The 2014 Annual Bishop’s Appeal sets a record

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — The 2014 Annual Bishop’s Appeal, “Let Us Love In Deed and Truth,” is another success. Harry Verhiley, Secretary for Stewardship and Development for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, told Today’s Catholic the goal for the 2014-15 Appeal was $5,048,769. “Because of the generosity of our families, we raised $6,502,645 which accounts for 129 percent of the goal,” he said.

“When our diocese raises funds above the goal, 100 percent of the overage goes back to the respective over-goal parishes,” Verhiley said. “That means that the 2014 Bishop’s Appeal will return nearly $1.5 million back to our over-goal parishes, once collected. This is important, since these funds support ministries and services offered in our parishes.”

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades told Today’s Catholic, “The faithful of our diocese are always generous to the Annual Bishop’s Appeal, as well as other parish and diocesan needs. I am so very grateful to all who gave to the 2014 Appeal.”

“The Annual Bishop’s Appeal is an important funding source for the mission and ministries of our diocese,” Bishop Rhoades said.

“You generous support for the work of the Church is a faithful witness to the generous love of God. This witness is Christ-like, because Jesus gave Himself completely for our sake. I pray that God will continue to bless the work of our diocese and all the faithful who continue to contribute to this important work.”

DIVINE MERCY DEVOTIONS

St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne was one of many parishes offering Divine Mercy Sunday devotions on April 12. A family prays before the monstrance and the Divine Mercy image there. In the 1930s Jesus requested through St. Faustina Kowalska that a feast of Divine Mercy be established and solemnly celebrated in the Church on the first Sunday after Easter every year. In the year 2000 after many years of study by the Catholic Church, St. John Paul II officially established that feast of Divine Mercy and named it Divine Mercy Sunday. The feast of Divine Mercy offers the faithful the promises of the total forgiveness of all sins and punishment for anyone that would go to Confession and receive Communion on that day.

BY KAY COZAD

ARISE Together in Christ

Many parishes across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have recently completed their three-year goal of faith formation and renewal through the ARISE Together in Christ/LEVANTATE, Unamones en Cristo process. Introduced in 2012, the small group, faith-sharing initiative has nurtured the seeds of faith in action that are now being harvested across the area.

The ARISE process, a RENEW International initiative, focused on establishing small Christian communities who met regularly in homes, parishes, youth groups and college campuses, to read and reflect on Scripture and Church teaching, share how it relates in their personal lives and encourage active service and discipleship. The five distinct six-week sessions that the process offered, which began in fall of 2012 in the diocese, have included “Encountering Christ Today,” “Change Our Hearts,” “In the Footsteps of Christ,” “New Hearts, New Spirit,” and finally, “We Are the Good News!” Coordinator and team leadership training was provided by Renew International prior to each season.

In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend more than 6,000 small faith members in 58 parishes participated in English and more than 1,000 members in 10 parishes in Spanish. More than 650 lay leaders were trained in English and more than 150 in Spanish.

From this effort parish life has been revitalized in many ways. St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne reports, “This past season, ‘New Heart, New Spirit,’ with its theme of forgiveness and reconciliation, led many to go back to the sacrament of Reconciliation after years of absence. They then received the Holy Eucharist.” And in Angola, St. Anthony of Padua ARISE members worked to put together a parish mission in November.

Gospel action in Monroeville came in the form of feeding the hungry when the ARISE group there not only prepared and served the soup supper for the “Soup and Stations” night during Lent, but they also led the rosary as a group.

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Pope says Year of Mercy will be time to heal, to help, to forgive

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Mercy is what makes God perfect and all-powerful, Pope Francis said in his document officially proclaiming the 2015-2016 extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy.

“If God limited Himself to only justice, He would cease to be God, and would instead be like human beings who ask merely that the law be respected,” the pope wrote in “Misericordiae Vultus.” (“The Face of Mercy”), which is the “bull of induction” calling a Holy Year to begin Dec. 8.

Standing in front of the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica April 11, Pope Francis handed copies of the document to the archpriests of the major basilicas of Rome and to Vatican officials representing Catholics around the world.

Portions of the 9,300-word proclamation were read aloud before Pope Francis and his aides processed into St. Peter’s Basilica to celebrate the first vespers of Divine Mercy Sunday.

In his homily at vespers, the pope said he proclaimed the Year of Mercy because “it is the favorable time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and touch with their hands the signs of the close-ness of God, a time to offer everyone the way of forgiveness and reconciliation.”

The boundless nature of God’s mercy — His willingness always to forgive anything — has been a constant subject of Pope Francis preaching and is explained in detail in the document, which outlines some of the specific projects the pope has in mind for the year.

The Old Testament stories of how God repeatedly offered mercy to His unfaithful people and the New Testament stories of Jesus’ compassions, healing and mercy demonstrate, the pope said, that “the mercy of God is not an abstract idea, but a concrete reality through which He reveals His love, just like mothers and fathers love their children.

“How much I desire that the year to come will be steeped in mercy, so that we can go out to every man and woman, bringing the goodness and tenderness of God,” he wrote. “May the balm of mercy reach everyone, both believers and those far away, as a sign that the kingdom of God is already present in our midst.”

Nothing in the Church’s preaching or witness, he said, can be lacking in mercy.

Pope Francis asked that all dioceses and religious institutes design a “Door of Mercy” at their cathedral or another special church or shrine, and that every diocese implement the “24 Hours for the Lord” initiative on the Friday and Saturday before the fourth week of Lent. In Rome the last two years, the pope has opened the celebration with a penance service in St. Peter’s Basilica and churches around the city were open for the next 24 hours for Confessions and Eucharistic Adoration.

The pope said he will designate and send out “Missionaries of Mercy” to preach about mercy; they will be given special authority, he said, “to pardon even those sins reserved to the Holy See.” Under Church law, those sins involve: a man who directly participated in an abortion; priests who have broken the seal of Confession; priests who have offered sacramental absolution to their own sexual partners; deserting the Eucharist; and making an attempt on the life of the pope. Usually, the Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican court, handles those cases.

And he urged all Catholics to spend more time practicing what traditionally have been called the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. The corporal works are: feeding the hungry, sheltering the homeless, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, visiting the imprisoned, giving drink to the thirsty and burying the dead. The spiritual works are: converting sinners, instructing the ignorant, advising the doubtful, comforting the sorrowful, bearing wrongs patiently, forgiving injuries and praying for the living and dead.

The date the pope chose to open the year — Dec. 8 — is the feast of the Immaculate Conception and the 50th anniversary of the closing of the Second Vatican Council. Both dates, he wrote, are related to the Year of Mercy.

Mercy, he said, is “the bridge that connects God and man, opening our hearts to a hope of being loved forever despite our sins.” That bridge was made concrete when God chose Mary to be the mother of His Son.

The Year of Mercy, Pope Francis wrote, is also a way to keep the Second Vatican Council alive. “The walls which too long had made the Church a kind of fortress were torn down and the time had come to proclaim the Gospel in a new way,” he said. The council recognized “a responsibility to be a living sign of the Father’s love in the world.”

The life and action of the Church, he said, “is authentic and credible only when she becomes a convincing herald of mercy,” a mercy that “knows no bounds and extends to everyone without exception.”

While some people try to argue that mercy, even God’s mercy, is limited by the demands of justice, Pope Francis said mercy and justice are “two dimensions of a single reality that unfolds progressively until it culminates in the fullness of love.”

Preaching mercy, he said, is not the same as ignoring sin or withholding correction. Instead, mercy invites repentance and conversion and ensures the sinner that once God forgives a sin, He forgets it.

The pope addressed direct appeals in the document to members of the mafia and other criminal organizations as well as to officials and others involved in corruption.

“For their own good, I beg them to change their lives,” he wrote. “I ask them this in the name of the Son of God who, though rejecting sin, never rejected the sinner.”

“Violence, inflicting for the sake of accumulating riches soaked in blood makes one neither powerful nor immortal,” he continued.

“Everyone, sooner or later, will be surprised of God’s judgment from which no one can escape.”

At the same time, Pope Francis wrote, many of those who insist that God’s justice and mercy contradict each other are also the Pharisees who thought they could save themselves by following the letter of the law, but ended up simply surrendering the shoulders of others and undermined the Father’s mercy.”

“God’s justice is His mercy,” the pope said. “Mercy is not opposed to justice, but rather expresses God’s forgiveness, His desire to change their lives,” he wrote. “I ask them this in the name of the Son of God who, though rejecting sin, never rejected the sinner.”

