his presidency, the university budget grew from \$9.7 million to \$176.6 million while the endowment expanded from \$9 million to \$350 million. Enrollment increased from 4,979 students to 9,600 and the faculty expanded from 389 to 950.

In 1967, he oversaw the transference of governance of the school from the Congregation of the Holy Cross to a two-tiered, mixed board of lay and religious trustees and fellows. The school also admitted women to undergraduate programs beginning in 1972.

Father Hesburgh also played an influential role in national and international affairs both during and after his presidency. He held 16 presidential appointments over the years, tackling major social issues including civil rights, immigration reform, peaceful uses of atomic energy, campus unrest, treatment of Vietnam draft evaders and development in the world's poorest nations.

He was a charter member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights when it was created in 1957 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. He chaired the body from 1969 until 1972 when President Richard Nixon dismissed him over his criticism of the administration's civil rights record.

The Holy Cross priest also served on President Gerald R. Ford's Clemency Board, which was responsible for deciding the fate of Vietnam offenders.

His work on the two commissions

led to the creation of the Center for Civil & Human Rights at Notre Dame Law School.

During a tribute on Capitol Hill in 2013, congressional leaders from both sides of the aisle honored Father Hesburgh days before his 96th birthday. Vice President Joe Biden said during the gathering that he ran for public office at the age of 29 in 1972 because of Father Hesburgh's passion for civil rights. "You're one of the reasons I've been so proud to be a Catholic," Biden told Father Hesburgh.

Other elected officials at the event praised Father Hesburgh as an inspiration for all people in public office.

Father Hesburgh served on the Overseas Development Council, a private organization supporting interests in developing nations, beginning in 1971 and chaired it until 1982. He led efforts to overcome mass starvation in Cambodia in 1979 and 1980. From 1979 to 1981, he chaired the Select Commission on Immigration and Refugee Policy, which issued recommendations which became the basis of congressional reform legislation several years later.

During the Cold War in the early 1980s, Father Hesburgh joined a private initiative which sought to unite internationally known scientists and world religious leaders in condemning nuclear weapons. He organized a 1982 meeting at the Vatican of 58 scientists from around the world who called for the elimination of nuclear weapons.

Father Hesburgh served four popes, including three as the Vatican's permanent representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna from 1956 to 1970. Blessed Paul VI asked him to build the Tantur Ecumenical Institute in Jerusalem, which the university continues to operate. Father Hesburgh also served as head of the Vatican delegation attending the 20th anniversary of the United Nations' human rights declaration in Teheran, Iran, in 1968. He also served as a member of the Holy See's U.N. contingent in 1974.

In 1983, St. John Paul II appointed the Holy Cross priest to the Pontifical Council for Culture.

He also served as a trustee and chairman of the Rockefeller Foundation. He became ambassador to the 1979 U.N. Conference on Science and Technology for Development, the first time a priest served in a formal diplomatic role for the U.S. government.

In addition, Father Hesburgh served on several commissions and study groups in the field of education. He served as chairman of the International Federation of Catholic Universities from 1963 to 1970, leading a movement to redefine the nature and mission of contemporary Catholic education.

In 2009, the priest said he supported Notre Dame's decision to invite President Barack Obama to deliver the commencement address that year and receive an honorary law degree. The invitation reignited a heated debate about maintaining the Catholic identity of U.S. Catholic institutions of higher education. About 80 U.S. bishops and others said Obama's support of legal abortion and embryonic stem-cell research made him an inappropriate choice.

But Father Hesburgh backed the school's invitation to the president, saying that the nation's universities are meant to be places where people with different opinions can talk to one another.

Father Hesburgh held 150 honorary degrees and was the first priest elected to the Board of Overseers of Harvard University, serving for two years, from 1994 to 1995, as president of the board. He also co-chaired the Knight Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics in its efforts to reform college sports, from 1990 to 2003.

Father Hesburgh wrote an autobiography, "God, Country and Notre Dame," published in 1990 and three other books, including "The Human Imperative: A Challenge for the Year 2000," "The Hesburgh Papers: Higher Values in Higher Education" and "Travels with Ted and Ned."

He is survived by a brother, James. Three sisters preceded him in death.

Holy Cross Father Tom Jones, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Notre Dame, recalled Father Hesburgh — his devotion and joy. "A memory of Father Ted, which stands out for me is his commitment to excellence in Catholic education. The founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, Blessed Basil Moreau, once commented to his fellow religious: 'We are about making God known, loved and served,'" said Father Jones, adding, "Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters have worked hard at this since we were founded in LeMans, France, in 1837. As a 'spiritual son of Father Moreau,' Father Hesburgh devoted his life's work to helping others make a difference in people's lives, especially in the lives of the poor and marginalized."

Father Jones recalled the joy Father Hesburgh experienced as a priest. "Father Ted's greatest joy was to be priest, offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass daily, serving at Our Lady's University, and making God known, loved and served," he said. "To have known Father Ted, talked with him, learned from him, laughed with him, offered Mass with him — this has been a great blessing for so many of us. May the torch Father Ted has now passed on continue to burn brightly in our lives 'making God known, loved and served.'"



Father Theodore Hesburgh was a charter member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, shown with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh, center, former president of the University of Notre Dame, died Feb. 26 at age 97 in the Holy Cross House adjacent to the university in Bend. He is pictured in a 2013 photo with Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, left, and Cardinal John I. Jenkins, Notre Dame's president.

and served' ion



NOTRE DAME ARCHIVE PHOTO

mmission on Civil Rights when it was created in 1957 by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. He is



NOTRE DAME ARCHIVE PHOTO

"Father Ted's greatest joy was to be priest, offering the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass daily, serving at Our Lady's University, and making God known, loved and served," Holy Cross Father Tom Jones, pastor of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame, told Today's Catholic.

CNS PHOTO/SAM LUCERO, THE COMPASS
of the University of Notre
to the university in South
Dolan of New York and Holy



CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades greets Holy Cross Father Theodore Hesburgh at a Feb. 26, 2014 visit to Holy Cross House.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades remembers Father Hesburgh's priestly life

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend remembered Father Hesburgh's spiritual wisdom, conviction and warmth.

"I first met Father Hesburgh five years ago at my installation as bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend. He warmly welcomed me and told me how welcome I should always feel at Notre Dame. In fact, every time I later met with him at Notre Dame, Father Ted showed me that same warmth. My conversations with him have been a wonderful blessing in my life these past five years. His strong conviction that there be a close relationship between the University of Notre Dame and me as local bishop impressed me greatly. He saw this as an essential part of Notre Dame's Catholic identity," Bishop Rhoades said.

