HAVANA (CNS) — As Cubans finally face the prospects of calmer relationships and greater ease of communication and commerce with the United States, Pope Francis told the Cuban people that love and service, not anyone’s ideology, are the keys to their happiness.

“We do not serve ideas, we serve people,” the pope told hundreds of thousands of people gathered in Havana’s Revolution Square for Mass Sept. 20.

For decades the square has been the site of major communist government rallies and is dominated by a huge image of Ernesto “Che” Guevara, an Argentine Marxist who became a leader in the Cuban Revolution of the 1950s.

The image of Che was prominent at the pope’s Mass, but so was a banner proclaiming Pope Francis a “missionary of mercy” and an even bigger image of the merciful Jesus.

After decades of communism, Mass attendance in Cuba is low; even the Vatican reports that only 60 percent of the population is baptized Catholic. But as a sign of the pope’s hopes for the growth of the Church in Cuba, he granted an exception to his normal practice of personally giving Communion only to the altar servers and other ministers at his public Masses. Five Cuban children received their first Communion from the pope at the Mass.

In his homily, Pope Francis focused on an aspect of...
Jesus’ ministry that he tries to imitate. First of all, identify the good in a person, then help or challenge him or her to build on that good instinct or behavior.

Using the normal Sunday Mass readings, the pope’s homily was a reflection on the Gospel passage from St. Mark, in which the disciples are arguing about who among them is the greatest, and Jesus asks what they were discussing.

“We, too, can be caught up in these same arguments. Who is the most important?” the pope said.

“I remember more than once, at family gatherings, children being asked: ‘Who do you love more, Mommy or Daddy?’” he said. “It’s like asking them: ‘Who is the most important for you?’

“In the lives of individuals and nations, he said, the question of who is most important can take on historic importance because it motivates action and choices. ‘The history of humanity has been marked by the answer we give to this question,” he said.”

“Jesus is not afraid of people’s questions; He is not afraid of our humanity or the different things we are looking for,” Pope Francis told the crowd, which had filled the square before the sun came up. “He knows the ‘twists and turns’ of the human heart, and, as a good teacher, He is always ready to encourage and support us.”

Jesus takes “our searching, our aspirations, and He gives them a new horizon” and challenges people, he said. Jesus sets aside the “right answers” and replaces them with the standard of love as the measure of all.

Love, he said, is lived in a concrete commitment to caring for others — especially the most vulnerable. It does not see superiority, or the best jobs, with the best benefits and it is not about helping just “my people” or “our people,” he said. Such an attitude always leads to judging and excluding some people as outsiders.

“Being a Christian entails promoting the dignity of our brothers and sisters, fighting for it, living for it,” he said.

Pope Francis said he knows the Cuban people and the Catholic Church in Cuba have suffered. Yet, he said, they still know how to celebrate, to praise God and to serve others.

The greatness of a people and a nation, he said, is how it serves the vulnerable.

Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino of Havana addressed the pope at the end of the Mass “in the name of the Cuban people, the Catholics and many other believers, as well as nonbelievers. Thank you for coming to visit our land, our beloved Cuba; thank you for sowing with your pontificate, good and necessary questions in our consciences, which had been sleeping and accustomed to mediocrity.”

He particularly thanked the pope “for promoting the process of renewing relations between Cuba and the United States, which will bring such benefit to our people.”

Normal, friendly and cooperative relations, the cardinal said, should reach not just the highest political levels in both countries, but also promote reconciliation between people in Cuba and Cubans who emigrated.

“Only love and forgiveness among us will be a valid means for a true and peaceful renewal of our Cuban nation,” the cardinal said.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

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CUBA

Pope Francis prays near the statue of Our Lady of Charity, patroness of Cuba, in the Minor Basilica of the Shrine of Our Lady of Charity in El Cobre, Cuba, Sept. 21.

Pope Francis gives Communion to a girl during Mass in Havana Sept. 20. Five Cuban children received their first Communion from the pope during the service in Havana’s Revolution Square.

People cheer as Pope Francis arrives to celebrate vespers with priests, religious and seminarians at the cathedral in Havana Sept. 20.
Amid refugee crisis, Church agencies on the ground and offering homes

By Patricia Zapor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The tens of thousands of would-be Syrian refugees who have flooded European countries this summer have prompted U.S. and international Catholic agencies to respond with both on-the-ground support and long-term preparations to host them in the United States.

Internationally, Catholic Relief Services and its affiliates such as Caritas Internationali are providing immediate assistance including food, water, sanitation, medical care and legal services.

At points where refugees are in transit or are arriving next steps, CRS offers “essential living supplies” that include sleeping bags and mats, hygiene materials, food and water.

Domestically, Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has been fielding offers from dioceses that are willing to take up Pope Francis on his call for parishes, religious houses and colleges to welcome refugees.

William Canny, director of MRS, told Catholic News Service that his office is helping a half dozen dioceses that have started but do not have refugee resettlement programs to launch them.

In an op-ed published by The New York Times Sept. 15, Canny joined calls for the United States to dramatically increase the number of refugees it admits, by accepting 100,000 Syrians in the next year.

Refugee Council USA, a coalition of religious and other nonprofit entities that work with refugees, in a Sept. 9 letter to President Barack Obama pleaded for the United States to dramatically increase the number of refugees it admits, by accepting 100,000 Syrians in the next year.

The letter said “the vast majority of European countries have the capacity to welcome and provide protection for the refugees who are now risking their lives to find safety in Europe. However, the United States must show solidarity with its close allies in Europe and resettle a small number of refugees from Europe.”

The letter said that could include families reuniting with their U.S. relatives, as well as unaccompanied refugee minors and refugees from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan who have close ties to the United States.

The letter acknowledged U.S. support to date — $4 billion in funding for the humanitarian crisis — but noted that only 37 percent of the United Nations’ appeal for the crisis has been funded and encouraged the U.S. to donate more and to urge greater contribution from other countries.

“It is abundantly clear that the Syrian crisis is nowhere close to ending, and even when it does, the needs of those displaced by the crisis will take years, if not generations, to resolve,” the letter said.

Canny’s op-ed said “a robust U.S. commitment to the resettlement of Syrian refugees would encourage other reluctant nations, especially those in Europe, to accept more and to keep their doors open until this horrific conflict can be ended.”

It also would show that the United States is not indifferent to human suffering and remains, as always, a beacon of hope to the world.”

Canny’s article noted that 4 million Syrians have fled their country in the five years of its civil war. Altogether, about half Syria’s population of 23 million before the war have been displaced from their homes. The World Population Review estimates about 5,000 people leave Syria daily.

The United States will admit close to 70,000 refugees agreed to by Congress for the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, Canny told CNS. Few of those are from Syria and most of them have been out of their homelands and their applications for resettlement have been “in the pipeline” for years.

Richard Hogan, associate director of Diocesan Development and Support for MRS, said refugees from the Middle East generally have the longest wait to be admitted to the United States, up to a couple of years. That long process is usually the result of requirements for enhanced security checks or difficulty in reaching refugee populations in host countries, he said.

A State Department fact sheet said less than 1 percent of refugees worldwide are ever resettled in a third country. Only someone who has left their home country for an intermediate nation typically can apply for refugee resettlement.

