Deacon ordinations
Saturday, May 23, 11 a.m.
at St. Matthew Cathedral
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Celebration for Year of Consecrated Life
Vespers, May 31, 4:30 p.m.
at Basilica of the Sacred Heart
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Give Local
Women’s Care Center receives largest donation
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Fortnight for Freedom
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Stephanie Patka named Secretary for Communications

FORT WAYNE — The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has named Stephanie Patka as the new director of the Secretariat for Communications. Patka, who most recently was the executive director of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Elkhart County, will oversee all communication activities of the diocese, particularly that of communication director and business manager of Today’s Catholic, the TV Mass, Seventh Floor Productions and Today’s Catholic Travel.

Patka has strong ties within the diocese. She grew up on a farm in LaGrange and had been a member of St. Joseph Parish where she has been music director and involved with parish faith formation. Currently Patka attends St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Elkhart. She graduated from Saint Mary’s College in Notre Dame with a degree in communication studies and humanistic studies and resides in Elkhart where she directed Big Brothers Big Sisters of Elkhart County.

Patka is the oldest of four and enjoys a close relationship with her parents, her two brothers and their wives and her younger sister. She is proud of her Polish Catholic heritage. A gardener at heart and self professed nature lover, Patka enjoys growing plants, a trait she says she inherited from her mother.

Patka also has a passion for writing, and though she says she’s dabbled in community theater, her heart belongs to improv. “That’s kind of where my heart is — comedy and improvisation,” she admits. Musically inclined, Patka also plays the piano and guitar, not only for Masses at St. Joseph Church and other church events, but for personal pleasure as well and says, “That’s a stress relief for me.”

Patka is eager to join the team of Today’s Catholic newspaper and communications department and says, “Our Catholic faith is so beautiful. I’m excited about the role I think this department can play in making it more accessible to the people who don’t know they love it yet.”

She believes that although the Catholic experience for the faithful of the diocese is vastly different across the region, that the Church is the connecting point.

Bishop Rhoades challenges Holy Cross College graduates to live the Gospel

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross College celebrated their 48th Commencement Exercises, welcoming Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as honorary keynote speaker on Saturday, May 9.

Addressing the graduating class of 2015, Bishop Rhoades began by exclaiming the need to remain focused on the reality of the cross. “This college is named in honor of the cross of Jesus, the tree of life. Our faith is in a God who has broken open His heart in love in order to save us. He died in order that we might have life and have it to the full. It’s a radical faith, this religion of the cross!”

He continued, “A bland, secularized, lukewarm Christianity is not real Christianity. We live in an age and culture where the dominant elites want to silence the voice of the Church in the public square. They wish to force conformity to the materialism, relativism and hedonism they embrace. They may or may not explicitly attack Christianity and Catholicism; they just want a watered-down version: Christianity without the cross or a cross without Jesus. Neither is true Christianity.”

Bishop Rhoades, who was awarded doctor of humane letters by college president Holy Cross Brother John Paige emphasized the very real
Dorothy Day – Radical discipleship

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

The following is the homily that Bishop Rhoades preached on May 14th at Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception during the Dorothy Day Conference sponsored by the University of Saint Francis:

Today we celebrate the feast of Saint Matthias, the apostle chosen to replace Judas, as we hear in the reading from the Acts of the Apostles. Matthias was not mentioned anywhere else in the New Testament, so we know very little about him. We do know that he was suited for apostleship because of his experience of being with Jesus from His baptism to His ascension, as Acts tells us. He must also have been suited personally or he would not have been considered for so great a responsibility. Perhaps the Gospel today can help us to see what made him suitable, indeed, what makes us suitable for discipleship and the apostolate.

First and foremost, it involves remaining in Jesus’ love. This is what Jesus said to the disciples in His farewell discourse: Remain in my love. Jesus and the apostles shared an intimate friendship. Jesus told them that He no longer calls them slaves, but He calls them friends. As He prepares to take leave from them, Jesus asks the apostles to remain in His love, in His friendship. This entails keeping His commandments: If you keep my commandments, you will remain in my love. And Jesus gives them the new commandment: love one another as I have loved you.

It’s all very simple when we think about it. Remain in my love. That’s the essence of the Christian life, together with the command: Love one another as I have loved you. Dorothy Day understood this. With her conversion, she became a true friend of the Lord who, through a devoted prayer life, learned to remain in His love. She understood, of course, that this love for God could not be separated from love of neighbor, especially the poor and destitute. I think of her powerful and challenging words: I really only love God as much as I love the person I love the least.

Dorothy Day desired to change the world. She and fellow members of Catholic Worker fought for the rights of workers and the poor. In the midst of this battle for justice, she said, there is nothing we can do but love, and, dear God, please enlarge our hearts to love each other, to love our neighbor, to love our enemy as our friend.” We can learn so much from the words and example of Dorothy Day. She challenged us with the radical truth of the Gospel that invites us to respond to the call of love, the mystery of the cross made present, the most amazing encounter we can have with God on this earth.

Dorothy Day teaches us that Christianity isn’t about embracing abstractions. It’s about living the Gospel. Dorothy Day would quote the words of Dostoevsky: Love in action is a harsh and dreadful thing compared with love in dreams. Think of the saints: they were men and women who embodied the Gospel. They didn’t just talk about it in lofty language. When they saw someone hungry, they gave them food. When they saw someone suffering, they helped them. This is our vocation as well. As Dorothy Day wrote: everything a baptized person does every day should be directly or indirectly related to the corporal and spiritual works of mercy.

We are called to sanctity: the perfection of charity, to love God and neighbor, and to love one another as Christ has loved us. Encountering a multitude of challenges in her life and efforts, Dorothy Day kept this at the center: love of God and neighbor. She wrote that love and ever more love is the only solution to every problem that comes up.

When we think of Dorothy Day or of the lives of the saints, we should realize that they were not born perfect and they had their weaknesses. But they lived their lives with passion and purpose. What animated their lives was that they recognized God’s love and they followed it with all their heart without reserve or hypocrisy. They spent their lives serving others, they endured suffering and adversity without hatred and responded to evil with good, spreading joy and peace (Pope Francis, November 1, 2013). This is our calling too. And here at this altar, we see and we experience the epitome of such love, the sacrifice of Jesus. We hear anew the words of Jesus and the real truth of those words: No one has greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. And yes, we truly are His friends if we do what He commands us, which is really to live the Eucharist we celebrate and receive.

Dorothy Day is pictured with children in an undated photo. Co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement and candidate for sainthood, Day was born in Brooklyn, N.Y., in 1897, and died at the Catholic Worker’s Maryhouse in New York in 1980. The University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne is the sponsor of the “Dorothy Day and the Church: Past, Present, and Future” conference, May 13-15.
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Christian marriage isn’t just a big ceremony held in a church with nice flowers and everyone wearing fancy clothes and taking lots of pictures, Pope Francis said.

Marriage is an act of faith between a man and woman who are both fragile and limited, but courageous enough to follow Christ and seek to love each other as He loves them, the pope said May 6 during his general audience in St. Peter’s Square.

“Men and women, courageous enough to carry this treasure in the ‘earthen vessels’ of our humanity, are an essential resource for the Church and for the whole world,” he said. “May God bless them a thousand times for this!”

The pope continued a series of talks about the family by focusing on the beauty of Christian Marriage as a sacrament that builds up the Church and the world.

A Christian Marriage “is not simply a ceremony that you have in church with flowers, the dress, photos,” Christian Marriage is a sacrament that takes place in the Church and is also something the Church does, ushering in a new domestic community,” he said.

All Christians “are called to love each other like Christ loves them,” and to be at the service of each other, he said. But the love of husband and wife is given greater, even “unthinkable,” dignity when St. Paul says the love between a husband and wife reflects the love between Christ and His Church, the pope said.

Just as Christ loves His Church, every husband, too, must love his wife and give himself completely for her, he said.

Looking up from his text, the pope asked all of the married men in the crowd if they fully grasped what was being asked of them. Such responsibility and a commitment to offer so much love and dignity to a woman “is no joke, you know: it’s serious,” he said to applause.

While the analogy between husband-wife and Christ-Church may be imperfect, he said, “its spiritual significance is ‘revolutionary, and simple at the same time, and within the means of every man and woman who trust in God’s grace.’”

This love has been inscribed by God in the human creature, “and with Christ’s grace, countless Christian couples, even with their limits, their sins, have achieved” it, the pope said.

The selfless, reciprocal, fruitful and indissoluble union between a man and a woman is part of God’s original plan and “the sacrament of Marriage is a great act of faith and of love,” he said.

Marriage “gives witness to the courage to believe in the beauty of the creative act of God and to live that love that drives one to always go beyond, beyond oneself and beyond one’s own family,” he said.

“The Christian vocation to love without reserve and without measure is what, with Christ’s grace, is at the foundation of the free consent that constitutes Marriage,” the pope said.

The pope said the Church is intimately bound up in every Christian marriage and it is edified with each successive and suffers with each failure.

