Unstained fidelity to the Bridegroom
Jessica Hayes consecrated to a life of virginity

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — On a day of joy and thanksgiving, Jessica Hayes, a beloved theology teacher at Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, was consecrated to a life of virginity at a rite celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

Hayes’ students, graduates, friends, fellow parishioners of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, priests, brothers, seminarians and religious sisters filled the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Fort Wayne on the solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

“God has called Jessica to be more closely united to Himself and to be dedicated to the service of the Church,” Bishop Rhoades said in his homily. “It is God who gives the grace of virginity. He gave this grace to the young woman of Nazareth, to Mary, who was inspired by the Holy Spirit to choose the life of virginity. Mary made a personal decision in faith to remain a virgin, to offer her heart to the Lord. She wanted to be His faithful bride.”

“Thus, Mary became the model for all those who have chosen to serve the Lord with an undis- divided heart in virginity,” Bishop Rhoades added.

“It seems most appropriate that Jessica gives herself totally to Jesus, is consecrated to a life of virginity, on a feast of Our Lady, who gave herself totally to God as the virgin handmaid of the Lord.”

BY JIM JOHNSON

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and the assembly congratulate Jessica Hayes, a theology teacher from Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne, who on Saturday, Aug. 15, was consecrated to a life of virginity. Hayes is the first consecrated virgin of the diocese since the late Sister Jane Carew was consecrated Dec. 8, 1990.

Mary’s hand in journey of faith

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Decatur, closes 175th anniversary celebration

BY VINCE LABARBERA

DECATUR — “This historic parish of St. Mary of the Assumption here in Decatur is one of the oldest in our diocese,” said Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in opening remarks at a solemnity of the Assumption Mass on Aug. 16 observing the 175th anniversary of the parish.

“I understand that the first Mass celebrated in Decatur was in 1838. Your research also shows that the Catholic community here in Decatur, early German Catholic settlers, was placed under the patronage of St. Mary of the Assumption in 1840,” he continued in his homily.

“There was not yet a church for the Catholic community here in Decatur in 1840, so the devout faithful celebrated Mass in private homes and then at a local tavern,” the bishop said. Even with no resident priest until 1852, the Catholic community purchased land and built a small church in 1846.

“We remember today these pioneers of the faith here in Decatur. We also remember and pray for all the priests, sisters and lay people throughout the past 175 years who, with great faith and love, built up this parish as well as St. Joseph School,” he said.

“As the two-year parish anniversary celebration came to a close, Bishop Rhoades told the congregation that their parish is their spiritual home that has nourished their faith, many since childhood, with special memories of blessings received through Baptisms, first Communions, Confessions, Confirmations, weddings and funerals.”

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades gives his homily at St. Mary of the Assumption Parish on Aug. 16. He concluded the two-year long 175th anniversary celebration of the parish, one of the oldest in the diocese.
Consecration of Jessica Hayes to a life of virginity

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHODES

The following is the homily of Bishop Kevin C. Rhodes from the solemnity of the Assumption, Aug. 15, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

Today on this beautiful feast of Our Lady’s Assumption, with joy and thanksgiving, the Church consecrates Jessica Hayes to a life of virginity. God has called Jessica to be more closely united to Himself and to be dedicated to the service of the Church. It is God who gives the grace of virginity. He gave this grace to the young woman of Nazareth, to Mary, who was inspired by the Holy Spirit to choose the life of virginity. Mary made a personal decision in faith to remain a virgin, to offer her heart to the Lord. She wanted to be His faithful bride. Thus, Mary became the model for all those who have chosen to serve the Lord with an undivided heart in virginity. It seems most appropriate that Jessica, like Mary and the many consecrated virgins in the early history of the Church, several of whom are canonized saints, has heard the call of the Lord to live as His spouse. The Church confirms this call as authentic. Jessica is making the courageous choice that our Blessed Mother made — the choice of virginity in order to consecrate herself totally to the love of God. This choice is motivated by love, love for Jesus and for His Church. The life of a consecrated virgin is all about love. Saint John Paul II understood this well and wrote that “one cannot correctly understand a woman’s consecration in virginity without referring to spousal love.” Jessica knows this theology of Saint John Paul well. As many of you know, (I see many of Miss Hayes’ students and former students here today) she teaches a wonderful course at Bishop Dwenger High School on the dignity and vocation of women and uses the deep and profound teaching of John Paul on women. In his apostolic letter on the dignity of women, Pope John Paul wrote about the value of consecrated virginity in which women become “a sincere gift for God who has revealed himself in Christ, a gift for Christ, the Redeemer of humanity and the Spouse of souls.” He wrote that “women, called from the very beginning to be loved and to love, in a vocation to virginity find Christ first of all as the Redeemer who ‘loved until the end’ through His total gift of self, and they respond to this gift with a sincere gift of their whole lives.” That’s what Jessica does today. She gives her life to the divine Spouse, to Jesus, “Through the Holy Spirit’s action” Jessica becomes “one spirit with Christ” her Spouse.

The dignity and vocation of women is realized in a special way in consecrated virginity. Jessica is not just remaining unmarried or single. Virginity is not a mere “no” to human marriage. It is a profound “yes” (John Paul II), a yes to give oneself for love in a total and undivided manner. Today Jessica says yes like Mary did at the Annunciation, to be the virgin handmaid of the Lord, to love Him and serve Him in His Church with an undivided heart.

There is also a true motherhood that is integral to a life of consecrated virginity. Virginity according to the Gospel includes giving up physical motherhood, which is a great sacrifice, but it “makes possible a different kind of motherhood: motherhood according to the Spirit.” In Jessica’s life, this spiritual motherhood will be lived and experienced in various ways. I think, for example, of her spiritual motherhood of her students. The love of a consecrated virgin is a maternal love; it is meant to be fruitful. The Fathers of the Church spoke about how consecrated virgins are instruments of the Church’s fruitfulness. We can think of the motherhood of the Virgin Mary, the motherhood of the Virgin Church, and the motherhood of consecrated virgins. It is something beautiful and fruitful: this virginal and spiritual motherhood. It extends far beyond that of a natural family. Like the love of the Church our mother, the horizons of the Virgin’s love are the horizons of Christ: love of all her brothers and sisters, especially the poor and the afflicted, the weak and the suffering. Like Mary, Jessica is called to both virginity and motherhood, to be a mother in the Spirit, imitating the maternal love of Mary our mother whose charity we heard about in today’s Gospel of the Visitation. Jessica, I remind you of Saint John Paul’s exhortation to consecrated virgins: “Love Christ, the reason for your life. Return Christ’s infinite love with your own total and exclusive love. Love the Church.” “It is the task of virgins,” he said, “to be the hard-working hands of the local Church’s generosity, the voice of her prayer, the expression of her mercy, the relief of her poor, the comfort of her suffering sons and daughters, and the support of her orphans and widows.” He emphasized that consecrated virgins are to have a merciful heart, sharing the sufferings of others, and committing themselves to the defense of life, the advancement of women, and respect for their freedom and dignity.

Saint John Paul also said to consecrated virgins: “Love Mary of Nazareth, the first fruits of Christian virginity. … She was fully, in body and spirit, what you, (Jessica), with all your strength, want to be: a virgin in heart and body, a bride for the total and exclusive adherence to the love of Christ, a mother through the gift of the Spirit.” Jessica, on this feast of Mary’s Assumption, you are consecrated to a life of virginity. May you learn from Mary at the Annunciation to live as the handmaid of the Lord and to do the will of God, to keep his word! May you learn from Mary at the Visitation to bring Christ to others and to sing God’s praises, joining with Mary in her Magnificat! May you be with Mary at Cana, interceding for the needs of others! May you be with her at the foot of the cross, sharing in the mystery of Christ’s suffering! May you one day be with her in heaven where she was assumed body and soul to be with her Son forever!

Jessica, in a spiritual sense, you are with Mary today in the upper room at Pentecost as you receive from the Holy Spirit the gift of consecrated virginity. May you persevere faithfully in your vocation! I pray that your life will be holy and enrich the life of the Church. May Blessed Mary, ever-virgin, assumed body and soul into heaven, intercede for you always!
Divorced and remarried are not excommunicated, pope says at audience

**BY CINDY WOODEN**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) —** Catholics who have divorced and are civilly remarried “are not, in fact, excommunicated — they are not excommunicated — and they absolutely must not be treated as if they were,” Pope Francis said.

Resuming his Wednesday general audiences Aug. 5 after a month’s break, Pope Francis returned to the series of talks he has been giving on the family. It was the 100th general audience of his papacy.

At his last audience, June 24, he talked about the damage caused especially to children when couples fight and hurt each other. “Today,” he said, “I want to draw our attention to another reality: how to care for those who, after the irreversible failure of the matrimonial bond, have undertaken a new union.”

Without an annulment of the sacramental marriage, “such a situation contradicts the Christian sacrament,” which is meant to be an indissoluble bond, the pope said.

According to Church teaching, in most cases such couples are not permitted to receive Communion. But bishops at the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family last October and preparing for the general synod Oct. 4-25 have been studying and debating possibilities for allowing some couples in some situations to return to the sacraments.

The Church, Pope Francis said at the audience, must have “the heart of a mother, a heart that, animated by the Holy Spirit, always seeks the good and the salvation of persons.”

The children of such couples suffer most and deserve particular care, the pope said.

“How can we tell these parents to do everything possible to raise their children in the Christian life, giving them the example of a convinced and lived faith, if we keep them at a distance from the life of the community as if they were excommunicated?” the pope asked.

Particularly over the past few decades, he said, “the Church has not been insensitive or lazy” when it comes to providing pastoral care to the divorced and civilly remarried.

In his apostolic exhortation, “Familiaris Consortio,” St. John Paul II saw an “obligation, ‘for love of the truth,’ to exercise a ‘careful discernment of situations,’” noting for example “the difference between one who has endured a separation and one who provoked it.” Pope Francis said.

Retired Pope Benedict XVI also studied the question, he said, “calling for an attentive discernment and wise pastoral accompaniment, knowing that no ‘simple recipes’ exist.”