Hogan explained that the multi-step process begins at Refugee Services Centers around the world, funded by the State Department, where information is collected on potential refugees. The office of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services then interviews applicants to ensure they meet the criteria of fleeing persecution required for admission as refugees into the United States.

Several levels of security checks follow that.

Ultimately, people who are approved for admission receive cultural orientation classes and their information is forwarded to the Refugee Processing Center in Virginia, where the cases are allocated among nine resettlement agencies — including MRS — that are funded by the State Department to settle those people into new homes in the United States.

That’s the level at which individual parishes working with diocesan offices would become involved in accepting individual refugees.

Additional security checks occur at points of entry into the United States, Hogan said.

Canny said the half dozen dioceses that have asked to start resettlement programs would be receiving people not just from Syria, but from the broader population of worldwide refugees as well.

Hogan explained that the resettlement programs will attempt to put as many Syrians as possible into communities that already have Syrians living there. He said the largest populations of Syrians in the U.S. are in central New Jersey, parts of Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, California, Oregon and Texas.

Refugees are temporarily sheltered at Lauttasaari Parish of the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Church in Helsinki Sept. 14. Finland receives between 200-300 refugees per day from Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia and Albania.

Vatican welcomes its first family of refugees following pope’s appeal

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Embracing Pope Francis’ request to sponsor a refugee family, the Vatican’s St. Anne Parish has welcomed a family of four from Damascus, Syria.

In an appeal Sept. 6, the pope called on every parish, religious community, monastery and shrine in Europe to take in a family of refugees, given the ongoing crisis of people fleeing from war and poverty.

He said being Christian means giving a concrete sign of hope and God’s mercy to those in need.

The papal Almoner’s Office, which responds to individual requests for assistance and helps coordinate Pope Francis’ direct requests for assisting the homeless in Rome, announced Sept. 18 that a refugee family was being cared for by St. Anne’s Parish inside Vatican City.

The family — a mother, father and two children — belong to the Melkite Catholic Church, one of the Byzantine-rite churches in full union with Rome.

The family arrived in Italy Sept. 6, the day the pope made his appeal, the Vatican said; they have been offered a Vatican apartment near St. Peter’s Square, as requested by Pope Francis.

Their request for asylum had been filed with Italian authorities, the Vatican said, and in accordance with Italian law, family members are not allowed to seek employment for the next six months. St. Anne’s Parish was providing all needed assistance and had been a “safety net” for a few days.

The Vatican said St. Peter’s Basilica was still in the process of finalizing details for taking in a refugee family.

The Almoner’s Office said that for years it has made financial contributions to Jesuit Refugee Service’s Astalli Center in Rome to help cover the costs of permits that allow refugees to stay in Italy.

The office also provides funding and aid in the pope’s name for many refugees who receive services at a variety of other centers in Rome.

In addition, Pope Francis recently made available a mobile medical unit for refugees in Rome.

The mobile unit had been donated to the pope a few years ago, the Almoner’s Office said, and had been used only during papal events.

“Few days now,” the unit has been brought out “a few times a week to assist refugees” on the outskirts of Rome.

The mobile unit is staffed by volunteers, who are doctors, nurses, Swiss guards, Vatican City State employees, staff at a Rome university and members of an Italian association of volunteer medics, the office said.

Deacon appointment

The Most Rev. Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following appointment:

• Deacon Robert Byrne as Deacon of Queen of Peace Parish, Mishawaka, effective Oct. 5, 2015.
The Popcaks will also present a morning workshop titled, “Living the Catholic Difference in Marriage” and an afternoon session titled, “Engaging Families.”

A variety of speakers in both morning and afternoon sessions will offer personal enrichment and best practices for participants including Father Ben Muhlenkamp, pastor of St. Louis Besançon Parish in New Haven, who will speak on same-sex attraction and the call to love. Father Muhlenkamp hopes that his talk will edify his listeners in a world that teaches that physical intimacy is man’s greatest need.

“In my talk we will discuss how emotional and spiritual intimacy are the primary needs of each man and woman. And we will talk about the great necessity for brotherhood and sisterhood and Christ,” he says, adding, “Catholics need to understand that our attractions are not sinful in themselves. I am attracted to a dozen doughnuts. It is only gluttony if I eat all of them. I also want to share with them information about how our attractions don’t define our identity.”

Using stories and statistics Father Muhlenkamp hopes to clarify several misunderstood terms and offer encouraging tools that will help his listeners dialogue with friends and coworkers.

Father Muhlenkamp was ordained a priest of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in 2012 and serves as Catholic chaplain for St. Augustine’s Men’s Group, the post abortive healing ministry Divine Mercy Ministry, the Police Fellowship and Bishop Luers High School. He is also the Catholic representative for the ecumenical group Shepherd’s United that works to defend life and traditional marriage. James and Wendy Summers will also present an informative session titled “One Body, One Family: The Value of Diversity and Inclusion.”

They hope to expose their listeners to an “experience of being Catholic that they may never have been exposed to before.”

“Our Church is far more diverse and rich with experiences than many of us realize. And the richness of those many experiences make us better capable of interacting in a loving way with others,” they say, adding, “that by sharing our experiences as Black Catholics we will provide some new perspectives for others to pray about. And through that exposure and opportunity to talk, discuss, learn and share, when we each inhale with prayer we’ll be listening with fresh ears. Then when we exhale with our actions, they will be more loving, more inclusive, more seeking and more healing.”

The Summers have been married 40 years and have two children and three grandchildren. They currently reside in Granger and are members of St. Pius X Parish. Over the years they have been active in many different church ministries and are members of the Black Catholic Advisory Board in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Christina Nicholson, director of the Office of Catechesis and coordinator of ZEAL, notes, “It is our hope that through ZEAL the Holy Spirit will touch the minds and hearts of the faithful to fall more deeply in love with Christ and spread His love to all in response.”

In the words of John 2:17, we pray that, “Zeal for (our Father’s) house will consume” our diocese and we may become faithful disciples of the Word in our every day lives.”

She invites everyone, saying, “ZEAL Missionary Discipleship Summit is meant for everyone. We are all called to be disciples in some way, be it in a ministry of the Church, as a parent in the home, or an employee in the workforce. Each of our roles is important and necessary. I personally invite you to attend our first ZEAL and to delve deeper into your faith.”

ZEAL Missionary Discipleship Summit will be held from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Bishop Dwenger High School on Saturday, Oct. 10. The cost is $20 and participants must be preregistered and prepaid to attend. Register at www.zealsummit.com before Sept 28.
PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Rick and Bernadette Bowes and their children — Matthew, Riley and Gabrielle — got quite the surprise Sept. 13 at their parish church: They learned they’ll get to meet Pope Francis.

When he alights from his plane in Philadelphia Sept. 26, the family will be right there to officially greet him. Donna Crilley Farrell, executive director for the World Meeting of Families, announced the family had been chosen at the conclusion of the 10:30 a.m. Sunday Mass at St. Christopher Church in the Somerset section of the city. The instant applause of parishioners was clearly from the heart.

Rick and Bernadette and their children typify a solid Catholic family, and family is the focus of the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia. The international gathering was the initial impetus for the pope to visit the U.S. He will attend the closing events, including the celebration of Mass Sept. 26 on Philadelphia’s Benjamin Franklin Parkway.

