NOTRE DAME — Scores of men and women who are members of religious orders serving in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend nearly filled the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on May 31 for a Vespers service led by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

Vespers, also called Evening Prayer, is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, also known as the Divine Office. Bishop Rhoades invited all men and women in consecrated life to the Vespers service as part of the celebration of 2015 being proclaimed the Year of Consecrated Life by Pope Francis. Laity also were invited to attend.

Bishop Rhoades entered the darkened basilica carrying the Paschal Candle down the center aisle. Once at the front, he and basilica rector, Holy Cross Father Peter Rocca, shared the flame from the candle with the congregation. As the flames gradually were relayed from candle to candle, the faces of hundreds of consecrated persons were illuminated.

The basilica’s community choir led the enthusiastic congregation for the hymns, prayers and psalms of Vespers for the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. As Felician Sister Mary Catherine Ryzewicz, an administrator at St. Adalbert School in South Bend, told Today’s Catholic after the service: “It was a very lovely service, very inspiring, especially to see so many people gathered to celebrate,” she said.

The faithful and those in consecrated religious life gather for Vespers at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame on May 31 to celebrate the Year of Consecrated Life. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades led the Evening Prayer.

South Bend Mass celebrates 150th anniversary of the city

SOUTH BEND — The faith-filled 150-year history of South Bend was celebrated at a Mass May 31 at Saint Joseph High School. Originally planned as an outdoor Mass at Father Bly Field at Legohton Stadium, inclement weather relocated the faithful indoors to the Saint Joseph High School gym. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated the Mass for the 150th Anniversary of the City of South Bend.

Saint Joseph High School’s location has historical significance in South Bend’s 150-year history.

Saint Joseph Hospital was erected by the Sisters of the Holy Cross in 1882 on the current site of Saint Joseph High School. Although South Bend was already 17 years old, the hospital was the first institution in the city to care for the sick. It was directed by Civil War veteran Sister Mary Edward and staffed by other Sisters of the Holy Cross, lay nurses and five volunteer physicians.

Today, it is not uncommon for Saint Joseph High School students — and even their parents and grandparents — to have been born on the hospital property where they now attend high school.

The Saint Joseph High School property, being the former site of Saint Joseph Hospital, was also the location of Notre Dame football legend George Gipp’s famous purported deathbed speech where he told Knute Rockne to tell a future team to “Go out there and win one for the Gipper!”

Michiana parishes provided the talent for a diocesan strings, woodwinds and brass orchestra for the Mass and prelude. And a diocesan choir provided the sacred music for the Mass, all directed by Jeremy Hoy, music director at St. Pius X Parish, Granger.

Bishop Rhoades’ homily incorporated the day’s feast, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, and then captured the history of the Catholic faith in South Bend.

He spoke of the earliest French missionary priests who celebrated the first Masses in the area in the late 1600s. And French Jesuits brought the faith to the native Potawatomis.

150TH, PAGE 16

Ordination to the Priesthood

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will ordain to the Priesthood Deacons Royce Gregerson, Bill Meininger, Jonathan Norton and Matt Sobelaski at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1122 S. Clinton St. in Fort Wayne, on June 6 at 11 a.m. This will be the largest number of priests ordained since 1975.
The rich heritage of faith in South Bend

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

The following is the homily that Bishop Rhoades delivered at the Mass on May 31, 2015, celebrating the 150th anniversary of the incorporation of the city of South Bend:

Today the Church celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity. We contemplate the mystery of God in Himself: one God in Three Divine Persons. Father Petit by the Bishop of Vincennes. This property was originally bought by Father Stephen Badin in 1832 and named by him Notre Dame des Lacs. With the arrival of Father Sorin and the Holy Cross brothers in 1842, a new era in the history of Catholic life in this region began. They began the school that became the University of Notre Dame. Father Sorin and later, a succession of Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters ministered to the Catholics living in this area and beyond.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne was established in 1857 and encompassed the whole northern half of the state of Indiana. There were probably about 20,000 Catholics in the whole diocese at that time. The Catholics in this area worshiped at Sacred Heart at Notre Dame until 1853 when Father Sorin and Holy Cross priests bought the land where we now stand and built a chapel in 1853 on the northeast corner of what is today Hill and LaSalle Streets. It was named Saint Alexis Chapel, in honor of the patron saint of South Bend’s founder, Alexis Coquillard. This became Saint Joseph Parish, the oldest Catholic parish of South Bend, though some debate this, since at that time, this property was part of Lowell, a town that was only annexed to South Bend in 1867. We can say, however, that it is the oldest parish in present-day South Bend. The first parishioners were mostly French, many from Canada, and a few German and Irish families. The first parish on the west side of the Saint Joseph River was founded in 1859 in honor of Saint Patrick. Saint Patrick’s was a multilingual, mostly Irish, parish. In 1865, when South Bend was incorporated as a city, Saint Patrick was the only Catholic parish within the city boundaries. The Catholic population of South Bend grew steadily beyond the original Native Americans, French, and French-Canadians with the arrival of not only Irish and German immigrants, but later more numerous Polish, Hungarian, Italian and Belgian immigrants. Many ethnic parishes, along with Catholic schools, were established in the late 1800’s and early 1900’s. The Polish Catholic presence has been especially prominent in the history of the Church in South Bend. In 1927, a specific ministry to South Bend’s five Polish-American families began and became Saint Augustine Parish in 1941. The Hispanic Catholic presence in South Bend began in the 1950’s and has grown significantly in the past several decades. We see a beautiful, rich tapestry of ethnic Catholic communities throughout South Bend’s history, a unity in diversity that is still evident today.

I don’t have time to discuss all the rich history of the Church in South Bend these past 150 years, but I must mention the significant decree from the Vatican in 1960 changing the title of our diocese from the Diocese of Fort Wayne to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Bishop Leo Pursley asked for this change to honor South Bend and its religious heritage.

With this re-naming of the diocese, Saint Matthew Church was promoted to the rank of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Bishop Leo Poursley asked for this change to honor South Bend and its religious heritage.

Finally, on this Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, we praise God from whom is love and who calls us to enter into the love of God. We are reminded to be mindful of those who are in need or struggling to make a living. We pray for the peace and prosperity of this city.
Pope Francis lists abortion, unsafe workplaces among ‘attacks on life’

BY LAURA IERACI

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Abortion, abandoning migrants at sea, unsafe working conditions, malnutrition, terrorism and euthanasia are all “attacks on life,” said Pope Francis.

In an audience with members of the Italian Science & Life Association May 30, the pope said “life is a gift” and urged more reflection on how people are treated throughout all stages of life.

“The degree of progress of a civilization is measured precisely by its capacity to care for life, especially in its most fragile phases,” he told the association, which had gathered its members in Rome the previous day to mark its 10th anniversary.

“When we speak of humanity, let us never forget the attacks on the sacredness of human life,” he said. “The plague of abortion is an attack on life. Allowing our brothers and sisters to die in boats in the Strait of Sicily is an attack on life. Death at the workplace, because minimum safety conditions are not respected, is an attack on life. Death because of malnutrition is an attack on life. Terrorism, war, violence, euthanasia as well, is an attack on life.”

The pope affirmed the association’s work as important, especially in a society marked by a throwaway mentality, and urged its members to “relaunch a renewed culture of life.”

“To love life is to care always for others, to want their good, to cultivate and respect their transcendent dignity,” he said.

Pope Francis told association members to be “unafraid of undertaking fruitful dialogue with the entire world of science, even with those who do not profess to be believers but who remain open to the mystery of human life.”

Underlining the vital link between science and life, the pope said “it is the miracle of life in its unfathomable depths that gives rise to and accompanies the scientific journey.”

“Christ, who is the light of humankind and of the world, illuminates the path so that science may always be knowledge at the service of life,” he said. “When this light ceases and when knowledge is no longer in touch with life, it becomes sterile.”

He urged scientists to maintain a high regard for the sacredness of human life, “so that science is really at the service of humankind and not humankind at the service of science.”

“It is thanks to scientific analysis, he said, that the Church reaffirms “a just society recognizes the primacy of the right to life, from conception until its natural end.”