As the studies and discernment continue, Pope Francis said, it is essential that Catholic pastors “openly and coherently demonstrate the willingness of the community to welcome and encourage” divorced and remarried couples and their families to participate in Church life.

Prayer, listening to the word of God, attending Mass, educating their children in the faith, serving God, attending Mass, educating their children in the faith, serving peace should be part of their lives, he said.

Quoting his apostolic exhortation, “The Joy of the Gospel,” Pope Francis said those gathered for the audience, “The Church is called to be the house of the Father, with doors always wide open... Everyone can share in some way in the life of the Church; everyone can be part of the community.”

Pope Francis greets newly married couples during his weekly audience in Paul VI hall at the Vatican Aug. 5.

**Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty Holy Hours**

- **Sunday, Aug. 23, 10:30 a.m.** — Televised Mass at WNDU, South Bend
- **Sunday, Aug. 23 through Thursday, Aug. 27** — Retreat with Bishops of Region VII, Mundelein, Illinois
- **Friday, Aug. 28, 7 p.m.** — Mass with Blessing of Chapel of Morrissey Manor, University of Notre Dame
- **Sunday, Aug. 30, 1 p.m.** — 100th Anniversary Mass, Saint Monica Church, Mishawaka
- **Tuesday, Sept. 1, 8:45 a.m.** — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Saint Therese School, Fort Wayne
- **Tuesday, Sept. 1, 6 p.m.** — Annual Bishop’s Appeal Leadership Dinner and Meeting, Saint Mary Mother of God Parish Hall, Fort Wayne
- **Wednesday, Sept. 2, 6:30 p.m.** — Mass for Trine University Students, Saint Anthony of Padua Church, Angola
- **Thursday, Sept. 3, 6 p.m.** — Annual Bishop’s Appeal Leadership Dinner and Meeting, Saint Hedwig Parish Hall, South Bend
- **Friday, Sept. 4, 9 a.m.** — Presentation at Retreat Day for Marian High School Faculty and Staff, Marian High School, Mishawaka

**Priest appointments**

The Most Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following appointments:
- **Rev. Jacob Runyon** as Judge in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Tribunal, effective August 11, 2015. Father Runyon will remain Pastor of Saint Jude Church, Fort Wayne.

**In message to Iraqi refugees, pope condemns world’s silence**

**BY CINDY WOODEN**

**VATICAN CITY (CNS) —** The world continues to be silent in the face of widespread persecution of Christians and other religious minorities, Pope Francis said.

One year after Islamic State militants drove thousands of Iraqi Christians and Yezidis out of the country, Pope Francis prayed that people around the world would be more attentive and sensitive to the reality of religious persecution and that “the international community would not stand by mute and unresponsive before such unacceptable crimes.”

The pope sent his message to Iraqi refugees who fled to Jordan after the Islamic State campaign in August 2014 sent tens of thousands of people fleeing their homes in the Nineveh Plain of northern Iraq.

According to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees, more than 57,000 Iraqis have been given refuge in Jordan.

In his letter, which was released Aug. 6 at the Vatican, Pope Francis thanked those “who took on the care of these brothers and sisters, not turning their gaze away.”

The Christian communities in Jordan who are assisting the refugees...
Knights to launch national TV campaign

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) —

Christianity may be thriving around the world, but it is also under severe attack and threatened with extinction in the Middle East, the region of its birth. This was the major theme at the 133rd Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus in Philadelphia Aug. 4-6.

It was stressed at an Aug. 4 news conference with Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson and two Catholic archbishops of Eastern Catholic Churches with direct experience of the situation. They were Melkite Archbishop Jean-Clement Jeanbart of Aleppo, Syria, and Chaldean Archbishop Bashar Matti Warda of Erbil, Iraq. The two archbishops also spoke at a general meeting of the convention.

Anderson quoted figures that said 80 percent of the religious persecution in the world is directed at Christians and a terrible microcosm of this is the persecutions in Syria and Iraq.

“In Iraq, an estimated 125,000 Christians have been driven from Mosul and its surrounding area,” he said. “In Syria, an estimated 700,000 Christians have been displaced.”

Because in many cases it is internal displacement within the country the people have not been designated as refugees and little has been done to help them.

Anderson called to mind another Knights of Columbus convention in 1926, also in Philadelphia, when then-Supreme Knight James Flaherty announced that the Knights would take up the cause of Catholics in Mexico who were being persecuted during the presidency of Plutarco Calles.

Of the 25 Mexican martyrs of that era who have since been officially canonized saints for their defense of the faith, six were members of the Knights of Columbus.

“This is the first time we are compelling to speak up for our brothers and sisters in the Middle East,” Anderson said.

“Pope Francis has called the conditions under which Christian refugees live there intolerable. He has said the situation calls for our prayers and concrete actions to help.”

The Middle East situation also was on the mind of Pope Francis as he was in Cuba on an apostolic visit. The pope’s message of consolation and encouragement was sent focusing hope.

But in Amman, Jordan, Aug. 6 to visit the bishops’ conference, who traveled to Amman, Jordan, Aug. 6 to visit the first large exodus of persecuted Christians.

To date, Anderson said, the Knights have given $3 million toward humanitarian assistance for Christians and other religious minorities in the Middle East and invites individual Knights and others to support the relief fund the pope cited.

The fraternal organization pledged an initial $1 million to the fund. All costs for its operation will be covered by the Knights of Columbus with 100 percent of donations applied to relief. To assist those who wish to donate, the website www.christiansatrisk.com has been developed.

In his remarks, Archbishop Jeanbart placed the blame for the current persecution squarely on the wars in the region.

The Knights also planned to launch a national TV campaign, with ads airing the weekend of Aug. 8-9 to raise more awareness of the plight of Christians and other minority religious groups in the Middle East.

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Andrew Ouellette named director of youth ministry

BY KAY COZAD

MISHAWAKA — Andrew Ouellette has been named the new director of youth ministry for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and hit the ground running at his new office in the St. John Paul II Center in Mishawaka on Aug. 3. His main goal for the youth ministry, he says enthusiastically, is “to serve the teens and serve the people who serve the teens.”

The new director has always had a passion for youth ministry and admits, “I always work to bring fellow teens and young adults to Christ.” Though raised Lutheran, Ouellette recalls his father taking him at age nine to Mass on an occasional Sunday. By 13 he sought permission to become a Catholic, but was instructed by his parents to wait until age 18. Undaunted by this directive, Ouellette began working at a Catholic bookstore and learning all he could about the faith. Finally, with his parents’ blessing he began RCIA and by age 16 he was welcomed fully into the Catholic Church.

A recent graduate of Franciscan University of Steubenville, where he earned degrees in theology and philosophy, Ouellette boasts a list of sterling qualifications and experience, including work as middle and high school catechist, retreat and event master for youth, speaker, and webmaster-content manager for university that’s so important,” he says.

There are “big things” on the horizon of youth programming, including the March for Life trip in January to Washington, D.C., and the Ignited Retreat in the spring, on which Ouellette has already begun to work. “There’s great stuff going on,” he says, adding, “I’m looking forward to building relationships with the youth and planning events with them.”

Another goal “down the road,” says Ouellette, is expanding the website and social media, where the youth can come together from distances. “It’s a great asset to reach out to teens,” he says, adding that he’d also eventually like to visit parishes that don’t offer youth ministry and discover how he can help establish programs.

His main focus currently though, says Ouellette, is the community and building relationships with the youth ministers around the diocese. “All these people are so talented and have been doing this for years. I’ll be learning from them and am eager to hear what they have to say,” he says.

Originally from Fishers, Ouellette has recently made his move to Mishawaka and says, “I’ve felt very at home here. I love Indiana. I’ve already met great people and have been welcomed by the great people I work with.” He now calls St. Matthew Cathedral his Church home.

In addition to his passion for youth ministry, Ouellette is a self-proclaimed bookworm. He also enjoys playing his bass guitar as well as piano. His faith devotions include Eucharistic Adoration, recitation of the rosary and a devotion to St. Louis de Montfort, Padre Pio and St. Germa Galgani, the young Italian mystic who is considered the patron saint of students. As he sets in the Mishawaka area, Ouellette is looking forward to supporting the local shops as well. “Community is very important to me,” he says.

Ouellette’s deep faith and enthusiasm bespeaks the promise of great things to come for the Catholic youth of northeast Indiana. “I’m happy to be here and serve the youth of the diocese,” he says.
Pope designates Sept. 1 as World Day of Prayer for Care of Creation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Like their Orthodox brothers and sisters, Catholics formally will mark Sept. 1 as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, Pope Francis has decided. The day of prayer, the pope said, will give individuals and communities an opportunity to implore God’s help in protecting creation and an opportunity to ask God for forgiveness “that we do not act against the world in which we live.” Pope Francis announced his decision to add the annual prayer day to the Catholic calendar in a letter to Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and to Cardinal Kurt Koch, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. The text of the letter, dated Aug. 6, was released by the Vatican Aug. 10. Pope Francis said praying the prayer day for Catholics because he shares the concern of Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, who initiated a similar prayer day for the Orthodox Church — in 1989.

Women further victimized by harvesting of fetal parts, says counselor

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Women who have an abortion are being further victimized when given the option to donate their child’s body parts for research, according to Sue Harvath, who has counseled post-abortive women in the St. Louis area for more than 30 years. Harvath said she doesn’t matter whether Planned Parenthood is making money from the sale of fetal body parts, as alleged in a series of undercover videos, because even the act of obtaining the body parts is manipulative and flat wrong. Harvath, a professor and director of psychological services at Patrick-Glennon Seminary, who is a founding member of Project Rachel, the archdiocese’s ministry to women who have had an abortion. Project Rachel is coordinated by the archdiocesan Respect Life Office and there is a companion ministry for men who have been through an abortion experience, called Project Joseph. Harvath said that women have an abortion because they’re in a state of trauma. They often find themselves overwhelmed with the responsibilities of caring for a new child or pressure from others to have the abortion. In those situations, best judgment and moral guidelines are set aside to cope with the trauma.