Recognizing that they have been treated with mercy by God, he said, Christians are obliged to treat others with mercy. In fact, the Gospel says that Christians will be judged by the mercy they show others.

“At times how hard it seems to forgive,” he said. “And yet pardon is the instrument placed into our fragile hands to attain serenity of heart. To let go of anger, wrath, violence and revenge are necessary conditions to living joyfully.”

Pope Francis also noted that God’s mercy is an important theme in Judaism and Islam, and he urged efforts “during the Year of Mercy to increase interreligious dialogue and mutual understanding with follow- ers of both faiths.”

Vatican News
Flurry of briefs seeks to shape court’s look at same-sex marriage

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When it takes up same-sex marriage cases from four states April 28, the Supreme Court will officially be considering just two constitutional questions.

But judging from the outpouring of friend-of-the-court or “amicus” briefs, the court is expected to affect the very definition of marriage in American society.

Around 120 “amicus” briefs filed with the court by the early April deadline offer the views of everyone from people who have sought same-sex marriages and states that support them to scholars and religious institutions that come down on both sides of the question, plus business leaders, sociologists and others who weigh in on the effects of different types of marriage. Among those are groups and individuals with views about the potential effect of a ruling on First Amendment rights and those with opinions about issues such as the use of sexual orientation change therapy.

The court has been swamped with appeals of lower court rulings about the laws of Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky and Tennessee using the titles of two partners, Obergefell v. Hodges. That case arose after the October 2013 death of John Arthur of Cantwell, Ohio, and his longtime partner, James Obergefell, had married earlier that year in Maryland. When the local Ohio registrar agreed to list Obergefell as the surviving spouse on Arthur’s death certificate — which is key to a range of survivor’s benefits — the Ohio attorney general challenged the status because Ohio law bars same-sex marriages.

Tanco v. Haslam, the Tennessee case, and Bourke v. Beshar, the Kentucky case, similarly challenge those states’ refusal to recognize same-sex marriages performed in other jurisdictions. DeBoer v. Snyder, the Michigan case, does so based on a lesbian couple’s efforts to jointly adopt their children. Michigan law limits adoption by a second parent to married couples and the state does not allow or recognize same-sex marriages.

The Supreme Court ruled in 2013 that the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which defined marriage as between one man and one woman, is unconstitutional.

The same day it sent back to lower courts a case that resulted in California’s law allowing same-sex marriage being overturned. Since then, four federal Circuit Courts have ruled that state bans on same-sex marriage are unconstitutional, while a fifth Circuit Court upheld such restrictions. Between state laws and judicial rulings, same-sex marriage is now legal in 38 states and the District of Columbia.

In agreeing in January to take the cases, the Supreme Court said it would consider two constitutional questions:

• Does the 14th Amendment require a state to license a marriage between two people of the same sex?

• Does the 14th Amendment require a state to recognize a marriage between two people of the same sex when their marriage was lawfully licensed and performed out of state?

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops filed a brief arguing that the state laws limiting marriage of homosexual couples should be upheld. The first reason the USCCB cites is that “as a matter of simple biology, the sexual union of one man and one woman is the only union capable of creating new life,” and that homes with a father and a mother are the optimal environment for children. It said it is “reasonable and just” for states to treat heterosexual marriages as having more value than other kinds of relationships.

“Government support for a marital bond between mothers and fathers serves the interest of reducing, or preventing further increases of the incidence of single parenthood and the consequent burdens it places upon the custodial parent (usually the mother) and the public,” it said.

The USCCB also argues that laws permitting same-sex marriages redefine the traditional definition of marriage and would “necessarily create church-state conflict for generations to come.”

The brief said that when government permits people of different gender on the basis of race, sex or national origin, “it discriminates on the basis of an immutable trait identifiable from conception or birth. In contrast, a decision to participate in a same-sex relationship is not a trait, but a species of conduct.”

The USCCB brief noted that the court has previously said that while same-sex sexual conduct may be “closely correlated” with homosexual inclination, “the correlation is by no means absolute, and what separates the two is critical both legally and morally — the exercise of a responsible human will. The court should maintain this venerable distinction between inclination and overt conduct because it preserves the Anglo-American legal tradition, applicable to but extending far beyond discussions of sexuality. In general, though the government may legally disadvantage all manner of conduct, the Constitution forbids it to do the same to a person’s status, belief, or inclination.”

The Catholic Church teaches that homosexual attraction itself is not sinful, though homosexual actions are sinful. It teaches that marriage is only a union between a man and a woman and that any sexual activity outside of marriage is wrong.

Among other Catholic entities that filed briefs, the Michigan Catholic Conference weighed in, echoing many of the USCCB’s points about the definition of marriage and the value to the state of limiting marriage to heterosexual pairs in the interest of the foundation of family. But it also echoed the state of Michigan’s defense of its law.

“States’ decisions to recognize, benefit and burden only the naturally procreative union serves legitimate state interests,” the Michigan conference said, quoting from the state’s defense of its law: “One starts from the premise that governments got into the business of defining marriage, and remain in the business of defining marriage, not to regulate love but to regulate sex, most especially the intended and unintended effects of male-female intercourse.”

The state encourages, supports and protects traditionally defined marriage to promote the stability of society and its children, the brief said. “It is not hard to envision problems that can result without any change in the definition of the natural effects of male-female intercourse. States regulate opposite-sex marriage to ensure domestic tranquility, for example, by legitimizing children, ensuring domestic support and prohibiting neglect.”

Elsewhere, the brief observes: “Because the fundamental right to marriage is inextricably linked to procreation, there is simply no fundamental right to marry someone of the same sex.”

The Supreme Court is expected to rule on the cases before the end of its term in late June.

Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty Holy Hour across the diocese

• St. Joseph Church, 1300 N. Main St., Bluffton, hosts prayer for vocations and religious freedom the first Thursday of each month beginning with Morning Prayer at 7:45 a.m. Mass at 8 a.m., Adoration from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m., Litany of the Eucharist and Benedictinum at 6:45 p.m. and Mass at 7 p.m. On the second Wednesday of the month, Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty takes place beginning at 5 p.m. and ending with Mass at 7 p.m.

• St. Charles Borromeo Church, 4916 Trier Rd, Fort Wayne, has a holy hour all Fridays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the chapel.

• Queen of Peace Church in Mishawaka has an hour and a half (3:30-5 p.m.) of Adoration and Exposition every Saturday prior to the Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m. They dedicate this time in honor of private prayer for the Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty.

• St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Decatur, hosts Eucharistic Exposition on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 4:30-8 p.m. and on Thursday from 9-10 a.m. and 4:30-8 p.m. The parish asks participants to pray for the protection of marriage, religious freedom and unborn children.

• Our Lady of Good Hope Church, 7215 Saint Joe Rd., Fort Wayne, hosts a holy hour for religious liberty beginning with a rosary at 9:30 a.m. every Tuesday.

Priest appointment

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has appointed Reverend John M. Santone, OSs, as Temporary Administrator of Queen of Peace Parish, Mishawaka, effective April 20, 2015.

A nun prays during an April 11 Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican. The Mass was for participants in an international congress organized by the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.

Formation staffs were in Rome for an international Congress April 7-11. The congress was one of several events organized for the Year of Consecrated Life.
**St. John the Evangelist parishioners recall Palm Sunday tornadoes**

**BY DENISE FEDOROW**

GOSHEN — April 11th marked the 50th anniversary of the infamous Palm Sunday tornadoes that tore through the Goshen area, leaving a path of devastation behind. Forty-nine people lost their lives and 600 homes were destroyed in Elkhart County.

Two of the hardest hit areas were the Midway Mobile Home Park and the Sunnyside subdivision in Dunlap — an unincorporated area between Goshen and Elkhart, and the Jefferson Place subdivision and Pine Creek Trailer Park north of Goshen on State Road 15 and U.S. Hwy 20 near Bristol and Middlebury.

St. John the Evangelist parishioners recently recalled memories of that fateful day. Parishioner Patrice (Eash) Traxler’s family home was destroyed in the tornado. Traxler was four years old at the time and recalled she and her sister Denise had been playing with a neighbor and had been sent home. She said Denise, who was six, was upset by the weather so their mother, who had been cleaning, tried to calm her. They soon were headed to the basement where they didn’t have a basement. The next-door neighbor wasn’t home so they ran down the street, her mom carrying her baby brother, to the home where the girls had been playing.