Nebraska bishops welcome override of veto of bill ending death penalty

LINCOLN, Neb. (CNS) — Nebraska state senators override Gov. Pete Ricketts’ veto of a bill repealing capital punishment that had been supported by the state’s Catholic bishops.

In a 30-19 vote May 27, the senators supported a bill that replaces the death penalty with a sentence of life in prison without parole.

The bill had gained the support of Nebraska’s three Catholic bishops, who earlier commended lawmakers for their historic vote May 20 to repeal capital punishment. They said then that support for the bill reflects the teaching of the Catholic church and that use of the death penalty cannot be justified today.

Ricketts vetoed the bill May 26, but legislators acted quickly. The 30 votes were just enough to override the veto. Under statehouse rules in the unicameral legislature, at least 30 of 49 senators must vote to overturn a gubernatorial veto.

“Our support for this bill also flows from our prayerful reflection on the words of Jesus Christ Himself: ‘Love your enemies, and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your heavenly Father,’” said the state’s three bishops, Archbishop George J. Lucas of Omaha and Bishops James D. Conley of Lincoln and Joseph G. Hanefeldt of Grand Island.

Their joint statement was issued by the Nebraska Catholic Conference, which represents the bishops’ public policy interests. Lawmakers had originally voted 32-15 to pass the bill.

With the vote, Nebraska became the 19th state to end the use of the death penalty.

Ricketts had lobbied against repeal but supporters of the bill were optimistic that lawmakers could muster the 30 votes needed to override the veto, said Greg Schleppenbach, executive director of the state Catholic conference.

In an email message to members of the Catholic Advocacy Network of Nebraska, the Catholic conference’s new grassroots faithful citizenship initiative, Schleppenbach urged people to send a note of thanks to senators who voted for repeal.

Earlier in May, Archbishop George J. Lucas of Omaha joined about 15 religious leaders, priests and nuns at a news conference in Omaha in calling for an end to the death penalty. At the May 13 event, Archbishop Lucas said he was pleased and privileged “to join friends from other faith communities at this important moment.”

The effort to override the veto was led by state Sen. Colby Coash, a Republican who is Catholic. He told the Lincoln Journal Star that he was motivated by his faith and Church teaching on the death penalty to urge fellow legislators to first pass the bill and then override the veto.

“This is consistent with my pro-life views, but it’s also consistent with trying to make government more efficient. With the death penalty, taxpayers are not getting what they’re paying for,”

Salesian Father Giuseppe Costa, speaking at an event in Naples May 30, told reporters that publishers from around the world had been asking for the rights to reprint “Laudato Si’” when it is released in mid-June.

The Vatican press office declined to confirm the title of the document and the release date, although it also declined to say Father Costa was wrong.
Church should make views on homosexuality understandable, says priest

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Church not only needs to provide pastoral care for those with same-sex attraction but it should also make its teaching “accessible, understandable and compelling for people,” said the director of a Church apostolate that ministers to homosexuals.

Father Paul Check, director of Courage for the past eight years, said Catholics with same-sex attraction would be also more likely to “understand what the Church teaches if it became more plain to them that they have a place in the Church.”

The priest, who considers himself “an advocate for an underserved population,” said the Church’s teachings on chastity and contraception are not well understood, and added that they are “all part of one tapestry and they include the question, obviously, of homosexuality.”

One way to get this across will be through an international conference focusing on the Church’s ministry to homosexuals. The conference, taking place in Detroit this August, is a lead-in to the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia in September and the world Synod of Bishops on the family at the Vatican in October.

It aims to help those in pastoral care ministries gain a better understanding of the Church’s teaching on homosexuality as well as insight on how to put into practice the U.S. bishops’ 2006 document “Ministry to Persons With a Homosexual Inclination: Guidelines for Pastoral Care,”

said Father Check.

He said the theme of the Aug. 10-12 gathering is Christian friendship and the importance of building relationships.

The event, sponsored by Courage International, Our Sunday Visitor and the Archdiocese of Detroit, will feature about 30 national and local speakers and will include Courage members “who will tell their stories,” the priest told Catholic News Service in a May 22 interview in Washington.

Father Check, a diocesan priest from Bridgeport, Connecticut, said the conference will answer some of the questions posed in the “lineamenta,” or outline, for the Oct. 4-25 synod on the family at the Vatican, particularly about the Church’s response to homosexuality.

Some of those questions included: “How can the Christian community give pastoral attention to families with persons with homosexual tendencies?” and “What are the responses that, in light of cultural sensitivities, are considered to be most appropriate?”

Last year he said Courage took a small step in spreading the Church’s message about homosexuality through a documentary movie, “Desire of the Everlasting Hills,” which tells the stories of three people who transitioned from homosexual lifestyles to chastity in accordance with the Church’s teachings.

“It’s an easy introduction to the solicitude and care the Church has for people,” Father Check said, adding that the hour-long film “doesn’t sound like sterile teaching from the catechism but a lived reality.”

He pointed out that many people do not even know Courage exists, unless they hear the words “Catholic Church and homosexuality” and when people “find us eventually” they often say: “We never knew the Church had something like this.”

Courage chapters, which currently number about 100, are support groups where people meet confidentially and build relationships. “Isolation is really one of the more difficult problems our members face,” the priest said.

He said word of this apostolate needs to appear in parish bulletins, announcements, pamphlets in Church vestibules and should be mentioned in diocesan newspapers and even in confessionals.

Father Check said this ministry has “changed my Priesthood considerably.”

He said as a teacher of moral theology and sexual ethics, “this is already my field,” but he has been particularly impressed by “sitting down with men and women for whom this is part of their life.”

For information about the Courage/Encourage apostolate in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend visit www.diocesefwb.org/courage.

DEATH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

he said in an interview with the newspaper.

“If any other programs were as costly or inefficient as this, we would have gotten rid of them,” he said.

The Catholic Mobilizing Network, an organization working to end the use of the death penalty around the country, welcomed the override in a statement May 27.

“Republicans, Democrats and independents reached across the aisle to champion repeal, making Nebraska the first red state in recent years to end the death penalty,” the organization said. “The bipartisan success today demonstrates growing recognition that the death penalty is a broken and morally bankrupt public policy.”

Nebraska is the seventh state to abolish capital punishment since 2007; it is the first state with a Republican-controlled legislature to do so since 1973.

Ricketts condemned the decision in a statement released just after the override vote: “My words cannot express how appalled I am that we have lost a critical tool to protect law enforcement and Nebraska families. While the Legislature has lost touch with the citizens of Nebraska, I will continue to stand with Nebraskans and law enforcement on this important issue.”

The office of Nebraska Attorney General Doug Peterson issued a statement taking issue with the provision of the repeal measure, known as L.B. 268, saying the new law will apply retroactively, giving those currently on death row a sentence of life without parole.

Peterson’s office said the provision is unconstitutional.

“Nebraska’s Constitution reserves to the Board of Pardons the exclusive power to change final sentences imposed by the courts,” it said, adding that Peterson will “seek a court decision, at the appropriate time, to resolve the issue of the state’s authority to carry out death sentences previously ordered by Nebraska’s courts for the 10 inmates now on death row.”

Bishop Conley took to Twitter to commend legislators for their vote. In the hours leading to the vote he asked Nebraska Catholics to call their legislators to urge them to override the veto. He also called for prayers for public safety forces and the victims of crime.

After the vote he tweeted: “The Nebraska Legislature admirably repealed the death penalty today. All human life has dignity — it’s time to end abortion and euthanasia too!”

In a May 29 statement, Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski of Miami, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, said to resolve the issue of the state’s death penalty is another step in the building of a culture of life.

He said the Church is in solidarity with victims of violence and all attacks on human life, offering prayers for them and their families.

However, Archbishop Wenski said, “even as we seek justice for these grave wrongs, our faith impels us to call for the building up of a culture of life where all human life is valued. We are a people of deep hope, even for the most lost souls among us. We continue to say that we cannot teach killing is wrong by killing.”