Pope: Celebrations, including Mass, are essential for family life

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Families need moments of rest and celebration, time for standing back and recognizing the gifts of God and how well they have developed, Pope Francis said. Celebrations are times “to enjoy that which cannot be produced or consumed, that cannot be bought or sold,” the pope said Aug. 12 at his weekly general audience. Continuing his series of talks about the family in anticipation of the September celebration of the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia and the world Synod of Bishops on the family in October, Pope Francis said he would be looking at “the rhythm of family life,” focusing first on celebrations, then on work and on prayer. "Celebrations are God’s invention," he said, pointing to the description in the Book of Genesis of how, after creating the world, God took a day of rest and contemplated all he had created. Life becomes truly human when people take the time to do the same, the pope said. "A celebration is above all a loving and grateful gaze at work done well, whether it’s a wedding celebration of a relationship that has matured or birthdays and graduations when people “look at their children or grandchildren who are growing and think, ‘How beautiful.’"

Appeals court rules against contraceptives

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A seventh federal appeals court ruled Aug. 7 that there is no religious rights conflict with a process created for nonprofit religious organizations to get around a government mandate to provide coverage for contraceptives in employee health insurance. In a case filed on behalf of Catholic health care organizations in the Archdiocese of New York and the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, as well as two Catholic high schools, the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said what the Department of Health and Human Services calls an accommodation for such entities adequately protects them from participating in something that conflicts with Catholic teaching. Writing for the three-judge panel, Judge Rosemary S. Pooler reiterated many of the legal conclusions reached by other appeals courts that have ruled against religious organizations including the Little Sisters of the Poor and entities in the Archdiocese of Washington, and the dioceses of Erie and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Fort Worth and Beaumont, Texas, and Nashville, Tennessee, as well as the University of Notre Dame, Priests for Life and an assortment of Christian colleges and ministries. Pooler wrote a succinct summary of the decision to reverse a District Court that had issued a preliminary injunction blocking enforcement of the requirement of the Affordable Care Act.

Mary’s assumption shows life’s aim is to be with God, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Mary’s assumption into heaven and, in fact, her entire life show believers the great things that God has in store for them, Pope Francis said. “The great things’’ the Almighty has done for her touch us deeply, speak of our journey through life and remind us of the destination that awaits us: the house of the Father.” Pope Francis said Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption. For the first time in some 60 years, the public recited the Assumption day Angelus prayer with a pope at the Vatican. Usually, the popes are at Castel Gandolfo for the feast day, unless they are traveling abroad. Pope Francis went to Castel Gandolfo for the day Aug. 15, 2013, was in South Korea for the feast day last year and decided not to do so this year. Before leading the recitation of the Marian prayer at the Vatican, he spoke about Mary’s “Magnificat,” her hymn of praise for the great things the Lord has done.

U.S. Embassy in Cuba reopens, ending 54-year diplomatic break

HAVANA (CNS) — With Havana Harbor’s bright blue waters and a trio of vintage U.S. cars parked along the Malecon framing the scene, Secretary of State John Kerry officially recoupled the U.S. Embassy in Cuba Aug. 14, marking the end of more than 54 years of fractured diplomatic relations. Since the United States broke off diplomatic relations and imposed a trade embargo on Cuba, among the world’s transitions have been the rise and fall of the Berlin Wall, the end of the Vietnam War and restoration of full relations with that former enemy, Kerry noted. “For more than half a century, U.S.- Cuban relations have been suspended in the amber of Cold War politics,” Kerry said. “In the interim, a whole generation of Americans and Cubans has grown up and is long past the Cold War. The United States has 10 new presidents. In a united Germany, the Berlin Wall is a fading memory. Freed from Soviet shackles, Central Europe—in particular, the young democracies—has observed that the trade embargo still stands, blocking most commercial relationships and tourism, but ending that is a step we strongly favor.”

LWR head says new era of communion with Vatican does ‘cultural chasm’

HOUSTON (CNS) — The Vatican’s invitations of U.S. women religious — and resulting tensions — stemmed largely from a “cultural chasm,” the president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious said Aug. 12. But that chasm is closing, she said, and a new era of communion seems to have begun. Sister Sharon Holland, president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, told the group’s annual assembly that behavior that is normal for a woman in American culture — such as asking questions and thinking critically — might easily be perceived as disrespectful in another setting. Sister Sharon, a member of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, understands one of those settings well: She spent 21 years as a canon lawyer in Rome, where she was one of the highest-ranking women in the Vatican. Now vice president of her community in Monroe, Michigan, and LWR president, she gave the presidential address to approximately 800 delegates gathered in Houston for the Aug. 11-15 assembly.
August 23, 2015 TODAY'S CATHOLIC

ALPHA course to be presented in Albion

ALBION — Four rural parishes — Blessed Sacrament, Albion; St. Joseph, LaGrange; St. John Bosco, Churubusco; and Immaculate Conception, Ege — are joining forces to present the 10-week ALPHA course beginning this fall. The course, which covers the basics of Christianity, will be held at Blessed Sacrament Catholic Church, 2290 N. State Road 9, Albion, every Sunday evening at 5 p.m. from Sept. 13 through Nov. 22. Each two-hour gathering will include an informal meal, music, a presentation on a specific theme and small group discussion. The course also includes a day or weekend retreat at the halfway point. Please RSVP to blessed_sacrament@yahoo.com. This event is being planned in cooperation with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Sister Miriam Gill celebrates 70th jubilee

HUNTINGTON — School Sisters of Notre Dame Sister Miriam Therese Gill celebrated her 70th jubilee this year. Sister Gill graduated from Huntington and received her education from Ss. Peter and Paul School and Huntington Catholic High School, where she first encountered the School Sisters of Notre Dame. She made her first profession on Aug. 9, 1945.

In her ministry, Sister Gill has served as teacher, assistant principal, principal and nurse’s aide in Wisconsin, Illinois and Michigan. Since 1990, she has served full-time as director of religious education at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Huntington.

She holds a bachelor’s in mathematics from Mount Mary College in Milwaukee and a master’s in administration from DePaul University in Chicago.

Sister Gill renewed her vows at the 10:30 a.m. Mass at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Huntington, on Sunday, July 26, in celebration of her 70 years of religious life. Following Mass the celebration continued at a reception with family and friends in Golther Hall. Earlier this year, Sister Gill celebrated her 70th jubilee at the School Sisters of Notre Dame Motherhouse in Wisconsin.

Of her vocation sister says, “I thank God daily for my vocation and for all the loving, caring and good religious individuals I’ve had the privilege to know and live with.”

USF lecture to examine ‘Age of Distraction’

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis will present a free public lecture about spirituality in a world full of distractions on Thursday, Aug. 27, at 1 p.m. in the Brookside Ballroom on the USF campus, 2701 Spring St.

“Hearing Through All the Noise: How to Hear God’s Call in an Age of Distraction,” will feature Dr. Lewis Pearson, assistant professor of philosophy, as he discusses the many distractions that can hinder people from living the spiritual lives they desire.

This lecture is part of the University of Saint Francis School of Liberal Arts and Sciences lecture series. These events are presented at no charge and the public is invited.

For additional information, contact Emily Lautzenheiser at 260-399-8066 or elautzenheiser@sf.edu.

Frederick Franck’s Drawings from the Second Vatican Council exhibit runs through Sept 30

NOTRE DAME — “Outsider at the Vatican: Frederick Franck’s Drawings from the Second Vatican Council” is an exhibit sponsored by the Cushwa Center for the Study of American Catholicism and the Notre Dame Center for Arts and Culture featuring works on paper from Pacen in Terris: The Frederick Franck Museum and the Catholic Documentation Center, Radboud University Nijmegen.

The exhibit will be available through Sept. 30 at the Notre Dame Center for Arts and Culture, 1045 W. Washington St., South Bend.

Hours are Tuesday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, 12-4 p.m.

A reception and gallery talk will take place Sept. 9 from 5-7:30 p.m. Frederick Franck (1906-2006) was born in Holland. Although raised an agnostic, he was profoundly interested in human spirituality, becoming a devotee of Pope John XXIII and a lifelong student of Zen Buddhism. Franck was a prolific writer and artist, publishing more than 30 books of reflections and drawings and creating thousands of original works, some of which are in major museum collections including the Museum of Modern Art and the Whitney Museum. Deeply moved by the news of the Second Vatican Council, Franck decided to return to Europe.

He attended all four council sessions, sketchbook and pen in hand, and produced around 300 drawings, primarily in pen and ink, supplemented by watercolor.

Franck’s subjects, sketched from life, include portraits of most of the major council dignitaries (John XXIII, Paul VI, cardinals, bishops from around the world, theologians, and ecumenical observers) as well as representative scenes of life at the council. Franck’s work, more intimate than any photographs, is an invaluable record of the emotional experience of the Council.

The University of Notre Dame is hosting approximately 60 of Franck’s drawings during John XXIII, Paul VI, cardinals, bishops from around the world, theologians, and ecumenical observers) as well as representative scenes of life at the council. Franck’s work, more intimate than any photographs, is an invaluable record of the emotional experience of the Council.

The exhibit, featuring works loaned by Pacen in Terris, the museum in Warwick, New York, devoted to Franck’s memory, and the University of Nijmegen, which received a major donation of drawings from Franck several years before his death, represents a unique opportunity to see selections from both collections.

On the 50th anniversary of the conclusion of Vatican II, this exhibit will honor the memory of those critical years in Rome.

Bishop Luers held a training session on July 22 for student leaders and mentors who will coordinate Sodalitas, a student-run program that aims to build leaders while promoting community service. Throughout the year, the students with their mentor will meet and design a service project, which will be completed next spring on the school’s first service day, April 14, 2016.

Catholics on a Mission taking applications for mission trip

FORT WAYNE — Catholics on a Mission is now taking applications for the 2016 Mission Team to serve the people of Costa Rica. Twelve high school and college students and four adult chaperones (age 25 and older) will be accepted to accompany the mission team. Candidates must be at least 15 years old who have received Confirmation, and be Catholics in good standing with the Church. The trip is planned for Jan. 7-20.