"His spiritual wisdom has inspired me in many ways. What touched me the most was Father Ted's deep faith and convictions about his priestly identity. Numerous times he shared with me the importance of daily Mass throughout his priestly life. Clearly he discovered his priestly identity in the Eucharist. He shared with me the many places throughout the world where he celebrated Holy Mass. It was clear to me that this is what immersed him in the mystery of Christ and stirred him to give so much of himself in service of the Church, Notre Dame, our nation and humanity. I was also struck by his intimate relationship with the Blessed Virgin Mary whom he experienced as his spiritual mother and the spiritual mother of Notre Dame. I think she gave him the strength to respond so generously and wholeheartedly to the demands of his priestly ministry, including his presidency

of Notre Dame, which he always saw as a work of priestly ministry and not merely administrative leadership," the bishop continued.

"Father Ted gave me a copy of his autobiography a few years ago. I had some questions after reading it that Father Ted was so gracious to answer. He helped me to understand some of the issues and challenges he faced. I was especially grateful to discuss with Father Ted the Catholic identity and mission of Notre Dame.

"I remember with special gratitude a visit of my family and me with Father Ted in his office at the library. He was most gracious and we spent a very enjoyable hour together. My family was amazed to learn about some of Father Ted's experiences. He did not boast of his accomplishments, but clearly he was excited about the opportunities he had to be involved in so many important events. He gave wonderful advice to my nephew and nieces about the call to service of the poor and living the faith through love. His words were impactful. I imagine he gave similar advice to students at Notre Dame through the years. I saw how he naturally related to young people and inspired them in their commitment to the Gospel.

"Throughout his life, Father Ted sought the face of God. He encountered Christ each day in the Eucharist under the forms of bread and wine. I pray that he will now meet Him face to face and celebrate at the heavenly banquet feast that the Eucharist foreshadows. And may Mary, our Mother, welcome her faithful son to the communion of saints in heaven!" Bishop Rhoades said.

'Throughout his life,

Father Ted sought

the face of God.'

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

It takes parish and family to prepare young people for Reconciliation, first Communion

BY TIM JOHNSON

First Reconciliation and first Communion can easily be described as a rite of passage for young people — part of being drawn deeper into the Catholic Church.

It takes months to prepare young people for Reconciliation and first Communion. Prepared by catechists, Catholic school-teachers, the parish priest, even mom and dad play a vital role in the preparation.

Katie Pleus, a second-grade teacher at St. John the Baptist School in Fort Wayne, told *Today's Catholic*, "The students come into second grade on the first day of school knowing that this is a very important year for them religiously. They are very excited about preparing for these two special days in their lives."

Elise Bohl, who teaches religion to all the grade levels at St. Aloysius School, Yoder, and prepares the children for the sacraments, told *Today's Catholic* that reading and acting out the Scripture stories of the Lost Sheep, the Prodigal Son, the miracle of the multiplication of the fish and loaves and the Last Supper, are aides in preparation.

The children "practice by acting out the sacrament of Reconciliation

and how to properly receive the Eucharist," added Bohl.

All the schools and religious education programs use preparation books. At St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Elkhart, Harry Palmer, the religious education department director, noted that the multicultural aspect of the parish entails preparation of not just second graders, but also young people in third through junior high grades. They use a bilingual text, Palmer noted, but are making a concerted effort to teach all the classes in English.

St. Vincent Parish celebrates many cultural traditions that are both visible and participatory for the children. Palmer said, "Most of the cultural events are Hispanic in nature, but Italians and Polish members have some traditions incorporated into our liturgical celebrations." The children act in skits during Advent and Lent.

Cynthia Kinney, a second-grade religious education teacher at St. John the Baptist Parish encourages her public school students to use the quiet time in the classroom "to talk to Jesus in their heart during this time." They also use their valuable religious education class time learning about the sacraments, practicing and learning to spend time with God. "Tell Him how much I love Him, how much I need Him, how

much I thank Him and how much I praise Him," noted Kinney.

At St. John the Baptist, the school has incorporated "letters from family, friends and other students encouraging the second graders in their religious journey," Katie Pleus said. "This is important because they can see that people they know have been through this, to be nervous is normal and the great joy that comes in receiving the sacraments."

Msgr. Bernard Galic, pastor at St. Aloysius, visits the classes and talks with the students. And Father Daniel Whelan, a member of the Sons of St. Philip Neri, a community-in-formation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri and pastor at St. John the Baptist, and Father Matt Coonan, pastor, and Father Zak Barry, parochial vicar, at St. Vincent are also very involved in the process. This helps relieve some of the "jitters" a young person might feel about first Reconciliation and first Communion.

"Father Matthew and Father Zak both have a gift for relating with our children," said Palmer, "and making them feel comfortable in many circumstances. They are fully engaged in the catechesis of our children and have a great relationship with children and the catechists."

And families are a part of the

preparation as well.

At St. John the Baptist, Kinney noted, "The family helps prepare by taking their children to Sunday Mass. They help the child memorize the Act of Contrition. We also come together on Gathering Day for Bible study, making of bread, painting the craft activities and eating lunch as a family and class."

Father Daniel Whelan said the children and families are encouraged "to attend Sunday Mass, emphasizing that this is the most important event of the week."

"First Communion for their children should be the first of many Communions," Father Daniel said. "To receive the body and blood of Jesus Christ is far more important than the gathering afterwards with family and friends."

He added that families are encouraged to bring their children to Adoration. Every Friday evening, the Sons of St. Phillip Neri invite anyone to join them in a Holy Hour at St. John the Baptist.

"This is a perfect opportunity for families to come and spend time with the Lord," Father Daniel noted. "On First Fridays, we have all-day Adoration with the student body, where each class comes separately to adore the Lord. They all gather in the afternoon to close the day with Benediction."

Father Daniel said, "We emphasize the importance of first Confession and encourage the parents to lead by example by going themselves and making regular Confession a part of spiritual life of their families."

At St. Vincent de Paul, parents are updated at meetings throughout the year on their child's progress and are notified of upcoming activities. "We also stress the importance of the parents making their home a spiritual place for their children by praying and reading the Bible as a family," Palmer said.

He added, "We emphasize that the home is the domestic church and catechesis needs to take place there every day and not just Sunday."

At St. Aloysius, Bohl noted that prayers are sent home for practice and ideas for discussion and a weekly topic or extra activities are sent home for preparation for the sacraments.