Contributing to this story were Joe Ruff and David Guoger, news editor and senior writer, respectively, at the Catholic Voice, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Omaha.
Fortnight 2015:

Freedom to Bear Witness

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

WASHINGTON, USCCB — The Catholic Church teaches: “Marriage and the family are institutions sanctioned by God, established in the beginning, necessary for the ordering of human society and the transmission of life, and for the well-being of human society.” [2011] has to cease adoption services same-sex “couple.” Catholic workers of a bed and breakfast settled a discrimination lawsuit, requiring them to (1) pay a $10,000 civil penalty, (2) pay $20,000 to a charitable trust, and (3) not host wedding receptions of any kind. Upon settling the lawsuit, the owners of the bed and breakfast said, “But no one can force us to abandon our deeply held beliefs about marriage.”

New Jersey — The New Jersey Division on Civil Rights found that a Methodist organization violated a public accommodations law by not allowing a same-sex civil union ceremony to take place.


Legislation called the Marriage and Religious Freedom Act has recently been introduced in the U.S. Congress to try to remedy some of these problems and ensure that people can live out their beliefs on marriage.

Boko Haram adopts a strategy similar to ISIS

In 2014, the extremist group Boko Haram expanded its terrorist attacks from Nigeria to neighboring Muslim nations in the northeast and extended its reach to other parts of the country. In April of that year, Boko Haram killed 267 schoolgirls in Chibok, forcibly converting them to Islam, “marrying” them off to Boko Haram fighters, or selling them into slavery. This atrocity led to the #BringBackOurGirls movement. In the past year Boko Haram killed 6,374 people and kidnapped over the number killed in 2013. And 2015 has started off badly with a Boko Haram attack on Baga that may have killed up to 2,000 people.

The year 2015 marked a significant change in Boko Haram’s strategy. Instead of simply creating terror, they started to take over and hold territory. By September 2014, Boko Haram had gained control over a significant portion of northeast Nigeria that it called its “caliphate.” Its fighters repelled the Nigerian army’s attempts to take back ground and conducted numerous attacks into neighboring Cameroon, killing many soldiers and even kidnapping the Cameroonian Vice President’s wife. Boko Haram also took aim at disrupting elections to further undermine the legitimacy and credibility of the government. As a result, the February elections were postponed until the end of March 2015.

The attacks led the Cameroon government to recognize the regional threat that Boko Haram posed. Cameroon, Chad, Nigeria and Benin joined Nigeria to formulate an armed force of 8,700 troops that has taken back a significant number of towns from Boko Haram fighters since the start of 2015. In response, Boko Haram has returned to its terror attacks, launching daily suicide bombings in many cities, some by children, killing scores.

Boko Haram, a designation that means, “Westernized adulterers,” has evolved significantly since its inception in 2002. The group started off as a small, insignificant sect of Islam and rapidly expanded to become a major presence in Nigeria that has threatened to its terror attacks, launching daily suicide bombings in many cities, some by children, killing scores.

Pope Francis pointed out that “We would definitely encourage people to attend those events as well as read and educate yourself on religious freedom, Byrnes told the nationwide audience of diocesan employees and parish leaders.

“We’re looking this year to raise awareness of religious freedom so people don’t take it for granted,” she added.

Archbishop Lori said government policies, such as the federal mandate to include a full range of contraceptive and one’s employee health insurance and the redefinition of marriage throughout the country, pose growing threats to religious freedom.

The fortnight, he said, also is meant to draw attention to the dangers to religious liberty around the world as Christians and people of other faiths continue to face persecution, limits on their freedom and death.

The new way of thinking is not something that stands alone. It’s not simply a legal question for the Church. It pertains very much to the New Evangelization,” Archbishop Lori explained.

This year’s fortnight observance theme is the “Freedom to Bear Witness,” stemming from the Gospel message that Jesus came to the world to bear witness to the truth, explained Hilary Byrnes, assistant general counsel for the USCCB, who joined the archbishop during the webinar.

She said dozens of local events in dioceses across the country are planned, including prayer services, discussions and charitable works.

“We would definitely encourage people to attend those events as well as read and educate yourself on religious freedom,” Byrnes told the nationwide audience of diocesan employees and parish leaders.

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“Pope Francis pointed out that ‘We’re looking this year to raise awareness of religious freedom so people don’t take it for granted,’” the archbishop said. “I think we have to pay a lot of attention to the sacrifices which people are making for their faith around the world. Many Christians are being persecuted, beheaded. And Muslims are being persecuted for not being Muslim enough.”

Information about the fortnight and various resources to help plan local observances are available online at www.Fortnight4Freedom.com.
many participating so wholeheartedly; you could feel the rafters shaking just a little.”

Sister Lois DeLee, who is director of vocations, novices and postulants for the Immaculate Heart of Mary Province of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, was the Scripture reader. Holy Cross Brother Joseph Fox, rector of St. Joseph Chapel on the Holy Cross College campus, reads the intercessions.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades said that ever since Pope Francis designated 2015 as the Year of Consecrated Life, he had wanted to gather in prayer with the consecrated men and women in the diocese. Citing Pope Francis, he noted that “consecrated life is not an isolated or marginal reality in the Church.”

Rather, consecrated life is a deep part of the very life of the Church, he continued, saying that fact is evident in this diocese, which is home to some 800 consecrated men and women of 31 religious institutes. Furthermore, six of those religious institutes have their generalates or provinciates in the diocese.

“The marvelous activity of religious men and women shines forth as instrumental to the growth of the Church in our diocese since its very beginning and even prior to the establishment of the diocese in 1857. The consecrated life has been deeply a part of the life of our diocese and continues to be so today,” Bishop Rhoades said.

The bishop noted that the Vespers service celebrating consecrated life was appropriate on the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity because consecrated people have put their lives “at the service of the Most Holy Trinity and the Church” and committed themselves to a radical way of living the Gospel through the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience — known as the evangelical counsels.

He observed that St. Pope John Paul II had taught that the evangelical counsels are a gift of the Holy Trinity, and “the heart of poverty, chastity and obedience is love for the Trinity.”

The fraternal life in community of consecrated people also has a Trinitarian dimension, the bishop continued, for like the early Christians, consecrated persons strive to live in Christ with one heart and soul.

“This too is a witness to the Trinity, the unity, the oneness, of the three Divine Persons,” Bishop Rhoades said, noting that at this contentious time in the world, this model of community is greatly needed.

Bishop Rhoades stressed that “the Church and the world need your witness to Christ, your witness of communion, and your example of holiness.”

He thanked those present and asked them to extend his deep thanks, love and prayers to the ill or elderly religious unable to attend, saying: “I am always conscious of the power of their presence here in our diocese: their prayers and also their sufferings offered up for the Church.”

In his closing remarks, Bishop Rhoades said that in addition to members of religious institutes, the diocese is also home to other forms of consecrated life: hermits and consecrated virgins, who also are important to the life of the Church.

One of the largest contingents in attendance at the Vespers service was that of the brown-robed Franciscan Brothers Minor. Brother Isaac Mary told Today’s Catholic that the brothers have five friaries in the diocese, and they try to attend any communal event the bishop holds for the diocese.

“The Vespers service was beautiful,” he said. “It’s always helpful to be with other consecrated persons to build that bond and that friendship.”

For Holy Cross Father William Wickham, now retired after 30-plus years in ministry, the service was “a renewal of our commitment to the Church, to helping people and to proclaiming the Word.”

Felician Sister Mary Anthony Kubat, who has a special ministry to the ill and elderly at St. Adalbert/St. Casimir Parish, told Today’s Catholic that “Just feeling that power of the spirit with everybody at once praying together was very nice. There are just two of us in community here in South Bend, and it’s a lot different than praying with such a large group. It was powerful, beautiful.”

Bishop Rhoades had planned the event to make people more aware of “the gift of the presence of consecrated men and women in the Church, contributing to the mission of the Church in a decisive manner,” and to provide “a greater awareness in our culture and in the Church of the value and beauty of the consecrated life.”