Applications and security deposits of $150 must be received no later than Monday, Aug. 31.

While a security deposit is required, in the past, 100 percent of trip expenses has been raised allowing return of deposits to team members. The only cost to participants has been passports and incidentals/spending money.

For more information or to receive information, contact Dave MacDonald at 260-444-7645. For more information visit www.catholicsonamission.org or www.facebook.com/groups/catholicsonamission/

Immaculate Conception announces fall adult religious education dates

AUBURN — Immaculate Conception Church, 500 E. Seventh Street, Auburn, will continue to offer adult religious education this fall using “Scouting: The Catholic Faith Explained.” The parish will study the sacraments — what they are, where they come from, how they work and why they are needed. All sessions are free and open to the public. Each session will begin at approximately 9 a.m. on Sunday mornings, immediately following the 8 a.m. Mass, with coffee and donuts in the Parish Hall.

Babysitting is available for children 3 to 5 years old. Dates and topics are as follows: Sept. 13 — “The Sacraments: Baptism and Confirmation”; Sept. 20 — “The Sacrament of Penance and Anointing of the Sick: God’s Mercy Revealed”; Nov. 22 — “Matrimony and Holy Orders: The Sacraments of Service and Communion.”

Immaculate Conception parish office can be reached at 260-927-5010 or visit icauburn.com for more information.

individuals in Scouts become your family and all the leaders become adopted parents to you.”

Nicola currently attends Central Wyoming College in Wyoming and is working towards earning her paralegal, equine science, equine management and TV broadcasting degrees.
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SCOUTS EXPERIENCE FRANCISCAN IDENTITY AT ANNUAL CAMPOREE

Scouts from across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend came together Aug. 7-9 at University of Saint Francis (USF) in Fort Wayne for their annual camporee themed “Our Franciscan Identity.” The Scouts had the opportunity to tour the Brookfield Mansion and hike to Lindenwood Nature Center. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass with the Scouts in the Chapel at USF, with Scouts serving as lectors, musicians and servers. Bishop Rhoades presented 17 youth with religious emblems, along with two adult awards. The evening culminated in praying the rosary around the campfire, using glow sticks to represent each bead. USF’s Dr. Earl Kumfer coordinated the needed personnel from the university for the camporee.
Catholic Charities Distributes Back Packs in DeKalb, Noble Counties

BY DENISE FEDOROW

ELKHART — Annette Mitchell was recently named the new principal at St. Thomas the Apostle School in Elkhart.

Mitchell received her bachelor’s and master’s degrees in Education at Indiana University, South Bend, and has been teaching on and off since graduating. She and her husband Jim have been married 29 years and have been members of Queen of Peace Church in Mishawaka for 36 years. They have four grown children.

Mitchell’s teaching career began at St. Vincent de Paul in Elkhart. She started the school’s kindergarden program and then moved up with her class to first grade. After some years of raising her children Mitchell took a first-grade position at St. Joseph School in South Bend and then a fourth-grade teaching position at St. Thomas in Elkhart.

When Queen of Peace School reopened in 1999 Mitchell took the helm as principal and was principal at Queen of Peace for eight years — from 1999-2007 — when she felt it was time to go back to the classroom.

Fred Stump, then principal at St. Thomas, called her about a fifth-grade position. “I was delighted to come back home — it felt so natural,” she said and she remained a fifth-grade teacher at St. Thomas for seven years.

Now as principal, Mitchell has set her sights on the future of St. Thomas. “I would like St. Thomas to be a place where students learn to rely on God in their daily lives and (a place) where they are comforted, knowing He is always with them,” she said.

“I know parents want strong academics and I believe we are very strong academically, but I believe our job is to teach them ways to get to heaven,” Mitchell shared. “I hope that the staff — all of us — create an environment where everyone can ‘put on Christ’ on a daily basis so the students can see that and imitate that. Where instead of just teaching and saying it, we’re actively living it.”

St. Thomas is starting an elective program for its middle school grades this year so students each quarter can choose classes such as pottery, photography or guitar. “We’re hoping to provide something unique to add to their core classes,” she said.

The school is also adding a preschool this year and is planning to offer Good Shepherd catechesis to the pre-school and kindergarten classes.

Mitchell is looking forward to the larger role she can play at the school. “I love kids and I love being in the classroom. I love the fact that as principal I can help guide their faith and education in their years here at St. Thomas.”

She believes Catholic education is important because of how it molds the whole person. “In every school we grow the future, but in Catholic schools we’re molding adults who care for each other and rely on God in their daily lives and education in their years here at St. Thomas.”

Catholic schools we’re molding children to be faithful, responsible adults who care for each other and the world they live in to create a brighter future.”

Don’t Miss the Bus!

Father Bill Kummer and Pro Catholic Tours are leading the North American Martyrs bus tour October 18-23, 2015. Six days for $1,900 includes transportation from Fort Wayne and exclusively 5 Star hotels everywhere... plus all breakfasts and dinners (wine is included with all dinners)...all entrance fees... all tips... luggage handling.

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For full details, please call Pro Catholic Tours at 769-220-2702 or 769-233-6515.
After the chanting of the Gospel, the actual Rite of Consecration began, and the candidate was formally presented to Bishop Rhoades.

Candidate Hayes approached the sanctuary holding a lighted candle and accompanied by two attendants, Kelly Fogarty and Emily Weimer.

Bishop Rhoades then called the candidate and said, “Come, listen to me, my daughter; I will teach you reverence for the Lord.”

Hayes responded, “Now with all my heart I follow You, I reverence You and seek Your presence. Lord, fulfill my hope: show me Your loving kindness, the greatness of Your mercy.”

After the homily, Hayes was asked to declare her resolution to persevere in the holy state of virginity as a bride of Christ, a witness to God’s love, and a sign of the kingdom of heaven.

During the Litany of Supplication, all implored the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the saints, while asking God to pour out the Holy Spirit of His love on the servant whom He had chosen to be consecrated to His service.

At the Renewal of Intention, Candidate Hayes said to the bishop: “Father, receive my resolution to follow Christ in a life of perfect chastity which, with God’s help, I here profess before you and God’s holy people.”

And then, with Hayes kneeling before him, Bishop Rhoades said the Prayer of Consecration.

After the prayer, the bishop gave a veil to the newly consecrated and said, “Receive this veil, by which you are to show that you have been chosen from other women to be dedicated to the service of Christ and of His Body, which is the Church.”

Bishop Rhoades then presented Hayes with the ring and said, “Receive the ring that marks you as a bride of Christ. Keep unstained your fidelity to your Bridegroom, that you may one day be admitted to the wedding feast of everlasting joy.”

Lastly, the bishop presented Hayes with a book containing the Liturgy of the Hours, part of the Church’s official liturgy that marks and sanctifies the hours of each day in prayer.

Bishop Rhoades said: “Receive the book of the Liturgy of the Hours, the prayer of the Church; may the praise of our heavenly Father be always on your lips, pray without ceasing for the salvation of the whole world.”

Hayes told Today’s Catholic she felt a “deep gratitude for the Church and for being Catholic, knowing whatever desire is placed upon our hearts by God, the Church has a place for us. And this is my place.”

Last year with the diocesan consecration to Jesus through Mary on the solemnity of the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary, before Bishop Rhoades and Hayes had chosen the date, Hayes noted, “as we were walking the procession with Our Lady after that consecration Mass, I thought, ‘I bet this will be my day.’ And that seems like a perfect day. So I renewed my Marian consecration on that same day in honor of that.”

Hayes’ attendant Emily Weimer said she thinks the life of a consecrated virgin “is a beautiful vocation. And I think our diocese is so lucky to have her because her job is to pray for our Church and for our diocese.”

Weimer said she was pleased, happy and blessed to be asked to be an attendant. Hayes, Weimer and Fogarty, as a group of friends, have been praying about vocations for some time, Weimer noted.

Kelly Fogarty, a teacher at Bishop Dwenger High School, has been Hayes’ friend for the last nine years.

Fogarty noted, “It’s a vocation that a lot of people don’t know about, so it’s not something that even comes to mind. But when she explained what it was and that she was going to be a consecrated virgin, it made a lot of sense. I can very much see that is what God’s plan is for her.”
“This parish has a special place in your hearts, manifested in your generosity and stewardship of time, talent and treasure,” he related. “… We pray that the faith and devotion that is so much a part of St. Mary’s history may continue to grow and flourish here as the parish moves into the future with hope and confidence.”

“One of the titles of our Blessed Mother is ‘spes nostra,’ ‘our hope,’” he said. “The beautiful mystery of Mary’s Assumption into heaven, the title of this church and patroness of this parish, is a great mystery of hope. The Blessed Virgin Mary, our mother, at the end of her earthly life, was assumed body and soul into heaven. The hope of humanity became a reality, entered the world and its history, many years earlier when Mary said ‘yes’ at the Annunciation. ‘She opened the door of our world to God Himself’ (Spe salvi 49). In her, God took flesh and became one of us. Through her, the Lord of life came into the world.”

“…” The Virgin Mary is, therefore, for us a consoling sign of our hope,” Bishop Rhoades continued. “We can experience so much peace and consolation and hope when we are close to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Virgin Mary is_10___when we take hold of her motherly hand as we journey through life. She will never let go. How many of the faithful, your ancestors in the faith here at St. Mary’s Parish, grasped Mary’s hand in their journey of faith. They passed on to you the most beautiful gift, the gift of our Catholic faith. They taught you to follow Christ and to love Him and His holy mother. We all need Mary’s help and comfort to face the trials and challenges of daily life. We live in hope, that one day we will share in her same destiny. May Our Lady, who was assumed body and soul into heaven, assist us so that we may follow her into our Father’s house, the Kingdom of her Son!”

Parishioners expressed their love and adherence to the faith heritage of St. Mary of the Assumption.