She noted, "It's amazing how the students truly get these sacraments. Adults may tend to question their faith — drifting from the sacrament of Reconciliation or questioning the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist — but the children have such faith. They understand and fully accept these gifts and believe in the power of God in these sacraments."

St. Joseph Communion Closet offers garments

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — As northeast Indiana anticipates spring, preparation for the reception of first Communion is being made in Catholic elementary schools and parishes across the area. The special day not only calls for meaningful instruction on the Eucharist for these excited second graders, but also distinctive attire. Traditionally, white gowns and veils adorn the girls, while the boys dress in neatly starched white shirts and ties or suits. But for some expensive first Communion garb may be out of reach. Enter the Communion Closet.

Last year, two young women began the new clothing ministry at St. Joseph Parish in Fort Wayne. Sisters Georgia and CeCe Baldus, whose family had recently become parishioners of St. Joseph, saw a need and prayerfully addressed it. "We talked to our mom about ideas on how to serve the parish," said Georgia. "CeCe and I still had our first Communion dresses and asked, 'Why can't we give dresses and suits?'"

During their discussion they realized that first Communion clothing is worn for a matter of hours and sometimes at an enormous cost.

"Parents shouldn't have to worry about if their son or daughter looks perfect on that special day," said Georgia.

So the sisters began a workable campaign to solicit dresses and



PROVIDED BY THE BALDUS FAMILY

suits. "First we went to family and friends," said Georgia. "Then we got the parish involved."

The first year, inventory included an assortment of new and used Communion dresses, veils, suits, shirts, pants, ties and shoes —

The Baldus sisters, CeCe, left, and Georgia, prepare for guests at the second annual Communion Closet, held at St. Joseph Parish on March 1. The girls collected new and used Communion garments and accessories to loan to families in need.

for all assistance including those handmade veils made by a family friend and shoes donated by Shoe Carnival. Monetary donations have gone to the repair and cleaning of the garments.

The Communion Closet was open for the first time on two dates in March of 2014 prior to first Communion Masses at St.

Joseph. "We set up the inventory in the basement after 11:30 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph," said Georgia, who added that several students took advantage of the closet. "We hope this year it will

grow," said Georgia, adding that she also is hopeful other parishes will adopt this exciting initiative as well.

The clothing and shoes, in a variety of sizes, are displayed in the church gathering room where students can try on any desired item for proper fit. A deposit of \$25 is required for use of an item and is refunded when the clothing is returned. This year, Georgia reports the inventory has grown with a donation of 20 new dresses by a parishioner who worked at St. Vincent de Paul as well as several other items that she says have come in throughout the year.

Parishioners of any Catholic church in the area are invited to participate in the Communion Closet.

"I want anyone who's in need to come. I don't want them to have to spend so much money where it's not needed," said Georgia.

Georgia plans to graduate from Snider High School this May and is grateful that her sister CeCe, a junior, will carry this ministry into the future with the hope that "a new generation" will take it on when she is ready to graduate next year.

This year the Communion Closet was open for shopping in St. Joseph's Gathering Room after the 12:30 p.m. Spanish Mass on March 1. The Baldus sisters plan to offer another shopping date that has yet to be determined. For more information on the Communion Closet or to donate first Communion clothing or make a monetary gift contact Georgia or CeCe Baldus at baldus5@comcast.net.

Bear claws, nose rings and rock bands: the hidden lives of Catholic sisters

Belinda Monahan has analyzed more than 100,000 animal bones in Armenia dating back from the Early Bronze Age (1,200 B.C.) to the medieval period.

For the 44-year-old archaeologist from New Jersey, the thrill never wears off. "When you look at a Stork's lower-leg bone," she says, "it's about as long as my lower-leg bone. It's kind of startling! And it's always fun to look at bears. I look at their claws and think, 'Oh, those are cool!'"

This winter Belinda's impressive resume — including a doctorate from Northwestern University and her current job as a research assistant at the University of Chicago — picked up another distinction: fully professed Catholic sister. She made her final vows as a Benedictine Sister of Chicago, becoming

perhaps the only person on the planet who is both an expert on paleozoology of the Bronze Age and the Rule of St. Benedict.

Her work in archaeology deepens her faith, Sister Belinda told me. "Seeing the different patterns and the different ways people live makes me aware of God's movement in human life."

About 1,000 women are in formation to become Catholic sisters. I'm fascinated by the colorful experiences they bring to religious life. Sister Dian Hall was the only woman in a rock band — and the drummer, no less, at a time when drummers were always men. On stage, the self-proclaimed introvert came alive.

"We thought we were stars," she said.

She cherished the camaraderie, whether they were practic-



TWENTY SOMETHING

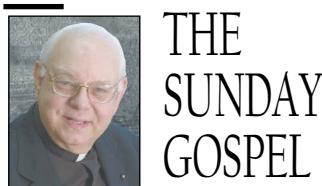
CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

ing Beatles songs in a garage or driving around the outskirts of Atlanta for low-paying gigs.

Now the 61-year-old Georgia native has joined another band, one that is helping her become her "best self," she says: Last August she made temporary vows with the Sisters of St. Joseph. "I believe in our community. I believe we're making a difference in the world."

CAPECCHI, PAGE 12

Gospel establishes Jesus as God's voice



MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

3rd Sunday of Lent

Jn 2:13-25

The Book of Exodus is the source of the first biblical reading this weekend. This book is about the Hebrew people, enslaved and dreadfully mistreated in Egypt. Eventually they escaped from Egypt and found their new homeland.

None of this good fortune, of escaping and of ultimate settlement in a land of their own, happened as a result of coincidence, luck or human strategy. Rather, God's power led the Hebrews to a successful escape from Egypt. Moses, their leader in this endeavor, was God's representative, chosen by God for the task.

As the flight was underway, and as the people wandered across the bleak Sinai peninsula in search of the land God had promised them, Moses received from God, and gave to the people, what long has been called the Ten Commandments.

By observing these commandments, the people fulfilled their obligations under the covenant. They also followed the path to peace and justice in life given by God, a path that they themselves could not have devised.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians supplies the second reading. For persons living in the first century, the proclamation, and beyond this — the deification, of a convicted felon was hard to accept.

The Jews, suffering under Roman oppression, and enduring so much, were not so apt to revere Roman law or to see profound wisdom and justice in the system established to enforce Roman law.