For those who witnessed the Vespers service, the conclusion was mission accomplished.
Holy Cross sisters on podcast

Two Sisters of the Holy Cross will be featured in a June 9 podcast that is live-streamed (audio and video) over the Internet as part of an innovative way to engage with people about God, faith and religious life. Sponsored by A Nun’s Life ministry, the podcast airs at 5 p.m. Eastern Time at http://anunlife.org/live. There is also a live chat room where on-line listeners interact with each other and the sisters during the hour-long podcast. Two Holy Cross sisters also will be in the chat room.

Larissa Nanna awarded Celebration of Youth Scholarship

FORT WAYNE — Larissa Nanna has been awarded the Celebration of Youth Scholarship presented by the YMCA for her generous public service. The scholarship awards juniors and seniors who most represent the YMCA core values of caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. Of the 18 nominations Nanna was one of six students who were selected for the honor.

Nanna, parishioner at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, has been an altar server there, as well as assistant catechist and currently holds the position of co-first-grade Sunday schoolteacher. She has been a part of the youth group at the church and has volunteered in many public service activities at the cathedral. She has volunteered her time and treasure at the St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen, the Cathedral Easter Egg Hunt, Cathedral Soup and Stations of the Cross, Cathedral Easter Vigil Reception, Cathedral Giving Tree and other parish functions through the years.

Larissa Nanna

Nanna has been active in the Girl Scouts and has served at several annual events. In junior high and high school, she has been part of the Youth for Christ program, served on student council for four years and is a current member of the Interact Club at Carroll High School in Fort Wayne. Nanna has also donated her hair to help those in need of support due to illness to the Locks of Love program, and since she was a child, she and her father have volunteered to “ring the bell” for the Salvation Army at Christmas time.

Larissa is the daughter of Brett and Laura Nanna.

Seminarian Spenser St. Louis publically declared his intention to pursue Holy Orders and was officially accepted as a candidate for ordination during the Rite of Admission to Candidacy for Holy Orders at a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in the Chapel of the Good Shepherd in the Archbishop Noll Center in Fort Wayne on May 27. This fall St. Louis will attend North American College in Rome as a seminarian.

Seminarian Spenser St. Louis

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

KUZMICH

LAURISSA NANNA

Correction

Father Barry England was in priestly ministry for 47 years. The story about Father England’s retirement in the May 31, 2015 issue of Today’s Catholic had posted 37 years.
Msgr. John Suelzer celebrates golden jubilee

FORT WAYNE — Msgr. John N. Suelzer marked his golden jubilee this year on May 31 at a special Mass at St. Charles Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne. A reception that followed in the Hession Center Gym. His vocation to the Priesthood, he says, was nurtured by his mother as well as the holy example of four priests.

Born in 1939 to John and Hildred Suelzer in Wilkensburg, Pennsylvania, the young John received his primary education at St. Peter, St. Joseph and St. John the Baptist schools, Fort Wayne, and St. Aloysius School in Yoder. As a young high school student, Msgr. Suelzer felt a call to the priesthood and continued his studies. His college studies took place at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary in Maryland, as vicar provincial for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, served as director of seminary formation at St. Anthony’s in Granby, Maryland, as vicar provincial for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, served as director of seminary formation at St. Anthony’s in Granby.

He then served as pastor at St. John Kanty Parish in Buffalo, New York, and St. Peter’s Church, Baltimore, served as director of novices at the St. Joseph Cupertino Novitiate in Ellicott City, Maryland, as vicar provincial for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, served as director of seminary formation at St. Anthony’s in Granby.

He then served as pastor at St. John Kanty Parish in Buffalo, New York, and St. Peter’s Church, Baltimore, served as director of novices at the St. Joseph Cupertino Novitiate in Ellicott City, Maryland, as vicar provincial for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, served as director of seminary formation at St. Anthony’s in Granby.

Father Suelzer was honored with the title of monsignor in July of 1995 appointed by the Holy See as Chaplain for His Holiness. The newly named Monsignor then served a five-year term on the Chicago Archdiocesan Board of 2010 was appointed to serve on the Board of Saint Anne’s Home and Retirement Community.

Msgr. Suelzer has enjoyed his 50 years of priestly service and says, “celebrating the sacraments and being with people as they experience God’s call” brings him a great satisfaction. He also enjoys listening to classical music and reading.

Father Matthew Kafka celebrates 50 years of Priesthood

FATHER MATTHEW KAFKA

Notre Dame — Father Matthew Kafka has spent 40 of his 50 years of Priesthood serving Holy Cross missions at home and abroad.

A native of Syracuse, New York, Father Kafka was born into a close-knit and eccumenical home. His Catholic father made sure he and his sister Marianne attended Catholic schools — and both became religious and theologians. But, “we were never able to convert (our mother) to Catholicism, though we do consider her the best Christian in the family,” Father Kafka said.

After high school in Buffalo, Father Kafka studied engineer- ing at Notre Dame and entered the seminary program there. His seminary studies took him to Rome for the formation program at Moreau Seminary, I returned to East Africa where I taught theology and served in the formation programs of the district. I first taught at Kinyamasika Seminary in Uganda and then at Tangaza College in Kenya. My last assignment included the job of being religious superior at the formation house in Nairobi.”

Father Kafka had a brief stay at St. Joseph Parish in South Bend before serving here in Glendale, Arizona. Two years ago, he moved to Fatima House on the Notre Dame campus. “My present ministries include weekend assistance at St. Gabriel’s Mission in Bernin Springs, Michigan,” he said, “and being a volunteer chaplain in the Indiana State Penitentiary.”

“I am grateful to God for my family and the Holy Cross community for calling me and supporting me in my 50 years of Priesthood,” Father Kafka said.

JUNE 7, 2015

FRIAR ALEX CYMERMAN

MISHAWAKA — Friar Alex B. Cymerman, a Conventual Franciscan priest with Our Lady of the Angels Province, is celebrating his golden jubilee to the Priesthood.

Born in Buffalo, New York, Friar Cymerman attended Catholic elementary and high schools in New York. After high school graduation he entered the Franciscan Novitiate in Becket, Massachusetts, and pronounced his first vows on Aug. 15, 1957, and his solemn vows three years later while a student at St. Hyacinth College and Seminary, Granby, Massachusetts.

After theology studies at St. Anthony-on-Hudson in Rensselaer, New York, he was ordained a priest by Cardinal Lawrence Shehan on June 17, 1965 at St. Casimir Church, Baltimore, Maryland.

He received his bachelor’s degree from St. Hyacinth College and Seminary, and his master of theology from the State University of New York, and did graduate work in guidance and psychology at Loyola College in Baltimore.

Friar Cymerman taught and provided guidance services at Archbishop Curley High School in Baltimore, served as director of novices at the St. Joseph Cupertino Novitiate in Ellicott City, Maryland, as vicar provincial for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, served as director of seminary formation at St. Anthony’s in Granby.

He then served as pastor at St. John Kanty Parish in Buffalo, New York, and Mater Dolorosa Parish in Holyoke, Massachusetts. After a merger of parishes in Holyoke, he became the first pastor of the merged Our Lady of the Cross Parish in Holyoke.

For the past year (October 2014 to present) he has been in residence at the St. Francis of Assisi Novitiate in Mishawaka.

Friar Cymerman said, “The example of the Franciscan priests at our parish and at St. Francis High School in Mishawaka, New York,” drew him to the Priesthood.

“These were good men, ordinary people doing extraordinary things,” he said. “They seemed to be happy in their lives and that was attractive to me.”

Friar Cymerman explained what he appreciates most about the Priesthood. “First and foremost, I know that I am doing what God wants me to do,” he said. “After 50 years I should know that, right?”

“The greatest personal satisfaction is being invited to enter the everyday lives of people of faith,” he said. “To be with them in the important moments of their lives, and to bring God into all that, is very satisfying.”

“I am grateful for a young priest, Friar Cymerman said, “I always thought that I should become a parish and make saints of its people. Through the years, I have learned that when I get to a parish, the saints are already there. It is my job to get to know them, to love them and be worthy to serve them.”

Celebrations took place May 24 with a Mass and cookout at the novitiate. “Our local superior, Friar Giles Zakowicz, is celebrating his 40th jubilee as a friar, so that doubles our joy,” he said.