“Peace, home, faith are the three words that best describe St. Mary’s for me,” said parishioner Kelly Ehinger. She serves as the director of Adams Public Library and is a member of the parish choir and a St. Joseph School parent.

“I came to Decatur in 1997 as a single and I felt immediately drawn to this parish,” she said. “So many people were (and still are) always welcoming. At the time I felt as if the older ladies adopted me as part of the family, and I got to know many people in the church including my future mother-in-law.”

“Now as parents of teenagers, we are encouraged by faith formation of our youth, the steadfastness of our older parishioners, the sense of tradition and heritage of our parish, and the true presence of God,” Ehinger added. “We love this parish and are happy to call it home.”

Joyce Schultz has been a lifelong member of St. Mary Parish. She is active in the Women of St. Mary and Congregation of Sisters of St. Agnes Bond of Love and Prayer ministries. Schultz shared with Today’s Catholic, “I have been a member of St. Mary’s Parish since the late 1950s. I am so fortunate to have had parents who instilled strong faith and family values in me and my 10 siblings.”

“St. Mary’s Parish is an extension of my family and friends that I rely upon daily who share my Catholic faith,” she said.
Embracing the eremitical life

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — As the Church celebrates the Year of Consecrated Life as declared by Pope Francis, its faithful give thanks for those who live out their religious vocation in service to the Lord and His people. Most are familiar with the vocations of religious brothers, sisters and priests, most of whom live in religious communities. But here in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, three women have chosen a unique vocation that begs solitude rather than community — the life of a hermit.

Sister Nancy Frentz, who has been a canonical hermit for two years, Sister Jane Brackebush, who recently observed her first anniversary of consecrated life as a hermit, and Sister Mary Ann Burkhart, the newest member of the eremitical life, are living in solitude as religious hermits in the Diocese of Fort Wayne.

Each hermit has her own apostolate. Sister Frentz prays for the sick and dying, for priests and religious. Sister Brackebush lifts priests and religious, and for priests and religious. Sister Burkhart’s prayer apostolate is prayer and witness. Hermit lives consist of daily Mass, Eucharistic Adoration, recitation of the rosary, praying the Liturgy of the Hours, and much more. Though they have been set apart from the world, they have chosen the life of solitude and silence. Their days consist of daily Mass, and attending Mass and their family members, and go out for groceries and the like. Loneliness is a non-issue, they say, because they reside in the presence of God. The hermits report that though they spend the bulk of their days in prayer, none adhere to any specific time schedule.

Each hermit has her own apostolate of prayer as discerned with Bishop Rhoades. Sister Frentz, who came to the Church in 1986, prays daily for the sick and dying, and for priests and religious. Sister Brackebush lifts priests and religious, all diocesan offices, the poor, the down-and-out, and for priests and religious. Sister Burkhart says, “The goal is to do God’s will always. Poverty, chastity and obedience help.”

Sister Frentz, who has been a canonical hermit for two years, Sister Jane Brackebush, who recently observed her first anniversary of consecrated life as a hermit, and Sister Mary Ann Burkhart, the newest member of the eremitical life, have chosen the life of solitude and silence. In his homily at the Mass on July 8 Bishop Rhoades instructed the congregation. “The lives of hermits were marked by solitude and prayer. The Second Vatican Council acknowledged and affirmed this ancient form of consecrated life and it is described in the 1983 Code of Canon Law in this way: ‘In addition to the institutes of consecrated life, the Church recognizes the eremitic or anchoritic life by which the Christian faithful devote their life to the praise of God and the salvation of the world through a stricter withdrawal from the world, the silence of solitude and assiduous prayer and penance.’” The code also says that “a hermit is recognized by law as one dedicated to God in consecrated life if he or she publicly professes in the hands of the diocesan bishop the three evangelical counsels, confirmed by vow or other sacred bond, and observes a proper program of living under his direction.”

All three women had once lived in community. Each hermit has a specific apostolate. A hermit supports his or herself financially. Though hermits are set apart from the community they can still talk with people. Early hermits include St. Juan Diego, St. Jerome and Sarah of the Desert. Contemporary hermits include Thomas Merton, Maria Boulding and Sister Scholastica Egan.

Sources: www.catholicworldreport.com, USCCB.org, Wikipedia

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Sister Nancy Frentz, the three canonical hermits of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The July 8 photo was taken following the Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Fort Wayne in which Sister Burkhart professed her first vows as a hermit.

Fast facts about eremitical life

- Hermits “devote their life to the praise of God and salvation of the world through a stricter separation from the world, the silence of solitude and assiduous prayer and penance.”
- There has been an increase in the hermitic life due to the 1984 promulgation of Canon 603, which allowed bishops to accept within their own dioceses hermits who were not affiliated with religious orders.
- Canon law allows men and women in later life the opportunity to discern whether they have a call to the hermitic life.
- A hermit professes temporary vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and has three years of discernment before the profession of permanent vows.
- The diocesan bishop is a canonical hermit’s superior.
- A canonical hermit lives by the specific rule of life discerned with his or her bishop.
- A hermit has a specific apostolate.
- A hermit supports him or herself financially.
- Though hermits are set apart from the community they can still talk with people.
Sacred Heart in Warsaw hosts mission trip

WARSAW — Sacred Heart Parish in Warsaw sent 10 teens and adults to work on the St. John Paul II School in Kenscoff, Haiti. Their mission was to paint classrooms at the school associated with their mission twin parish, St. Nicholas in Kenscoff. The team consisted of Pat and Leigh Cox and their daughter Maddy, Diane Wack, Mike Powers and son Shane, Bobby Zobgi, Ida and Bob List, all from Sacred Heart, and Linda Thieman, the team’s guide from St. Henry, Ohio, who has led nearly 70 missions to Haiti.

The team arrived in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on the afternoon of June 16 and after a bumpy ride to Kenscoff, they settled into their accommodations at Father Isaac’s rectory and had a meal. The next morning the team began work at 6 a.m. by painting the classrooms. Since school was still in session, with testing in progress, the team was limited on the rooms available to paint. By lunchtime three rooms were completed.

Father Isaac and Father Raynold had lunch prepared for the team, which was back to painting by 1 p.m. The students moved their desks out to the patio and other areas so the team could access their classrooms allowing another three rooms to be painted.

The team played with some of the parish children while their moms were either in a Bible class or choir practice. Despite the language barrier, the “Cat’s in the Cradle,” hand tricks and bubbles were enjoyed by all.

That evening, Bill Nathan, the interpreter, gave a talk on his life in Haiti. He was orphaned at the age of six and became a restavek (a child slave) to the family that adopted him. He was rescued from that situation and brought to St. Joseph’s Home for Boys in Port-au-Prince. At St. Joseph’s, he was able to grow up in a safe environment and receive an education. He is now the director of the home.

The next morning after breakfast the team watched the students gather in the courtyard for school. They began with songs, their national anthem and flag raising. The principal had a student give the morning announcements and then all the students turned to their visitors and said “Bonjour.” The team then visited each class and passed out candy. Painting resumed and a total of eight classrooms were completed.

That afternoon the team visited Wings of Hope, a home for mentally or physically handicapped children and young adults. Since some Haitians still practiceoodoo, those with physical or mental handicaps are considered possessed and thought of as throw-aways in Haiti. The home assists them in finding meaning and purpose and prepares them to be assimilated into society.

Josephine, a teenager there, sang a beautiful rendition of “What A Wonderful World” that she taught herself not having had any English language training.

The remainder of time was spent visiting other orphanages, boys’ homes, Mother Teresa’s Baby Hospital, Cité Soleil, the largest slum in the hemisphere, some chapels around Kenscoff and St. Joseph’s Home for Boys in Port-au-Prince where they spent the remainder of their stay in Haiti.

The team felt blessed to be able to attend three daily Masses plus Sunday Mass at their Mission Twin Parish, St. Nicholas in Kenscoff. Father Isaac, and Father Raynold were gracious hosts and made the group feel welcome during their stay there. They came to realize that they came to Haiti as visitors, became family and returned home as ambassadors.

Education for Ministry to offer classes

Education for Ministry is offering the following classes in Fort Wayne and South Bend:
• Introduction to Catechesis, Fort Wayne
  Cynthia Wolf will teach this unit of the Education for Ministry program on Thursdays, Sept. 3, 10, 17 from 6-8:30 p.m. at the St. John Paul II Catholic Center. For more information call 260-399-1411 or email jmartin@diocesefwsb.org. Registration required. Registration deadline is Thursday, Sept. 20.
• Introduction to Catechesis, South Bend
  Deacon Bill Gallagher will teach this unit of the Education for Ministry program on Thursdays, Oct. 1, 8, 15 and 22 from 6-8:30 p.m. at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center. For more information call 260-399-1411 or email jmartin@diocesefwsb.org. Registration required. Registration deadline is Thursday, Sept. 20.
• Introduction to Prayer, South Bend
  Father Derrick Sneyd, Pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Fort Wayne, invites you to this unit of the Education for Ministry program on Thursdays, Oct. 1, 8, 15 and 22 from 6-8:30 p.m. at Riverside Terrace, 426 Lincolnway E. in Mishawaka. For reservations contact Jim and Collette Russell, dinner chairs, at 574-527-7222 or jrussell@hammerplastics.com.

A team cleans up after painting eight school classrooms in a day and a half. Pictured from left are Shane Powers (hidden), Leigh Cox, Bobby Zobgi and Maddy Cox.