However, the Corinthian Christians, many of whom had been pagans, regarded Roman jurisprudence to be supremely wise. Yet, a Roman court tried Jesus for, and convicted Jesus of, high treason. The consequence of treason, again as set forth in Roman law, was death by crucifixion — for persons who were not citizens of Rome itself.

Here, in this reading, Paul asserts that Jesus, the convicted felon, is the key to salvation. The Apostle preaches, "Christ crucified." It is a "stumbling block for the Jews, and an absurdity for the Gentiles."

For its Gospel reading, the Church this weekend furnishes us with St. John's Gospel.

This weekend's reading recalls the time when Jesus, shortly before Passover, entered the temple precincts and found a brisk traffic underway in the things needed for ritual sacrifice.

Furious, as described by this Gospel, the Lord drove the merchants away.

He then predicted that the temple would fall, in itself a virtual blasphemy, and then made the astonishing announcement that He would rebuild the colossal structure in three days. (It had taken many people many years to build the temple in the first place.)

Scholars and leaders later used this occasion to make the case that Jesus was a blasphemer and a troublemaker.

The reading establishes Jesus as God's voice and God's agent. As bystanders watch this happening unfold, they are reminded of God's word in the Scriptures. The Lord's actions remind them of God.

They do not fully comprehend the Lord's words and actions, however, because they are humans, nothing less but nothing more.

Reflection

Lent reminds us of our humanity, but, everlastingly, it is hard for humans to admit their human limitations. Admitting our limitations frightens us.

So, we celebrate our human accomplishments. We congratulate ourselves, for example, on the brilliant design of spaceships. Then, not knowing how to deflect potentially dangerous asteroids reminds us that we never think of everything or control everything. Epidemics, such as Ebola, leave us at the mercy of forces greater than we. Humans also are shortsighted and irrational.

God loves us. Amid our inadequacies, He forgives us and redeems us, as the ancient Hebrews escaped Egypt. He has given us Jesus, the Son of God, as our Savior. How do we attain this blessing? In the Ten Commandments, God gave us the pattern of our lives. Obey the Commandments. Obey God.

READINGS

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 Ps 19:8-11

1 Cor 1:22-25 Jn 2:13-25

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b Pss 42:2-3; 43:3-4 Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43 Ps 25:4-5b, 6, 7bc, 8-9 Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9 Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28 Ps 95:1-2, 6-9 Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10 Ps 81:6c-11b, 14, 17 Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6 Ps 51:3-4, 18-21b Lk 18:9-14

CRS and Niger

Did you know that one out of every four children is stunted in his or her growth and development due to a lack of nutritious food? According to the World Food Programme, it only takes about 25 cents a day to provide a child with porridge, rice or beans, which lays a great foundation for a healthy life. The work of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in Niger is focused on providing the structures needed to make sure all people have the food they need.

Niger, a country in West Africa, ranked last out of 187 countries in the latest Human Development Index with 71.3 percent of people living below the poverty line. Because of recent extreme weather patterns, nearly half of the country of Niger suffers from food insecurity. They struggle to provide any healthy food for their families. Due to the length of growing seasons in Niger, every year there is a hungry season when food supplies run out. Many farmers travel during this time in order to find work and food for their families.

Guided by the principle of the dignity of work and rights of workers, CRS has started the Bonbatu project, in English — "I become stronger." This program employs farmers to dig reservoirs during the hungry season. This allows farmers to earn income while creating a reservoir that will prepare the ground for planting and provide irrigation. Last year, CRS distributed seeds to 4,176 households, provided income-generating projects and grants to 2,400 individuals, and distributed small livestock to 2,000 women through the Bonbatu project. Our contribution to CRS Rice Bowl helps programs like this improve the lives of people all over the world.

God often asks us to trust in things we cannot see. Farmers in Niger must trust that the changing seasons will bring new opportunities for work. Our faith compels us to act for justice in the world through projects like Bonbatu. We can look to St. Joan of Arc as another example of trusting in that which we cannot see and acting in faith.

CRS RICE BOWL

MELISSA WHEELER

St. Joan of Arc heard St. Michael, St. Catherine and St. Margaret telling her she must save France from its enemies. Joan overcame many obstacles to make this happen. She led French troops to drive the English out of Orleans, France, in 1429. When she was only 19, she was wounded in a battle and was captured. She was subsequently sold to the English who put her on trial as a heretic, which led to her burning at the stake in 1431. St. Joan of Arc trusted in the voices of the saints. This week, pray this prayer in recognition of St. Joan of Arc's dedication to God's will.

God of all nations, You ask us to follow You, no matter where the path may lead. Grant us the courage that You gave St. Joan of Arc. May we follow her example of faith, and may we learn to put our faith into action for Your greater glory. We know we may be misunderstood, as Joan was. Give us patience and perseverance — that we may plant the seed of peace and justice in the world, though it may not be Your will that we be the ones to watch those seeds grow. We ask this through Christ the Risen Lord. Amen.

In reflecting on the story of farmers in Niger who live by the seasons, ask yourself how you respond when you are unable to control your circumstances. How do you help others in similar situations?

Melissa Wheeler is the diocesan director for Catholic Relief Services.

Saint of the Week



Angela of the Cross

1846-1932
Feast March 2

Maria de los Angeles Guerrero Gonzalez, called Angelita, grew up in Seville, Spain. With little formal education, she was placed in a cobbler's workshop making shoes. But she was drawn to religious life and tried the Discalced Carmelites and Sisters of Charity, before illness forced her return to home and the shoe factory. After patiently discerning a call to be poor among the poor, Angelita and three like-minded women moved into a small rented house in 1875, forming the Company of the Cross. They prayed and meditated, but were always available to serve the poor and dying. By the time of her death, Madre Angelita's Company had spread from Spain to Italy and Argentina. She was canonized in 2003.

Confession for what ails us

Recently, I went with my family and our grandson Jack for his first Confession. It was a happy affair. Children at age 7 or 8 are unique in that they are awkward and not at all self-conscious about Confession. Thirty of them in procession down the aisle look like a drill team from the Ministry of Silly Walks.

But I was impressed — edified would be a better word — at how long each child spent with the priest. When they came out, they repaired to a vacant spot in the church and gave devoted attention to their penances. There were hugs and some tears (mostly from parents) when they rejoined their families.

I don't know whether this first experience of Reconciliation will engender good attendance habits down the road. I hope so. I have been pleasantly surprised at the frequency with which some of our children receive the sacrament.

At The Catholic University of America, where I work, the supply and the demand are good. The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on the edge of our campus has confessions five hours every day, including Sunday. During Lent, our priests in campus ministry offer the sacrament in the residence halls.