“I will also celebrate with my former parishioners in Holyoke, Massachusetts, on June 13 and at a small family celebration in Buffalo, New York, on June 21. On the feast of Corpus Christi — the day of our order — there will be a special quiet celebration, just Jesus and me,” he concluded.

— Tim Johnson
Father James Shafer celebrates 40-year jubilee

FORT WAYNE — Father James Shafer, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne, celebrated his 40th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood on May 31 this year. The seeds of his vocation, he says, were planted when as a young boy he became fascinated with the Latin Mass and all that the celebrant would perform.

Though Father Shafer admits his call was "an ‘on and off’ thing for many years," he found it nurtured by many along the way including his fourth-grade Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart teacher, who encouraged his "real awakening.”

Born to John and Dorothy Shafer in 1946 in Garrett, the Young Shafer attended St. John School, Garrett, before entering Our Lady of the Lake Seminary, Syracuse, for high school and college studies. Father Shafer studied at St. Francis College from 1964 to 1965 and proceeded to serve in the United States Army. From 1969-1971 Father Shafer studied at St. Gregory Seminary in Cincinnati before entering Mount St. Mary’s Seminary where he earned a bachelor’s degree in philosophy and a master’s degree in biblical studies.

Following his ordination to the priesthood by Bishop Leo A. Pursley at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, on May 31, 1975, he served as assistant at St. Marys Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne. In 1980 Father Shafer was appointed associate pastor of St. Joseph Parish and in the next year as chaplain of Bishop Dwenger High School with residence there. Father Shafer also served as pastor of St. Kovo Parish in Mishawaka and chaplain of Marian High School as well. He was elected to the Presbytery Council in 1999.

For the past 15 years Father Shafer has shepherded the flock of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish as pastor and says of this joyful ministry, “I love serving the people of the Church. I come from the pew so I can serve the people in the pew. I love celebrating Mass, preaching and hearing Confession.”

Other appointments in the past 15 years have included Diocesan Consultant, administrator of St. Joseph Parish, Fort Wayne, Synodal Judge, and to the College of Consultants.

A wide celebration was held at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish to honor his beloved pastor on his 40th jubilee on May 31 that included the Mass and reception in the parish hall. Father Shafer will also celebrate with his immediate family at a later date.

He says joyfully of his life as a priest. “I would not have done anything else that could have given me such purpose, joy and satisfaction as this has.”

Msgr. Robert Schulte celebrates 40-years of Priesthood

FORT WAYNE — Msgr. Robert C. Schulte celebrated his 40th jubilee this year at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne where he has shepherded God’s people as rector since 2000.

A Fort Wayne native, Msgr. Schulte was born to Harold and Marjorie Schulte in 1949. He received his primary education at St. Peter School in Fort Wayne and at the age of 14 entered Our Lady of the Lake Seminary at Wawasee. He completed his seminary studies at St. Meinrad Seminary where he earned a bachelor’s degree in English and later Master of Divinity.

Msgr. Schulte credits his early faith formation to the example and encouragement of his parents and family members.

“I was privileged to grow up in a family of practicing Catholics. My paternal grandmother would go to church with us each weekend. She was devout in her own way, praying her rosary and saying certain prayers during Mass, but was a great example of a woman of simple and profound faith. My dad was also a strong Catholic and mom converted to the Catholic faith when she married my father,” he says. The young Schulte also found the priests in his home parish of St. Peter to be inspiring as well. “They were a good example to me of insightful and caring men who had dedicated their lives to priestly ministry. The Sisters (School Sisters of Notre Dame) in the Parish taught me that grade school was an inspiration as well. Two sisters especially encouraged me to consider the Priesthood and I thank them for that great deal to me,” he says.

Father Schulte was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Leo A. Pursley in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on May 31, 1975. His first assignment was as associate pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Fort Wayne. In 1979, he was appointed Director of the Permanent Diaconate program and as judge in the Matrimonial Tribunal. Other appointments include Diocesan Director of Vocations, and administrator of St. Francis Xavier Church in Pierceton.

In 1988, then Father Schulte was appointed pastor of the new parish, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in Aboite Township where he oversaw the construction of the new church building. While pastoring the faithful at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton he was appointed coordinator of Teens Encounter Christ for the Fort Wayne area, as well as the director of the Ecumenical Office for the diocese.

On October 5, 2000, Father Schulte was appointed vicar general, chancellor, moderator of the Curia as well as rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. In the following nine years Father Schulte was appointed the Diocesan Finance Council, College of Consultants, Vicar for Education, Presbyteral Council and temporary administrator for St. Patrick Church.

Father Schulte was appointed by the Holy See as Chaplain for His Holiness and was awarded the title of monsignor on Oct. 5, 2009. The newly named monsignor remained as Vicar General of the Diocese while welcoming the new bishop, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, as well as continuing his service as director of the Permanent Diaconate and Diocesan Finance Council.

Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend as Vicar General and Chancellor, Msgr. Schulte feels the past 15 years of his priestly service has been a unique journey, “I have the opportunity to help people from time-to-time and also to give what wisdom I have acquired over the years,” he says, adding, “I appreciate being able to serve the Church and God in this unique way as an ordained priest.”

This quiet, unassuming monsignor declares celebrating Mass the greatest gift to me is celebrating Sunday Mass with the people of the parish. I really enjoy that opportunity to pray, to celebrate Mass and to preach the Word of God,” he says. Outside of his priestly ministry Msgr. Schulte finds biking and travel by train of great interest. And he adds, “Another great hobby is reading, primarily literature, which gives keen insight into life and human beings who were made by God in such a unique, captivating and amusing way.”

Msgr. Schulte’s 40th jubilee celebration included a Mass on Sunday, May 31, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception with a reception that followed at the Botanical Gardens in Fort Wayne.
Father Bernard Ramenaden celebrates 40 years in God’s service as priest monk

Rome City — As a Benedictine priest monk, Father Bernard Ramenaden has a world of experience in priestly ministry as he celebrates the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood this year. His faith formation, he says, was enriched by his involvement in parish life.

Born in 1948 in Colombo, Sri Lanka, to Nicholas and Irene Ramenaden, Father Ramenaden is one of five children. The family attended St. Mary’s Dehiwela Parish where the young Bernard was involved there as an altar server and member of Legion of Mary and the Youth Club. He first heard the call to a religious vocation in his early 20s. Following his studies at St. Peter’s College, Father Ramenaden entered monastery to become a religious in 1966. He was ordained as priest monk by Bishop Paul Perera on Nov. 29, 1975. His studies took him to Rome where he earned a baccalaureate in theology, BTH, and a licentiate in spirituality, STL.

Father Ramenaden’s first assignment as priest monk was as administrator at St. Benedict’s Monastery in Sri Lanka in 1976. Then from 1977-1983 he served as administrator of St. Anthony College, Sri Lanka. He began his service as superior and administrator of St. Benedict’s Monastery in 1984 and continued there for 12 years. In 1997 he was assigned as Formation Master of Professed Monks in Sri Lanka and in 2001 he resided in Rome as Abbot General’s Council as Procurator and Councilor.

Father Ramenaden then traveled to the United States where he began his priestly service in 2005 to the faithful of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne as associate pastor. In 2008, he was appointed pastor of St. Gaspar Parish in Rome City where he continues to shepherd his flock today. His brother Father Ronald Ramenaden served in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend as well.

Father Ramenaden embodies a quiet spirit and quick sense of humor. As a busy pastor he finds helping with projects in the Monastery of Sri Lanka of special interest as well as “preparing myself spiritually,” he says. Hobbies include raising tropical fish and sports.

Of his priest monk life of service to God and His people, the good Father finds fulfillment by being “of service and being available to minister to parishioners needs,” he says. The meaningful work of preaching and teaching God’s Word and working with young people bring Father Ramenaden great joy.

Father Ramenaden plans to celebrate his 40th jubilee in the Monastery of Sri Lanka with his community when he travels home in September. A special Mass will be celebrated at St. Gaspar Parish with Father Jim Shafer, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne, as celebrant, followed by a luncheon in the church hall by the Altar and Rosary Sodality on Nov. 29.