St. Monica plans alumni, parish reunion and Mass

MISHAWAKA — St. Monica School and parish alumni are invited to a reunion at Battell Park near the bandshell from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Aug. 29. Bring a dish to share and contact Joanne Eichhorn, reunion committee chair, at 24411@aol.com or 574-340-1502. On Aug. 30, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate Mass at 1 p.m. at St. Monica Church, 222 W. Mishawaka Ave, Mishawaka, followed by a dinner celebration at a by-donation dinner at 2 p.m. at Riverside Terrace, 426 Lincolnway E. in Mishawaka. For reservations contact Jim and Collette Russell, dinner chairs, at 574-255-7230 or jrussell@hammerplastics.com.
Consenting to the unconscionable

In recent years, scientists in industry and academia have come to rely on freshly obtained human tissue specimens for certain types of research and experimentation. Sometimes these tissues and organs can be obtained after routine surgeries like gall bladder removal from adults or foreskin removal during the circumcision of newborns. The use of such tissues and organs can be morally acceptable when those cells are obtained from a natural miscarriage, and the use of cells from fetuses can also be morally acceptable when those cells are obtained from a naturally occurring abortion (usually from the mother) may be sought prior to using the aborted tissues and organs. In these cases, parental consent prior to procuring fetal body parts from direct abortions, as chronicled by the Center for Medical Progress in their bombshell 2015 video exposé in which the sales of fetal heart, lungs, brain and liver were discussed and negotiated.

The strong public outcry that followed these revelations of harvesting fetal organs was understandable on the one hand, yet difficult to explain on the other, since there hadn’t been a parallel outcry when it came to the more offensive act of terminating the life of the unborn child itself. As one commentator observed, “Maybe it is not enough to be outraged at abortion on its face. Because, I don’t know, killing is somehow worse if body parts are sold.”

Despite this inconsistency, it is nonetheless clear that the use of tissues and organs from direct abortions raises significant moral concerns, even if the mother’s signature may have been sought and obtained.

Typically when we serve as a proxy for someone and give consent on their behalf, we act simply as their agent and provide an affirmation of their original wishes (“yes, he told me he wanted to donate his kidneys”). Alternatively, if we do not know the wishes of the deceased patient, we do our best to make a reasonable decision based on the specifics of their situation, using a “best interest” standard (“based on my friendship with him and concern for him, I think he really would have wanted to donate his kidneys”). When we serve as a proxy decision maker for a fetus, an infant, or a deceased child prior to the age of reason, it is incumbent on us to make a “best interest” decision on their behalf. The assumption is that as we care for them in life, and had their best interests in mind while they were living, we can continue to exercise that “best interest” decision-making capacity later when they are deceased.

But if the mother of an aborted child were to sign on the dotted line granting permission to utilize fetal cells and organs, that consent would necessarily be void, because she would have already categorically demonstrated that she does not have the best interests of her child in mind, having arranged for the taking of that child’s life. Despite this, sometimes, she has disqualified herself from being able to give valid informed consent on behalf of her now-deceased child.

In the absence of proper informed consent, taking organs or tissues from the corpse would represent a further violation of the integrity of the child’s body and constitute a failure to respect the remains of the dead. Thus, the tissues and organs of the directly aborted child should not be utilized for research, transplantation or the development of therapy. But instead should be given a proper and respectful burial.

In the final analysis, maternal consent cannot provide moral clearance for researchers to utilize fetal remains from direct abortions in their research. Such permission from the mother is not, objectively speaking, an authentic form of consent but is rather a type of “sham consent” that secures the veneer of legitimacy for what is ultimately an unconscionable research practice.

The SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEEN F. CAMPION

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Jn 6:60-69

The Book of Joshua, the source for this Sunday’s first reading, looks at the period in the history of God’s people when Joshua led them. It was after the death of Moses.

Even though these connections may seem to be clear, biblical scholars disagree about the exact date of this period as well as the date of this book’s composition.

This much is clear. Hebrew history was not written as a series of linear event recordings, but rather purposefully delayed in their bombshell 2015 video exposé in which the sales of fetal heart, lungs, brain and liver were discussed and negotiated.

The strong public outcry that followed these revelations of harvesting fetal organs was understandable on the one hand, yet difficult to explain on the other, since there hadn’t been a parallel outcry when it came to the more offensive act of terminating the life of the unborn child itself. As one commentator observed, “Maybe it is not enough to be outraged at abortion on its face. Because, I don’t know, killing is somehow worse if body parts are sold.”

Despite this inconsistency, it is nonetheless clear that the use of tissues and organs from direct abortions raises significant moral concerns, even if the mother’s signature may have been sought and obtained.

Typically when we serve as a proxy for someone and give consent on their behalf, we act simply as their agent and provide an affirmation of their original wishes (“yes, he told me he wanted to donate his kidneys”). Alternatively, if we do not know the wishes of the deceased patient, we do our best to make a reasonable decision based on the specifics of their situation, using a “best interest” standard (“based on my friendship with him and concern for him, I think he really would have wanted to donate his kidneys”). When we serve as a proxy decision maker for a fetus, an infant, or a deceased child prior to the age of reason, it is incumbent on us to make a “best interest” decision on their behalf. The assumption is that as we care for them in life, and had their best interests in mind while they were living, we can continue to exercise that “best interest” decision-making capacity later when they are deceased.

But if the mother of an aborted child were to sign on the dotted line granting permission to utilize fetal cells and organs, that consent would necessarily be void, because she would have already categorically demonstrated that she does not have the best interests of her child in mind, having arranged for the taking of that child’s life. Despite this, sometimes, she has disqualified herself from being able to give valid informed consent on behalf of her now-deceased child.

In the absence of proper informed consent, taking organs or tissues from the corpse would represent a further violation of the integrity of the child’s body and constitute a failure to respect the remains of the dead. Thus, the tissues and organs of the directly aborted child should not be utilized for research, transplantation or the development of therapy. But instead should be given a proper and respectful burial.

In the final analysis, maternal consent cannot provide moral clearance for researchers to utilize fetal remains from direct abortions in their research. Such permission from the mother is not, objectively speaking, an authentic form of consent but is rather a type of “sham consent” that secures the veneer of legitimacy for what is ultimately an unconscionable research practice.

For all the Apostles, Peter responds with a most significant expression of faith. Saluting Jesus as “God’s holy one,” the Messiah, in itself a powerful testimony, Peter, says, “Lord, you have the words of eternal life.”

Reflection

The Church for weeks has called us to realize our limitations as human beings, and it also has reassured us that God’s mercy, love and power lavishly assists humans. We will not be left helplessly to face our needs.

For instance, we risk starvation, spiritually as well as physically. We cannot produce food on our own. God comes to us with the bread of everlasting life. Jesus is the bread of life.

We must decide ourselves either to accept this bread or to reject it. Many rejected Jesus in the Gospel stories and later.

Fully realizing their need for the Lord, the solitary source of genuine life, the Apostles are examples to follow. As Peter declared for them, Jesus alone has the words of eternal life.

The Lord redeems us all, equal in God’s love and in God’s plan for salvation, if we ask for eternal life.

READINGS

Sunday: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b Ps 34:2-3, 16-21 Eph 5:21-32 Jn 6:60-69

Monday: Rv 21:9b-14 Ps 145: 10-13, 17-20 Mt 24:42-51

Tuesday: 1 Thes 4:1-8 Ps 139:1-3, 4-6 Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday: 1 Thes 2:1-8 Ps 139:1-3, 4-6 Mt 23:23-26

Thursday: 1 Thes 2:13-14 Ps 139:7-12 Mt 23:27-32

Friday: 1 Thes 2:13-14 Ps 90:3-5a, 12-14, 17b Ps 115:1-5, 2b-9a

Saturday: 1 Thes 4:9-11 Ps 98:1, 7-9 Mk 6:17-19

Saint of the week:

Stanislaus Kostka

1550 - 1588

Feast - Aug. 15

Born in the family castle in Poland, Stanislaus was educated privately, then at a Jesuit college in Vienna, Austria. After having visions during a serious illness, he decided to enter the Jesuits. His father, a Polish senator, opposed the young Stanislaus, but Stanislaus determined to become a diplomat. Rejected by the Vienna Jesuits, Stanislaus walked to the Upper Germany province, where Peter Canisius took him in, then sent him to Rome. In 1567, the father general accepted Stanislaus into the Society of Jesus; for the nine months before his death in Rome, he lived a life of meditations, ecstasies and holiness. A patron saint of Poland, he was canonized in 1726 with another Jesuit novice, Aloysius Gonzaga.
Superheroes and our daughters

Our society is mesmerized by the modern superhero. Whether it is Captain America or Thor, there is something appealing about a strong, sure man who rises up for good. In a way, I think that superhero movies are the contemporary yet retro comic book twist to the old westerns, which depicted strong cowboys fighting the bad guys, the white hats versus the black hats, if you will. At any rate, the box office shows that the public is responding incredibly positive-ly to the genre of superhero films.

Interestingly, this is occurring when Pew Research indicates that Christians in America are declining sharply as people who identify as “unaffiliated” increase. It seems we simultaneously want a savior, a hero, but reject the One. As a culture we are turning away from Christianity—recognizing Jesus as savior of the world—and turning toward an Avenger? Yes, we are, sadly, because let’s face it, Captain America is fun to watch and isn’t going to ask anything of us.

I’m not labeling Jesus as a “superhero” because that is to minimize and trivialize Him for sure, but it is interesting that recent statistics show that while our obsession with superheroes is high, religious devotion is lacking in the One who can really save, is waning.

Let’s sit with that for a minute and consider how this relates to our daughters.

As a mother of six girls, I think about the following a lot: what kind of men are we counseling our daughters to look for in a date, and eventually in a husband? Are we putting value in the qualities found in a fallible Thor-like god or those found in Jesus, one who is God Himself? Are we encouraging our girls to develop a strong relationship with Jesus first, which is and should be primary, and which will in turn become foundational in her relationship with her future husband? We should be. We should be introducing her to Christ in the Scriptures and most certainly in the sacraments, and by doing so, we raise the bar for herself, and for the human man who may one day be her spouse.

We need to turn our daughters’ thoughts to Jesus, to teach them how to fall in love with Him, not in a romantic lover her, but in the kind of total love of a created being for her Creator, one that permeates her to the core and challenges her to become what she is, a love that makes her — no compels her — to be the best she can be, pouring out then that same love to everyone she meets, and ultimately, intimately and personally to her husband and children, if that is her vocation.