“But we must ask ourselves in all seriousness: Do we fully accept — we as faithful and pastors, too — this indissoluble connection between the relationship of Christ and the Church with the relationship of marriage and the human family? Are we willing to seriously take on this responsibility? That is, that every marriage takes the path of the love Christ has for the Church? This is something huge.”

Such a path takes courage, and that is why whenever “I greet newlyweds, I say, ‘Look, the courageous ones!’ Because you need courage to love each other as Christ loves the Church,” he said to applause.

At the end of the audience, the pope noted May 6 marked the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II in Europe. He said he hoped humanity would “learn from past mistakes.”

Given the “current conflicts that are tearing apart” certain parts of the world, the pope asked all leaders to commit themselves to “seeking the common good and promoting a culture of peace.”

Among the tens of thousands of faithful present in St. Peter’s Square was a large group of Chinese Catholics from the Diocese of Wenzhou.

The pope met with them before the start of the audience after he gave indications to Vatican marriage to deviate the popemobile’s usual route through the square and head to where the group was standing, sending a few undercover Swiss Guards scurrying when the vehicle did not take its expected turn.

The pope descended from the popemobile to greet members of the large and enthusiastic group of pilgrims who waved Chinese and Vatican flags. They vigorously shook the pope’s hands or grabbed him while he smiled and blessed a few babies.

Also in the audience was a uniformed delegation from the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team. The Globetrotters performed for Pope Pius XII in 1951, St. John XXIII in 1959 and Pope Paul VI in 1968. They met St. John Paul II a number of times and even awarded him “honorary player” in 2000.

Pope Francis smiles as he plays with a basketball player of the Harlem Globetrotters basketball team during his weekly audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican May 6.
BY ANN CAREY

SOUTH BEND — A pregnancy help center headquartered in South Bend led the entire country in donations made to a single charity during the Give Local day event on May 5. The Women’s Care Center of St. Joseph County received $454,980, leading the 9,000 individual charities that participated in 180 communities across the United States, including big cities like Seattle, New Orleans and Charleston.

The generous donors helped put to rest the myth that pro-life people do not care about women with a crisis pregnancy or the babies that are already here, said Ann Manion, president of the board of the Women’s Care Center, which has four locations in St. Joseph County.

“Amazing” was the word Manion used to describe the outpouring of donations. Yet, she had often witnessed such generosity because the centers rely entirely on donations, and whenever lean times occurred that stressed the local centers’ $1 million annual budget. “Our donors always come through; it’s just miraculous,” she said.

“But I had no idea we would lead the nation! It’s really a testimony to the people who deeply value our mission and are willing to contribute greatly,” Manion related.

That mission was first established in 1984 by the founder of the first Women’s Care Center, Janet Smith, then a University of Notre Dame professor, and now the Michael J. McGivney Chair of Life Ethics at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. Manion said that Smith set the tone for creating an environment in which trained counselors assist women in an unconditionally loving, nonjudgmental manner.

“When women feel loved and supported, they can make good decisions, and more and more women choose life,” Manion said. “Over 50 percent of our budget goes to help women who make the choice for life,” she continued, explaining that it can be a long process for some women to choose life because of various challenges and risk factors the women face. That is why highly skilled counselors are so vital to what the centers do, and the results are “unbelievable success stories,” said Manion.

Once the choice for life is made, the Women’s Care Center has a variety of programs to help the women have a healthy pregnancy, learn parenting skills and set appropriate life goals of their own choosing, whether they decide to keep their babies or place them for adoption. By participating in the programs, the moms can earn cribs, car seats, baby clothing, diapers and other required items for baby and mother care.

“When the baby is born, the centers provide any ongoing support that is needed by the mothers and also offer parenting classes for the families.”

“We do whatever is needed for our clients,” Manion said, noting that grateful former clients often return to the centers to offer their assistance to other women in need of a shoulder to lean on, a “powerful” testimony to the work of the centers.

The word has gotten out that the Women’s Care Center is the place to go for help, and the St. Joseph County centers served nearly 2,000 newly-pregnant women in 2014 and hosted 24,000 visits by clients. Now half of all pregnant women in St. Joseph County visit one of the county’s four Women’s Care Center locations.

“Every other baby born in this community now starts with Women’s Care Center,” Manion said.

About 23 percent of the centers’ clients are married, eight percent are engaged and the rest are single. Fully 90 percent of the pregnant teens in the county have come to the centers. In this county, about 20 percent of the clients are “abortion-minded” or “abortion vulnerable,” meaning someone is pushing them toward abortion, Manion said. In Indianapolis, the rate is about 50 percent.

In addition to the four St. Joseph County locations, centers have been established in seven other cities in Indiana and in six other states: Michigan, Florida, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois and Ohio.

Manion explained that people started hearing about the success of the St. Joseph County centers and asked for help in establishing Women’s Care Centers in their cities. Five of the more distant locations are licensees, with staff trained by Women’s Care Center personnel, but financially independent. Presently some Catholic centers in their communities.

Maryland residents are working to establish a Women’s Care Center there with the strong support of Archbishop William E. Lori, who will serve on the center’s board in Baltimore.

Although the Women’s Care Centers are nondenominational and serve any woman who comes, they were started by Catholics, operate on Catholic-based values and strongly supported by the Catholic community. Manion gives much credit to local bishops who have wholeheartedly supported the establishment of centers in their dioceses, and several of them serve on the boards of their local centers, including Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Archbishop Jerome E. Listecki of Milwaukee, Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin of Indianapolis, Bishop Gerald M. Barbarito of Palm Beach and Bishop Frederick F. Campbell of Columbus, Ohio.

The 23 centers in seven states serve 21,000 women annually, with those women making 100,000 visits each year, making the Women’s Care Centers the largest, most successful pregnancy resource center in America, according to the Women’s Care Center Foundation. Presently, clients from 23 centers are expecting 6,687 babies.

And how do the centers serve so many moms and babies?

“The answer is simply by the grace of God, and that we have been blessed with so many Catholic friends who have supported us,” Manion said. “It’s done in a way that’s beyond reproach: unconditional love, non-judgmental service, an outpouring of love to each and every woman who walks through our doors. It works.”

Williams said the organization looks forward to bringing the centers “to any region of the country where committed people of good faith want to significantly reduce abortions in their community while fully supporting women throughout their pregnancies and beyond.”

And what about that number-one-in-the-nation Give Local donation that will be increased somewhat by matching funds? Manion said that 25 percent will go into the organization’s endowment to insure that this valuable work can continue into the future.

The remainder will help provide a cushion so that the hand-to-mouth months will be fewer and further between, insuring that staff can be paid and facilities maintained. And, as always, the need remains great for more ultrasound machines, pregnancy tests, pre-natal vitamins, cribs, car seats, diapers and care for the mothers who choose life.

“The striking if you look at every single community we’re in, even some of the new ones, the abortion decline is just dramatic,” said Manion. “So eventually the center will keep growing and touch more and more moms and babies.”
Fortnight 2015: Freedom to Bear Witness

The Fortnight for Freedom: Freedom to Bear Witness will take place from June 21 to July 4, a time when the liturgical calendar celebrates a series of great martyrs who remained faithful in the face of persecution by political power — St. Thomas More and St. John Fisher, St. John the Baptist, Sts. Peter and Paul, and the First Martyrs of the Church of Rome.

The theme of this year’s Fortnight will focus on the "freedom to bear witness" to the truth of the Gospel.

Religious liberty under attack: Hobby Lobby wins!

The Green family began what became Hobby Lobby Stores, a retail chain of arts and crafts stores, out of a garage in the family’s home in Oklahoma. The Hahn family likewise began Conestoga Wood Specialties, a cabinet-making business, out of a garage in the family’s home in Pennsylvania.

The Greens are evangelical Christians who strive to operate Hobby Lobby in a manner consistent with biblical principles. Hobby Lobby pays full-time employees at almost double the minimum wage, offers generous health benefits, and allows employees ample time off from work. The Hahns, who are Mennonite, similarly strive to operate Conestoga Wood in a way that honors their faith.

Both the Hahns and the Greens believe that life begins at conception, and their religious beliefs prohibit them from facilitating abortion. Unfortunately, a mandate from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) would force the Greens and the Hahns to cover certain drugs and devices that can end life after conception. Coverage of these drugs and devices is required in the companies’ health plans.

The Greens and the Hahns were forced to sue the federal government to vindicate their rights under the U.S. Constitution and federal law to exercise religion. They argued that Americans do not give up their freedom when they open family businesses.

The U.S. Supreme Court decided on June 30, 2014, that closely held businesses like Hobby Lobby and Conestoga can exercise religion under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, a law that passed Congress nearly unanimously and was enthusiastically signed into law by President Bill Clinton in 1993. The Court also found that the HHS Mandate constitutes an unjustified, substantial burden on the Greens and the Hahns, consisting of millions of dollars in annual fines that both companies would face if they did not comply with it.