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church gives thanks to God for Monsignor John N. Suelzer

Congratulations on the 50th Anniversary of Your Ordination to the Priesthood.

“A priest is a mediator between God and the people because he bestows divine things on them, offers to God their prayers, and in a certain way makes satisfaction for them.”

St. Thomas

“You are a Priest forever.”
Father Thomas Shoemaker celebrates 25 years as Priest

SOUTH BEND — Father Thomas Shoemaker, pastor at St. Therese, Little Flower Parish in South Bend, celebrates 25 years of priesthood this year and says, “The Priesthood has been an enormous blessing from God.” And he means it.

Born in 1957 to Richard and Alice Shoemaker in Bangor, Maine, this silver jubilarian says of his vocation journey, “My path to the Priesthood involved a few curves.” After completing his primary and high school education in the Mississinewa School Corporation, young Thomas earned a bachelor’s degree from Wabash College and went on to Richard and Alice Shoemaker in Bangor, Maine, this silver jubilarian says of his vocation journey, “My path to the Priesthood involved a few curves.” After completing his primary and high school education in the Mississinewa School Corporation, young Thomas earned a bachelor’s degree from Wabash College and went on to Indiana University School of Dentistry, where in 1985 he earned a Doctor of Dental Surgery (D.D.S.).

Dr. Shoemaker soon was serving his community as a dentist in Kendallville. He says, “I had a good profession, good health, good family and friends, an active dating life and a respectable income. I found, though, that something inside was drawing me to do more with my life. I needed to devote my life to something. I needed something bigger than I had.”

So the young dentist spoke with a priest and “soon found myself in the seminary, discerning that the voice inside of me could be from God and that Priesthood could be the call.”

Leaving his practice behind, Father Shoemaker entered St. John Seminary, Brighton, Massachusetts, in 1985, and was ordained to the Priesthood on Nov. 10, 1990, by Bishop John M. D’Arcy at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. Following his ordination, the newly vested Father Shoemaker was appointed associate at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. Three years later he became the chaplain of Marian High School. In 1997, the good Father served as temporary administrator of St. Matthew Cathedral.

In 1998, Father Shoemaker was called to shepherd the faithful at St. Henry Parish in Fort Wayne as their pastor and served as part-time chaplain of Bishop Luers High School as well. That same year pastoring Sacred Heart Parish in Fort Wayne was added to his ministry.

St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne became Father Shoemaker’s new home in 2001 and there he served the parish as pastor until 2013 when he was appointed pastor of St. Therese, Little Flower, South Bend, where he currently serves.

Other appointments during his 25 years as priest include Vicar Forane-Vicariate E, Diocesan Consultor, Presbyteral Council, Bishop Dwenger High School Board of Education, College of Consultants, Synodal Judge and Vicar Forane-Vicariate D.

Father Shoemaker has also served as Catholic chaplain at Bethel College and on the Board of Advisors of the Catholic Community Foundation. This busy priest somehow always finds time for his favorite hobbies of gardening, woodworking and painting. He says, “I get a kick out of returning to parishes and recognizing trees that I planted and furnishings that I built.”

Even more he says, “I keep a list of the babies I have baptized in those parishes. I have also traveled to many strange parts of the world, learning as I go, praying with the local Church, and using my miniature Mass kit to celebrate the Mass in significant places.”

Father Shoemaker has found great fulfillment in the 25 years he has been a priest and says, “I was ordained a priest in 1990 and I have served in five parishes in my 25 years. I am convinced that I have found that ‘something bigger’. A priest, standing in the person of Christ, stands in the middle of the mysteries of salvation.”

Many blessings to you
Fr. Jim Shafer
as you celebrate the 40th anniversary of your Ordination to the Priesthood.

“Love for Jesus and His Church must be the passion of your life.”
- St. Pope John Paul II

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON
Catholic Church

Your twenty five years of faithful service
Has been a generous gift to the Church.
The Lord bless you with abundant joy
Just as you have blessed so many
In your priestly ministry.

From the grateful parishioners and staff of
St. Therese, Little Flower Catholic Church
54191 Ironwood Rd., South Bend, IN 46635

CONGRATULATIONS and Prayerful Best Wishes to
Father William Kummer
as he celebrates the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood.

The Staff, Faculty, Student Body and Parishioners of
St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Parish
Fort Wayne
On being a woman; on being a man

My daughter isn’t dating around (or whatever the modern term is for that these days). In fact, she’s not dating at all. Per her dad’s and my desire to delay one on one dating until age 18 or beyond, she is simply learning to enjoy friendships. She is enjoying being a girl. The young men who walked with her out to the car in friendship and assistance the last couple weeks seemed to enjoy carrying her books. They would help her as they did so. They walked with a purpose. It seemed each had a certain kind of pride about offering this basic concern in its own small way. They seemed to enjoy being a helpful guy.

A giver. A receiver. An offer. An acceptance. Piteness. Kind of the New Testament, kind of like a dance of sorts. What’s more, the action was completely natural, even while some may find it quite surprising that a couple of modern 17 year olds from 2015 were behaving traditionally and graciously, without prompting, as though they had stepped out of the 1950s.

Unite with Christ through Communion

Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ

The Book of Exodus is the source of this feast day’s first reading, the story of an event that occurred as the Hebrews were making their way across the Sinai Peninsula, in flight from Egypt and slavery. To modern ears, the story may sound gruesome, giving the impression from the drivers seat of my car the notion of God’s call in her life may

“For the retail price of $1, it delivered 118 paintings, maps, measurements and the most lovingly gathered details. The book celebrates every centimeter: yellow-crowned, gray-checked, black-chinned, ruby-throated, rose-breasted, white-breasted. It conjures all their songs, a ‘low-pitched croak,’ a ‘house sparrow,’ a ‘turtledove,’ an ‘unforgettable drumming,'” Rachael said.

“Birds is no more than a couple of modern 17 year olds from 2015 were behaving traditionally and graciously, without prompting, as though they had stepped out of the 1950s.

Reflection

Biblical scholars long have looked at the words, “This is my body,” “This is my blood.” They often view it from a denominational perspective. In other words, many Protestant scholars see them as symbolic. Catholic scholars see them as literal. The early Church, by the way, saw them as literal. Strictly from the standpoint of the language, the words are brief, direct and clear. Look at them without any predispositions. Read them as they appear. The message is unambiguous. The bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus. This holy body and blood actually become part of the person who consumes them, as the body absorbs any nourishment. In this consumption, the person becomes one with Christ, and Christ with the person. Christ is God.

The nourishment therefore is from God and is God. It intimately unites us with God, Holy Communion.

The only essential equipment for seeing birds is a pair of eyes. Good ears are a help too.”

For the retail price of $1, it delivered 118 paintings, maps, measurements and the most lovingly gathered details. The book celebrates every centimeter: yellow-crowned, gray-checked, black-chinned, ruby-throated, rose-breasted, white-breasted. It conjures all their songs, a “low-pitched croak,” a “house sparrow,” a “turtledove,” an “unforgettable drumming,”“a hoarse ‘quack,’” “harsh, rattling call,” “a deep, penetrating hoot,” “an unforget- terdumming,” “a hoarse ‘quack,’” “harsh, rattling call,” “a deep, penetrating hoot,” “an unforget-}

Donations help Central and Eastern Europe

Dear Bishop Rhodes, It is with great gratitude that I write to acknowledge your contribution of $24,360.78 from your personal funds in support of the 2014 Collection to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe (CCEE). Through your support, the CCEE’s collection helps to do exactly that — build a stable future for the Catholic Church in this region, one long suffering spiritual repression and economic hardship. Grants specifically focus on repairing and building Church structures, strengthening Catholic education and social services, and develop-
Men such as these: a Memorial Day reflection

like most denizens of Washington, I pay too little attention to the sites other Americans make sacrifices to visit. Earlier this month, though, I was prompted by reading James Scott’s “Target Tokyo,” a comprehensive history of the famous Doolittle Raid of April 18, 1942, I strolled through Arlington National Cemetery in search of three graves.