For a generation after the Second Vatican Council, Reconciliation was our most neglected sacrament. Part of the reason is that we lost sight of what it was for.

In an essay he wrote in 1984, Robert Coles observed an unfortunate tendency to substitute psychoanalysis for the sacrament. "I am tired of watching ministers or priests mouth psychiatric pieties," he said, "when 'hard praying' (as I used to hear it put in the rural south) is what the particular human being may want, and yes, urgently require."

There are sick minds in need of healing, but it is a mistake to treat our sins as symptoms of a disease. They are usually just sins, not evidence of some "complex" or of some deeper neurosis.

With advances in neurochemistry comes a slightly more modern version of the psychological dodge. We will hear that a person who cheats on his wife — not just once or twice, but often — has "a sexual addiction." Poor guy, he can't help it, his neuropeptides are out of balance.

There are two things wrong with turning our sins over to the brain doctors. First, it ignores the role of free will in our lives. It is strangely unpopular to say nowadays, but sins are things we choose to do. It is I (not my subconscious or my brain chemistry) who is at fault. Second, when we make the wrong diagnosis, we will prescribe the wrong cure. What we really need, in order to feel (and be) better, is forgiveness.

Pope Francis has preached about mercy and forgiveness from the day he became pope. His message is the short-form



INTELLECT AND VIRTUE

JOHN GARVEY

statement of Christian belief: Jesus suffered, died and rose again to redeem us.

We affirm that lesson when we say in the Nicene Creed that we believe in the forgiveness of sins. We put that belief into action when we receive the sacrament of Reconciliation. And if we really believe, we confess frequently — not from some overweening guilt complex, but because we know it is good for us.

God has made His mercy available. Who would not take advantage?

If, on the other hand, we seek out a priest just for deeper self-awareness, then what we will get is a session of free amateur doctoring. There is something to be said for that, but in these days of affordable care, a good health plan will pay for such things. For the forgiveness of sins, there is no substitute for the confessional.

John Garvey is president of The Catholic University of America.

Caring for widows and orphans

Rusty Staub never stopped being a New York Met. And more than that, Rusty Staub never stopped being a New Yorker, either. The onetime baseball slugger, now 70, has thrown himself entirely behind the families of the city's cops and firefighters, and it's why he's so dedicated to the widows of two policemen recently killed in the line of duty.

"We're waiting till things settle down a bit," Staub told Denis Hamill of the *Daily News*.

He was speaking of the fatal shooting late last year of NYPD Officers Rafael Ramos and Wenjian Liu as they sat in their patrol car, and of his plan to present their widows with checks for \$25,000 each. The funds will come from the New York Police and Fire Widows and Children Benefit Fund, which Staub helped get started in 1984.

The hefty gifts are only the beginning. "Every October for the rest of their lives they'll receive a \$4,000 check," he said. "We've been doing this for 30 years and in that time we've raised \$120 million for fallen heroes of first responders, including EMS workers. Their names go on our Wall of Honor in Battery Park."

Staub, a New York restaurateur for many years after he

retired from baseball, got started on this incredible charity when he befriended Pat Burns, then an officer of the Patrolmen's Benevolent Association.

"I'd give him Mets tickets for police families or kids from the PAL," Staub said. "Then in 1984 a cop was killed in the line of duty. He had a lovely wife and three kids under age five. I felt he received too little fanfare. I called Pat Burns, invited him to my restaurant and told him I had some ideas to raise money for this fallen hero's family. He really liked the idea."

The plan took off, and the widows benefit fund was born. It started modestly, with picnics in the bleachers of Shea Stadium, but soon the PBA, the firefighters' union and City Hall gave it their support. The Mets' Foundation joined in. In time it became big, far bigger than Staub dared to hope.

His own family background played a role in the organization too, Staub told reporter Hamill. An uncle who had joined the New Orleans police force was killed in the line of duty and received very little. "I remember how terrible it was for our grieving family," he said.

At the moment, relations are strained between the NYPD and City Hall, a fact that has Staub upset.



LIGHT ONE CANDLE

GERALD COSTELLO, THE CHRISTOPHERS

"It pains me deeply," he said. "I just hope they can find some common ground because we have two families that are grieving now, hurting badly. I know, I saw it in my own family. And so, it's still personal for me."

"We will be giving each widow a check for \$25,000. But a much greater gift would be to see New York City heal and come together in honor of these two fallen heroes."

Maybe it's not all that likely that the New York Mets would hold a contest, one that would determine the name of their most popular alumnus. But the feeling here is that Rusty Staub would win the contest hands down.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note write: The Christophers, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for March 1, 2015

Mark 9:2-10

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Second Sunday of Lent, Cycle B: the revelation of Jesus' glory to three disciples. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

JESUS	PETER	JAMES
JOHN	LED THEM UP	DAZZLING
WHITE	BLEACH	ELIJAH
MOSES	RABBI	LET US
THREE	A CLOUD	A VOICE
AROUND	ANYONE	DOWN
SON OF MAN	RISEN	FROM THE DEAD

A GLIMPSE



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CAPECCHI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

in-person gatherings to discuss the "sisterhood" she sought in a college sorority and found in a convent.

Sister Belinda, who helps the Benedictines with vocation ministry, will be having similar conversations with prospective postulants. "The first thing that holds them back isn't fear but lack of exposure," she said. She's quick to rave about the women in her community, like 100-year-old Sister Mercedes, who has been involved in hurricane relief, RCIA instruction and hospital chaplaincy. "These stories are not heard. The sisters have done amazing things, but they don't publicize them. They do them so quietly that nobody outside the monastery knows."

Here's a chance to change that.

Sister Dian considers religious life the greatest adventure of all. "I see lots of exciting years ahead. I look back and I think everything I've done has taught me and brought me to where I am now. I just thank God!"

Megan Graves, a 22-year-old postulant with the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters, echoes that enthusiasm when asked about her future. A native of Chicago's South Side, Megan wears stylish glasses, closely cropped hair and a nose ring. The piercing is a frequent conversation starter at the Catholic school near Milwaukee where she teaches religion.

"So many of the girls come up to me and say, 'You want to be a nun, but you have a nose ring?'" Megan told me. She welcomes the question, eager to broaden their notion of who can be Catholic sisters. (Megan knows several other 20-something postulants who have nose rings. It's not a major symbol or statement, she says. "It's a hipster thing.")