Seven years ago Rick, who was a police officer with the Philadelphia Police Department’s highway patrol division, was seriously wounded by a felon who had just killed another officer. It was only recently that he was sufficiently healed to take a new position with the Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General.

Bernadette Bowes of Philadelphia reacts Sept. 13 to hearing that her family will greet Pope Francis upon his arrival in Philadelphia. The announcement was made after a morning Mass.

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — The pope and ‘the queen’ will lift souls at Festival of Families

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — When Pope Francis visits America, he’ll meet a president, governors, Catholic prelates and ordinary folks. He’ll also meet a queen. Aretha Franklin, the “queen of soul,” will belt out quintessentially American music at the Festival of Families the night of Sept. 26 on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway. She will lead a slate of entertainers offering the pope a glimpse of American pop culture, in all its artistic diversity.

The World Meeting of Families, taking place at the Pennsylvania Convention Center Sept. 22-25, announced Sept. 15 that Franklin and a host of other singers, dancers — even a comedian — will perform on two stages all day and into the evening Sept. 26, plus more entertainers preceding the Sept. 27 papal Mass on the parkway.

Hosting the Festival of Families as master of ceremonies will be Academy Award-nominated actor and film producer Mark Wahlberg, a Catholic and a native of Boston. Also headlining the slate of acts is the Denver-based, Grammy Award-winning rock band the Fray. “When we first envisioned the Festival of Families, we could have never anticipated such an extraordinary lineup of talent would be part of this once-in-a-lifetime event,” said Donna Crilley Farrell, executive director of the World Meeting of Families.

“We are deeply honored to have Mark Wahlberg serve as our host and we are thrilled to have the legendary Aretha Franklin and the immensely popular band, the Fray, join us in Philadelphia for Pope Francis’ visit.”

Franklin will perform with previously announced stars including Italian tenor Andrea Boccelli, Latin singer Juanes and the Philadelphia Orchestra, led by music director Yannick Nezet Seguin.

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — The director of the Office of Latino Ministry for the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis will have a key role in welcoming to the World Meeting of Families Spanish-speaking delegates from 14 regions around the U.S. and delegates from the 21 Latin American countries. Estela Villagran Manancero, who also is president of the National Catholic Association of Diocesan Directors for Hispanic Ministry, has been charged with leading pre-conference events for Latin American Catholics Sept. 21 in Philadelphia, ahead of the World Meeting of Families’ opening event Sept. 22.

More than 130 Catholic Latino leaders who work in family ministries are expected to attend the pre-conference events, called Primer Encuentro Hispano-Latino Americano de Familias, or First Encounter of Hispanic and Latin American Families.

The Latin American bishops’ council, known as CELAM, selected the delegates from each country, Manancero said.

“The main objective” of the Primer Encuentro “is to encourage dialogue on the challenges and opportunities Spanish-speaking families face today,” a Sept. 17 press release from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops stated. “It will also explore ministerial models and pastoral strategies that impact the quality of ministry with families in the U.S. and in Latin America” and collaboration in family ministry.

U.S. Latinos, Latin Americans to get special welcome to world meeting

Lourdes Silva, left, associate director of the Office of Hispanic Ministry, is shown with Alma Gonzáles from Our Lady of Hungary Parish, South Bend, and Juana Torres, wife of a candidate for the diaconate and member of Our Lady of Hungary Parish, South Bend and Enid Román, director of the office, as they prepare to travel to Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families.
Meeting in Jerusalem, European bishops call on nations to support migrants

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Leaders of the European bishops’ conferences expressed solidarity with people of the Middle East, especially those being forced from their homes, and called on European states to act generously, justly and respectfully toward the influx of migrants and refugees now reaching their shores. In a statement released Sept. 16, the last day of their meeting in Jerusalem, the bishops said they met in the Holy Land to “renew their rootedness in Christ. Looking at the joys, sufferings and challenges of the Church in the different countries, there emerged a picture of the great movement of peoples: asylum-seekers, refugees, migrants. The anguish knows no bounds,” the leaders said.

“The complexity of this exodus, with its inevitable differentiations, demands great attention from the individual states, whose situations are radically different,” they said, noting that the Church in Europe was acting with “great commitment” to collaborate with their states following Pope Francis’ appeal that every parish, religious community, monastery and sanctuary take in at least one refugee family. The bishops also called on the United Nations to “reach effective solutions” to stop the violence in the migrants’ countries of origin and work toward peace in each nation.

Bishop: St. Augustine’s history must be told against ‘backdrop’ of faith

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla. (CNS) — From dignitaries in horse-drawn carriages to everyday Catholics sharing the sign of peace on the basilica grounds under a Jumbobron, the celebration of four and a half centuries offered something for everyone. Even a lesson on how Archie Bunker could be viewed as a theologian. St. Augustine, along with its namesake city, celebrated 450 years of faith and community Sept. 8, with festivities that began where it all started — the grounds of Mission Nombre de Dios. Walking the footbridge toward the statue of Father Francisco Lopez de Mendoza y Grijalva, the chaplain of Spanish explorer Don Pedro Menendez de Aviles, the view of the 208-foot stainless steel “Great Cross” became illuminated by the early morning sun, as it does every morning. What set the morning of Sept. 8 apart were the hundreds of pilgrims who walked the bridge to gather at the water’s edge, and the spiritual leaders taking the short sojourn. Bishop Felipe J. Estevez of St. Augustine walked side-by-side with Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston. Pope Francis named the cardinal, a Capuchin Franciscan, to be his papal envoy to the celebration by directing attention to “our martyrs in Iraq and Syria, our martyrs of today,” revealing that he now keeps on him a small cross that a priest held in his hand while he was being murdered for his faith. “A few days ago in (St. Peter’s) Square, a priest came up to me and gave me a small cross. It was the cross being held by the priest who was beheaded for not renouncing Jesus Christ,” he said. The papal press office had no information about the priest mentioned by the pope. About 5,000 people, including four bishops, packed the Paul VI hall for the hourly papal audience; they were taking part in the World Meeting for Young Consecrated Men and Women Sept. 15-19.

DENTAL SERVICES PROVIDED AT SPANISH CATHOLIC CENTER

Dental services are provided to a client Sept. 16 at the Spanish Catholic Center, a program of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington. During his visit to the U.S., Pope Francis will highlight the work of the charities, which help more than 100,000 clients annually with services including food distribution, medical and dental care, and legal assistance.

Catholics offer ‘dialogue,’ ‘connecting point’ during Festival of Faiths

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — As members of the St. Rita Parish Gospel Choir lifted their voices in song, the crowd lifted their hands clapping in appreciation. They were hands of not just Catholics, but also Buddhists, Sikhs, Jews, Muslims and more. The religious mix took place outdoors at the recent Festival of Faiths at Veterans Memorial Plaza in downtown Indianapolis. It was the third year for the event, sponsored by the Center for Interfaith Cooperation, a multi-religion member organization that promotes peace through understanding and cooperation among those of different faith traditions. “The organization is really there to provide an opportunity for people to have a greater understanding of one another,” explained Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference and a member of St. Mary Parish in Greensburg. “You do that a lot of times through joint effort.” The interfaith center “allows for the opportunity to come together and do that,” he told The Criterion, Indianapolis’ archdiocesan newspaper. “This festival is just an expression of that (coming together).” Interaction was encouraged at the four-hour festival, which included 80 tents representing different religions, churches, organizations and societies, as well as food, merchandise vendors and a performance stage.