Traxler said, “No sooner than we got there it got real black and nasty. As we headed to the basement we passed a big picture window and mom saw the tornado coming.”

Traxler recalls huddling in a corner and hearing the sounds of debris coming down around them. She said she wasn’t sure if it was the first or second tornado that hit her home. Reportedly, the first tornado struck between 6:15-6:30 p.m. hitting the Midway Mobile Home Park and Jefferson Place. Another tornado touched down near Wakarusa, skipped over Goshen Hospital and Goshen College and hit Sunnyside subdivision around 7 p.m.

She recalled that a young girl in their area had been killed. Traxler recalled that her home had one “bright orange wall standing” with a shelf where two piggybanks, hand-painted by her grandmother, sat undamaged. Another vivid image was that of the mop and bucket her mom had used before the tornado hit, standing completely undisturbed.

Traxler also shared that as her grandparents were driving home after the tornado her grandmother told her husband that their house had been hit because along the way she saw his ties hanging from tree branches.

Traxler said she credits her sister for saving their lives. It was also a blessing the first neighbors weren’t home as their house was destroyed as well. Traxler’s family rebuilt their house, this time with a basement and storm shelter.

Her father-in-law, Vince Traxler, longtime member of St. John, remembered driving home from Kendallville “with a terrible looking sky” and telling his wife if he saw a tornado he was going to drive into a ditch. But the family made it home and Vince said he didn’t know anything else until he showed up for work at Penn Controls the next day and no one was there. He said his wife Ruth knew of a family that was devastated in the tornado. Their son had only the clothes on his back, so Ruth took him shopping.

Vince also recalled his mother, who had heard news reports that Goshen was destroyed, grabbed a mop and bucket and drove up from Kendallville, not knowing what to expect. She was relieved to find her family was not affected.

Shirley Swartz recalls “such a nice day,” so she took her daughters to her parents’ home who lived near the Goshen Hospital, leaving her son home alone. After the tornado passed and the family was reunited at her parents’ house, they watched numerous ambulances bringing the injured to the hospital.

Pat Keil was working at the Dairy Queen that day and said, “Every time I put a cone out it got covered with dust and I couldn’t figure out why until I heard the sirens. It was a funny feeling — you could sense something in the air.”

Keil’s son-in-law, Chuck Cragun, who was 12 at the time, was right in the midst of the hardest hit area, near U.S. 33 and Country Road 13. He remembered his family going to the basement to escape storm, “It felt like a sandstorm — all the basement windows had blown out and the house was shaken from its foundation,” he said.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration listed this tornado in the “Most Notable Storms in the 20th Century.”

St. John the Evangelist, Goshen, parishioner Patrice (Eash) Traxler still has the piggy bank that her grandmother painted for her that somehow survived the destruction caused during the 1965 Palm Sunday tornadoes in the Goshen area.

**David Dalin is the author of the widely acclaimed book, The Myth of Hitler’s Pope: How Pope Pius XII Rescued Jews from the Nazis.**

In this lecture Rabbi Dalin, who presently teaches at Ave Maria University, will examine the extraordinary relationship between Pope Saint John XXIII and the Jews, from his role in saving tens of thousands of Jews in Nazi-occupied Europe, through his convoking the Second Vatican Council and inspiring the formulation of the Council’s historic Declaration on Jews and Judaism known as Nostra Aetate.
Child care voucher bill to minimize ‘cliff effect’ for low income families

STATEHOUSE — A bill to assist low income families by providing a graduated phase-out of their child care subsidy is moving through the Indiana General Assembly, and eligible for conference committee negotiation. The Indiana Catholic Conference supports the legislation.

The proposal, House Bill 1616 authored by Rep. Ed Clere, R-New Albany, addresses the economic phenomenon known as the ‘cliff effect’ by providing a tapering off of child care benefits rather than an automatic cut off. The ‘cliff effect’ phenomenon occurs when a family begins to earn above the limits set by the state and becomes ineligible for various government subsidies for food, housing, child care and other benefits. For low-income families, this means earning more income creates a more serious financial hardship for them.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference, said, “Helping low income families become self-sufficient is a good public policy. The legislation would have a big impact on families in need while having a minimal impact on the state’s budget.”

Clere said, “It’s a very simple bill and I hope the beginning of a larger conversation about this concept of the ‘cliff effect’ phenomenon as it occurs in our state.”

Clere said that currently the child care benefit is at 170 percent of the federal poverty level. “Someone can make just a little bit more money and lose their entire benefit. These individuals are doing better, yet are worse off financially due to the loss of their child care benefit,” said Clere. “This affects thousands of Hoosiers who rely on this benefit who are trying to improve themselves through education.”

Clere explained that the bill increases the phase-out for the child care subsidy from the current 170 percent of the federal poverty level to 250 percent of the federal poverty level. Clere said the legislation also helps families of five or more to be able to continue to receive the subsidy.

“As families get higher and higher on the income scale they would make higher and higher copays to their child care subsidy,” said Clere. “The bottom line is we ought to be structuring programs such as this to encourage families to gain more skills to advance in the workforce and become self-sufficient. ”

Sen. Vaneta Becker, R-Evansville, a Senate sponsor of the bill, said, “I think it’s important for us as legislators to be reminded that 69-71 percent of all jobs in Indiana do not pay a living wage. We are always talking about how great we are at economic development and job growth, but when I hear these statistics, it’s extremely alarming because it really means that these families can work all they want and they’re still not going to have enough money,” said Becker. “We need to be doing more about providing and incentivizing good paying jobs, not just jobs that are below the federal poverty level.”

Derek Thomas, senior policy analyst for Indiana Institute for Working Families, a program of the Indiana Community Action Agency testified in support of the legislation, said, “We’ve been researching benefit cliffs. We hear stories from families who are turning down raises and full-time work, or not gotten married in order to keep their benefits.” He said, “Poverty is still growing in Indiana. The middle class is still shrinking by even the most generous of estimates. This is just one small way that we can allow access to the middle class and reward hard work.”

Lucinda Nord, representing United Way, also supporting the bill said, “We are very much in support of smoothing benefits to encourage self-sufficiency. As you make more money, you pay more money. With many families affected who are currently on the wait list, we expect the wait list to grow, but we think this is a good policy shift because it rewards work.”

Tebbe said, “This bill received strong support in the House passing 94-0, and by a Senate panel. Even though it got held-up in the Senate Appropriations committee and failed to pass the full Senate, because it passed one chamber, it is eligible to be part of a conference committee process.”

Tebbe said, “We are going to continue to work to get it passed before the April 29th session adjournment deadline.”

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BRIDG CURTIS AYER

INFORMATION: The Gear-Up Safety program will be provided with the necessary safety items including pack-n-plays, outlet covers, baby locks, baby gates, helmets, life jackets, etc. This is at no cost to you!

DO YOU LIVE IN Elkhart, Kosciusko, Marshall or St. Joseph County? If so, email Libby Martin (lmartin@issin.org) or call 888-722-3678 to get safety items such as pack-n-plays, outlet covers, baby locks, baby gates, helmets, life jackets, etc. This is at no cost to you!

Through the Gear-Up Safety program families will be provided with the necessary safety items including pack-n-play, outlet cover, baby locks, baby gates, helmets, life jackets, etc. to ensure your home is a safe place for children. Just call 888-722-3678 and ask for the Gear-Up Safety Program Supervisor or the referring organization can email a referral to: Lmartin@Issin.org

The Gear-Up Safety program is a program of Lutheran Social Services of Indiana in partnership with SCAN and DCS serving Elkhart, Kosciusko, St. Joseph and Marshall Counties.
TODAY’S CATHOLIC
April 19, 2015

Beauty of art and sacraments as response to culture of pornography

BY CHRISTOPHER LUSHIS

NOTRE DAME — “May the eyes of your hearts be enlightened, that you may know the hope that belongs to His call.” These words from St. Paul’s letter to the Ephesians served as the inspiration and basis for a conference held at the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary’s College on March 26-27, focused on the dangers of pornography and the necessary response of the Church.

Numerous theologians, psychologists, educators and students participated in academic and pastoral discussions centered on the theme of “Seeing with the Eyes of the Heart: Cultivating a Sacramental Imagination in an Age of Pornography.” Speakers first elaborated upon the harmful effects of pornography before establishing the counteraction necessary to provide systemic healing.