She's seizing National Catholic Sisters Week, March 8 to 14 — an official addition to Women's History Month — as an opportunity for myth busting and for celebrating the remarkable influence of women religious. She'll take to Facebook and host

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

Sports

MARIAN CAPTURES NIC BOYS HOOPS CHAMPIONSHIP Marian High School's boys' basketball team, ranked No. 1 in 3-A in the state, beat Penn, 69-51, on Feb. 24 to capture the Northern Indiana Conference Regular Season Championship. The boys' sectional began March 3.

CYO CHAMPIONS



PROVIDED BY ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON

The Lady Pioneers were part of a St. Elizabeth Ann Seton fifth-grade CYO championship sweep (boys were shown in the Feb. 15 issue).



PROVIDED BY ST. JOSEPH-HESEN CASSEL

The St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel seventh- and eighth-grade team won the small-school CYO championship.

CATHOLIC SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS JOIN NOTRE DAME SQUAD



PROVIDED BY KIM MAUCH

The University of Notre Dame cheerleaders hosted a pre-game clinic for area Catholic school cheerleaders on Jan. 22. The cheerleaders were then asked to join the ND squad and cheer during "You Can Lend A Hand Night" at a women's basketball game.

St. Joseph Eagles named ICCL champs

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND — As the snow fell and the west winds bellowed, Saint Joseph High School acted as a sanctuary for the Inter-City Catholic League as it played host to the championship game between the Crusaders of Holy Cross and the undefeated Eagles of St. Joseph Grade School.

The St. John Bosco Division brethren had skirmished earlier in the campaign with the Eagles winning the fourth quarter and the contest giving the Crusaders their only blemish of the season.

The contest started out with St. Joseph attacking the rim with the quartet of Connor Ratigan, Chris Smith, Brennan Horvath and their high-energy guard, JP Raster, as they jumped out to an 8-0 lead.

The Crusaders would not be outdone as they regrouped and relied on the play of their big men — Charles Black and Tion Ottbridge — and a talented guard Jordan Ivy and stormed into the lead after one, 12-11.

An old-fashioned World War I dogfight broke out as the two adversaries mixed aerial moves, hit and runs, bombs from outside all in an attempt to secure the coveted prize.

Both teams' assaults accumulated 23 personal fouls between them causing problems with their respective rotations; however the violations paved the way for a march to the charity stripe, which favored the Eagles as they assumed the lead going into half-time, 29-24.

The third quarter would be much of the same as the teams counter punched their way towards the fourth never giving an inch highlighted by the Crusaders finding Mitch Coleman running the floor for an easy layup and the Eagles' Raster threading the needle to Chris Smith for a bucket.

The back breaker of the stanza was a put back by Eagle Cam White as time expired reminiscent of a last second shot to end the third in their first contest, now pushing the lead to eight.

Late three-point field goals by Miguel Zyniewicz and Ivy were too little too late as the Eagles carried through by remaining diligent from the foul line and icing the game and the championship by a score of 50-41.

"Our hat is off to Holy Cross. They gave us a good game and made us play to our full poten-



PAUL TINCHER

The St. Joseph Grade School Eagles won the ICCL championship.

tial," explained St. Joseph Coach Brian Ratigan. "We have talked all season about the importance of free throws in a tight ball game and the team was patient and converted. I couldn't be prouder."

"They were quick, well coached and spread us out defensively and that was the difference," remarked Crusader Skipper Jason Ball. "We were able to make a couple runs on them but they were too few. But it was a great year for us and I'm just happy to be called coach by these players."

A stat not enjoyed at the scorer's table but a reminder to those in attendance was that Holy Cross outscored St. Joseph 2-0 in the category of priests in attendance as Pastor Holy Cross Father Robert Epping joyously proclaimed with a smirk.

The Blazers of St. Matthew won the consolation game by defeating St. Pius X, 42-32. Coley Quinn netted 18 in the victory as John Branch scored the same for the Lions.

In the Colors Championship game, Christ the King Blue outlasted St. Pius X Green, 34-27, behind the scoring of Adam

Fort Wayne-South Bend diocesan boys' basketball tournament

Sunday, March 8, beginning at 1 p.m.

- Precious Blood vs. St. Matthew
- St. Charles vs. Holy Cross
- St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel vs. St. Joseph

Place: Indiana Tech College/Schafer Center Gymnasium
1600 E. Washington Blvd, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46803

Admission: adults \$5, students \$1
Hosted by St Joseph-Hessen Cassel School

Special thanks to Indiana Tech for use of their facilities.

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Building a life of discipleship

New Confirmation curriculum to be implemented

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — The unveiling of a new diocesan seventh- and eighth-grade religious education curriculum and new Confirmation program was showcased to catechists, teachers, principals, religious education directors and pastors at presentations offered in both Fort Wayne and South Bend last week.

The curriculum called "Alive in Christ" has the intentions of helping children and young people to know, love and live the Catholic faith. Our Sunday Visitor in Huntington prepared the Confirmation curriculum exclusively for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

One of the components of the curriculum is the new diocesan Confirmation program. Candidates preparing for Confirmation will study four units, with each offering the elements of forming intentional disciples: to invite, discover and live the elements studied.

In a letter to the faithful, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades wrote, "By working together to ensure a consistent and rich formation in the faith for our seventh- and eighth-grade students, we will be offering them the foundation of



TIM JOHNSON

Valerie Vogel, a sales manager who represents the "Alive in Christ" curriculum at Our Sunday Visitor, Huntington, was the presenter at showcases in Fort Wayne and South Bend last week introducing the seventh- and eighth-grade curriculum, including the exclusively made Confirmation candidate book and program for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The multimedia-centered program will offer resources to help young people know, love and live the Catholic faith. It will be implemented in parishes and schools in the fall.

faith essential to a lifelong journey as disciples of Jesus Christ."

Bishop Rhoades said, "It is my vision to provide the same solid foundation to all students in seventh- and eighth-grades across our diocese by using the

seventh- and eighth-grade levels of the 'Alive in Christ' religion series in combination with this new Confirmation program that was custom-made for use in our diocese."

The showcases last week at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne and Saint Joseph High School in South Bend introduced the curriculum.

Jane Sandor, co-director of the diocesan Office of Catechesis, worked closely with the program.

She noted that the new curriculum came about through a concern of Bishop Rhoades', who after visiting all parishes for Confirmations, "wanted to make sure his students were being prepared the same with accurate information and the correct cat-

echesis."