Pope: It’s disgraceful people forced onto streets in ‘civilized’ cities

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — It’s a disgrace that children live on the streets and young girls and women forced into prostitution, especially in societies that claim to be highly developed and cultured, Pope Francis said. “Every child abandoned or forced to live on the streets, at the mercy of criminal organizations, is a cry rising up to God,” he said. It is a cry of accusation “against a social system that we have criticized for decades but that we struggle to change,” he said in an audience Sept. 17 to participants of an international symposium on the pastoral care of people on the street. The Sept. 13-17 symposium was sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers. “It is troubling to see the increasing number of young girls and women forced to earn a living on the street by selling their own bodies, victims of exploitation by criminal organizations and at times by parents and family members,” he said. Such a situation “is a disgrace in our societies, which boast of being modern and having achieved high levels of culture and development,” he added.

College presidents back pope’s leadership on climate change

WASHINGTON (CNS) — About 100 U.S. Catholic college presidents have signed a document supporting Pope Francis for his leadership on climate change efforts and committing their institutions to “study, promote and act on the ideals and vision of integral ecology laid out by Pope Francis,” the document thanks the pope for his “strong and courageous leadership in addressing the interconnected crises and ways of life” that are threatening the earth. “His leadership inspires our own,” it adds. The call “calls upon every person on the planet, the whole human community, to take up this urgent set of challenges, recognizing the profound religious and moral imperatives they present,” the statement says. Pope Francis “stated forcefully and clearly that facing these challenges will require profound changes in lifestyles, myths and mental paradigms, models of production and consumption, cultural assumptions and values, and the consolidated social and political structures that govern society today,” it says.

Lincoln Diocese to take part in USCissy clergy sex abuse audit

LINCOLN, Neb. (CNS) — The Diocese of Lincoln will again take part in the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ clergy sexual abuse audit. It will be the first time since the first audit in 2003 that the diocese is undergoing the audit. The announcement was made by Bishop James D. Conley of Lincoln in his column in the Sept. 10 issue of the Southern Nebraska Register, Lincoln’s diocesan newspaper. “The audit is a voluntary process. It involves review of diocesan policies, and review of the extent to which we follow our policies. It does not involve review of our priests’ personal information, or of the personal and private information of diocesan employees or parishioners. It is designed to be a tool,” Bishop Conley said. He said his decision is for the 2016 audit alone. “After that time, I will consult with our priests and local lay experts again, in order to determine whether or not we should continue,” he said. Bishop Conley became bishop of Lincoln in 2012. He succeeded Bishop Edward W. Bruskewitz, who after 2003 opted not to have the diocese participate in the audit, saying it is “only an advisory document and not a law of the Catholic Church.”

Pope says he is ‘a bit feminist,’ thanks women religious for hard work

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Calling himself “a bit feminist,” Pope Francis praised women religious for always heading to the “front lines” to bring the Church’s tenderness and motherly love to those most in need. “I am not a feminist,” the pontiff “calls upon every person on the planet, the whole human community, to take up this urgent set of challenges, recognizing the profound religious and moral imperatives they present,” the statement says. Pope Francis “stated forcefully and clearly that facing these challenges will require profound changes in lifestyles, myths and mental paradigms, models of production and consumption, cultural assumptions and values, and the consolidated social and political structures that govern society today,” it says.

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News Briefs

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ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL COLLECTS 1 MILLION POP TABS

Following years of collecting pop tabs in a 3x7 foot container in the school auditorium, the students at St. Joseph School in Decatur celebrated the reaching the 1 million-count mark in May. The tabs were cashed in for nearly $4,000, which was donated to the Fort Wayne Ronald McDonald House, earning the school a plaque and membership in the "Collect-A-Million" Club. Participating students shown are, front row, from left, Adrien Girard, Kathryn Summers and Mason Vogelvede; middle row, Matthew Smitley, Lainy McGintire, Isabelle Lengerich, Karla Hormann, former principal of St. Joseph School, Isaac Ruble, Jamison Rumple and Zeb Friedt.

help provide care for the Michiana community.

The $3.4 million was the most distributed by the foundation during a 12-month period, excluding the Mishawaka Medical Center capital building distribution. The foundation is the philanthropic arm of Saint Joseph Health System.

"It would not be possible for Saint Joseph Health System to fulfill its mission, both within the walls of the hospitals and through our many outreach programs, without the support of our community," said Ann Rathburn-Lacopo, chief development officer, Saint Joseph Health System. "Gifts of time, talent and money from individuals, businesses and grant-making foundations make it possible for us to improve the health of those we serve."

Monies distributed supported several programs, including the following:

- Providing health, dental and vision care for patients with no insurance at the Sister Maura Brannick, CSC, Health Center. The center has been seeing patients for 29 years thanks to the generosity of donors and volunteers.
- Delivering affordable patient care and prescription drugs for patients at the Saint Joseph Health Center in Plymouth. The center provides care for uninsured and insured patients who meet eligibility requirements.
- Building Our Lady of the Rosary Health Center. Our Lady of the Rosary, located on Chapin Street, serves patients who live on the west side of South Bend and who have health insurance for the first time.
- Providing mammograms and diagnostic cancer screenings for uninsured women.
- Supported the Mishawaka Medical Center NICU and Family Birthplace by providing infusion pumps, neo-blue blankets for newborns, and specialized nurse and physician training.

Members of the community can support The Foundation of SJHS by volunteering, donating or making a planned gift. For more information, visit sjmed.com/ways-to-give.

Secret Sisters Society Luncheon and Style Show to be held Oct. 14

MISHAWAKA — The Women’s Task Force of Saint Joseph Health System will host its 14th annual Secret Sisters Society luncheon and style show from 12:15 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 14, at the Century Center in downtown South Bend.

The luncheon and style show is an annual event that raises funds to help underserved women, ages 40-49, receive life-saving mammograms or cervical cancer screenings. In the past decade, money raised by the Secret Sisters Society has provided assistance to more than 4,000 women.

Celebrating survivorship, the event provides education regarding the importance of early detection.

The luncheon and style show is open to the public, but seating is limited. Individual reservations are $35. Patron tables and sponsorship opportunities are still available. With a donation of $50 or more, individuals may become members of the Secret Sisters Society and help underserved women gain access to mammograms or cervical cancer screenings. Donations are being accepted for those unable to attend.

For more information or to register, call 812-353-2952 or email jfrost@spsmw.org.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton students build rockets

FORT WAYNE — This fall, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School middle school students were meeting after school to learn STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) concepts through the Starbase 2.0 program, a school program from the 122nd Fighter Wing Indiana Air National Guard.

On Sept. 15, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School middle school students met to build and launch bottle rockets with components they were given.

For more information or to register, call 812-353-2952 or email jfrost@spsmw.org.

Correction

In the campus ministry article appearing in the Sept. 20 issue of Today’s Catholic, Father Matthew Whelan should have been listed as chaplain at Indiana University-Purdue University in Fort Wayne (IPFW).
African Schools for the Poor Get Important Boost From Cross Catholic Outreach Scholarships

Cross Catholic Outreach’s scholarship program for the poor (see story on opposite page) is having a major impact halfway around the globe in the African nation of Kenya, and the ministry’s president, Jim Cavnar, feels the timing couldn’t be better given recent calls to action by our Holy Father.