Erica Scharrer, professor and chair of communication at the University of Massachusetts Amherst, began the conference by presenting details of a psychological study she had overseen, which evaluated “the contemporary character of pornography.” She revealed how “maintaining normal neurological videos increasingly demonstrate high degrees of degradation, violence, abuse and both verbal and physical aggression, most often depicting men as perpetrators and women as targets of these actions.”

William Struthers, professor of psychology at Wheaton College, next shared how viewing sexually explicit material (SEM) influences the thoughts and behaviors of men. Through his neurological research, he found that “men who are often exposed to SEM become less interested in real women because they have access to a controlled environment to engage their sexual desires without having to deal with the reality or messiness of a real relationship.” He also shared that “when viewing SEM, men neurologically trigger the function of vicariously engaging in the behaviors and feelings of what the performers are experiencing.” This creates a real-life changes in behavior, which he addressed includes “increases in risk-taking actions, misperceptions of what should be expected or demanded in real relationships, and a higher likelihood of become more depressed, experiencing self doubt or becoming unable to bond with others.” Struthers reminded, however, that “through the lens of the Gospel, we find our response to this problem, because we are instead exposed to the examples of dignity, sacrifice and faithfulness, which SEM so greatly lacks.”

Dr. Jill Manning, a licensed marriage and family therapist, then followed by touching upon the effects of pornography on women. Citing further psychological research, she indicated that “pornography acceptance among women is a stronger correlate with permissive sexuality, alcohol use, binge drinking and smoking than actual pornography use. This pushes back on the notion that merely thinking something in your head is harmless. What we accept and adopt into our personal values and ethics matters. We also know that regular exposure to pornography is associated with objectification and attitudes that cause desensitization and increased tolerance to offensive material, negative body image, distorted views of sexuality, cynicism and the beauty of love, and viewing abstinence as unhealthy and marriage as sexually confusing, which research actually refutes.”

In response to these serious findings, the conference then shifted to explore how the Church aims to return the focus to a viewpoint on truth, holiness and the beauty of creation. Speaking on “The Sacramental Imagination,” David Fagerberg, Notre Dame theology professor and St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, parishioner, shared a slideshow presentation of various renditions of Catholic art, indicating how the wonder of God’s creation and the vulnerability of Christ depicted as a child born in poverty or a man crucified upon a cross allows the eyes of our heart to gaze upon transcendental beauty beyond the messiness of a real relationship.

Further showing how our response involves a multi-sensory experience, Mary Codey of the University of Massachusetts, Boston College Theology Professor Boyd Coolman asserted, “The liturgy moves us through the senses to experience unitive contact with God. Pornography inhibits its practitioners from moving on to real contact with the real bodies of real people; those who use it can no longer touch and be touched. The Eucharistic liturgy, however, which begins with affected vision but is inexorably consumed in unitive contact, enacts precisely what is missing in porn, functioning as a kind of therapeutic exercise for learning and re-learning how to sense and relate to real bodies properly.”

Notre Dame theology graduate student, Nick Ogle, offered an additional practical understanding of offsetting the culture of pornography through extending selfless charity to others. He suggests that, “the corporeal works of mercy offer us a means of offering the body to God not out of spirit, but with all of who we are.”

Saint Mary’s College, as host and sponsor of the conference, also included a presentation by Holy Cross Sister Eva Mary Hooker, on how college founder Holy Cross Sister Madeleva Wolff, sought to show throughout the campus the art and the beauty of creation enable us to see God on moral and intellectual levels; providing an education of both the mind and the heart.

Throughout the conference, graduate and undergraduate panel discussions were held to explore in greater depth how to live out sacramental imagination on a daily basis.
The Congregation of Holy Cross presents six newly ordained priests, who received the Sacrament of Holy Orders on Saturday, April 11, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria, Ill., consecrated them.

The Madleva Lecture Series Event will feature speakers on the following topics related to the “Voices of Young Catholic Women” project:

- Sociological Data on Millennial Women and the Catholic Church
- Patricia Wittberg, Professor of Sociology, Indiana University-Purdue University, Indianapolis (author of America magazine article, “A Lost Generation?”)

This year’s Madleva program affords the opportunity to learn what some of the Millennial women who participated in this project voiced about Catholicism’s mediation because of their lives, and the challenges young women face in our culture today, and ways that we can strengthen our support for them in confronting these challenges, with grace, strength and dignity,” said Elizabeth Groppel, interim director of the Center for Spirituality.

The 2015 Madleva Lecture Series Event will feature speakers on the following topics related to the “Voices of Young Catholic Women” project:

- Reflections and next steps from the Voice of Young Catholic Women project
- Summary of letters received
- Judy Fain, Vice President for Mission, Saint Mary’s College
- Saint Mary’s students who worked on the “Voices” project
- Reflections on the Journey to Rome and the Audience with Pope Francis from Bishop Rhodes, Carol Ashley and Kristen Millar
- Reflections and next steps from leaders in the Church
- Bethany Meola, assistant director of the Vincent de Paul Society, Saint Mary and Ss. Peter and Paul, Holy Cross Sisters

Four newly ordained priests were presented to Pope Francis and works of art from 225 women to young women at this time of New Evangelization. On Nov. 24, 2014, the letters and works of art from 225 women from around the country were personally presented to Pope Francis by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Saint Mary’s President Carol Ann Mooney and Kristen Millar

“The voices of millennial women have been integral to the ‘Voices of Young Catholic Women’ project. The event will take place at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 16, in Carroll Auditorium of Madleva Hall.

In September 2014, students active in Campus Ministry at Saint Mary’s College issued a national invitation to other millennial women—ages 18-30—to join them in writing letters to Pope Francis expressing their love for the Catholic tradition and sharing ideas that could contribute to the Church’s outreach to young women at this time of New Evangelization.

On Nov. 24, 2014, the letters and works of art from 225 women from around the country were personally presented to Pope Francis by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Saint Mary’s President Carol Ann Mooney, Kristen Millar ’15, and Grace Uraruk ’14.

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A WAY OF LIFE

HARRY VERHILEY

That real treasure is one that we must not trade for anything in the world. Jesus put it very clearly in many of His references about the kingdom of God that is like a “hidden treasure in a field” that a man is willing to trade all for, or a “pearl of great price,” far greater value than the rest of the man’s possessions.

This treasure is “the kingdom of God” — a sharing of the divine life, thanks to Jesus. This treasure is a gift of great value. This is the true reason that a Christian steward is grateful. For this is the ultimate reason why we give to God in gratitude — and this gift is the end of the story! A Christian steward is not measured by what he or she has in material goods. A Christian steward is one who gives because he or she is grateful to God for this precious gift that is beyond calculation.

Every Christian is called to be a good steward of the promise that Jesus gives. We are called to receive it gratefully, cherish it by living a Christian life, share it with others and give an account to God in the end.

A stewardship way of life is not a self-centered life. It is a life shared with others united with Jesus. As St. Paul points out, “For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body, whether Jews or Greeks, slaves or free persons, and we were all given to drink of one Spirit.” — I Cor 12:13.

The Spirit leads us to live by Christ: to strive to be Christ-like: think like Christ, love what Christ loves, witness to His teachings and radiate His divine influence upon the world. Taking to heart His words: “I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in Me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without Me you can do nothing.” — Jn 15:5.

It is this unity with Christ and the promise of eternal life that a Christian steward is grateful for, and all the other blessings that God provides. Stewardship is the attitude of gratitude.

Stewardship — sharing God’s eternity

The most profound gift that God blesses us with is a share of His own divine life. This gift of eternity is so profound that no one can comprehend it, at least not in this life. All we can do, in this mortal life, is catch glimpses of it. These glimpses can be understood through faith. St. Paul expresses it like this: “…eye hath not seen, and ear has not heard, and what has not entered the human heart, what is born of spirit is spirit.” — II Cor 4:16. This does not refer to the human life that every person already possesses. It is a new life as Jesus explains, “… no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, what is born of spirit is spirit.” — Jn 3:5-6.

A Christian steward recognizes that we have been called upon to preserve and manage a treasure of infinite value. This treasure is not only what we “possess” like our money and all of our possessions. What God has blessed us with — our time, talents, even our possessions — does not compare to the real treasure He gives us. And
Goshen senior is ‘grandma’ to youth

BY DENISE FEDOROW

GOSHEN — St. John the Evangelist senior Pat Turco is known as “Grandma Pat” to the Goshen parish’s youth and has dedicated many years of service to not only St. John youth but also youth around the country with her involvement in the Catholic HEART Workcamp.