They were in Section 12, side-by-side, each marked with a headstone identical in its simplicity to so many thousands of others: William G. Farrow, Dean E. Hallmark, Robert J. Meder. Hallmark was the pilot of the sixth B-25 to take off from the pitching deck of USS Hornet, 73 years ago. Meder was his co-pilot on the plane they dubbed Green Hornet. Farrow was the pilot of Bat Out of Hell, the last of the 16 planes to roar down the flight deck of what President Franklin Roosevelt later called “our secret base at Shangri-La.”

Captured in Japanese-occupied China, Hallmark and Farrow were shot by their captors on Oct. 15, 1942, after months of torture and deprivation and a bogus “trial”; Meder died of starvation in a Japanese prison on Dec. 11, 1943. All three were cremated, their names deliberately falsified on the urns that bore their ashes. The urns were properly identified after the Japanese surrendered and returned to the United States, where they now rest, sheltered under a tree, down the hill from the equally simple grave of the flyers’ commander, Jimmy Doolittle.

Target Tokyo is harrowing in its description of what these men, and four of their fellow-airmen whose death sentences were commuted to life imprisonment, suffered in Japanese prisons. One day, however, the imprisoned Doolittle Raiders were given an old Bible, which they began to share, taking turns reading in their cells. As Carroll Glines, another historian of the Doolittle Raid, writes, “Up to this time, each man resorted to various methods to pass away hundreds of lonely hours … (But) it was the Bible, they admitted unanimously later, that had a profound impact on their respective outlooks … None of the four men would have called himself religious and none had ever read the Bible through before … (Yet) they attributed their survival to the message of hope they found in its tattered pages.”

That hope, I suspect, would not have been nourished so well, had the imprisoned, emaciated Raiders been given “The Origin of Species” or the “Critique of Pure Reason”; a death-defying hope might not even have been nurtured by “David Copperfield” or “Pride and Prejudice.” It was the Psalms, the Hebrew prophets and the Gospels that inspired in these men, living under extremities of cruelty that beggar the imagination, a life-sustaining hope; a willingness to forgive their captors, gratitude to God for their survival — and for one, a new vocation. Jacob DeShazer, the bombardier on Farrow’s plane, became a Methodist missionary, returned to Japan, and converted Mitsuo Fuchida, the Japanese pilot who led the attack on Pearl Harbor, to Christianity.

Where did America get men like the Doolittle Raiders? Jimmy Doolittle was already a world-famous pilot (with a doctorate from MIT) when he talked his way into leading the raid that will forever bear his name. The 79 other Raiders were known to few others except their families, friends and fellow soldiers. The Hollywood gloss of Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo notwithstanding, they weren’t all handsome and they weren’t angelic. But they believed their country was worth defending, and that its defense was worth risking their lives on a volunteer mission that wasn’t even disclosed to them until Hornet passed beneath the Golden Gate Bridge, steaming west in harm’s way.

I think it’s safe to say that none of the Doolittle Raiders thought America an ill-nursed republic or the source of the world’s ills, although many of their families had struggled through the Great Depression. They were brave men and patriots, the products of an imperfect but intact public culture that nurtured millions of heroes like them. Standing under that tree in Arlington, I could only wonder what Bill Farrow, Dean Hallmark and Bob Meder might say about American culture today.

Catholic Difference

GEORGE WEIGEL

Everyday Continued from page 12

man’s natural inclination is to be helpful and protective, chivalrous even, and a culture benefits when that is welcomed warmly. The word “civilization” has the root word that is welcomed warmly. The word “helpful and protective, chivalrous behavior is not always to build strong civilizations … cultures that are orderly and pleasant and help people be the best they can be.

In modern society, however, chivalrous behavior is not always valued. One of my sons recalls several instances of opening the door for a girl when she followed behind him into a college classroom. He rarely heard “thank you” or received a warm smile, but instead received a snotty “I can do that myself.” Or “I don’t need you to do that for me. I’m capable.” With this reaction it would be easy to stop trying to do polite things when one is not only not met with appreciation but is met with snarky-ness instead.

What a shame.

Society benefits when women and men embrace their natures, when men chivalrously offer to do helpful things when appropriate, and when the women are sweet and grateful to accept assistance that is offered to them. Politeness helps the relations between any two people, but especially when opposite sexes interact. Men and women bring different unique gifts and talents to the table, both because of their maleness and femaleness and because every person is made distinct, unique and special. Thank God there are differences. Thank God when there is chivalry and acceptance and civility.

Alice Von Hildenbrand, philosopher and author of “The Privilege of Being a Woman” said once in an interview, “…Men truly become ‘themselves’ thanks to the love of their wives … wives are transformed by their husband’s strength and courage.” If this is indeed true, then surely this begins when men and women are boys and girls in their natures, which are hardened by biology, are allowed to develop instinctively.

When the Book of Genesis speaks of “help,” it is not referring merely to acting, but also to being. Womanhood and manhood are complementary not only from the physical and psychological points of view, but also from the ontological. It is only through the duality of the ‘masculine’ and the ‘feminine’ that the ‘human’ finds full realization.

As I watched the exchange between my teenage girl and her friend this afternoon, those lofty thoughts swirled in my mind. And I came to a simple conclusion. The world needs a little more offers of acceptance, politeness and kindness for seeds of peace, a truly civil society, to grow. The world needs a little more of God’s own plan, and it can start with our youth. Boys, be the carriers of backpacks, and girls, be sweet and appreciative. Together, in this way, little by little, both sexes can reclaim a bit of goodness in the world.

GEORGE WEIGEL is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

The CrossWord

Based on these Scripture Readings: Ex 24:3-8, Hb 9:11-15; Mk 14:12-18 22-26 and Ez 17:22-24; 2 Cor 5:6-10. Mk 4:26-34

ACROSS
1 The Trinity 4 Gap
2 Crests 5 Turf
13 Ash Wednesday color 15 Surf
16 Fashionable 17 undersea
18 Ezekeiel was one 20 Son of God
21 Possessive pronoun 22 Muriel Gray
down
23 “Let us not be put to the ___” 25 Baby goat
27 What a nurse gives 30 Between U.S. and Europe (2 wds.)
28 Commandments are 31 Chinese drink
32 Explosive 33 Piece
34 Arctic 35 Picnic visitor
36 God’s ordinances 37 Puff
37 Piece 38 “Until the end of the ___”
38 “Until the end of the ___” 40 Pilgrim’s symbol
41 Commandments are 43 God’s rule
43 God’s rule 47 Field game
48 Reverse 49 Sel
50 In addition 51 Appear
52 Wing

DOWN
1 Buff 2 Burning incense smell
3 Extinct bird 4 Fancy boat
5 Left from heifer 6 Not one ___
7 New York City 8 Conical tent
9 “___ Det” 10 U.S. American country
11 Bishops’ turfs 19 Pocket bread
20 Jujitsu 22 Twitching
23 Thai 24 And so forth
25 Fox 26 Your’s offspring
27 Chinese drink 28 Commandments are
29 Nervous system 31 Used in crucifixion
32 Explosive 33 Horsey
34 Arctic 37 Body and ___
35 Picnic visitor of Christ
36 God’s ordinances 38 Samaritan
37 Piece 39 Dwarf
40 Baths 41 Nail mark in Jesus’ hand
41 Commandments are 42 Otherwise
43 Genuflect on 44 Jesus healed the ___ and mute
44 Jesus healed the ___ and mute
45 Eye 46 Grosan
47 Sel 48 Ship initials

Answer Key can be found on page 15

SCRIEBUT SEARCH

Gospel for June 7, 2015
Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

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Answer Key can be found on page 15
SAINT JOSEPH CLAIMS SECTIONAL TITLES  The Saint Joseph High School boys’ track team claimed the sectional title. Final scores: Saint Joseph High School, 119 points, Penn High School, 94 points, and Mishawaka High School, 92 points. The Saint Joseph High School girls’ tennis team is the South Bend sectional champions. This is the eighth-straight sectional title for the Lady Indians.

CYO crowns soccer champions

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In post season Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) soccer action, St. Jude, the defending champs, claimed the 2015 boys’ varsity title with a 7-0 win over St. Vincent 7.