The U.S. bishops have voiced their strong support for families like the Greens and the Hahns. The bishops have filed a friend-of-the-court brief with the U.S. Supreme Court supporting Hobby Lobby and Conestoga in their challenge to the HHS Mandate. The bishops explained that they oppose “any rule that would require faithful Catholics and other religiously motivated business owners to choose between providing coverage for products and speech that violate their religious beliefs, and exposing their businesses to devastating penalties.”

The bishops have repeatedly voiced their concern for faithful people in business so that they can continue to live out their faith in daily life.

Local majority rule threatens minority rights in Mexico

According to a Pew Forum study, Christians are the group most harassed and persecuted in the largest number of countries in the world. In Mexico, religious freedom violations have risen significantly in recent years, with some statistics finding Mexico to be the world’s most dangerous country for Roman Catholic priests and lay leaders in 2014. Some persecution can be traced to incidents between Catholics and Protestants that cast a different light on religious freedom concerns.

Although Mexico has signed many international human rights treaties and their constitution guarantees freedom of religion or belief, it also has a Law of Uses and Customs that, at times, is misused. This law gives considerable autonomy to places where there is a large indigenous population and grants certain rights, “including the right to implement their own social, economic, political and cultural organization and the right to maintain and enrich their language and culture.”

Most religious freedom violations linked to the Law of Uses and Customs are concentrated in those states that have significant indigenous populations. Under this law, religious majority local communities have taken it upon themselves to make life difficult for religious minorities. In the most benign form, this can involve levying fees to support religious festivals of the majority, or fines for non-participation. In other instances, water and electricity are cut off or children from the religious minority cannot attend school. Such discrimination can escalate into beatings, imprisonment, forced displacement from homes and lands, and even murder. But because of the Law of Uses and Customs, federal and state governments have been slow to hold people accountable for these human rights abuses, or to protect religious minorities seeking to reclaim what is rightfully theirs or simply asking that justice be done.

In Chiapas, despite a National Human Rights Commission of Mexico ruling that Protestants should be allowed to return to their homes after being forcibly displaced, Protestants were stoned and beaten by some Catholics. Two Protestant pastors were taken hostage before state officials intervened. The negotiated agreement stipulated that these Catholics would not continue to mistreat the Protestants or force them to pay fines to be released; in return the Protestants would not press charges. But the reverse can also happen. In a primarily Protestant village in Chiapas, a Catholic priest was attacked and 13 Catholic families fled after the local council sanctioned the Catholics for failing to obtain permission to remodel their church; the new construction was destroyed and land confiscated.

Christian Solidarity Network reports instances where one Protestant denomination signed a pact with local Roman Catholics to exclude another Protestant group.

These cases demonstrate an increase in the practice of “majority enforcement of religion.” This trend undermines advancing international religious freedom for all. Many abuses take place in rural areas making it hard for state and federal governments to monitor. In addition, some illegal cartels may target churches and religious leaders, either to force them to launder money, or to challenge the Church’s programs and teachings that offer alternatives to a life of violence. Even if government officials are aware, they are sometimes reluctant to intercede given limited resources, preferring to defer to local customs, or they are unwilling to go against organized crime. This leads to a culture of impunity.

To fight this culture of impunity, in February 2015, the Mexican bishops issued a powerful statement that called for all elements of government and civil society to combat corruption in all its forms. The Mexican Bishops’ Conference urged authorities to solve in a comprehensive and inclusive manner the violence affecting so many individuals and families, so that citizens can live in peace, as is their right. In an earlier statement, the Bishops of Mexico affirmed their support for international religious freedom, stating that they “want a truly democratic country with a secular and pluralistic state, that does not promote any religion nor any antireligious current” and called for the state to respect churches, religious associations and their members.
Launched at the hands of Boko Haram militants, with 5,000 Catholics killed in one diocese alone. A further 100,000 Catholics in the Diocese of Maiduguri, in the northeast of the country, have been displaced by the six-year campaign of violence conducted by the Muslim militant group, according to the “Situation Report on the Activities of Boko Haram in the Catholic Diocese of Maiduguri.” There are now about 7,000 widows in the diocese and nearly 10,000 orphaned children, said the report. Among the diocese’s displaced are 26 of 46 priests, 200 catechists and 20 religious sisters, the report found. The diocese includes the entire states of Borno and Yobe and part of Adamawa state. More than 350 churches in the diocese have been the targets of terror attacks with “a good number of them destroyed more than once,” the report said. Aid to the Church in Need said 22 of the Maiduguri Diocese’s 40 parish centers and chaplaincies have been destroyed by Catholics. Many are occupied by Boko Haram militants, who control about three-quarters of the territory of the diocese, the report said. Had 32 of the 40 church buildings and primary schools have been deserted, and four of the diocese’s five convents are closed.

Kenya expects 100,000 at beatification of WWI-era nun

NYERI, Kenya (CNS) — Kenyan officials are expecting more than 100,000 people at the May 23 beatification of Sister Irene Stefani, an Italian member of the Consolata Missionary Sisters who cared for wounded and sick soldiers in Kenya and Tanzania during World War I. A Kenyan government official announced May 6 that the beatification would be a state function and would be accorded proper security. Sister Irene was born Aug. 22, 1891, in Anfo, Italy, and died at Gikondi Parish in Kenya Oct. 31, 1930. The fifth of 12 children, Sister Irene was named Aurelia Giacomina Mercede and known as Mercede. As well as facing their mother’s death when Aurelia was 16, she and four sisters lost their seven siblings to various illnesses. When she was almost 20, she joined the congregation of Consolata Missionaries in Turin, Italy. In 1914, she took final vows and left Italy by ship for Mombasa, Kenya. Sister Irene’s first two years in Africa were spent working on a mission farm in the Kikuyu, while doing manual labor. In response to mounting casualties during World War I, Sister Irene was among the first sisters to be sent to the local hospital at Baringo, where she worked in the Red Cross. In 1917, she was appointed head of the Sisters’ Hospital in Nairobi and later minister of the Sisters’ Hospital in Mombasa.

REPORT DETAILS DAMAGE TO NIGERIAN DIocese WHERE BOKO HARAM OPERATES

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — A new report has revealed the scale of suffering of Nigerian Catholics
AROUND THE DIOCESE

The Allen County National Day of Prayer was held at the Allen County Public Library on May 7. A nondenominational standing-room-only crowd gathered over the noon hour to pray for the community and for the nation with the theme “Lord, Hear Our Cry.” Area clergy and civic leaders focused on prayers from family and educators to clergy and government leaders. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades prayed for the church and for clergy saying, “Grant that Your Church, faithful to the mission entrusted to her, may continually go forward with the human family and always be the beacon and the soul of human society to renew it in Christ and transform it into the family of God. … We implore you Lord to make fruitful the work of Your church. … Strengthen us in unity.” First Mennonite Church and a committee of various faiths organized the day of prayer, held each year on the first Thursday of May since 1952.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER UNITES AREA FAITHFUL

St. Patrick to celebrate 125th anniversary

FORT WAYNE — A festive celebration to commemorate the 125th anniversary of the founding of St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne, is planned for Sunday, June 14, beginning with an 11 a.m. trilingual Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and former pastors. All are welcome to attend a second planning meeting on Sunday, May 17, in the parish rectory at 3:30 p.m.

St. Joseph students compete in National History Bee

FORT WAYNE — Students from St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel School participated in the National History Bee under the direction of the Adult Learning Center at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Parish, Fort Wayne, will offer a free workshop, “Get the Funds You Need for College: Your College Financial Aid Journey in Five Steps,” on Wednesday, May 20, at 6 p.m. in the school library.

The workshop will be held in the St. Joseph Catholic School cafeteria, at 2211 Brooklyn Ave., and will be offered in English and Spanish. Presented by Wells Fargo Bank, the discussions will cover the topics of financial aid, scholarships and grants.

Our Sunday Visitor is the sponsor of the Adult Learning Center. To reserve a seat, contact Terry Stuczynski at 260-432-5113, ext. 355.

St. John Destination Imagination teams collect items for Charis House, hold fundraiser

NEW HAVEN — The St. John the Baptist School in New Haven Destination Imagination teams will move on to compete at the global competition next month in Knoxville, Tennessee. The teams recently placed first and second at the state level.

Destination Imagination is a non-for-profit problem solving organization. Each year in October, the team chooses one of the seven challenges presented by Destination Imagination. Each team of up to seven students must then create a skit, props, backdrop along with the other elements pertaining to their particular challenge.

One of the St. John middle school teams collected socks, toiletries and small toys, to fill the socks and donated them to the Charis House, with their logo attached “Heeling Soles.” The second team chose a theatrical challenge involving a character overcoming a phobia, two art forms and an illusion. The students range from fifth through eighth grade.

To help fund the trip to Tennessee, the teams hosted a spaghetti dinner and silent auction on May 8. They also presented their eight-minute performances.

William Green receives rank of Eagle Scout

SOUTH BEND — William R. Green of South Bend received the rank of Eagle Scout last December. He held the Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony on April 26 at Corpus Christi School in South Bend.