Turco was born and raised in Detroit. She attended Catholic schools, graduating from Holy Redeemer High School. The couple had four children — Raymond, Brian, Kathy and Steven — but they also lost four babies.

“Life was a challenge and I enjoyed challenges,” Turco said. “We just counted on God in everything.”

Turco started teaching Sunday School when they lived in Muskegon and said, “That’s when I got bit by the Holy Spirit.” The family moved to the Goshen area around 1980 and began attending St. John the Evangelist. Jim passed away about seven years after they started dating and moved to Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis. After Jim got out of the service they bought a house in Muskegon, Michigan. The couple had four children — Raymond, Brian, Kathy and Steven — but they also lost four babies.

As a young adult she worked as a waitress at Jack and Jill Dude Ranch and also as a USO hostess and said she had “a blast.” She met her husband Jim at the dude ranch, about whom she said, “He was an absolute gentleman. I’ve never been treated as good as Jim did.”

Turco became a licensed practical nurse and worked in a hospital where she said she “caught a bug that almost killed me but it changed my life. . . . When the Lord opened up my eyes it’s been a brand new life and a much closer one to God.”

Pat and Jim married a year after they started dating and moved to Fort Benjamin Harrison in Indianapolis. After Jim got out of the service they bought a house in Muskegon, Michigan. The couple had four children — Raymond, Brian, Kathy and Steven — but they also lost four babies.

“Life was a challenge and I enjoyed challenges,” Turco said. “We just counted on God in everything.”

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Turco said, “God talks to me in different ways. So with my two-year certificate in hand I bravely went up to the person in charge of religious education at the time and told her I was qualified to teach. So she asked, ‘Would you like to teach second grade?’”

Turco has continued to teach since then and said when the kids in her religious education classes moved up to youth group she followed them and started helping with the youth group, too.

When with the youth group she said she’s not there to push her ideas on the kids but to reinforce what Youth Minister Sarah Knight teaches them. She said Sarah does “a fabulous job with the kids” but said she does see a need for the part she plays in the ministry. Turco said every week prior to helping with the youth, “Before I do anything the Lord and I have a discussion,” she said.

Sarah Knight said, “So many older people feel they have no part to play — especially with teens — but these kids listen to every word she says. Especially with the climate of today with respect for life — not just the unborn but also the elderly — she’s a perfect example of having so much to give. She plays an integral role on Wednesday nights.”

TJ Longacre said, “She feels like another grandma. She’s always able to relate stories to the things we’re talking about and things going on in our lives.”

HEART Workcamp

Pat Turco and her daughter, Kathy, just came back from a conference in Florida with the people who organize the annual HEART youth workcamps. The mother-daughter duo takes charge of chaperoning St. John’s youth when they attend the service camp and teens from other states that come to the area. The organization sends a staff team to conduct the camp. Kathy is the local manager and the local site the last few years has been in Mishawaka.

After a hard day’s work in the community the kids have dinner at 5 p.m. and it’s always served cafeteria-style. Turco said she was inspired to pass out napkins.

“It’s really a nothing job,” she said. “But I decided to pass out napkins so the kids have to come to me and they don’t get a napkin unless they smile at me. So, I’m the napkin lady and by the end of the week I have these kids right where I want them.”

She said volunteering at the HEART workcamp is “a beautiful thing God has ever had me witness. You can see them grow (spiritually) through the week and the most beautiful thing I’m blown away, absolutely blown away by these kids.”

Elder Care, too

But Turco doesn’t only take care of youth. As an LPN she worked in a local nursing home. “It was a wonderful time. I enjoyed taking care of the people,” she recalled.

“When I put people to bed I’d ask if they wanted me to stay with them and they would pray with the ones who wanted to. I think that brought me closer to them.”

Now, along with Kathy, she’s been helping to care for a senior autistic parishioner — an uncle to the music director’s wife.

“These things just pop up. I didn’t go to Becky (Royal) and say I want to take care of him. Becky heard of my experience and asked if we’d take him out to lunch,” she said.

She said Becky warned her that Uncle Jim Brownell wouldn’t go to church. Undaunted, Turco would say, “This is where Becky’s husband plays organ; you have to come in and listen.” Or she’d ask, “Would you like to go in and talk to Jesus? Whenever you want to leave; we’ll leave. We’ll walk right back out.”

At first she fell asleep, but after about a year he met with Father Christopher Sohier, who was pastor at the time and after receiving Reconciliation, he was baptized.

“If you treat people with respect that’s the name of the game, no matter how old or how challenged they are,” she said. “You don’t make them down a rory path. Take them where they are, walk with them and go from there.”

A cancer survivor, Turco is a member of a group called Heartstrings Sisters, a support organization for those going through cancer. She also volunteers at the Center for Healing and Hope, an organization for those who don’t have a doctor or insurance.

She used to bring Eucharist to the homebound and she’s a proclaimer of the Word.

“I feel the Lord puts you where you feel He feels you can do the most good and puts you in situations so He can help you, too,” Turco said.

“I’m a very happy person,” she said. “And smart enough to know that God is in control.”

Guardian Angel Society helps families afford Catholic schools

BY TIM JOHNSON

When the Guardian Angel Society was established about 15 years ago in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, its purpose was to solicit financial support for children to attend diocesan Catholic grade schools. To date the society has raised several million dollars for this purpose, according to William Dotterweich, coordinator of the Guardian Angel Society.

In its early days, the society provided $1,000 scholarships to children from needy families to attend Catholic grade schools. These schools are in the central areas of Fort Wayne and South Bend. Dotterweich said the ministry of the Guardian Angel Society is “to make the benefits of a superior education in a God-centered environment available to children from needy families.”

Superintendent of Catholic Schools Marsha Jordan told Today’s Catholic, “This is a group of individuals, who over the years have given several million dollars to maintain lower income schools to support tuition for needy students. These people have given anonymously, and continuously over the years, in faithful support of Catholic education.”

Although the Indiana voucher system has made Catholic education accessible to many more children, Dotterweich said, “Unfortunately, the vouchers are not available in all circumstances, so there remains a compelling need to assist those families who need tuition assistance.”

For more information about the rebate process, contact Karen DeRose at 260-422-4611. For more information about the Guardian Angel Society ministry, contact Bill Dotterweich at 260-625-3122.
Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement

In 2002 a team of physicians in France performed the first Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) in a human. When I heard about it I didn’t know any of the details but I do remember what I was thinking: “How in the world did they do that? And, is there is no way this will ever become mainstream!”

I was wrong. In 2005 the first TAVR was performed in the USA under an investigational protocol. In 2008 there were 19,578 done, and by 2013 there were over 23,000 done. The numbers continue to rise.

A group of my partners have formed a multidisciplinary team that now has successfully done over 40 at my hospital. I am pleased and amazed. So, why am I so excited about the procedure? Most of these procedures are offered to elderly patients with severe aortic valve stenosis who have less than 1-2 years to live. These people are too old, too sick or too high risk to operate on.

That has all changed with the evolution of TAVR. The aortic valve opens as the left ventricle pumps blood out of the heart to the aorta and then through multiple arteries to the rest of the body. As some people age the aortic valve leaflets slowly get thick and then calcify until they become so stiff that the valve can’t open properly anymore. Eventually the valve becomes narrowed or stenotic. When it approaches severe stenosis typical symptoms are shortness of breath or chest discomfort (tightness or pressure) with exertion. As the valve worsens to a more critical stenosis, congestive heart failure or syncope (passing out spells) may ensue usually signaling less than one year to live. Just a few years ago we would have to tell an 86 year old with significant comorbidities (multiple medical problems) that there was nothing we could do because we believed they would not recover from standard open-heart surgery. Now we can offer them a

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**Do you know the warning signs of abusers?**

**TAVR.** The procedure needs a team approach that usually includes several cardiologists, a thoracic surgeon, anesthesiologist and ancillary personnel. A small incision is made over the femoral artery (leg artery near groin), which is used to insert a sheath (a large straw like tube) and through the sheath the new valve in collapsed form, is advanced up the aorta to the severely narrowed aortic valve. Then it is carefully positioned in the native valve and opened (usually by balloon) crushing the

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**Our redemption is in the Risen Lord**

Finally, through Peter and the other Apostles, the salvation given by Jesus still reaches humankind. They continue the Lord’s work.