We should counsel our daughters to know Christ well and first, and then to look for Christ-like qualities in the young men they date, which is the pool from which they will eventually marry. This means they date young men who, like Christ, challenge them to be good and heartily lead the way. Additionally, while physical attraction is not to be dismissed because it is after all part of God’s plan to get two people together initially to see if they are compatible, good Catholic mothers (and fathers who will lead by example) must tell their daughters that they should look beyond physical attraction for enduring virtues and qualities in a future spouse.

• A man who has faith
• A man who has patience and strength
• A man who will provide and protect his family
• A man who possesses wisdom
• A man, with self control, not full of folly or attachment to frivolous things
• And perhaps most importantly, a man who is willing to sacrifice for her and for the family

A man like Christ

These qualities mentioned above manifest in a human are but a shadow of the real One she must seek. Jesus. She must also strive to emulate His virtuous example. Obviously, perfection does not exist in this world, and I’m not suggesting we hold people to unattainable standards. I’m merely suggesting we look beyond societal definitions of “heroic” and think about what really is.

God’s plan is different for each daughter. Some may have a religious vocation or stay single, but most will marry, God is the ultimate “hero” of Love and Goodness. The more someone reflects those traits, the more he reflects Jesus. Let us teach our girls to strive for that in themselves and to look for that in their future spouses. After all, the real hero we must teach our girls (and boys) to emulate and seek is One who really saves, is Christ.

Theresa Thomas is the wife of David and mother of nine children. Watch for her newest book “Big Hearted Families” (Scepter) and read more on her blog: http://thearchathomas.wordpress.com.

2015 World Meeting of Families: the family fully alive

Preparations for the 2015 World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia are heating up. As many as 2 million people are expected to descend on “the city of brotherly love” for the closing Mass with Pope Francis. New security measures continue closing Mass with Pope Francis. City of brotherly love” for the incoming traffic for the last couple of days in which the pope will participate in the weekend event.

Last month, for example, we reported that Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades would be celebrating two Masses in downtown Philadelphia. Due to security issues, the first of these that was scheduled to take place at the historic Saint Joseph’s Church on Sunday, Sept. 27, has been moved up a day. This Mass will be celebrated especially for those with disabilities and their caregivers on Thursday, Sept. 24, at 7 p.m. It will still be followed by a reception. The second Mass will start the celebration especially for all pilgrims from our diocese at St. John the Evangelist Church on Saturday, Sept. 26, at 8:30 a.m. All are welcome to either or both of these downtown Masses.

We continue to get inquiries from families in our diocese that are going on their own to Philadelphia. Some will be participating in the full week of events, which begins with the Theological Congress at the downtown convention center on Sept. 22. Some are only coming for the closing Mass with the pope on Sunday, Sept. 27. We recommend checking in regularly on the World Meeting of Families website to find the latest information: www.worldmeeting2015.org. Also, it is still not too late to register for the four day Congress if you are thinking about attending.

LOVE IS OUR MISSION

The Congress will consist of keynote addresses interspersed with simultaneous breakout sessions. Bishop-elect Robert Barron will give the opening keynote on Tuesday afternoon on “Living as the Image of God: Created for Joy and Love.” On Wednesday morning, African Cardinal Robert Sarah, the new prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, will give another keynote address on “The Light of the Family in a Dark World.” and later that afternoon, Helen Alvare, mother of three and former spokeswoman for the U.S. Bishops on Pro-Life Activities, will speak on “Creating the Future: The Fertility of Love.” On Thursday morning, Dr. Juan Francisco de la Guardia Brin and Mrs. Gabriela N. de la Guardia will speak on “A Gift from God: The Meaning of Human Sexuality,” followed that afternoon by Cardinal Luis Tagle, the Archbishop of Manila, on “The Family: Home for the Wounded Heart.” On Friday morning, Cardinal Diarmuid M. Martin, O’Malley, the Archbishop of Dublin, will give the opening keynote on “The Joy of the Gospel of Life.”

Presenters for the breakout sessions include well-known Catholic apologist Scott Hahn, Christopher West, Janet Smith, Greg and Lisa Popcak, Sinchla Fisher, Chris Stefanek, Rose Sweet, Terry Polakovic, Ron Belgau, among dozens of others.

During the week of the World Meeting of Families, we will be posting observations and updates from Philadelphia on our office Facebook page: www.facebook.com/familyprofile. We may, for example, be gathering at a particular site to share thoughts and refreshments at the end of the day, and will be posting when and where on Facebook. So whether you will be attending the World Meeting of Families in person or in spirit, be sure to check us out there.

FRED AND LISA EVERTT

FRED AND LISA EVERTT are co-directors of the Office of Family Life.
Fall Sports Preview

There’s only ONE name to trust for orthopaedics.

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Bishop Luers Home of the Knights
You are the Light of the World.
Let your light shine in all that you do!

Homecoming—September 18
4:30 p.m.—Mass with Fr. Jonathan Norton, class of 2000
Distinguished Knights will be honored
5:30 p.m.—Tailgate
7:00 p.m.—Luers vs. Concordia
Adult Bonfire following the game featuring the band “Bonafide” with lead vocalist and fiddler, Heidi Herber, class of 1990, sponsored by Source Bank

www.bishopluers.org
Good Luck Knights!

Good Luck Knights!

Best of Luck to All Our Fall Teams!
GO SAINTS!
#WeAreBD

www.bishopdwenger.com (260) 496-4700

Wishing a successful fall season to all athletes and teams!

MICHAEL F. BARILE, DC, PT
3217 Lake Avenue, Fort Wayne 46805
Phone: 260-420-4400 FAX: 260-420-4448

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Bishop Luers High School fall sports

Cross-country

Under the direction of first-year head coach, Nicole Wellman, the Bishop Luers boys cross-country program lists 31 athletes on the 2015 roster, which includes 13 seniors. Returning varsity include runners Dana Baldus, Kaitlin Edwards, Madison Busch, Emily McManns, Maria Lill, Steve Moore and Patrick Roric. Emmett, Roric, Moore and Busch will serve as captains this season. During the 2014 postseason, the Knights had five runners advance to regionals, one of whom went on to semi-state. With a strong senior class, Bishop Luers has a goal of working as a team, pushing forward and improving each race. New to the course this year and expected to make an impact will be Joe Deiser, Stephen Busch and Leah Hall. Wellman coaches to guide young athletes to use their God-given talent, whether in a race, in the classroom or somewhere else and to push themselves and their teammates to do their best. The coach adds, “The athletes coach are truly an inspiration to me.”

Girls’ soccer

According to Bishop Dwenger Athletic Director John Bennett, Jeff Kililon returns to coach the highly successful Bishop Dwenger soccer program. The Saints will open with a conference game against Northington. Max Sports reports that the blue and gold finished the 2014 season at 7-6 and went unbeaten (7-0) in conference play.

Football

After 13 seasons at the helm of the highly decorated Bishop Dwenger football program, Coach Chris Swarzkopf will sit out this season for medical reasons. Interim Coach Ernie Bojrab will take the reins for 2015 after four years on the Saints’ staff. Bojrab lists 31 seniors and returns six defensive starters and seven on the offense for their shotgun triple option scheme. He explains, “We are excited and optimistic about the off-season training and our experience coming back.” Seniors Nick Fiacable, Noah Freimuth, Landon Campbell and Zipe will serve as leaders for the squad, while junior Blake Podschinn is listed as the signal caller. Bishop Dwenger is loaded with talent and will have experience in several key skill positions including offensive linemen, running backs, quarterbacks, corners, long snapper, kicker and punter.

Golf

The Saints’ lady linksters are a young group this year. Leading the junior Katherine Hill, sophomores Sarah Frazier, Brooke Kinder and Taylor Martin, Bishop Dwenger also listed incoming freshman Lacy Wagner who will be trying to make our varsity squad jump to varsity this season. Coach Kurt Leffers and his squad had success last year winning two early tournaments which helped prepare the team to win the SAC seasonal competition and the year-end tournament. The Saints took second in the sectional and regional meets and went on to end the season 12th place in the state.

Volleyball

With three new juniors and six returning players with starting experience, Coach Tim Houwer (37-29) feels the Bishop Dwenger Saints are looking to compete for the SAC volleyball title, a sectional win and a run at the state title. Abbie Grace Lee is back as libero for her fourth season at the libero level. Carly Robinson and setter Alaina Schenkel will play their third season and Ellen Ross and Abby Bojrab are back for their second year on varsity. Newcomers to watch for at the varsity level for Bishop Dwenger are middle hitter Josie Kollman, Katie Fredbohn, Marissa Godfrey and Caitlyn McGauley. The Saints finished 19-14 a year ago and recently won an eighth grade Hoosier Open on their home court over the summer months.
Marian High School fall sports looks to ‘try and thrill’

BY TRISH LINNER

MISHAWAKA — With veteran and newbie athletes returning this season for Marian sports, the fall afternoons will be full with championships in mind. Productive training and team chemistry breathe a promise of success for the talented Marian High School athletes.

Football

The theme for Marian football this year is on a mission — “It isn’t about what we do, but how we do it!” Coach Reggie Glen is determined as he enters his 22nd season as the head coach of Marian High School and 32nd overall to win a championship. Glen is hoping that the 22 seniors returning this year will lead the way.

Last year’s team ended at 8-3 overall and 5-1 in the NIC coming up just short of winning a conference and sectional title. Despite graduating 19 players, Glen’s hypothesis for this year’s team, Glen’s expectations have not changed for this senior class. “We want to play for championships in November,” Glen said.

The Knights will enter a new era of NIC scheduling this year, adding state powers Joliet Central, Benet Academy and Montini to the schedule along with John Glenn, Washington, and Riley in their NIC division. The Knights will also play cross-over games with traditional rivals Mishawaka, Saint Joseph and Clay to create a very competitive sched- ule.