“This is a significant story in light of Pope Francis’ focus on helping the poor and the excitement building around the Jubilee Year of Mercy,” explained Jim Cavnar, president of Cross Catholic Outreach. “Our plan is to help American Catholics establish inexpensive scholarships to lift up the neediest children in Kenya. Those who sponsor one today will be helping educate a desperately poor child during the 2015-16 school year — a perfect tribute to the Jubilee Year of Mercy.”

Even the name of the program is fitting — those who contribute fund a Sacred Mercy School Scholarship!

In addition to helping hundreds of young children gain a primary education, Cross Catholic’s efforts will have an important second benefit. It will encourage and empower the priests and nuns behind two of Kenya’s most exciting outreaches — the Brother Beausang Catholic School and St. Andrew Nkaimurunya School. “The priests and nuns who established these Catholic schools have made tremendous personal sacrifices to extend Christ’s love in the communities they serve. When American Catholics step forward and fund a $110 scholarship to their schools, it will be incredibly encouraging to them. It will show them that we American Catholics are grateful for their work and want to help them in their noble cause of educating the poorest of the poor.”

Why is the Sacred Mercy School Scholarship so important? The answer is simple. Without this support, children would simply go unschooled. Families earning only a few dollars a week simply can’t afford to send a child to school. “Those who establish a scholarship are helping put a child in school for a full year and the daily classroom experience also includes a meal — sometimes the only meal that child eats all day,” Cavnar said. “And what is the alternative? Leaving a child illiterate and without hope? Is that really an option? I doubt Pope Francis would see it that way.”

Some will ask if there is a way to support the goal without funding a full $110 scholarship for a school year. The answer from Cavnar was “yes!”

“Every gift, large or small, will make a difference,” Cavnar said. “As a newspaper reader responding to this need, you can have a profound impact on the poor with any and every gift you make toward this cause.”

Proceeds from this campaign will be used to cover any expenditures for this project incurred during the school year. In the event that more funds are raised than needed to fully fund the project, the excess funds, if any, will be used to meet Cross Catholic Outreach’s most urgent needs.

To support the Cross Catholic Outreach scholarship program for the poor, use the ministry brochure enclosed in this issue of the paper or mail your donation to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01165, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168. Please write “SCHOLARSHIP” in the comment line of the brochure to ensure your gift is routed to the proper fund.

Cross Catholic Outreach Website Highlights Ministry’s Key Strengths

Visit the website of Cross Catholic Outreach (www.CrossCatholic.org) and you’ll notice the charity’s three indisputable strengths — its cost-effectiveness, its impressive Catholic leadership and its impact on the poor. The ministry is hitting high marks both overseas and here in the U.S.

“Donors often notice our outstanding ratio of effectiveness — the fact that nearly 95 percent of donations are used for program services and so little of our expenses are allocated to fundraising and administration,” explained Cross Catholic Outreach’s president, Jim Cavnar. “The second thing they look for is integrity in our leadership, and they find that in the bishops and archbishops who serve on our board of directors. It shows we aren’t just a charity fundraising from Catholics. We are a Catholic outreach. We promote Catholic teachings and values through our work.”

This fact has been noticed by Catholic bishops and archbishops in the U.S., and they have endorsed the charity as a result. As of this moment, Cross Catholic Outreach has the endorsement of some 70 U.S. dioceses and the list has been growing steadily through the years.

“Through the years, we have provided food and safe water, constructed homes for the homeless and supported many schools and medical outreaches, doing virtually all of that work through the Catholic parishes and ministries already working in the trenches overseas,” explained Cavnar. “We have embraced Pope Francis’ call to action!”

Pope Francis recently met with Cross Catholic Outreach’s president, Jim Cavnar.
U.S. Catholics Having Huge Impact On Illiteracy, Poverty By Sponsoring “Cross” Scholarships

American Catholics were offered a unique way to help the poorest of the poor when Cross Catholic Outreach launched a new scholarship program to help needy kids in developing countries. At a cost of just $110 for a full year of schooling, the scholarships have been a tremendous blessing for both participating sponsors and the poor children being served.

“Cross Catholic Outreach established its Sacred Mercy School Scholarship program to fight illiteracy and poverty in Africa and it has been so successful, we plan to extend the opportunity to Catholic schools in Latin America and the Caribbean region too. The program was launched to help uneducated children ages 4 to 12, and each scholarship a donor sponsors helps us fund a life-changing education for a boy or girl at a cost of just $110 for the full school year,” explained Jim Cavnar, the Catholic ministry’s president.

Many Americans are familiar with the premise of establishing a college scholarship, and this program offers a similar opportunity — even to the point of setting up the scholarship in your family’s name. Mr. and Mrs. Jones can create the Jones Family Scholarship, for example, or Dr. Smith can establish the Mary Smith Scholarship in memory of his mother. Each scholarship can be for a single school year or renewed annually to keep the gift going as part of a family legacy to benefit the poor.

“Launching a scholarship will have a life-changing impact on a child in need,” Cavnar explained. “It’s a priceless gift you are giving. An education brings opportunities, new hope and self-dignity. You can’t buy those things off a shelf, but they can be accomplished through this outreach.”

Of course, Cross has also had great success with the primary goal of the scholarship — to give children a solid education in reading, writing, math and other basics. Most Catholic missionaries agree that this kind of training is essential for poor families in developing countries to break from their cycle of poverty.

“Illiteracy often plagues a family generation after generation,” Cavnar said, “but an education can turn that trend completely around. Rescue a child and you can initiate a blessed cycle of prosperity for a family that will continue for many generations to come.”

Since the program specifically places children in quality schools that emphasize Catholic formation in the classroom, Cross Catholic Outreach’s scholarship program also supports the important goals of The New Evangelization and integral ministry — the goal of helping the poor both materially and spiritually.

“In establishing this scholarship program, we started by choosing quality institutions that could qualify as Cross-accredited Catholic Schools,” Cavnar said. “These schools are also monitored to ensure they continue to meet our standards. We insist each school has a strong Catholic identity, hires a capable staff of teachers, includes spiritual teachings within the curriculum and provides students with a broad, practical education. It’s important that our scholarship students end up with a solid education and greater opportunities in their communities.

In 2015, Cross Catholic Outreach has set a goal of educating 5,000 needy youngsters who are currently “on the outside, looking in” — and some children are literally in that position.

“When you travel to places like Haiti, Kenya, Zambia or the Philippines, you see how hungry the poor are for hope,” Cavnar said. “In some of the countries where we serve, children pass by outside schools and watch longingly as others enter. They’re fearful they’ll forever be left outside the educational system. These kids are illiterate, but they’re wise enough to know an education provides new opportunities and a way out of the slums, and they pray the school door will someday open for them.”

According to Cavnar, this will only happen if poor families get help from their Catholic brothers and sisters in America. Most parents in the slums are too poor to afford even the few, meager meals, much less the expenses needed for their children to attend school.

The new Cross Catholic Scholarship Outreach meets this need. It serves as a “golden ticket” — opening the door to a quality education. Amazing, considering the scholarships can be provided for just $110 per year. And, despite the low cost, the quality of the education is high.