The First Epistle of John provides the second reading. The epistles of John are alike in their eloquence and splendid language. They are alike in the depth of their theology and revelation. This reading proclaims the majesty of Jesus, the Savior. It cautions, however, that accepting Jesus as Lord is more than lip service. It is the actual living of the Commandments, by which, and through which, humans realize the perfection, love, order and peace of life in God.

St. Luke’s Gospel provides the last reading.

It is another Resurrection Narrative, and it looks back to the Emmaus story. (The Emmaus story, which reports the walk to a small town outside Jerusalem by two disciples and by the Risen Lord, and the disciples’ recognizing Jesus in the “breaking of the bread,” or Eucharist.) As this group of disciples was talking, Jesus stood in their midst. He was no longer bound by location or time. Risen from earthly life, victorious over sin, Jesus now lived in the fullness of eternity — still in the Incarnation, true God and true man.

He showed them the pierced hands and feet. Indeed, these disciples were encountering the Crucified. But, the Crucified had overcome death and had lived.

**Reflection**

The Church continues to summon us to the joy of Easter celebration. He lives! The Church proclaims the Resurrection. As Paul said, the Resurrection is the bedrock of our belief.

In these readings, the Church calls us to the fact that our redemption is in Jesus. He rescues us from death, from the living death of sin and hopelessness, from eternal death.

As did the Lord, all people, even all believers, must die. As Jesus rose, they too will rise if they do not relent in their love of, and obedience to, God. Thus, all believers can anticipate, and provide for, eternal life in God.

Christians further can rejoice in the fact that salvation did not pass away when Jesus, who lived for a time on earth, ascended into heaven. His mercy and power remain. His words endure. God has provided for us, so that we too may have salvation. We may encounter Jesus. We may hear the Lord’s words.

We reach the Risen Jesus, and we learn of Jesus, from the Apostles. The Church carefully protects, and re-speaks, the words of Jesus as repeated by the Apostles. He lives for each of us!

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**READINGS**

**Sunday:** Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 Ps 4:2, 4, 7-9 1 Jn 2:1-5a Lk 24:35-48


**Wednesday:** Acts 11:1-10 Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7 Jn 6:35-40

**Thursday:** Acts 8:26-40 Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20a Jn 6:44-51

**Friday:** Acts 9:1-20 Ps 117:1bc, 2 Jn 6:52-59

**Saturday:** 1 Pt 5:5b-14 Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 Mk 16:15-20

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**Saint of the Week**

**Fidelis of Signagiren**

1577-1622

Feast April 24

Born in Signagiren (Germany), Mark Roy studied philosophy and law at the University of Freiburg in Breisgau. After tutoring young aristocrats and traveling Europe with them, he began practicing law in Alsace, where he quickly became “the poor person’s lawyer.” But, disillusioned over other lawyers’ behavior, he gave up the law to follow a vocation in religious life. As an ordained Capuchin named Fidelis, he was renowned for his holiness, preaching and leadership. He was superior at several houses before being invited to eastern Switzerland to call Protestants back to Catholicism. This mission, complicated by the politics of the time and hatred of the Catholic Habsburgs, became increasingly dangerous and led to his murder by opponents. He was canonized in 1746.
From the attic to the inbox, the American accumulation problem

Carly Poppalardo had blisters on her feet when she drove home from an eight-hour session of professional organizing last Thursday, threw a bag of Trader Joe’s pre-cut veggies and simmer sauce on the stove, flipped on “The Real Housewives of Beverly Hills” and sank into the couch.

“I was high on adrenaline,” Carly said, “but I was so tired I could barely move.”

When she arrived at the client’s three-story house at 9 o’clock that morning, the situation hadn’t looked particularly dire. But she and the mother of three, a Southern woman with an affinity for matching dresses, managed to fill two truck beds and an SUV: four car seats, five bouncy chairs and enough toys to stock a preschool room.

One of the ironies of our age of excess is how the litllest among us come with such outsized equipment. And then there is the strange reality that Americans pay to store the things we cannot fit in our homes, driving demand for more than 78 square miles of rentable self-storage — more than three times the size of Manhattan.

The burden of sorting the stuff under our roofs increasingly has become the work of a professional, an outsourcing of the most personal nature with a humble implication: Help me manage my life. Until the expert arrives, the truth is we often don’t even know what we have. Carly once uncovered 27 spatulas in one home and, in another, seven jars of saffron.

“The statement on her Twitter profile: ‘I organize your life so you can live it.’

Carly makes a point to keep her own life in order, which is why she’ll find her at the 10:30 Mass at St. Agnes in Arlington, Virginia, in her family’s standard spot — right side, toward the back — for a weekly ‘re-grounding and regrouping.’

It was her trust in God that emboldened her to take the leap into self-employment at 23, turning down a job offer from a PR firm that once would’ve sounded like her dream job but felt more like a trap. “I was miserable in that corporate world. The system didn’t make sense to me: The interns were working 7 to 7 because they wanted to move up to be an assistant account executive to work even longer hours.”

Since then Carly has successfully built up her business. Armed with bins, shelving and a label maker, there’s no base- ment she can’t conquer. She jokes about spotting the National Geographics — that recurring strip of candy yellow — and her 50 percent success rate of persuading the owner to recycle them.

Nearly all her clients hug her when she leaves, describing the weight lifted off their shoulders. It’s amazing how the sight of a bare counter can fill your lungs and clear your mind.

In this season of spring cleaning, of open windows and Alleluias, of the pointiff who preaches simple living, now is the time to de-clutter — time to travel light, to give freely, to be empty handed and open hearted.

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

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

Doctor

continued from page 10

old calcified valve and replacing it with a new valve that now can open widely with each heartbeat. Usually one or two nights in the hospital are all that is needed.

There are potential complications. The most dreaded one is stroke at a rate of 2-5 percent. Other complications include damage to the leg artery, heart block requiring a pacemaker and occasionally leakage around the valve. The operative mortality for a TAVR is about 1-3 percent, but by replacing the valve with standard open chest surgery in these high-risk patients, the death rate would be around 20-50 percent or even higher in the sickest patients. The complication rates should continue to fall as the operative team gains more experience and medical device companies make better valves with easier deployment. We are currently being restricted by the FDA to do TAVR’s only in patients who are turned down for standard open-heart surgery. But I predict within a few years younger and healthier patients will be given this option and it may become the procedure of choice.

My favorite patient story involving a TAVR is an 89-year-old veteran that I had taken care of for a few years with aortic valve stenosis. He began to have concerning symptoms and testing confirmed his aortic valve stenosis had reached a critical level. He subsequently had a TAVR done without any complications and actually looked to go home the same day. We made him stay over-night pretty much on principle. He promptly returned to his active lifestyle. About one year later he came in for a routine checkup and tells me he celebrated his 90th birthday by jumping out of a plane and parachuting safely to earth. Now there’s a man that is living life!

Life is such a precious gift from God. I believe God wants us to continue to be as active and engaged as our minds and bodies will let us as we get older. To those that are elderly but still capable, retirement should not mean withdrawal from life. God wants us to continue to contribute to His kingdom. Do you have unfinished business here on earth? Do you have a family that is still depending on you for strength and guidance? Do you have a grand- son or granddaughter that needs mentoring? Do you have a spiritual leadership role at your church? Maybe you are needed on this earth to be a prayer warrior!

God has blessed our medical community with special talent and technology to help prolong life in certain people. If you develop severe aortic valve stenosis and believe that God is still calling you to continue “to fight the good fight” here on earth, then maybe a lifesaving procedure like a TAVR is an option for you so you can “finish the race.” — 2 Tim 3:7

Dr. David Kaminskas is a board certified cardiologist and member of Lutheran Medical Group who has practiced in Fort Wayne since 1982. He is a member of The Jerome Lejeune Guild of Northeast Indiana.
All Diocese Team

The All-Diocese Team highlights athletes from Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. These student-athletes are recognized in character, sportsmanship, leadership, athletics and Catholic values. The athletes are selected by their coaches.