"He felt that there were some deficiencies or differences. He put together this vision with OSV and with the Office of Catechesis. He wanted to make sure students understood their call, that it all emanates from the story of the Pentecost and going into discipleship and living a life of joy," she said.

Normally, the creation of such a program takes more time than a year. John Christensen, national sales and advertising director for Our Sunday Visitor, said, "To start to create a new curriculum is a significant, financial and time-intensive process. The timing was perfect that it all came together when we were rolling out 'Alive in Christ' and the bishop's needs. That came together seamlessly."

Using the creativity of the OSV resource staff, Christensen said, "The Confirmation program is sort of where we broke all the rules — in a good way. We were able to say, 'this is a normal process, but here is a need that is immediate. Let's put our heads together and come up with an immediate solution so that we can have everything they need in a timely manner.'"

Valerie Vogel, an OSV sales manager who presented the showcases, said she is most excited about the partnership that was developed between the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Our Sunday Visitor and the people implementing it.

"There is a synergy," she said. "There was a need. The bishop wanted to respond to the need. Our Sunday Visitor was able to support him and respond. And now it is about the implementation."

Vogel said, "I'm really excited to see the transformations that will occur in parishes and schools

because of 'Alive In Christ.' I want to hear the stories of excited catechists and parents and young people being comfortable and confident on reflecting on Scripture and applying it to their lives. I want to see — two, three or four years down the road — the impact that it's made. And I have confidence that it will."

Sue Sherburne, a director of religious education at St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne, along with Teresa Oross from South Bend, will help guide catechists in implementing the curriculum. Tammy Healy, the OSV region sales representative for Indiana, will also be assisting parishes in implementing and ordering the books.

"There is so much wonderful information there for the catechist to fulfill the vision that bishop has in order to pull the kids into that full discipleship," Sherburne told *Today's Catholic* after the morning showcase at the Noll Center on Feb. 25.

In addition to the actual book, there are online resources.

Vogel noted that one couple with whom she spoke after the Fort Wayne morning showcase was happy to see the curriculum had a multimedia aspect — even incorporating YouTube videos in the lessons.

Sherburne noted what she found most useful was "having that weblink for the catechist to use so that they have the core basics there in their texts. They can go there and find materials for the seventh- and eighth-grade program. It can be multidisciplinary and ... work with kids with all learning styles."

"There is so much information there to give background to catechists," she added, "so that's going to give catechists a firm foundation so that they can go forth and bring their students into a full foundation."

Sherburne also emphasized that the program is family-oriented. "We're helping families to live out their job of being primary educators of their child's faith life," she said.

Christensen added that there are elements "online available to meet parents where they are, meet the kids where they are and utilize the flexibilities of the formats to really deliver a product that is useful."

Another component that will be placed into the seventh- and eighth-grade curriculum is the theology of the body, which will support the Confirmation component.

The theology of the body component will build on the Ascension Press version, according to Sandor, but the diocesan Office of Family Life will use eight additional lessons on chastity.

In June, there will be in-services on how to use the curriculum. A followup session will be held next fall in October.

Fish & Chicken Strip Dinner ALL YOU CAN EAT FISH & CHICKEN

Friday, March 13, 2015 - 4:00 - 7:30 P.M.

Cornerstone Youth Center

19819 Monroeville Road, Monroeville, 46773

Adults:\$8.50 / Youth 6 to10:\$5.50 - 5 & under: Free

Dine-in and Drive-thru Meals include scalloped potatoes, applesauce or cole slaw, roll/butter and dessert.

Adult meals only for Carryout - No kids or free meals. Questions? 260-623-3972

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Director of Campus Ministry

Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Indiana

Seeks a Director of Campus Ministry to provide strong collaborative leadership in the development of programs, activities and services that respond to the religious and spiritual needs of the students, faculty and staff. Candidates will be intellectually conversant with the Catholic Tradition and adept at ecumenical and interfaith outreach. Candidates will have administrative skills in team building, strategic planning and assessment.

Candidates will be Roman Catholic with a Master of Divinity or equivalent, three or more years of experience in Campus Ministry or related field and a background or pastoral experience that complement the mission of Saint Mary's College and the philosophy of education of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

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Director of Human Resources

**Saint Mary's College, Facilities Building,
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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.

FISH FRIES

Lenten fish fry planned

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 Ironwood Rd., will have a Lenten fish fry on Friday, March 6, and on all Fridays during Lent, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8.50, children 5-12 \$3.50. Shrimp are also available for \$9.

Dan's Fish to be served at St. Joseph

Bluffton — St. Joseph Parish Knights will have a fish fry Friday, March 13, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the church, 1300 N. Main St. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$6 for children 6-12 and children 5 and under free.

Jonah fish fry

Mishawaka — St. Bavo Parish will host a Jonah fish fry Friday, March 20, from 4-7 p.m. in the school gymnasium. Pre-sale tickets can be purchased for a discount at the parish office, 502 W. 7th St., at \$8 for adults, \$7 for seniors, \$5 for K-8 and preschoolers are free. Drive-through carry-out available. Beer and wine will be available for purchase.

Holy Name Society fish fry

New Haven — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday, March 6, from 4-7 p.m. Adults \$8, children 5-12 \$4.50 and children under 5 free.

Fish Fry

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Father Solanus Council



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260-420-FISH
(3474)

11276 will have a fish fry Friday, March 13, from 5-8 p.m. in the cafeteria at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School, 10700 Aboite Ctr. Rd. Tickets are \$9, children ages 6-11 will be \$5 and children 5 and under are free. Carry-out at adult price only.

Fish fry planned

Roanoke — St. Joseph Parish will have a fish fry on Friday, March 20, from 5-7:30 p.m. at the American Legion, 1122 North Main St. Adults are \$9, children 5-12 are \$4 and children 4 and under are free.

Dinner for charity planned

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd. will have a spaghetti dinner to benefit the Gibault School on Wednesday, March 18, from 5-6:30 p.m.

Las Vegas Night

South Bend — Holy Family Parish Ushers Club, 56405 Mayflower Rd. will have a Las Vegas Night Saturday, March 7, from 6-11 p.m. in the parish center. Tickets are \$8 in advance and \$10 at the door. Tickets includes sandwiches, beverages and a chance in a \$1,000 drawing. Lic No. 136855.

Famous Lenten FISH FRY!
At St. Pius X Church, Granger
FRIDAY, MARCH 6
4:30 - 7:00 p.m.