Green is a member of Troop 444 and a graduate of Corpus Christi. He is a senior at Washington High School in South Bend. Green plans to attend Purdue University in West Lafayette this fall and major in physics.

Green’s Eagle Scout project consisted of building a storage bin for athletic equipment at Corpus Christi School.

He is the son of Rodney and Debbie Green. The family belongs to Corpus Christi Parish.

SOUTH BEND — Sofia Carozza, a senior at St. Joseph High School, is one of 25 incoming first-year students from across the U.S. and other countries chosen as a member of the sixth class of the University of Notre Dame’s Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program, a comprehensive undergraduate merit scholarship and enrichment program.

Selected from a pool of hundreds of applicants, the Class of 2019 Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars embodies the program’s vision of leadership, scholarship, personal integrity and social responsibility. Each student receives an annual award of $25,000 during his/her undergraduate tenure. The program includes four fully funded summer enrichment experiences, in addition to academic advising, seminars and service-learning projects, career preparation, alumni mentoring and networking.

In 2009, Notre Dame graduates Mark W. and Stacey Miller Yusko of Chapel Hill, N.C., made a commitment to establish the program and provide a select group of outstanding students with the tools to become transformational leaders in the image of the late Holy Cross Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, who served as Notre Dame’s president from 1952 to 1987.

Two St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel alums at top of their high school class

FORT WAYNE — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel School is pleased to claim the top two students of the 2015 graduating class at Heritage High School.

Adam Beard, son of Bill and Sandy Beard, earned the honor of valedictorian for 2015. Beard plans to attend IPFW and pursue a degree in business finance.

Robert Ottenweller has been named the salutatorian and is the son of Tom and Greta Ottenweller.

Ottenweller will also enroll at IPFW this fall declaring a major in mechanical engineering.

Both young men attended St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel for their K-8 education and were also the top two in their eighth-grade class. — Michelle Castellan

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Robert Ottenweller has been named the salutatorian and is the son of Tom and Greta Ottenweller.

Ottenweller will also enroll at IPFW this fall declaring a major in mechanical engineering.

Both young men attended St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel for their K-8 education and were also the top two in their eighth-grade class. — Michelle Castellan

South Bend native to be ordained a Dominican priest

WICHITA — The Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph announced the upcoming ordination of eight of their brothers to the Priesthood on Friday, May 22, at St. Dominic Church in Washington, D.C. Among the new priests is Charles J. Brown, who received his undergraduate degree in mechanical engineering from Purdue University and his Master’s degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Notre Dame.

Charles J. Brown

He is the son of Rodney and Debbie Green. The family belongs to Corpus Christi Parish.

SOUTH BEND — Sofia Carozza, a senior at St. Joseph High School, is one of 25 incoming first-year students from across the U.S. and other countries chosen as a member of the sixth class of the University of Notre Dame’s Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program, a comprehensive undergraduate merit scholarship and enrichment program.

Selected from a pool of hundreds of applicants, the Class of 2019 Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars embodies the program’s vision of leadership, scholarship, personal integrity and social responsibility. Each student receives an annual award of $25,000 during his/her undergraduate tenure. The program includes four fully funded summer enrichment experiences, in addition to academic advising, seminars and service-learning projects, career preparation, alumni mentoring and networking.

In 2009, Notre Dame graduates Mark W. and Stacey Miller Yusko of Chapel Hill, N.C., made a commitment to establish the program and provide a select group of outstanding students with the tools to become transformational leaders in the image of the late Holy Cross Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, who served as Notre Dame’s president from 1952 to 1987.

Two St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel alums at top of their high school class

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Craig Borchard to promise fidelity to God and His Church as deacon

SOUTH BEND — Craig Borchard has been praying fervently in anticipation of his upcoming ordination to the diaconate on May 23 at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. He not only prays for grace for himself and fellow seminarians but for the families of his next parish assignment.

“I have been meditating on the diaconate ordination rite all throughout this year. It has been an enriching exercise to pray with the words that the bishop will use to ordain me a deacon. The ordination is a focus of my prayer, and I especially have been praying for the people that I will be preaching to this summer. I pray that the Lord gives me good words that will strengthen the faith of the people of God,” he says.

Borchard grew up in Rochester Hills, Michigan, the son of Sandra and Phil Borchard. After graduating from Brother Rice High School in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, in 2004, Borchard went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering and theology from the University of Notre Dame in 2009.

Borchard’s faith formation was influenced by not only his inspiring teachers who encouraged him during his 24 straight years of Catholic education but also his father. “My dad was a big influence on my faith. He took me to Mass every week and was always an amazing role model of moral and faith,” he says.

But the soon-to-be deacon reports that God truly entered his heart during a high school retreat. “My biggest moment of faith formation was a Kairos retreat I went on in my senior year of high school. It was there that I had an extraordinary encounter with God that changed my life forever and set me on the course towards seminary,” he says.

Following that retreat Borchard “did a 180” and began to practice his newfound faith in earnest. He says, “It was just after that retreat that I first heard the call to the Priesthood. This extraordinary gift of God’s love had been given to me in the Eucharist, and after realizing that on the retreat, all I wanted was to give that gift back to the world.”

Borchard entered Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, in 2010 where he has found a rich educational experience as well as fraternity among the other seminarians. “While I am certainly excited to be nearing the end of my formal education, it is such a blessing to learn about the faith by many expert priests and laity assembled here at the Mount. I am receiving the best education that the Church can offer so that I can share that education with the people of God,” he says, adding, “We are all there for the same reason, to become holy men of God. We all support each other in that journey. That support includes having a lot of fun together as well! There are ample opportunities to develop lifelong friendships that will be so important as we all go our separate ways to begin priestly ministry.”

Summer parish assignments at St. Joseph in Fort Wayne and St. Anthony de Padua in South Bend taught him much about the Priesthood and parish life, says the eager seminarian and led him closer to the Priesthood. “I love getting to know the wonderful parish communities of our diocese,” he says. “Then, of course, my home parish of St. Pius X in Granger has been unbelievably good to me. Msgr. Bill Scholler has been a great mentor and shown me the great joy of the Priesthood.”

As a deacon, Borchard looks forward most to performing Baptisms and weddings. “I trust that I will learn much about the infinite gratuity of God … the gift of Holy Orders is truly amazing and I cannot wait to experience it,” he says enthusiastically. Support from friends has meant much to Borchard as he prepares for his special day. “My friends have been very supportive of my vocation and formation. I may even have some friends from Philadelphia make it out for the diaconate. It will be a great moment of joy to see so many of my loved ones present there as I promise my fidelity to God and His Church,” he says.

May the graces of Our Blessed Mother and her Divine Son follow these Marian graduates whom we honor as they enter the Order of the Diaconate through the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

“Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.”

Jn 12:26

May 17, 2015

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

Bob Garrow puts his trust in Jesus for diaconate

SOUTH BEND — Seminarian Robert A. Garrow has been spending time praying and trusting in Jesus as he prepares for his diaconate ordination on May 23 at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. “I turn to Jesus placing all my trust in Him. Trusting all that I do for the glory of God,” he says.

A native of South Bend, Garrow is one of three sons of Mike and Norma Fitzmaurice. He calls St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend his home parish where he received the sacraments of baptism, first Reconciliation, first Holy Communion, Confirmation and soon Holy Orders. A 1994 graduate of Marian High School, Garrow feels he first heard the call to the Priesthood in eighth grade, but went on to earn a bachelor’s degree in education from Indiana University in South Bend in 1999. For the next 11 years he taught in grades 7-12 and had the opportunity to coach high school and college basketball for 15 years.

But God continued to tug at his heart. “Later in my life I felt again the tug from God that I was being called to the Priesthood. I felt that I needed to discern this call. I did not feel worthy of this call, but I felt I needed to address this tug in my heart,” says the soon-to-be deacon.

Garrow credits the many fine priests and bishops he has encountered in his formative years as well as his dear grandparents Clare and Georgina Fitzmaurice and John and Edna Bunch for his deep faith formation. And he is grateful to St. Matthew pastor Msgr. Michael Heinze for his inspiration. “I feel that my current priest Msgr. Mike has helped me grow in my faith. He is so knowledgeable of the faith and has a wonderful sense of spiritualit,” he says.

Five years ago, when Garrow was accepted into Mount St. Mary’s Seminary, in Emmitsburg, Maryland, he found a place where he could focus on deepening his relationship with God. “You truly see yourself and learn to conform your heart to Jesus, to love like He does,” he says. During his formation Garrow has had the opportunity to experience pastoral assignments at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C., Basilica of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, with hospital ministry, and working in campus ministry at Mount St. Mary’s University. He also has served as the chaplain for the Mount St. Mary’s men’s basketball team. He is grateful for the “great priests and lay people that help one grow closer to Christ, both spiritually and academically.”