MARIAN

**Boys’ basketball**
- Devin Cannady, senior, guard
- Nick Harris, senior, center, St. Matthew
- Meghan Urbanski, freshman, guard, St. Matthew
- Pablo Montalvo, sophomore, freestyle relay, Our Lady of Hungary
- Erick Maciel-Diaz, freshman, freestyle relay, St. Adalbert
- Mason Stohler, sophomore, freestyle relay, Corpus Christi

**Girls’ basketball**
- Kiersten Reed, senior, guard, St. Bavo
- Morgan Guynn, freshman, freestyle, St. Anthony de Padua

**Boys’ swimming**
- Sam Pierce, junior, freestyle relay, Queen of Peace
- Emma Griesinger, freshman, backstroke, Queen of Peace
- Molly Pendergast, sophomore, breaststroke, St. Matthew
- Greta Mehlberg, freshman, butterfly, St. Pius X

**Girls’ swimming**
- Olivia Koob, sophomore, 50 freestyle/100 freestyle, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

**Wrestling**
- Patrick Ernst, junior, 220 lbs., St. Matthew

BISHOP LUERS

**Boys’ basketball**
- Blane Cook, sophomore, forward, St. Joseph
- Caleb Kroft, senior, guard
- Kayla Knapke, junior, forward, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel
- Emma Wolfe, junior, guard, St. Jude

**Girls’ basketball**
- Emma Griesinger, freshman, backstroke, St. Bavo
- Greta Mehlberg, freshman, butterfly, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

**Boys’ swimming**
- Ethan Brown, junior, 500 freestyle/200 freestyle, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- Alexander Maldeney, junior, 50 freestyle/100 freestyle, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

**Girls’ swimming**
- Olivia Koob, sophomore, 50 freestyle/100 freestyle, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

**Wrestling**
- Patrick Ernst, junior, 220 lbs., St. Matthew

SAINT JOSEPH

**Boys’ basketball**
- Greenan Sullivan, senior, guard, St. Anthony de Padua
- Francis Uzorh, junior, forward

**Girls’ basketball**
- Michelle Weaver, senior, guard, St. Joseph

**Boys’ swimming**
- Ethan Brown, junior, 500 freestyle/200 freestyle, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
- Alexander Maldeney, junior, 50 freestyle/100 freestyle, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

**Girls’ swimming**
- Olivia Koob, sophomore, 50 freestyle/100 freestyle, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

**Wrestling**
- Norm Hezlep, senior, 160 lbs., Holy Cross

The All-Diocese Team highlights athletes from Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. These student-athletes are recognized in character, sportsmanship, leadership, athletics and Catholic values. The athletes are selected by their coaches.
Jared Kazmierzak, sophomore, 106 lbs., Holy Family

Jordan Kazmierzak, senior, 170 lbs., Holy Family

BISHOP DWENGER

Boys’ basketball

Kyle Hartman, senior, St. Jude

Joseph Veracco, senior, St. Vincent de Paul

Ryan Christman, senior, St. Jude

Marcus Stepp, senior, St. Jude

Girls’ basketball

Erin Ryan, senior, Queen of Angels

Michelle Aqgalanis, senior, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Gymnastics

Andrea Nix, senior, Our Lady of Good Hope

Cecilia Sordelet, senior, Our Lady of Good Hope

Alexandra Goetz, senior, St. Jude

Boys’ swimming

Matt Gillett, senior, backstroke, Queen of Angels

Chris DeWald, sophomore, breaststroke, St. Vincent de Paul

Nick DeWald, senior, butterfly, St. Vincent de Paul

Grant Dowell, senior, freestyle, St. Charles Borromeo

Vince Schipper, junior, Our Lady of Good Hope

Wrestling

Jared Deininger, senior, 170 lbs., St. Jude

Riley Delaney, senior, 160 lbs., St. Jude

Nicholas Lehman, senior, 145 lbs., St. Vincent de Paul

Girls’ swimming

Ryan Sturm, senior, backstroke, St. Vincent de Paul

Kristi McDonald, junior, breaststroke, St. Vincent de Paul

Natalie Yehle, sophomore, butterfly, St. Vincent de Paul

Erica Evans, senior, freestyle, St. Patrick

Holy Sneakers!

Sign up for the NUN Run 5K or Brother Boogie 10K

Saturday, May 23

9:15 am

• Huntington, IN at St. Felix Oratory, 1280 Hitzfield Street

• Registration forms at Anytime Fitness, YMCA, Zay Leasing & Rentals, Inc. or Online at www.runrace.net

• Proceeds benefit The Victory Noll Center, St. Felix Oratory, and Huntington Catholic Booster Club

• Registrants by May 10, 2015 will get race shirt. After May 10, shirts available while supplies last.

• FOR MORE INFORMATION contact event coordinator: Andy Zay at: azay@sbcglobal.net or call 260-356-1588

HOW DANTE CAN SAVE YOUR LIFE

LECTURE AND BOOK SIGNING

WITH AUTHOR ROD DREHER

Monday, April 20

5:00 PM

129 DeBartolo Hall

University of Notre Dame
Retreat for teens with Down syndrome inspires hope

BY THERESA SCHORTGEN

FORT WAYNE — Teens with Down syndrome from the Fort Wayne area were given the opportunity to spend time in reflection on what it means to “Love One Another” (John 13:34-35) on Saturday, March 21, with the Franciscan Brothers Minor and the Franciscan Sisters Minor as the retreat masters. The teens, with family member support, gathered for the first annual Lenten Retreat, which coincided with the World Down Syndrome Day (WDSD). While it is the 10th anniversary of WDSD, the retreat was the first local event.

The brothers led the male teens in prayer, two sacramental projects, an answer period about Catholic teachings while the teens made crucifixes using wooden clothespins.

The Cross Word
April 19 and 26, 2015

The Franciscan Brothers Minor and Franciscan Sisters Minor recently hosted a retreat for teens with Down Syndrome.

The Kendzicky & Lothary Group
Michael Kendzicky James Lothary
4220 Edison Lakes Parkway, Suite 100
Mishawaka, IN 46545
574-247-6830 • 800-866-9022
Fax 574-247-6855

The sisters likewise invited the teen girls to prayer, to create a Lenten collage, enjoy a snack, and to make “Good Deed Beads” as well. The girls chose to reflect on a favorite decade that day — the Annunciation — and read special intentions regarding Down syndrome. The sisters guided them with gentle hands and loving words helping the teens know God is alive in their heart.

At the end of the retreat with spirits high and energies focused, the teens recognized they were gifted with the grand tour of the outdoor premises, learning about the daily prayer life of a Franciscan, the ringing of the church bell and an energetic ballgame.

Family members expressed that they look forward to continuing the dialogue with their teen and the use of the sacraments made that day. In the Year of Consecrated Life, spending time with this fraternity in prayer, two sacramental projects, the rings of the church bell and an energetic ballgame.

The Franciscan Brothers Minor and Franciscan Sisters Minor recently hosted a retreat for teens with Down Syndrome.

The sisters likewise invited the teen girls to prayer, to create a Lenten collage, enjoy a snack, and to make “Good Deed Beads” as well. The girls chose to reflect on a favorite decade that day — the Annunciation — and read special intentions regarding Down syndrome. The sisters guided them with gentle hands and loving words helping the teens know God is alive in their heart.

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Delightful Home to Share

Wanted: M/F to share a beautiful, elegant home. Located half-way between Ivy Tech/IPFW and St. Jude church. Fully furnished, all utilities including cable, central a/c, great grill, private full bath, wonderful porch, garage, and nice quiet neighborhood. $475.00 per month. Christopher 773 576 0346

PERSONNEL MANAGER NEEDED

The Catholic Schools Office is accepting applications of qualified individuals for the position of Personnel Manager. Must be flexible, a team player, exceptional multi-tasker, with office or management experience. Proficiency with Word, Excel, FileMaker, and basic web design knowledge preferred. Applications can be found on line at: http://www.diocesefwsb.org/cso

Return completed applications to: Catholic Schools Office- Personnel Manager 915 South Clinton Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is accepting applications for:

ST. JUDE CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Principal of St. Jude Catholic School
Fort Wayne, Indiana
Grades Preschool-8  Enrolment: 500

We are seeking a candidate who possesses:

• A strong and vibrant Catholic faith
• Elementary administrative licensing
• Teaching or administrative experience
• Commitment to maintaining our strong Catholic identity
• Strong leadership and management skills

St. Jude is a school with a long history of academic excellence. As a Catholic school, we are interested in the well-rounded development of the whole human person.

Receiving applications through April 24
Contact the Personnel Manager at the Catholic Schools Office: 260-422-4611 or csopersonnel@diocesefwsb.org

Applications available at www.diocesefwsb.org/Administrative-Application

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Principal of St. John the Baptist Catholic School, South Bend, Indiana

"Where Christ is the Center of every Classroom.”