Some potential benefactors are likely to be surprised at the low cost of establishing a scholarship. Most of us are only familiar with U.S. college scholarships, which are typically valued in the thousands of dollars. The difference, Cavnar admits, is startling.

But, he adds, it also makes the program affordable to virtually everyone who wants to help the poor.

“Who among us can deny the value and impact of this program? The Catholic schools overseas are extremely efficient. The teachers who work there are also sacrificing. Many work for a few dollars a day in order to ensure these children get an education. When a donor contributes his or her portion by funding a scholarship, amazing things are being accomplished,” he said. “So my hope is that many will step forward to sponsor one scholarship or more. If just a few dozen of this newspaper’s readers make that decision, the impact will be profound. It will turn lives around.”

This optimistic view of Catholic charity favors everything Cross Catholic Outreach does. Catholic priests and nuns working “in the trenches” have been empowered by Cross Catholic Outreach and its U.S. benefactors to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, provide safe water to the thirsty, house the homeless, protect the orphaned and — as this case demonstrates — educate the poor.

How to Help:
To fund a Cross Catholic Outreach scholarship for the poor, use the postage-paid brochure inserted in this newspaper or mail your gift to Cross Catholic Outreach, Dept. AC01165, PO Box 97168, Washington DC 20090-7168. Write “SCHOLARSHIP” in the comment line of the brochure to ensure your gift is routed properly.
Chief Justice Loretta Rush to speak at Red Mass dinner

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Chief Justice Loretta H. Rush was appointed by Gov. Mitch Daniels to the Indiana Supreme Court in 2012. She is the 108th justice. The St. Thomas More Society has invited Chief Justice Rush to be the speaker at a dinner following the Red Mass.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate the Oct. 6 Red Mass, which gets its name from the red vestments of the celebrant. The vestments represent the tongues of fire of the Holy Spirit, and from the brilliant scarlet robes worn by the Lord High Justices of the Middle Ages.

The Mass is celebrated to invoke divine guidance and strength during the coming term of court, and is celebrated in honor of the Holy Spirit as the source of wisdom, understanding, counsel and fortitude; these gifts of the spirit being essential in the dispensation of justice in the courtroom, as well as in the individual lawyer’s or civil servant’s office.

Justice Rush will discuss why humility is the beginning of true justice.

She told Today’s Catholic, “When we recognize that we are imperfect at administering justice, we are implicitly acknowledging that there is such a thing as justice — that it’s real, that we didn’t create it. And that it’s something that’s judging us, instead of the other way around.”

“Ultimately, our fair and open courts are about one thing: Justice,’ Chief Justice Rush added. “As I said in this year’s State of the Judiciary, our courts exist to fulfill the constitutional promise of justice. We are more than referees of the business of the community, or the tie-breakers in family feuds. But how can we fulfill that promise of justice?”

Serving on the Indiana Supreme Court, Justice Rush said, “I look forward to a time when a woman on the bench is unremarkable. Justice Myra Selby was the first woman to serve on the Indiana Supreme Court; I am proud to follow in her footsteps. I am also deeply grateful for my four colleagues who have tremendous wisdom — I am proud of our collective work.”

As the Chief Justice, Rush is responsible for supervising the entire judicial branch. In addition to these administrative duties and working on cases and writing opinions, she currently serves on the Commission on Improving the Status of Children in Indiana and the Indiana Conference for Legal Opportunity Advisory Committee. She also chairs the Judicial Nominating Qualifications Commission.

Justice Rush also has special interest in family matters. “As a lawyer I did pro bono work for children and families and saw the need first hand,” she said. “As a juvenile court judge I spent countless hours seeing the harm done to children that are in desperate need of both hope and protection. Still, along with others I realized we can make a difference.”

The Red Mass

A time for prayer and reflection on the meaning of responsible leadership and justice.

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The wife of Deacon James Rush, who is assigned to St. Lawrence Church, Lafayette, Justice Rush, like most wives of deacons, finds importance with her involvement in school and parish life. “Our children attended Catholic school and I enjoyed volunteering at the school,” Chief Justice Rush said. “I also have served as a Eucharistic minister and taught Sunday school. So my interaction with my Church community preceded my husband’s calling. I did attend religious education set Omaha and served during my husband’s preparation to be ordained a deacon.”

The deacon will assist at the 5:30 p.m. Red Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

Justice Rush said her Catholic faith helps to shape her career.

“There are many valuable teachings regarding wisdom, humility and justice that come from the Church,” she said. “Without humility — we cannot have justice.”

Born in 1958 in Pennsylvania, Rush moved frequently as a child before settling in Lafayette for her adult life. She earned her undergraduate degree from Purdue University and graduated cum laude from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law in Bloomington. She now serves as a member of the law school’s Board of Visitors.

Prior to her appointment to the Indiana Supreme Court, Justice Rush served as Tippecanoe Superior Court 3 judge for 14 years. The court focuses on CHINS, criminal and status offenses of juvenile cases, guardianships, delinquencies and protective order hearings. She assisted with the creation of the Tippecanoe County Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program.

Prior to being elected judge, she spent 15 years in general practice as an associate and then partner at a Lafayette firm. Her practice consisted of civil litigation, family law, business, personal injury, corporate, probate and workers compensation cases.

Rush has served as the chair of the Indiana Juvenile Justice Improvement Committee, which involves statutory and regulatory efforts to bring better and standardized child welfare practice to Indiana. She was chair of the Indiana Court Improvement Program Executive Committee and Child Welfare Improvement Committee, and served on the Indian Supreme Court Judicial Technology and Automation Committee, and was president of the Indiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. She also serves on the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and was appointed to the National Juvenile Justice Leadership Summit on the Protection of Children.

Justice Rush has served on the YWCA and Tippecanoe County Community Corrections boards. She is a member of the Indiana, Lafayette, and American Bar Associations. In 2003 she was honored to receive the Kinsey Award for Juvenile Judge of the Year and in 2011 was presented with the Fiscal Responsibility Award by the Tippecanoe County Council and Commissioners.

She and her husband have four children.
The tradition of the Red Mass

The Red Mass is an ancient custom dating back to the 13th century, when the solemn votive Mass began being celebrated annually at the opening of the judicial year. From the earliest of times, the Mass has been attended by the judiciary, attorneys at law, law professors, high-ranking government officials, distinguished guests and others who work in the legal arena.

The Mass was intended to gather those from the legal profession for the purpose of seeking divine guidance and strength for the coming terms of court.

The Red Mass is celebrated in honor of the Holy Spirit, from whom flows the wisdom, understanding, counsel, patience, energy and courage necessary for the administration of justice. Those who work in the legal profession prayerfully seek these virtues, which are essential to the courtroom, law practice and public post.

Originating in the great cities of Europe, the Red Mass tradition continues in Westminster Cathedral in London, and in other preeminent cathedrals of Paris, Rome and other European capitals. The Red Mass came to America in October of 1928, where it was first celebrated in New York’s Old St. Andrew’s Church, located in the shadow of the towering state and federal courthouses.

The tradition is celebrated annually in Washington, D.C., at the start of the Supreme Court term, where the justices are joined by members of the bar, president, members of Congress, law faculty, diplomats and other such officials. The Red Mass has further spread throughout the United States, to venues such as Chicago, Boston, San Francisco, Indianapolis and New Orleans, to name a few.