On his path to the Priesthood, Garrow has experienced summer parish assignments at St. Jude in Fort Wayne, St. Monica, Mishawaka, and St. Vincent de Paul in Fort Wayne. “I was afforded the opportunity to work with wonderful pastors, associates, staff and the people of God,” he says. “At each stop it has only brought about more peace and joy, and has affirmed my sense of God’s call … At each assignment I gained valuable experiences that will help me in the future. Additionally it only reinforced my call to the Priesthood as I grew more deeply in love with the dioceses every day.” He also spent eight weeks in Guatemala in order to understand the culture and learn the Spanish language.

In anticipation of his diaconate duties, Garrow has hope that in his diaconate year he will continue to conform his heart to Jesus. And he looks forward to working with parish priests, administering Baptisms and preparing couples for marriage, as well as “helping people see the beauty of our faith.” He hopes to learn more about parish life and how to administer a parish as well as spiritually feed the people of God.

Of his upcoming diaconate ordination Garrow says, “My family and friends are excited and happy about this ordination. When I received my call to the order of diaconate I received many well wishes from both family and friends. My family has been supportive during this process and I know they are proud.”

Three men from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are preparing for their ordination to the diaconate. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will ordain seminarians Craig Borchard, Bob Garrow and David Violi at St. Matthew Cathedral, 1701 Miami St. in South Bend on May 23 at 11 a.m. Tickets are required, but there is limited general admission seating. Doors open at 9:30 a.m.

By Kay Cozad
ORDAINED TO THE DIACONATE

David Violi discerns a deeper understanding of God’s call in diaconate

SOUTH BEND — Since entering the seminary in 2010, David Violi has been preparing for May 23, his day of ordination to the diaconate at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, with prayer and study. During these five years, he has spent much time in prayer, contemplation and study concerning the diaconate, trying his best to come to an even deeper understanding of what God is calling me into,” he says.

A native of Granger and member of St. Pius X Parish, Violi is one of the four children of Mike and Mary Violi, including older sister Kristina, older brother Michael and his twin sister Jennifer. A graduate of both St. Thomas the Apostle Elementary School, Elkhart, and Marian High School in Mishawaka, (Class of 2006), Violi attended Purdue University and earned his bachelor’s degree in biological science with a minor in philosophy.

This soon-to-be deacon first heard the call to the Priesthood around his eighth-grade year, focused greater attention on his spiritual life in high school, and says his calling was not any one moment, but an enduring longing. “My calling” to the Priesthood was not a single moment, but a constant desire that arose slowly from a young age. … Nearing graduation (from college), that desire remained and I knew that I needed to enter seminary to discern the Priesthood. From there, I began the application process with the diocese,” he says.

Born into the Catholic faith, Violi credits his family first for his ever-deepering faith, saying, “My parents, Mike and Mary, raised my siblings and me in the faith since birth and put a strong emphasis on participating in parish life and Catholic education.”

He adds that priests and friends were influential as well, “My parish priests also influenced my formation through their own vocations. Being involved in the Catholic schools, I was able to see our priests living out their own priesthoods with a joy that left me with a great impression.”

Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, Maryland, has been home for Violi for the past five years where he has found an “amazing experience.”

“At Mount St. Mary’s, there has been, on average, 160 seminarians living in community every year for the past five years. To meet so many interesting men and develop close friendships with them has been a truly amazing experience. God has truly called a very diverse group, each with many unique talents, to the seminary. And, as diverse as we are, we are all able to live together simply because we are together for a single purpose: To be priests of Jesus Christ,” he says enthusiastically.

Looking forward to his diaconate, Violi feels that his past summer parish assignments at Most Precious Blood, Fort Wayne, St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne, and St. Joseph, Garrett, have been of great value in his formation as future priest. “Summer parish assignments offer us a refreshing reminder as to why we are studying for the Priesthood. It reminds us for whom we are studying, the people of God in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Each assignment has offered its own challenges, as we are present in the parish for several weeks. But, meeting all of the wonderful people, being involved with schools and parishes, makes all of the challenges worthwhile,” he says.

Becoming a deacon of the Church has Violi eager to learn the best ways to serve the people of God. In the coming year he hopes to have the opportunity, as he had in his past summer assignments, to mentor under a priest and learn the various needs of the people of God in the diocese. “Each experience I am able to have will only help me prepare for Priesthood and full-time parish ministry,” he says.

Seminarian Violi is looking forward to his diaconate and the many ways he will serve. “As a deacon, I am most looking forward to preaching at Mass. To be able to exposit upon the Word of God to the faithful is truly a daunting and terrifying endeavor, but one that also sets my heart on fire as I will be able to share the love of God through preaching,” he reports eagerly.

As he looks forward to the rich traditional Rite of Ordination to the Sacred Order of the Diaconate, Violi is grateful for the loving support he has enjoyed throughout his seminary formation. “I am blessed to have had a family that has been wonderfully supportive of my vocation. I look forward to sharing this day with them,” he says with great joy.

Who is a deacon?

A deacon is an ordained minister of the Catholic Church. There are three groups, or “orders,” of ordained ministers in the Church: bishops, presbyters and deacons. Deacons are ordained as a sacramental sign to the Church and to the world of Christ, who came “to serve and not to be served.” The entire Church is called by Christ to serve, and the deacon, in virtue of his sacramental ordination and through his various ministries, is to be a servant in a servant-Church.

What are these “various ministries” of the deacon?

All ordained ministers in the Church are called to functions of Word, sacrament and charity, but bishops, presbyters and deacons exercise these functions in various ways. As ministers of Word, deacons proclaim the Gospel, preach and teach in the name of the Church. As ministers of sacrament, deacons baptize, lead the faithful in prayer, witness marriages and conduct wake and funeral services. As ministers of charity, deacons are leaders in identifying the needs of others, then marshaling the Church’s resources to meet those needs. Deacons are also dedicated to eliminating the injustices or inequities that cause such needs. But no matter what specific functions a deacon performs, they flow from his sacramental identity. In other words, it is not only WHAT a deacon does, but WHO a deacon is, that is important.

Why do some deacons become priests?

For many years ordained ministers “ascended” from one office to another, culminating in ordination to the presbyterate, or Priesthood. The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965), however, authorized the restoration of the diaconate as a “permanent” order of ministry. So, while students for the Priesthood are still ordained deacons prior to their ordination as priests, there are more than 13,000 deacons in the United States alone who minister in this Order permanently. There is no difference in the sacramental sign or the functions between these so-called “transitional” and “permanent deacons.”

Is a deacon ordained for the parish or the diocese?

Whenever a person is ordained, he is to serve the diocesan Church. Deacons are no different in this regard: they are assigned by the bishop to ministries for which the bishop perceives a great need, and for which the deacon may have special gifts or talents. Most often, this will be within a parish setting, just as most priests serve in a parish. Once assigned to the parish, the deacon and any other clergy assigned to the parish minister under the immediate supervision of the pastor. However, this assignment may be changed at the request of the deacon or the initiative of the bishop.

— Provided by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C.

THE PARISH COMMUNITY OF
Saint Pius X Catholic Church

gives thanks to God for parishioners
Craig Borchard and David Violi

Congratulations to you and Robert Garrow on your upcoming Diaconate Ordination!

Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

- John 12:26
USF kicks off downtown campus renovations, USF president named Sagamore of the Wabash

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — A renovation celebration marked the official start of the conversion of the former Chamber of Commerce building in downtown Fort Wayne into the new location of the University of Saint Francis Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership on May 6.

During the renovation kickoff celebration, Franciscan Sister M. Elise Kriss, president of the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, was named a Sagamore of the Wabash. USF Board of Trustees President Bill Neizer made the announcement for Gov. Mike Pence. The award recognized Sister Kriss for her outstanding service, strong institutional leadership and support of the community, region and state.

Sister Kriss proclaimed her deep gratitude for the award and admitted, “It’s not easy to surprise Sister Elise.”

She later added, “It’s a wonderful feeling. Surprise is a feeling I don’t often have. … I’m very honored.”

Sister Kriss, Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and other community dignitaries and friends of USF gathered at the 826 Ewing St. location to witness the kickoff of the downtown campus project.

During the ceremony, Sister Kriss noted that the renovations were beginning in 2015, USF’s 125th anniversary year.

She said, “Two city treasures, the former Chamber building and the USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center, were gutted and transformed into unique spaces for higher education. These spaces will be filled with students beginning with fall 2016 classes.”

In addition to housing the Keith Busse School of Business and Entrepreneurial Leadership, the university’s signature project-based learning program, META, will also be located in the building and four floors of the West Annex of the USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center (former Scottish Rite) will be renovated as well, to house the School of Creative Arts Music Technology program.

Mayor Henry read an official city proclamation naming May 6, 2015 as the University of Saint Francis Downtown Campus Renovation Day.

Franciscan Sister M. Elise Kriss, president of the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, was surprised on May 6 as she was named a Sagamore of the Wabash. Shown, from left, are Sister Kriss, USF Director of Communication Rob Hines and USF Vice President of Institutional Advancement Matt Smith.