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Director of Youth Ministry PART-TIME

St. Therese, Little Flower Catholic Church in South Bend has an opening, beginning in May, for a part-time Director of Youth Ministry. Hours are flexible, with an expectation of 20 hours per week. Candidates should have the following qualifications:

- Active and practicing Catholic
- Good working knowledge of Catholic teaching and practices.
- Good relational skills, especially with youth.
- Ability to organize and lead with creativity and with minimal supervision.

Duties include organizing and leading faith formation opportunities with high school and junior high students, organizing the necessary parish support, working with parish staff, and working with parents of youth.

Send resumes or inquiries to:

Fr. Tom Shoemaker, St. Therese, Little Flower Parish
54191 Ironwood Road, South Bend, IN 46635
(574) 217-8848 or email: fathertom@littleflowerchurch.org

REST IN PEACE

Bremen

Mary P. Parker, 85,
St. Dominic

Culver

Norbert R.
Boguslawski, 76,
St. Mary of the Lake

Decatur

Msgr. Vincent L.
Lengerich, 96, St. Mary
of the Assumption

Fort Wayne

John H. Hensley,
90, Cathedral of
the Immaculate
Conception

Catherine A. Mattes,
87, St. Peter

Mary Maxine Schultz,
93, St. Vincent de Paul

Donald Paul Stein, 51,
St. Therese

Roberta C. Bishop, 78,
St. Vincent de Paul

Patrick J. Cronin, 53,
St. Charles Borromeo

Trudy M. Piersant, 88,
St. Charles Borromeo

Manuel E. Laguna, 84,
Queen of Angels

Thomas John
Truemper, 57,
St. John the Baptist

Florence Christine
Hoevel, 90, St. Jude

Lawrence W. Kelly, 81,
St. Charles Borromeo

Charles Edward Rice,
83, St. Joseph

New Carlisle

Evelyn V. Arendt, 73,
St. Stanislaus

Notre Dame

Father Theodore M.
Hesburgh, CSC, 97,
Basilica of the Sacred
Heart

South Bend

Pauline V. Grochowski,
93, Holy Family

Ervin E. Nowaczewski,
82, St. Hedwig

Mary Lou Kovatch, 88,
St. Matthew

Valentine S.
Ambroziak, 99,
St. Adalbert

Jeanette M. Potter, 93,
St. John the Baptist

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Completed application deadline: **MARCH 31, 2015**

Employment begins **July 1, 2015**

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Located at 1702 Wallen Rd, Fort Wayne, IN

<http://www.saintv.org/school/>

**BUILDING A COMMUNITY IN CHRIST
FOR TODAY AND TOMORROW**



The Hall family — Adam and Amber Hall, their daughter Alyssa and son Ashton and two infants — will be joining the Church at the Easter Vigil at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne. The family is shown with their sponsors at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Sunday, March 1.

JERRY KESSENS

RITES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

let yourselves be built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ," the bishop told the catechumens that when they are baptized, "you will be consecrated as a spiritual house and a holy priesthood by the anointing of the Holy Spirit. You will join us in offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."

"This means that you will be able to join in the offering of the Eucharist. Becoming part of the common priesthood, you will exercise that priesthood by receiving the sacraments, as well as by living lives of prayer, charity and holiness," the bishop added.

"This is how all of us live our vocations," he said, "by making an offering of our daily lives to the Lord. This is what St. Peter calls 'the royal priesthood.' You will participate in the mission of this priesthood of Jesus, bearing witness to Him in the world. As St. Peter writes: this is 'so that you may announce the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.'"

At the Rite of Election, the catechumens enter a period of purification and enlightenment.

"During these weeks before Easter, you prepare more intensely for your Christian initiation," Bishop Rhoades said. "At the Easter Vigil, the Easter fire will be lit and from it the Easter candle will be lit. You will enter into dark churches in parishes throughout our diocese. And the light of the Easter candle will spread throughout the churches. The darkness reminds us of the state of the world and of the human family before the coming of Christ. The new fire and the candle symbolize

the light coming into the world."

"You and also the candidates here who have already been baptized, who will be entering into full communion in the Catholic Church — all of you have received the great gift brought by Jesus: the light of faith. It is this light that will illuminate your lives," Bishop Rhoades noted.

Bishop Rhoades also spoke about the sacrament of Confirmation the catechumens and candidates will receive.

"The Holy Spirit will come upon you and will dwell within you," Bishop Rhoades said, "strengthening you along the journey of life, strengthening you with His gifts so that you will walk as children of the light, living your faith with conviction. Do not let your faith become lukewarm. The life of faith is a beautiful journey when we live it with conviction, intentionally, opening ourselves each day to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The life of faith is nourished by the great gift Jesus gave us on the night before He died: the sacrament of the Eucharist, His very Body and Blood."

"The Eucharist is the precious nourishment for our faith," Bishop Rhoades said.

The bishop also spoke about the covenant they would enter with the Lord.

The catechumens would be making promises to God before they are baptized. "You will renounce Satan and profess the faith of the Church, faith in God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit," the bishop said.

And candidates would renew those baptismal promises before they are confirmed.

"At Easter, you will become members of the people of the new covenant, the Catholic Church," Bishop Rhoades said. "The law of this new covenant is the new commandment to love as Christ has loved us. Our destiny as God's holy people, a holy nation, a royal priesthood, is the Kingdom of God."

Diocesan women's retreat planned March 21

HUNTINGTON — A diocesan Women's Retreat will be Saturday, March 21, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at St. Felix Catholic Center, 1280 Hitzfield St., in Huntington. The retreat with the theme "Women Encountering Jesus," will focus on Scriptural stories of Jesus with various women.

The majority of the retreat will be spent in the Chapel of St. Felix. The retreat will offer women the opportunity to get away to pray, share, listen and rest in God's love.

Organizers say, "It is a casual day for women of all ages to come spend time in prayerful reflection. There will be music and talks, but mainly time to be like Mary at sit at the feet of Jesus to be strengthened for our work and journey. Women should bring Bibles, a notebook or journal and writing instrument."

Diocesan speakers include Mary Glowaski and Cindy Black. Other speakers will be announced.

Cost is \$20 and includes simple lunch and dinner. For information visit www.diocesefwsb.org/Adult-Faith-Formation.org/Adult-Faith-Formation.

**Diocesan
Women's
Retreat**

Saturday March 21st, 2015
10 am - 7 pm
St. Felix Catholic Center in Huntington
Cost: \$20 (Includes simple lunch & dinner)

"They devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women and Mary." Acts 1:14

Information & Link to Register:
<http://www.diocesefwsb.org/Adult-Faith-Formation>



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