The venerable custom derives its name from the red vestments of the celebrant, representing the tongues of fire of the Holy Spirit, and from the brilliant scarlet robes worn by the Lord High Justices of the Middle Ages. The Mass is attended by those of Protestant, Jewish, Catholic and all religious beliefs who work in the legal arena, as they come together for this annual public celebration of faith and the law.

Invoking the ancient tradition, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has invited those who strive for the cause of justice to the Fort Wayne area Red Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Tuesday, Oct. 6, at 5:30 p.m.
Local musician Robert Hobby composes for papal visit to U.S.

FORT WAYNE — Robert A. Hobby, director of music at Trinity English Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, has been asked to compose two pieces of music for Pope Francis’ visit to the United States.

“It’s a once-in-a-lifetime experience,” Hobby said. “It would be exciting to write for any papal visit, but it’s even more exciting to write for Pope Francis, who brings great compassion to Christianity and challenges us all to show greater compassion.”

Hobby, 52, is composing these pieces for Pope Francis’ visit: Scoring an accompaniment for organ and orchestra for “Tu Es Petrus,” by French composer Charles Marie Widor, originally scored for choir and two organs, which will be a part of the prayer service at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York, on Sept. 24; and composing an arrangement for congregation, choir and orchestra for the hymn, “Alleluia, Sing to Jesus,” for the papal Mass at Madison Square Gardens on Sept. 25.

The path to composing for the pope began earlier this year when Jennifer Pascual, director of music at St. Patrick’s Cathedral, contacted Mark Lawson, president of MorningStar Music/ECS Publishing, St. Louis, Missouri, seeking orchestral settings for the two pieces. When she learned there were no such arrangements, Lawson suggested a few sacred music composers, including Hobby, some of whose works are published by MorningStar. When Lawson shared the opportunity with Hobby, he jumped at the chance.

As a composer, Hobby has more than 250 compositions published by various publishing houses, including two major works: The Good Shepherd, scored for tenor solo, adult and children’s choirs and orchestra, and the 13-movement choral/instrumental Christmas work, Holy Light.

His compositions have been featured on national television and syndicated radio shows and have been performed at numerous national venues, including the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C., and the national convention of the American Guild of Organists in Los Angeles, among others.

Hobby began playing piano in the second grade; by fourth grade he was playing the organ at Grace Lutheran Church, Columbia City, where his father Clark Hobby, served as pastor. Hobby received his bachelor’s in church music from Wittenberg University and his master’s in music (organ performance) from the University of Notre Dame. He was awarded an honorary doctorate in music from Wittenberg University. In 2008, a music student at Ball State University created an annotated bibliography of Hobby’s choral works for the student’s doctoral thesis in choral conducting. He and his wife, Jennifer, have three daughters.

Ronnie Archuletta receives artistic honors

FORT WAYNE — The recognition keeps coming for Bishop Luer High School’s senior Ronnie Archuletta as he receives multiple honors for his self-portrait titled, “Stand Out.” His mixed media drawing won a regional Scholastic Gold Key followed by a national award in May 2015. Archuletta and his teacher, Kristen Billingsley, were invited to attend the awards ceremony held at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

Archuletta was granted an Alliance Summer Arts Program (ASAP) Award to attend the Cranbrook Summer Art Institute at Cranbrook Art Academy where he studied product design. He met students from Puerto Rico, Nigeria, China and other parts of the world and the U.S. The two-week program included a visit to the Academy archives, the Detroit Museum of Art and a relaxing trip to Lake Michigan. Archuletta enjoys having friends around the world.

Most recently Archuletta learned his work has earned a coveted spot in the ART.WRIT.E NOW.DC EXHIBITION, which consists of 30 student artworks (selected out of tens of thousands nationally) that will tour around the country beginning at the Lynden Baines Johnson Department of Education Building in Washington, D.C.

Archuletta and his teacher, along with the other select students and educators, have been invited to the Sept. 25 ribbon-cutting ceremony. The day’s activities will include student and educator workshops and special docent-led museum tours in the afternoon.

Archuletta hopes to attend Purdue University to earn his bachelor and master’s degrees in architecture. The Scholastic Art and Writing is the most prestigious recognition and scholarship program for creative teens with tens of thousands of students submitting original work each year. The Northeast Indiana and Northwest Ohio Region is the fourth most competitive region in the country with over 4,400 entries for art and writing this year.

BISHOP DEDICATES ALTAR AT NOTRE DAME CHAPEL

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades incenses the new altar during the Mass of Dedication in the renovated St. Francis of Assisi Chapel in Breen-Phillips Hall at the University of Notre Dame on Sept. 7.
University of Saint Francis announces anniversary, conference and feast day activities

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis will continue the celebration of its 125th anniversary with a special Mass for the solemnity of St. Francis of Assisi on Sunday, Oct. 4, at 2 p.m. in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1122 S. Clinton St. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will be the principal celebrant. Concelebrants will be Father David Meinzen, university chaplain, and other clergy who are friends of the university.

The public is cordially invited to attend the Mass and celebrate with the USF community; reservations are not required.

St. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of the University of Saint Francis, and as such, the Catholic Church permits his solemnity to be celebrated in place of the usual Sunday liturgy. Catholics who attend this Mass will satisfy their Sunday obligation.

The USF community is also invited to a reception starting at 3:30 p.m. at the USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center, 431 W. Berry St. Light refreshments will be served, and memories of the university’s first 125 years will be shared.

There is no charge to attend the reception, but reservations are requested at www.125massandreception.sf.edu.

For more information about USF anniversary events, visit www.sf.edu/125-anniversary.

Conference planned to examine pope’s encyclical

The University of Saint Francis, in cooperation with Our Sunday Scopus and in cooperation with Our Sunday Scopus and the Tocqueville Program for Inquiry into Religion and Public Life will host a one-day conference about Pope Francis’s recent encyclical, “Sharing the Gospel of Creation: Integral Ecology and Catholic Theology in Pope Francis’ Laudato Si’.” The conference will be held in the USF North Campus, 2702 Spring St., from 12:30-5 p.m. on Oct. 3. Four plenary speakers will address the pope’s encyclical:

• John Carr, director of the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life, Georgetown University — “Pope Francis’ Faithful Call to Care for Creation and the Poor”
• Dr. J. Matthew Ashley, chair, Department of Theology, University of Notre Dame — “Science, Faith and Ethics: Climate Science, the Precautionary Principle, and Catholic Teachings on the Environment in Laudato Si’”
• Dr. Maryanne Cusimano Love, associate professor of International Relations, The Catholic University of America — “The Pope, Poverty, the Planet and Policy”
• Dr. Adam DeVille, chair, Department of Philosophy and Theology, USF — “Ecumenical Ecology: Pope Francis, Patriarch Bartholomew and Caring for Creation.”

Each speaker will present a lecture and participate in a panel discussion at the end of the event. A networking break during the conference will provide attendees a chance to gather and discuss as light refreshments are served. This conference is free and open to the public but attendees are asked to register in advance. Visit www.sf.edu/laudato-si.

For more information, call Sister Noreen Ellison, S.C., a member of Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati, for the past five years has served as formation director for the Secular Discalced Carmelite Order. She has inspired many by her love for Jesus and has helped others have a deeper relationship with the Lord.