The Knights return six starters on offense. At the ultra back position with last year’s leading rusher and receiver, Jake Whitfield (1,591 yards and 26 TDs), Returning up front for the Knights is a veteran group of offensive linemen — three-year starters PJ Ernst, Christian Dennis and Kenny Derucki, along with two-year starters Nick Pingle and Rogelio Rodela. Two players are competing for the QB position this year, junior Bryce Tomasi and senior Joe Ravotto and both are expected to see playing time. On defense, the Knights also return six starters, led by middle linebacker Patrick Coulter, the team’s leading tackler the last two years. Also returning leading will be three-year starters Nate Thomas (DL) and Joe Ravotto (DB) with other starters returning Alex Moz (DB) Gavin Verspohl (LB) and Anthony Blum (DE). In the kick game last year’s starter Jack Tiller will again handle all the punting and kicking duties.

Boys’ cross-country

Dave Walsh returns for his second season as the cross-country coach for both the boys’ and girls’ teams. “The boys’ team returns four varsity letter winners including senior Jacob Imus, our strongest runner right now. The majority of our runners are new to the sport but everyone is working hard and the team is progressing well through the early training sessions,” said Walsh. He expects some challenges this season since his runners have less meet experience and the team will be missing the strong conference foes. “However, as our runners gain experience, they will learn to compete effectively,” Walsh said. The team begins their season on Aug. 22 with the NIC stomp.

Boys’ tennis

Coach Robert Long is entering his third season as head coach for the boys’ tennis squad. After graduating nine seniors from last year’s team the squad is young this season with only one senior, and six returning varsity players. Even though the players are young, Coach Long expects the team to be competitive in the upcoming season,” he said. Assistant Coach Daniel Trynecki adds, “Practices have been productive and there is a lot of tennis chemistry thus far. Freshmen and sophomores have especially shown a lot of promise, including Josh O’Connor, Matt Koner and Jack Slavicek.”

Boys’ volleyball

This year’s volleyball team will have a new look after graduating six seniors that played a major role in the success of the team. Coach Dan Anderson enters his 23rd season as the head volleyball coach, and knows defense and skills will be vital to the team’s success. Returning starters include senior captains Robbie Nelson, Grayson Sharp and junior Marielle Corbett. Corbett will miss several games due to an injury before season. Making her high school debut will be外国语 student outside hitter Bella Ravotto. Junior Abby Wood will be middle- tide hitting along with sophomore Madisyn Murphy. Setter will be senior Abby Pozzivok and sophomore Kelsey Ketcham. Right side hitting and back row positions are held by junior Ali Sharp and junior MacKenzie Deruiter. Coach Anderson is looking forward to a great season, “We will try and thrill,” he said.
Cardinal Fest planned
Fort Wayne — St. Charles will have Cardinal Fest Sept. 11-13 beginning with a junior high dance Friday, games and food and drinks on Saturday and a 5K walk/run on Sunday. Visit www.CardinalFest.com for information.

Bike to build an orphanage in Haiti
Fort Wayne — A bike ride of 17 mile, 35 mile and 100 K course options will be offered Saturday, Sept. 5, at 9:30 a.m. at the University of Saint Francis. Post-finish lunch to be at Deer Park Irish Pub. Register at BikeReg.com.

Day of Reflection
Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, Sept. 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is “Caring for Creation.” Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is $20 and includes lunch. Register by Aug. 28 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at 574-259-5427.

Ancilla College host scholarship dinner
Plymouth — Ancilla College will host the “Changing Lives Scholarship Dinner” on Friday, Nov. 6, from 6-9 p.m. at Swan Lake Resort, 5203 Plymouth Laporte Tr. There will be guest speakers, musical entertainment, dinner, and live and silent auctions. Recipients of the John Chandler, Ancilla Award, and Randy Danielson, Sister Mary D. Outstanding Alumnus Award will be honored. Proceeds will benefit scholarships for students.

Saint Joseph plans open house
South Bend — Saint Joseph High School will host an open house on Aug. 21, prior to the varsity football opener versus Concord from 6:30-7:30 p.m. The first 150 alumni attending will receive a Saint Joe gift bag. For more details call Henry Chandler at 574-234-2904.

St. Augustine Parish to hold picnic
South Bend — St. Augustine Parish in South Bend will hold its Annual Parish Picnic on Sunday, Aug. 30, from 12:30-6 p.m. at St. Patrick’s County Park, 50651 Laurel Rd., in the Berta Shelter. There will be food, fun and games for all.

Demonstration set at Planned Parenthood facility
Mishawaka — St. Joseph County Right to Life will host a demonstration on Saturday, Aug. 22, from 10-11 a.m. in front of the local Planned Parenthood, 3005 Grape Rd., Mishawaka.

Bishop Luers High School plans reunions
Fort Wayne — The class of 1980 will host a class reunion at Phoenix Restaurant and Bar, 1122 Broadway, on Saturday, Sept. 19, at 6:30 p.m. No admission fee. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Contact Matt Fabina at MattFabina1@gmail.com. The class of 1985 will be host a class reunion at the Most Precious Blood bowling alley, 1515 Barthold St., on Saturday, Sept. 19. Mass at 5 p.m. with reunion from 7-11 p.m. Cost is $25 per person. Contact John Jenkins at john.jenkins@bhemail.com.

Baby Boxes founder to speak at Knights screening of film on abortion
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 553 will host Monica Kelsey, international pro-life speaker and founder of the Safe Haven Baby Boxes project Monday, Aug. 31 at 7 p.m. at 553 Washington St. A screening of the film “40,” which traces 40 years of the pro-life movement since Roe v. Wade will also be shown. A freewill offering will support the Baby Boxes program. Refreshments served. Call Bill Schmitt at 574-232-6777 for information.

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Mishawaka — St. Joseph County Right to Life will host a demonstration on Saturday, Aug. 22, from 10-11 a.m. in front of the local Planned Parenthood, 3005 Grape Rd., Mishawaka.

Bishop Luers High School plans reunions
Fort Wayne — The class of 1980 will host a class reunion at Phoenix Restaurant and Bar, 1122 Broadway, on Saturday, Sept. 19, at 6:30 p.m. No admission fee. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Contact Matt Fabina at MattFabina1@gmail.com. The class of 1985 will be host a class reunion at the Most Precious Blood bowling alley, 1515 Barthold St., on Saturday, Sept. 19. Mass at 5 p.m. with reunion from 7-11 p.m. Cost is $25 per person. Contact John Jenkins at john.jenkins@bhemail.com.

Baby Boxes founder to speak at Knights screening of film on abortion
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 553 will host Monica Kelsey, international pro-life speaker and founder of the Safe Haven Baby Boxes project Monday, Aug. 31 at 7 p.m. at 553 Washington St. A screening of the film “40,” which traces 40 years of the pro-life movement since Roe v. Wade will also be shown. A freewill offering will support the Baby Boxes program. Refreshments served. Call Bill Schmitt at 574-232-6777 for information.
Prisoners, volunteers, teens invited to celebrate jubilee with pope

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — More than a dozen individual jubilee events will be scheduled for the Jubilee of Mercy in 2016, giving pilgrims the chance to celebrate their own holy year with Pope Francis in Rome.

The yearlong extraordinary jubilee will include a number of individual jubilee days, such as for consecrated men and women, deacons; priests; catechists; the sick and disabled; teenagers and prisoners. Young people will be able to celebrate their jubilee with the pope at World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland.

The Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization, which is organizing events for the Holy Year of Mercy, published a full calendar of events online at www.im.va.

Because the Holy Year is meant to be lived as a pilgrimage, people taking part are asked to prepare themselves with prayer and sacrifices, and make a portion of the journey on foot. Efforts also will be made to offer concrete signs of God’s love and mercy by offering tangible assistance to those in need, and bishops and priests around the world are asked to conduct “similar symbolic gestures of communion with Pope Francis” in their dioceses by reaching out to those on the margins.

The motto, “Merciful Like the Father,” is an invitation to follow the example of God, who asks people not to judge or condemn but to forgive and give love, the council said.

One way the pope wants to show the Church’s “maternal solicitude” is to send out “missionaries of mercy” — that is, specially selected priests who will preach and teach about God’s mercy. They will be given special authority, the pope said, “to pardon even those sins reserved to the Holy See.”

Some of the major events planned in Rome for the jubilee year:

- Opening of the Holy Door of the Basilica of St. Mary Major, Jan. 1, feast of Mary, the Holy Mother of God and World Day for Peace.
- Jubilee for those involved with guiding or organizing pilgrimages and religious tourism, Jan. 19-Jan. 21.
- Jubilee for Consecrated Life and the closing of the Year for Consecrated Life, Feb. 2, feast of the Presentation of the Lord.
- Sending forth the Missionaries of Mercy, St. Peter’s Basilica, Feb. 10, Ash Wednesday.
- Jubilee for the Roman Curia, Feb. 22, feast of the Chair of St. Peter.
- “24 Hours for the Lord” with a penitential liturgy in St. Peter’s Basilica, March 4.
- Jubilee for those who are devoted to the spirituality of Divine Mercy, April 3, Divine Mercy Sunday.
- Jubilee for teens aged 13 to 16 to profess the faith and construct a culture of mercy, April 24.
- Jubilee for deacons, May 27-29, the feast of the Body and Blood of Christ.
- Jubilee for priests, June 3, feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
- Jubilee for those who are ill and for persons with disabilities, June 12.
- Jubilee for youth, July 26-31, World Youth Day in Krakow, Poland.
- Jubilee for workers and volunteers of mercy, Sept. 4, the vigil of the Memorial of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.
- Jubilee for catechists, Sept. 25.
- Mass celebrated by Pope Francis in memory of the faithful departed, Nov. 1, feast of All Saints.
- Jubilee for prisoners, Nov. 6.
- Closing of the Holy Doors in the basilicas of Rome and in the dioceses of the world, Nov. 13.
- Closing of the Holy Door of St. Peter’s Basilica and the conclusion of the Jubilee of Mercy, Nov. 20, feast of Christ the King. The Jubilee of Mercy has an official website in seven languages at www.im.va; a Twitter handle @Jubilee_va; a Facebook page; and accounts on Instagram, Flickr and Google Plus.

The official prayer in English is at: http://www.im.va/content/gdm/en/preghiera.html. The prayer in Spanish is at: http://www.im.va/content/gdm/es/preghiera.html.

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