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ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SCHOOL HOSTS CAREER DAY

Dr. Ron Sarrazine, a Fort Wayne pediatrics and internal medicine physician, shows students how to use the opthalmoscope, a lighted instrument that is used to examine the inside of the eye including the retina and the optic nerve, during his presentation to eighth-grade students of St. Vincent de Paul School. The school hosted its 10th annual Eighth Grade Career Day on May 10. Over 30 notable business and professional people presented information about their careers. People in media, doctors, lawyers, therapists, engineers and other careers spoke about how they pursued a career in their fields, explained their roles and duties and gave advice on how to achieve a career in their field of expertise. Jodi Helmer, school counselor, organized the day, which offers a positive approach by the school to prepare the eighth graders for their future in high school and beyond.
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Jubilee of Mercy has an "effective measures will be taken to meet real needs in the world that will express mercy through tangible assistance."

At the news conference, the council distributed copies in several languages of the Holy Year prayer and logo, which features Jesus — the Good Shepherd — "taking upon His shoulders the lost soul, demonstrating that it is the love of Christ that brings to completion the mystery of His incarnation culminating in redemption," the archbishop said.

The image, created by Jesuit Father Marko Rupnik, also shows one of Jesus' eyes merged with the man's to show how "Christ sees with the eyes of Adam, and Adam with the eyes of Christ."

The council has joined with the United Bible Societies to distribute to pilgrims 1 million free copies of the Gospel of Mark; the texts will be available in seven languages.

The Jubilee of Mercy has an official website in seven languages; a Twitter handle @Jubilee_va; a Facebook page; and accounts on Instagram, Flickr and Google+.

Fatima ‘lifts veil’ on evil, Christian persecution, says cardinal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The so-called "secrets" of Our Lady of Fatima tell of today’s Christian persecution, in addition to the martyrdom of the past century, said Cardinal Angelo Amato.

The prefect of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes opened a conference May 7 on "The Message of Fatima between Charism and Prophecy." The text of his talk was published May 8 on the website of the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano.

Cardinal Amato said he had "the privilege" of reading the original manuscripts of the secrets of Fatima when he served as secretary of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith from 2002 to 2008.

"I meditated on them at length because they cast a light of faith and hope on the very sad events of the post-Vatican II era, but not only," he said.

Despite popular hopes that the 20th century would be a time of reason and brotherhood, "it was in fact a tragic period for Christianity," he said.

The message of Fatima, in a visionary way, evokes this tragedy, lifting the veil on concrete historical events, where "the devil opposes God’s benevolence" and "continues to tempt" the Church, just as he tempted Jesus, instilling in men’s hearts feelings of ennui and death," he said.

Cardinal Amato described the Fatima message, with its concrete allusions to war, division and tragedies, as "without a doubt the most prophetic of modern apparitions." However, he dismissed claims that there is more to the secrets of Fatima than what has been made public. Canadian Father Nicholas Gruner, who died April 29 of a sudden heart attack, founded the "The Fatima Crusader" magazine and was there are no other hidden secrets," said Cardinal Amato.

Mary appeared to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917, and confirmed in them three secrets. Years later, Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos, one of the visionaries, wrote them down. The first two secrets included a vision of hell, along with prophecies concerning the outbreak of World War II, the rise of communism and the ultimate triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, especially in Russia if the country was consecrated to her Immaculate Heart. They were made public in the 1990s.

Sister Lucia wrote down the third secret, and gave it to her local bishop in a sealed envelope. It was sent to the Vatican in 1957, where successive popes read the document and decided not to reveal its contents. It was finally made public in 2000. It told of a "bishop in white" who falls dead among soldiers on a hill. Behind him are many martyred priests, bishops and faithful.

Cardinal Amato said the interpretation of the third secret was entrusted to the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who was prefect at the time, suggested in his interpretation that it referred to the 1981 assassination attempt on St. John Paul II and he "affirmed that Fatima helps us ‘to understand the signs of the times and to find the correct responses for them in the faith,’" said Cardinal Amato.

"The material hand that diverted the bullet without killing the pope indicates that an immutable destiny does not exist and that the power of faith and prayer, especially in face of evil and human history: prayer is more powerful than bullets,” explained Cardinal Amato.

Cardinal Amato said Fatima also reveals the opposition between Mary and the devil.

"There is the need to recognize the presence and action of evil on people, which makes people decide not to follow the Lord and the Church to become victims of evil,” he said. "Humanity is constantly seduced by the opponent of good, which is always ready to make humanity fall into the abyss of perdition."

"But the Son of God came precisely to destroy the works of evil,” he continued. "And in this Holy Year of Mercy, fully involved in the saving work of Christ, cooperates effectively with her divine Son against Satan."

Mary “accompanies the Church and humanity” through history and arouses in the hearts of the faithful "forces for good” that win against the “assaults of men and perverse ideologies.”

"In this resides the charismata of Fatima," said Amato, which he described as “a gift of the Trinity” that allows people and the Church “to become increasingly aware of the struggle of good and evil and to make a powerful victory of grace over sin.”

"The vision of Fatima lifts the veil on the hell that exists on earth, but it also offers the consoling prophecy of our heavenly home,” he concluded.

**The Jubilee of Mercy**

**Archbishop Fisichella** said the priests will be chosen on the basis of their ability to preach well, especially on the theme of mercy, and be "good confessors," meaning they are able to express God’s love and do not make the confessional, as Pope Francis says, like "a torture chamber."

The priests will also have to "be patient” and have “an understanding of human fragility,” the archbishop said.

Bishops can recommend to the council priests from their own dioceses to serve as missionaries of mercy, he said, and priests themselves can submit their request to serve, he said.

When a priest volunteers, however, the council will confer with his bishop to make sure he would be “suitable for this ministry" and has the bishop’s approval to serve temporarily as a missionary of mercy, he said.

The archbishop emphasized the importance of the Holy Year as “a true pilgrimage” with the proper elements of prayer and sacrifice.

“We will ask pilgrims to make a journey on foot, preparing themselves to pass through the Holy Door in a spirit of faith and devotion," he said.

More than a dozen individual jubilee celebrations will be scheduled in 2016, such as a jubilee for consecrated men and women Feb. 2 to close the Year of Consecrated Life; a jubilee for the Roman Curia Feb. 22; a jubilee for those devoted to the spirituality of Divine Mercy on Divine Mercy Sunday April 3; and separate jubilees for teenagers; for deacons; priests; the sick and disabled; and catechists.

A jubilee for "workers and volunteers of mercy" will be celebrated on Blessed Mother Teresa of Kolkatta’s feast day Sept. 5 and a jubilee for prisoners will be celebrated Nov. 6.

Archbishop Fisichella said the pope wants the jubilee for inmates to be celebrated not only in prisons, but also with him in St. Peter’s Basilica. He said the council is discussing the possibility with government authorities and is not yet sure if it can be done.

The Vatican is asking bishops and priests around the world to conduct "similar symbolic gestures of communion with Pope Francis" and his vision of reaching out to those on the margins.

"As a concrete sign of the pope’s charitable love," he said, "effective measures will be taken to meet real needs in the world that will express mercy through tangible assistance."
**Ascension is important feast day**

**The Sunday Gospel**

_Mark 16:15-20_

The Acts of the Apostles supplies the first reading for this important festivity in the Church, the celebration of the Lord’s wondrous Ascension into heaven. This reading begins as if it were a letter. It is addressed to Theophilus, as was the Gospel of Luke itself. Who was Theophilus? Was he a person with this as his name? Or, instead, was he a devout Christian? The second possibility is possible because Theophilus actually may have been a title. In Greek, it means “friend of God.”

Regardless, both Acts and Luke were sent, as it were, to the same person, arguing for a common authorship of these two revealed works of the Christian Scriptures. In this reading, Acts states that it continues the story of salvation in Jesus begun in the Gospel of Luke. It describes the Ascension of the Lord into heaven, an event occurring after Jesus had risen from the dead and had been among the Apostles and faithful to God. As the moment of the Ascension approached, the Apostles still were confused. This confusion simply reveals they were human. Their ability to grasp the things of God, and the mind of God, was limited to say the least.

Jesus eases their confusion. He affirms that they are limited, but Jesus also affirms that all is in God’s plan. The Apostles have been commissioned. To enable them to fulfill their commissions, Jesus promises that the Holy Spirit will be with them. The Spirit will guide them to proclaim the Gospel even “to the ends of the earth.” The Epistle to the Ephesians provides the next reading. The reading is a prayer. It begins the blessings and guidance of God upon the faithful Christians of Ephesus. They need God, as all humans need God. God’s strength will be mighty. After all, divine strength raised Jesus from the dead. It is a power over everyone and everything.

St. Mark’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is the very last section of Mark. As such, it is the First Gospel’s conclusion. It is a Resurrection Narrative.

The Lord, having risen on Easter, appears to the Eleven, the surviving Apostles reduced by one in number because of the suicide of the despondent, traitorous Judas. In personal commission, Jesus sends the Eleven into the world, far and wide. They are to proclaim the Gospel to all creation. He has prepared them, instructed them and guided them. Anyone who accepts this proclamation will be saved. Anyone who believes in the Gospel will be capable of marvelous deeds. The Lord will protect them.