Grades PreK-8; Enrollment: 82
Indiana Choice Scholarship School- Opportunity for growth.

Our diverse population benefits from a fully accredited program, delivered by a dedicated staff, offering a core curriculum enhanced with computers, art, music, and physical education. Additional activities include: Scouting, athletics, and opportunities for science exploration.

We are seeking a candidate who possesses:

• A strong and vibrant Catholic faith
• Elementary administrative licensing
• Five years teaching or administrative experience
• A Commitment to strong Catholic identity
• Experience in fundraising and development
• Strong leadership skills

Receiving applications through May 16
Contact the Personnel Manager at the Catholic Schools Office: 260-422-4611 or csopersonnel@diocesefwsb.org

Applications available at www.diocesefwsb.org/Administrative-Application

REST IN PEACE

New Haven
Naomi Ruth Strabbing, 90, St. Louis Besancon
Genevieve M. Beverly, 89, St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame
Catherine F. Pieronek, 82, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Plymouth
William D. Shorter, 80, St. Michael

South Bend
Edward F. H. Bauer, 93, Corpus Christi
Emil A. First, 93, St. Matthew
Donald E. Grooms, 87, St. Therese
Little Flower
Marianne Grooms, 87, St. Therese
Little Flower

Irene B. Gumkowski, 83, St. John the Baptist
Elsa R. Kohler, 89, Our Lady of Hungary
Glady's F. Pacholke, 91, St. Joseph
Benjamin J. Prentkirkz, 92, St. Stanislaus
Isabel M. de Quesada, 77, Corpus Christi
Martin D. Switalski, 53, St. Casimir
Jeanette A. Luczkowski, 85, St. Casimir
Lyle Rinehart, 86, Corpus Christi

Health Navigator

• Part-time Health Navigator/Community Health Worker
• Positions for ASPIN in Fort Wayne, Crawfordsville, Peru and Wabash
• 20 Hours per week
• Paid Training
• To apply, go to: www.aspinhealthnavigator.org

Emergency Foster Care Homes Needed

SCAN(Stop Child Abuse & Neglect) Daybreak Homes
Seeks individuals who are willing to be trained as short-term caretakers for adolescents, ages 0-12, who are in need of emergency respite care. Successful candidates will receive training to become Licensed Foster Parents and need to be willing to open their homes to children on an emergency basis. Respite Foster Parents will receive daily support from Daybreak staff while a child is placed in their home. Each respite parent receives a per diem rate for the length of time the child(ren) is placed in their home. Daybreak homes is looking for individuals who have open availability to care for the children without the need for child care. Candidates must live in Allen County.

REQUIREMENTS:

• Must be able to pass Local and State Background Checks
• Must be able to pass drug test
• Must have additional 50 square feet of bedroom space per child they are fostering
• Must be willing to adhere to SCAN/Daybreak policies
• Must keep all children safe from harm
• Must be at least 21 years old.

For additional information, please contact Daybreak Homes (260) 421-5004

Applications available at www.diocesefwsb.org/Administrative-Application

Grades K-8  Enrollment: 500

St. Peter
Patrick Lee Davis, 84, St. Therese
Mary C. Huber, 90, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Lawrence A. Oswald, 91, St. Vincent de Paul
Norma R. Budenz, 87, St. Charles Borromeo
John F. Engelhardt, 85, St. Joseph

Huntington
Peter Matthew Fettering, infant, St. Peter and Paul

Granger
Mary A. Michalak, 59, St. Pius X

Mishawaka
James E. Swisher, 67, St. Joseph

WANTED: M/F to share a beautiful, elegant home. Located half-way between Ivy Tech/IPFW and St. Jude church. Fully furnished, all utilities including cable, central a/c, great grill, private full bath, wonderful porch, garage, and nice quiet neighborhood. $475.00 per month. Christopher 773 576 0346

St. Vincent de Paul
Norma F. Wahl, 78, St. Vincent de Paul
John F. Engelhardt, 85, St. Joseph

Theology on Capp
Mishawaka — High School teens are invited to Theology on Capp, Monday, April 20, from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at the Kroc Corps Community Center Chapel, 900 West Western Ave. Musical entertainment will be provided, as well as the testimony of a young father who courageously lives with a life-threatening illness. All clergy and religious admitted free of charge. A $5 donation is requested of other guests.

Piano dedication concert
South Bend — St. Jude Parish welcomes pianists Natasha Stojanovska and Tianping Yu for the dedication concert of the Baldwin grand piano, Saturday, April 18, at 7 p.m. The program will feature works by Frederic Chopin, Claude Debussy and Franz Schubert. Reception to follow. Concert is free and open to the public.

Theology on Tap
Fort Wayne — Theology on Tap for young adults in their 20s and 30s, single or married, will be held at Soups Salad and Spirits, 1915 S. Calhoun St., Thursday, April 16, at 6:30 p.m. The topic “Sacred Art: God Revealed Through Humanity,” will be explored with Dr. Esperanca Camara, associate professor of art history at the University of Saint Francis, and local sculptor Frank Bougher.

Applications available at www.diocesefwsb.org/Administrative-Application

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church, South Bend

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is accepting applications for Principal of:

St. John the Baptist Catholic School
South Bend, Indiana

Where Christ is the Center of every Classroom.”

Grades PreK-8; Enrollment: 82
Indiana Choice Scholarship School- Opportunity for growth.

Our diverse population benefits from a fully accredited program, delivered by a dedicated staff, offering a core curriculum enhanced with computers, art, music, and physical education. Additional activities include: Scouting, athletics, and opportunities for science exploration.

We are seeking a candidate who possesses:

• A strong and vibrant Catholic faith
• Elementary administrative licensing
• Five years teaching or administrative experience
• A Commitment to strong Catholic identity
• Experience in fundraising and development
• Strong leadership skills

Receiving applications through May 16
Contact the Personnel Manager at the Catholic Schools Office: 260-422-4611 or csopersonnel@diocesefwsb.org

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Applications available at www.diocesefwsb.org/Administrative-Application
**Pre-Arrangement Special**

$220 Discount on Companion Spaces
(Ground Burial)

$500 Discount on Companion Mausoleum Space
(Above ground Entombment)

$150 Discount on Companion Cremation Niche Space
(1/2 Discount listed above for any single purchase)

The Catholic Cemetery is a sacred place, long since consecrated according to our Catholic tradition. The Catholic Cemetery has beautiful, tree-lined areas available for burials. Respond now if you would like these lovely areas for your final resting place.

In addition to in-ground lots, the Catholic Cemetery has many other burial options available including garden crypts, cremation niche columbariums and mausoleum entombment spaces.

We invite you to consider your burial needs thoughtfully and without pressure before the need arises, relieving others of those difficult decisions.

Call Larry Fisher at 260-426-2044 for an appointment or visit the Cemetery Office at 3500 Lake Ave. from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

www.catholic-cemetery.org

This special offer will expire May 31, 2015

**Visit Today's CatholicNews.org**

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**ARISE**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

And a mother from the ARISE group at St. Augustine Parish in South Bend initiated an candle-lit evening prayer for her young children at bedtime and reports that the new family prayer time calms the children and brings the family together before bed.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne reports, “As a result of ARISE our hospitality and homeless ministries have grown.” Sacred Heart Warsaw reports that a jail ministry is in the process of being formed, and a social justice action group that has provided activities for the parish to grow and share emerged from ARISE at St. Joseph in Fort Wayne.

A member of the ARISE group at St. Louis Besanon in New Haven has reached out to the bereaved community there by forming a support group as well.

Participation in the ARISE process, by RENEW International, the four-year program includes workshops, faith enrichment events and prayerful small group discussions that help parishioners relate Catholic teaching to their everyday lives.

Participants in “Why Catholic? /¿Por qué ser católico? Journey Through the Catechism” will begin in the fall by exploring Christian prayer during the first year of the program. The following year is dedicated to delving into the Creed: the core beliefs of the Church. Then participants will go deeper into the sacraments, followed by the study of Christian moral teachings. The materials and format are designed to create an environment where members can reflect and share, as each session also includes relevant Scripture references, reflection questions and prayers.

For more information about how your parish can participate in “Why Catholic? /¿Por qué ser católico?” contact Cindy Black at 260-422-4611 or email her at cblack@diocesefwsb.org.

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