The Eagles allowed just one goal the entire season and finished with a perfect 10-0 overall record. Coach Thom Obergfell was pleased to report that 12 players scored for the Eagles this season and this was the fourth consecutive CYO championship for the eighth graders on his squad. Their career record was 25-1-3.

For the varsity girls, Coach Matt Bobay’s St. Charles squad capped off a stellar season by downing St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 2-0, to win this year’s title.

In junior varsity action, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton beat St. Jude, 2-1, for the girls’ championship. The Lady Pioneers finished with a 7-1 overall record, and it was the third CYO championship for this group of fifth graders. They also won in volleyball and basketball.

It took not one, but two overtimes and a sudden death to determine a winner for the boys, but St. Vincent 6 finally slipped by St. Jude, 5-4. The Panthers led 2-1 at the half, but at the end of regulation, the score was all knotted up at 4-4. The score remained tied after two overtimes forcing penalty kicks, which went 3-3. A 1-0 sudden death situation ultimately declared a winner. St. Vincent ended with an impressive 9-2 overall record.

“We really played well as a team,” Coach Allen Renfrow explained. “That’s what won us the championship,” he summarized.

Dwenger rugby team crowned Division 1 junior varsity state champions

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Dwenger rugby team was crowned the 2015 Division 1 junior varsity state champions at the Moose Rugby Grounds in Elkhart by defeating Hamilton Southeastern (HSE) in a big way at the rainy showdown, 18-0, on May 30. This was the club’s first appearance in the finals since winning it all in 2004.

The Saints earned the return trip after defeating Fishers, 35-0, in the semifinals and went on to avenge the tie with HSE from a shortened game earlier in the season.

“We played defense most of the first half and stayed strong the whole match not allowing HSE to score even when they were on the goal line,” Coach Sam DiFilippo explained.

Isaac Tippmann, who kicked for two penalties and a conversion, led the Saints in scoring, while Bart Tippmann scored the first try of the game with a gritty run through defenders. Simon Perez added the second try with a 60-meter breakaway in the second half. Charlie Perez was named most valuable player. Bishop Dwenger finished with a 5-5-1 overall record.

The Saint Joseph High School softball team is the Class 3-A 2015 sectional champs. In the win on Saturday, May 30, the Saint Joseph Indians defeated the Rochester Zebras, 14-4.
What’s Happening?

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

Rosary for marriage offered
Warsaw — Sacred Heart Church will offer a rosary for traditional marriage on Saturday, June 13, at noon at the Sacred Heart School playground. Contact Carole Jaroch at 574-267-5403 for details.

Christ Child Society plans garage and bake sale
Fort Wayne — The Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne will have its annual garage and bake sale to benefit children in need in the Fort Wayne area. Thursday, June 11, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Friday, June 12, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Queen of Angels Activity Center, 1500 West State St.

Spaghetti dinner planned
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a spaghetti dinner Thursday, June 11, from 4-6 p.m. Tickets are $8 for adults and $2.50 for children 5-12.

Notre Dame season ticket raffle
South Bend — The St. Hedwig Holy Name Society will have a raffle for two Notre Dame football season tickets. Donations of $1 for one, $5 for six and $10 for 15 tickets can be made to Norb at 574-233-9008 or mailed to 1104 N. Elliot St., South Bend, 46628. Drawing will be held Aug. 30.

Summer camps planned at Bishop Luers High School
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will host athletic and performing arts camps during the summer. Camps are being offered for: football lineman — June 22-25; dance — June 24-26; volleyball — July 6-7; girls’ basketball — July 13-16; football — July 20-25; show choir — Aug. 4-7. All registration forms and camp details are available at www.bishopluers.org.

Knights plan fish fry
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, June 5, from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are $8 for adults and $4 for children 12 and under.

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 7 at the Classic Catering and Event Center, 4832 Hillegas Rd. Contact Leanne at 260-485-0290 for reservation form due by June 12. Tickets are $22 per person.

Alumni memorial Mass planned
South Bend — Saint Joseph High School will hold an alumni memorial Mass on Monday, June 8, at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of Saint Joseph. The Mass will commemorate deceased members of the Saint Joseph High School community. For information contact Henry Chandler at hchandler@stjosephhigh.com.

Participants in the “March of the Living” carry Israeli flags inside the former Nazi death camp Auschwitz April 16.

Polish leaders hope Pope Francis visits Auschwitz when he comes in 2016

By Jonathan Luxmoore

Oxford, England (CNS) — Although no date has been set, Church leaders in Poland hope Pope Francis will visit the former Nazi concentration camp of Auschwitz during a July 2016 visit to Poland for World Youth Day.

“We hope Pope Francis will come to Auschwitz and deliver a warning to the world by again demonstrating the horrors of war and the camps, so they’ll never recur,” Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow told the Polish Catholic news agency KAI.

An administration official at the Auschwitz Museum, Jolanta Kozuch, told Catholic News Service May 28 a date had not yet been agreed upon for a stopover by Pope Francis at the camp, 20 miles west of Krakow, where 1.2 million mostly Jewish prisoners died at German hands in 1940-45.

Retired Bishop Tadeusz Pieronek, a former bishops’ conference general secretary who now lives in Krakow, told CNS he hoped more details would be available shortly.

“Any visit by the head of the Catholic Church to Auschwitz, in the footsteps of John Paul II in 1979 and Benedict XVI in 2006, would always have huge significance,” Bishop Pieronek told CNS May 28. Cardinal Dziwisz spoke to KAI about preparations for July 26-31, 2016, World Youth Day in his diocese. He said bishops and youth groups from abroad were arriving in Krakow daily to check on preparations.

EBL, CDO, DNO, RTW, SMK, SPB, UHV

Visit the diocesan World Youth Day page, www.diocesefwsb.org/wyd for information about the diocesan pilgrimage to Poland.
“Today’s celebration would not be complete without our remembrance of the first native Catholics of this region, the Potawatomis,” the bishop said.

The bishop also traced the history of Father Edward Sorin, and the six religious brothers of the Congregation of Holy Cross to the community.

“With the arrival of Father Sorin and the Holy Cross brothers in 1842, a new era in the history of Catholic life in this region began,” Bishop Rhoades said. “They began the school that became the University of Notre Dame. Father Sorin and later, a succession of Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters ministered to the Catholics living in this area and beyond.”

The diocese was established in 1857 and encompassed the entire northern portion of Indiana. The Catholics in the area worshiped at Sacred Heart at Notre Dame until 1853 when Father Sorin and Holy Cross priests bought the land and built a chapel in 1853 on the northeast corner of what is today Hill and LaSalle streets. It was named St. Alexis Chapel, in honor of the patron saint of South Bend’s founder, Alexis Coquillard.

“This became St. Joseph Parish, the oldest Catholic parish of South Bend,” Bishop Rhoades said, “though some debate this, since at that time, this property was part of Lowell, a town that was only annexed to South Bend in 1867. We can say, however, that it is the oldest parish in present-day South Bend.”

The Catholic population grew as Irish, German, and later more numerous Polish, Hungarian, Italian and Belgian immigrants moved into the community. In 1927, a specific ministry to South Bend’s 50 African-American Catholic families began and became St. Augustine Parish in 1941. And since the 1950s, South Bend has been home to a growing Hispanic community.

“We see a beautiful, rich tapestry of ethnic Catholic communities throughout South Bend’s history, a unity in diversity that is still evident today,” Bishop Rhoades said.

In 1960, a Vatican decree changed the name of the diocese from Diocese of Fort Wayne to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Bishop Rhoades said, “Bishop Leo Pursley asked for this change to honor South Bend and its religious heritage. With this re-naming of the diocese, St. Matthew Church was promoted to the rank of the diocese’s co-cathedral.”

“Today it is good to give thanks to the Most Holy Trinity for the rich heritage of faith here in South Bend, to remember our ancestors in the faith, and to be resolved to continue their beautiful legacy in the present and future,” Bishop Rhoades said. 

The diocesan choir, comprised of members of Michiana parishes, provided the sacred music for the 150th Anniversary Mass of the City of South Bend.