The graphic examples must not be taken literally, but they nonetheless are sound for their meaning. No true believer will ever die an eternal death.

Then, the story says that Jesus ascended into heavens. Faithful to the Lord, the Apostles went forward and proclaimed the Gospel as they had been commissioned.

**Reflection**

Celebrating the Ascension of the Lord in the form of a special liturgical feast day is very revered in the Church. Once, in early Christianity, seemingly, it was celebrated together with Pentecost. For 17 centuries, however, it has been a feast of its own.

Such is proper. The Ascension revealed much. Fittingly, the Eastern Church sees in the Ascension a particularly meaningful revelation for Christians.

Many lessons come from this feast. It again reveals Jesus, divine and human, crucified but risen. It reveals that we are not alone. Christ did not leave us. He lives with us, and teaches us still, through the Apostles and the structures and sacraments of the Church they formed in the Lord’s name and at the Lord’s command.

In summary, Jesus loves us and gives us life. Whatever threatens us, the power of God will protect us from everlasting death.

**Let’s spring into action!**

Growing up in Florida, I often heard comments from friends and family living up North about how beautiful the transitions of the changing seasons were. Still, I was content in my suburban paradise and sharply critiqued any idea that I could be missing out on anything important. Yet having recently experienced (and survived!) my own spring surgery, I’ve learned valuable lessons about shifting from the dark of winter to the welcoming glow of spring.

Like winter creeping in, our thoughts may sometimes become dark and somewhat jaded as we attempt to build a culture that welcomes and respects human life. But spring brings a promise of new hope and new life. It is a season of renewal and a chance to clean “our homes, let us also entrust our burdens to the Lord and ask Him to cleanse and renew our hearts. Going to the sacrament of Reconciliation, we receive the graces necessary to grow in holiness and to strengthen our resolve to grow in love and do God’s will. Scripture says it best: “God is able to make every grace abundant for you, so that in all things, always having all you need, you may have an abundance for every good work.” (2 Cor. 9:8)

Now that the cold has passed, I am spending more time outside appreciating the beauty that this time of year brings. I am filled with the joy of renewal, both interior and exterior. We should apply this joy to our endeavors to build up the kingdom of God — a kingdom of life. Although it might seem like we are fighting an uphill battle, our side will eventually prevail, and we can celebrate the fact that our efforts are not in vain.

In the meantime, we must lift up in prayer each other, our various local groups and others who work to protect all human life. This new season is a perfect opportunity to create a new series of actions and to commit (or re-commit) to promoting respect for life at all stages, in and out of season. If you haven’t visited the website for the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities lately, there are many resources, such as educational videos and prayers that we hope you will find useful as you seek to spring into action to support life!

**Mary Prentis** is staff assistant for the bishops’ Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more information on the bishops’ pro-life activities, visit www.usccb.org/prolife. Join the Bishops’ Call to Prayer and Fasting for Life, Marriage & Religious Liberty at www.usccb.org/pray.
‘The Avengers’ and Friedrich Nietzsche

C. S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien and their colleagues in the Inklings wanted to write fiction that would effectively “evangelize the imagination,” accustoming the minds, especially of young people, to the hearing of the Christian Gospel. Accordingly, Tolkien’s Gandalf is a figure of Jesus the prophet and Lewis’s Aslan a representation of Christ as both sacrificial victim and victorious king. Happily, the film versions of both “The Lord of the Rings” and “The Chronicles of Narnia” have proven to be widely popular all over the world. Not so happily, Joss Whedon’s “Avengers” films, the second of which has just appeared, work as a sort of antidote to Tolkien and Lewis, shaping the imaginations of young people so as to receive a distinctly different message.

It is certainly relevant to my purpose here to note that Whedon, the auteur behind “Buffy the Vampire Slayer,” “Firefly” and many other well-received films and television programs, is a self- avowed atheist and has, on many occasions, signaled his particular dissatisfaction with the Catholic Church.

I won’t rehash in too much detail the plot of “Avengers: Age of Ultron.” Suffice it to say that the world is threatened by an artificial intelligence, by the name of Ultron, who has run amok and incarnated himself in a particularly nasty robotic body. Ultron wants to destroy the human race and has produced an army of robots as his posse. Enter the Avengers.

Tony Stark (Iron Man), the Hulk, Black Widow, Captain America, Hawkeye and Thor — to do battle with the dark forces. There is an awful lot of CGI bumping and banging and blowing things up, but when the rubble settles, we see that the real struggle is over things not seen, over the mind, and over moral issues. “Avengers” comes to a close. It is a neo-classical sculpture of all the major figures in the film locked in struggle, a triumph against evil.

What the Christian evangelist can seize upon in this film is the frank assertion that the will to power — even backed up by stunningly sophisticated technology — never finally solves our difficulties, that it, in point of fact, makes things worse. See the Tower of Babel narrative for the details. And this admission teases about the Nietzschean intention why he cannot definitively solve the problems that bedevil the human race and can only glumly predict the eternal return of trouble. If you have any doubts about the Nietzschean intention of Joss Whedon, take a good look at the image that plays as “The Avengers” comes to a close. It is a neat expression of Nietzsche’s doctrine of the eternal return of the same. At the heart of the German philosopher’s work is the declaration of the death of God, which signals that all values are relative — that we live in a space “beyond good and evil.” Into that space, Nietzsche contends, the Ubermensch, the superman, should confidently stride. This is a human being who has thrown off the shackles of religion and conventional morality and is able to exercise fully his Wille zur Macht (Will to Power). Asserting this will, the superman defines himself completely on his own terms, effectively becoming a god. Here we see the significant influence of Nietzsche on Sartre and the other existentialists of the 20th century.

The “Avengers” — a block with Ubermensch, powerful, willful people who assert themselves through technology and the hyper-violence that that technology makes possible. And the most remarkable instance of this technologically informed self-assessment is the creation of the savior figure, who self-identifies with the very words of Yahweh in the book of Exodus. But he is not the Lord become flesh; instead, he is the coming together of flesh and robotics, produced by the flexing of all the too human will to power.

I find it fascinating that this pseudo-savior was brought about by players on both sides of the divide, by both Iron Man and Ultron. Like Nietzsche’s superman, he is indeed beyond good and evil — which is precisely why he cannot definitively solve the problems that bedevil the human race and can only glumly predict the eternal return of trouble. If you have any doubts about the Nietzschean intention of Joss Whedon, take a good look at the image that plays as “The Avengers” comes to a close. It is a neo-classical sculpture of all the major figures in the film locked in struggle, a triumph against evil.


COLUMNS

DOCTOR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

the scientific community. Later in life, he developed a close friendship with St. John Paul II and became the first head of the Pontifical Council for Life only weeks before his death from cancer in 1994.

My patient Matthew and Dr. Lejune had much in common: they were gentle, joyful and faithful. They both went out to meet the Lord with quiet resolution and with dignity and hope. They provided examples of heroic virtue and endurance of suffering for the truth. They both showed me that there is much yet to be done. Indeed, 92 percent of all babies who are diagnosed with Down syndrome are destroyed within their mother’s womb. Those that are born, face constant struggles with access to care, pity more than compassion and a culture eager to rid itself of perceived imperfection. Our challenge in building the culture of life could be simpler or clearer. Uphold the dignity of each life from conception to natural death. Regard those with disabilities as wonders of creation, not burdens. See the face of Jesus in everyone we meet and, in return, show them His loving face.

Matthias

First Century

Feast May 14

Matthias was the replacement for Judas Iscariot in the Twelve Apostles. Two men, Matthias and Joseph Barsabbas, met the condition set down by Peter in the Acts of the Apostles (1:21-22): That he “accompanied us the whole time the Lord Jesus came among us, beginning from the baptism of John until the day on which he was taken up from us.” After praying first, the apostles chose Matthias by lot. Later traditions had Matthias evangelizing in Judea, Cappadocia (now Turkey) or Ethiopia, before being martyred. Perhaps more reliable is the early writing of Clement of Alexandria, who said Matthias insisted on the importance of mortification and was among the 72 disciples sent out by Jesus in the Gospels.
Pope: Love of sports doesn’t mean ‘timeout’ from Church, friends, poor

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Never let practice and competition get in the way of going to Mass, studying for school, being with friends and helping the poor, Pope Francis told an Italian sports association.

And never let Italy’s infatuation with soccer — like in the pope’s native Argentina — crowd out all the other sports, which are just as important.

“Sports done right helps build more caring, brotherly and just world that helps overcome ‘human and social disadvantage,’” the pope said.

The pope read out a saying by the fourth-century philosopher Sallustius, in Latin, and jokingly remarked how “interesting it would be to ask one of your kids for the translation.”

“Hmm. Better not to,” he remarked. Instead he provided his own translation to the quote “Concordia parasvae res crescent, discordia maximae dilabuntur,” saying it means “With harmony, small things grow; with discord, great things decay.”

He praised the sports association for giving “equal dignity to all sports.”

Every sport has its worth — not just in physical or social benefits, but also morally in the ways it can offer people, especially kids, a chance to experience a more balanced life, “self-control, sacrifice and loyalty toward others,” he said, especially today when it seems “betrayal” is on the rise.

The Bible teaches that the human person is both body and soul, he said.

“Sometimes it happens that a boy or girl forgets about Mass, catechism because of work-outs and competition. This is not a good sign” because it means they do not have their priorities right, he said.

“Studying, friends, serving the poor also are important and should not be ‘neglected in order to do just one thing. No. Everything together,’ he said.

Sports done right helps build a more caring, brotherly and just world that helps overcome “human and social disadvantage,” the pope said.

USF NAMES JASON RIDGE NEW WOMEN’S BASKETBALL COACH

Jason Ridge has been named new University of Saint Francis women’s basketball coach by USF Athletic Director Mike McCaffrey. “I am very pleased to announce the selection of Jason Ridge as our next women’s basketball coach,” McCaffrey said. “During this process it became clear to our entire search committee who was the right fit for our university, and for our women’s basketball program at this time. Jason is a man of high integrity, character and has shown an ability to guide young student-athletes to extraordinary things.” Ridge, 39, becomes the 14th coach in the 41-year history of the program and is excited about continuing the tradition of excellence.

St. Charles dominates track and field action

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) track and field action, St. Charles dominated both the girls’ and boys’ competitions.

“St. Charles is on a roll,” USF Athletic Director Mike McCaffrey said. “I am very pleased to announce the selection of Jason Ridge as our next women’s basketball coach,” McCaffrey said. “During this process it became clear to our entire search committee who was the right fit for our university, and for our women’s basketball program at this time. Jason is a man of high integrity, character and has shown an ability to guide young student-athletes to extraordinary things.” Ridge, 39, becomes the 14th coach in the 41-year history of the program and is excited about continuing the tradition of excellence.

At Bishop Dwenger, both the young men and women from St. Jude topped the point tally to win the team title.

Winners for the Eagles were their 4x200 relay team and the following individuals: Gabe Hendricks (discus, shot put), Katie Nix (200, long jump), T.J. McAarly (200, long jump), Rachel Landstoffer (high jump), Gar Kenna (hurdles), Caroline Miller (800, 1,600) and triple winner Emilien Delaney (800, 1,600, relay).

For St. John the Baptist, New Haven, Leticia Johnson won the discus and put put throws, while Meg Howe claimed the 100-meter dash for St. Vincent and was anchor on the winning short relay team.

St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth had top place finishes from their girls’ 4x200 relay team and boys’ short relay. Maria Denning and Ben Miller were the top individuals in the 400-meter dash. Miles also won the high jump, Annie Thomas the hurdles and Anthony Ventrella the 100-meter dash in 12.5 seconds.

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What’s Happening?

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is accepting applications for Principal of St. Mary Catholic School, Avilla, Indiana.

Grades: Preschool-8th  Enrollment: 160
Qualifications: • Active and practicing Roman Catholic  • Strong leadership, communication, and management skills • Strong commitment to maintaining our Catholic identity  • Teaching and administrative experience, as well as administrative licensing  • Experience with technology

St. Mary School provides an authentic Catholic education, which allows students to become life-long learners with an understanding of the call to service.

Contact: Personnel Manager, Catholic Schools Office
P.O. Box 390  Fort Wayne, IN 46801  260-422-4611

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

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$220 Discount on Companion Spaces
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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 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

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.

Father William Kummer to celebrate Mass of Thanksgiving

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Parish will celebrate Father Bill Kummer’s 40th Jubilee of his ordination as a priest during a Mass of Thanksgiving May 24 at 12:30 p.m. in the church. A reception will follow in the parish hall, 11337 US Hwy 27 S., just south of 469/US 27 interchange.

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., on Wednesday, May 21, at 6:30 p.m. The topic is “The Beautiful Body of Christ: Lessons in community and service from Dorothy Day and the Catholic Worker.” Bryce Wiseman, young adult graduate theology student, former traveling missionary and parishioner of Sacred Heart Parish, will be exploring the role played by beauty in the spiritual and social development of Dorothy Day and of her gifts to the Catholic Church. Visit www.diocesefwsb.org/TOT for information.

Theology on Capp

Mishawaka — High School teens are invited to Theology on Capp Monday, May 18, from 7-8:45 p.m. at the Knights Hall, 114 W. First St. Eric Morin will speak on the protheses and dreams of St. John Bosco. Cappuccino, hot chocolate or soft drinks are free. Guests are welcome to bring snacks.

Germanfest at St. Peter Parish

Fort Wayne — St. Peter Parish will open Germanfest with a German Mass on Sunday, June 7, at 11 a.m. celebrated by Father Charles Herman. A German meal will follow in the pavilion. Tickets are $8 for adults and $5 for children 6-12 for the dinner.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a spaghetti dinner on Wednesday, May 20, from 5-6:30 p.m. Proceeds will benefit Special Olympics.

Central Catholic plans all alumni reunion

Fort Wayne — The Central Catholic High School Alumni Association will have an all alumni reunion Saturday, June 20, from 4 p.m. to ? at the Classic Catering and Event Center, 4832 Hilligas Rd. Contact Leanne at 260-485-0290 for reservation form due by June 12. Tickets are $22 per person.

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www.catholic-cemetery.org

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Angela
Joseph R. Ciesielksi, 93, St. Anthony of Padua
Evelyn Moberg, 91, St. Anthony of Padua
Sandra Drake, 69, St. Anthony of Padua

Auburn
Patricia J. Gallagher, 85, Immaculate Conception

Decatur
Ronald D. Aspy, 79, St. Mary of the Assumption

Fort Wayne
William Fugate, 45, St. Vincent de Paul
Florence Sordelet, 77, St. Vincent de Paul
Michael J. Brita, 62, St. Jude

Evelyn M. Martin, 90, Our Lady/Good Hope
Virginia M. Runser, 74, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Granger
Vicki Dool, 63, St. Pius X
Audria Maria Wiegand, 99, St. Pius X

Mishawaka
Mary E. Roy, 78, St. Joseph

South Bend
John D. Geary Jr., 83, St. Matthew
Janet Gloster, 71, St. Patrick
Frank Czelatko, 90, St. Patrick
Nellie Katie Shanley, 83, St. Theresa
Little Flower

Bernadette R. Claffey, 79, Holy Family
Mary Ann Tice, 98, Holy Cross
Gregory Calhoun, 71, St. Therese
Little Flower
Dolores Rybak, 82, St. Stanislaus

Sister Agnes Arvis, 93, Church of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Sister served at St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne.


choice each person has to either focus their lives selfishly inward or to courageously pour out one’s self to God and others. “Your journey of life is like a drama. It can be an ego-drama or a theo-drama. An ego-dramatic life is one that is just about me, about self: my desires, my pleasures, my power and riches and fame. But this is not true life; it is not liberating. It’s not what we were created for.”

“The true life, the good life, the fulfilling life is part of a theo-drama, one centered in God,” Bishop Rhoades said. “It is an adventure of love, with its gaze outward. It seeks truth, beauty and goodness. Thankfully, we have a Savior who lifts us up to experience this life, the life of grace, merited for us by Him who was lifted up on the cross.”

To live this God-centered life, Bishop Rhoades offered students both spiritual and practical suggestions.

“Have a daily time of prayer, a daily conversation with the Lord, to prayerfully read Scripture each day, and be immersed in the power of the Eucharist, the great sacrament of love,” he said. “Additionally, engage in the works of mercy. This is an essential part of a holy life; love of God expressed through love of neighbor, the opposite of an egocentric life.”

“Think of the saints,” he said, “they embraced the Gospel and they didn’t just talk about it in lofty language. When they saw someone hungry, they gave them food. When they saw someone suffering, they helped them. When we give of ourselves, we find ourselves; it’s about learning to love. I pray that you will never forget Christ’s instruction to take up your cross as His disciples. He reminds us that ‘whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.’ When we live this, we become able and free to live every day with passion and purpose!”

Following Bishop Rhoades’ speech, Matthew Wingard, a member of Holy Cross’ 2005 inaugural baccalaureate class and senior Ana Davidson presented their insights and advice for the new graduates. Wingard encouraged the students to each carry with them a “SWAG, as Saints With a SWAG,” to make a positive impact on the world.

Davidson highlighted the importance of carrying forward the lessons and experiences gained from Holy Cross. “Through our education, we have been cultivated in both mind and heart. Our family, friends and community here have helped us see how we can truly make a difference, providing us with both the competence to see and the courage to act.”

President Paige, after bestowing each new graduate with their diploma, commended the efforts of the students, faculty, staff, parents and all those who have contributed to this year’s success as a college community.

Awards Ceremony

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades receives an honorary doctor of humane letters from Holy Cross College on Saturday, May 9.

Help fund education of the seminarians of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend by giving generously to the Pentecost Collection for the Education of Seminarians on May 23 and 24.

PATKA

“...”

EMILY WACK