Mary Harris, a retired teacher who for the past five years has served as formation director for the Secular Discalced Carmelite Order. She has inspired many by her love for Jesus and has helped others have a deeper relationship with the Lord.

Contact Information: (248) 541-4122 ext 455   No tickets - Free-will offering

Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne 2015 FOOTBALL RAFFLE

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Sr. Noreen Ellison, S.C., a member of Sisters of Charity of Cincinnati since 1957. Sister Noreen has touched hundreds of lives with Christ’s love and is an inspiration to many.

Mary Harris, a retired teacher who for the past five years has served as formation director for the Secular Discalced Carmelite Order. She has inspired many by her love for Jesus and has helped others have a deeper relationship with the Lord.

Ryan T. Anderson, Ph.D., researches and writes about marriage and religious liberty. He also focuses on justice and moral principles in economic thought, healthcare and education, and has expertise in bioethics and natural law theory.


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WILLIAM E. SIMON SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOW IN AMERICAN PRINCIPLES AND PUBLIC POLICY AT THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Ryan T. Anderson, William E. Simon Senior Research Fellow in American Principles and Public Policy at the Heritage Foundation

Visit TodaysCatholicNews.org
Peace is always possible
Community of Sant’Egidio meets for dialogue and prayer

BY ALLISON CIRAULO

NOTRE DAME — Students, scholars and members of the community gathered from Sept. 6-13 at the University of Notre Dame for the fifth annual American Meeting for Peace organized by the Community of Sant’Egidio. The conference, titled “Peace is Always Possible,” was co-sponsored by Notre Dame and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend’s Office of Ecumenism.

This meeting for dialogue and prayer coincided with the International Meeting for Peace, which the Community of Sant’Egidio has convened in cities around the world since 1986, when it began in Assisi during the papacy of Pope St. John Paul II. This year it was held in Tirana, Albania.

The goal of the meeting, according to Paola Piscitelli, president of the Community of Sant’Egidio USA, is “to spread the ‘spirit of Assisi’ to as many people as possible.” The “spirit” refers to the guiding principle of the community: to work for peace by means of prayer and friendship with those at the margins of society. A group of high school students in Rome started the community in 1968 and it now has more than 60,000 members in countries around the world.

The 2015 American Meeting for Peace featured an interfaith dialogue panel discussion moderated by Professor Daniel Philpott, titled “Reflections from Proven Peacemakers,” held Sept. 9.

Archbishop John Baptist Odama of Gulu, Uganda, presided over an ecumenical prayer service for peace for all nations at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame on Sept. 10. Students, members of the community and local religious leaders attended the prayer, which was a part of the fifth annual American Meeting for Peace organized by the Community of Sant’Egidio USA and co-sponsored by the University of Notre Dame and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend’s Office of Ecumenism.

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At the conclusion of the event, the main speakers headed to the University of Notre Dame for a panel discussion and interfaith reconciliation service sponsored by the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies and the Community of Sant’Egidio. Other participants headed home interconnected and energized by hope.

Christian Peacemaker Initiative (CPI) was founded by former South Bend Mayor Steve Luke, Sharon Kniss, Peter Marentette, Karen Zuehlke and Bryan Finkelstein, director of music at St. Anthony de Padua Parish, South Bend.

The retreat was sponsored by B.O.S.C.O. (Battery Operated Systems for Community Outreach), a project that brought the Internet to refugee camps in northern Uganda and is now promoting human dignity by helping create modern infrastructure in the African countryside.

Zoe Zuehlke, lay pastoral associate at St. Bavo Parish, Mishawaka, invited about 30 individuals — civic and religious leaders from Ferguson, Missouri, Baltimore, Maryland, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, and South Bend, all of different ages, races, and backgrounds — to his favorite Wisconsin retreat spot, the Shrine of Our Lady of Good Help, to focus on “Healing America’s Wounds: A Moral Vision of Reconciliation.” They gathered for two intense days, Sept. 7-8, in what one participant called the most engaged, inspiring, intelligent, honest and nurturing group he’d ever experienced.

To help get the conversation started, Zuehlke invited four people who have risked their lives for peace, individuals who have bravely reached across barriers to seek healing in two of the most troubled spots in the world, Palestine and northern Uganda. Those four, Archbishop John Baptist Odama of Gulu, Uganda, Miko Peled, Bassem Tamimi and Joe Bock, opened their hearts and shared their own moving experiences.

The retreat included a time for individuals to practice lamentation and a corporate reconciliation service. But its “meat” consisted of working sessions where the whole group wrestled with issues like reconciliation and forgiveness. Working groups also tried to identify the wounds of injustice in their own cities and to develop strategies for addressing them.

“Peace is always possible. There are people in the world who are brave enough to stand up and create peace,” said Zuehlke.

At the end of the prayer service, attendees signed the Appeal for Peace being promulgated by the International Meeting for Peace in Tirana, which states, “Peace is always possible. Therefore we must build it together, all of us, believers and nonbelievers. Let us build peace! With God’s help, we shall transform this era into a time of peace. Because nothing is impossible to God.”

A number of other sessions were held throughout the week for prayer and dialogue concerning issues such as poverty, the environment and the death penalty.

The week concluded on Sunday afternoon with a Mass at Cardinal Nursing Home in South Bend where the local Sant’Egidio community has visited weekly for the last 13 years, building peace through friendship with the elderly.
A heroic life and spiritual fatherhood

DAVE McCLOWN

The Ultimate Challenge

We need to develop a comprehensive vision of masculinity. There are four components that I will unpack over the coming months.

The stakes are high: the life or death of marriage, the family and our culture. There are millions of children in need. Echoing Vatican II’s universal call to holiness, I am sounding a universal call for all men — young, old, single, married, kids or no kids — to join me in living heroic lives as spiritual fathers.

In future articles, I will explain more what this looks like and argue that spiritual fatherhood, as one of the four components, is the summit of a Catholic vision of masculinity.

This is not just theory; it must be lived. If you have kids, you have double duty — physical and spiritual children.

Tonight, ask your kids how you could love them more and then do it! Then join the rest of us (including you boys and teens), so in living a heroic life by spiritually adopting three younger men in your life: 1) write their names on a list, 2) pray for them, 3) do things for them, and 4) teach them to be spiritual fathers to other men.

Men of God! Our culture, our faith, our very being cries out for all men to live today, to be spiritual fathers.

Heal the culture — be adopters, the fathers, live the Gospel. This is the ultimate challenge.

Dave McClown, M.Div. is a counselor with the Pastoral Solution Institute Tele-Counseling Services. Read more at CatholicExchange.com

Tragedy and hope for our common home

KRISTI HAAS

Guest Commentary

The situation today was difficult. We all might be tempted to become resigned that there’s nothing we can do, facing such a large and entrenched problem that we do not fully understand.

Yet as our reading continued, we saw that Pope Francis has found in the Gospel a deep well of hope pertinent to these issues. He spoke directly to us, urging us forward, as he addressed not only Catholics or even “people of good will,” but every person living on this planet.

This message is for all, not just the “experts.”

Indeed, neither legislation nor technology can sufficiently undo the fix the violence done to creation, because the ultimate root of the problem is sin. We need conversion of heart, that is, a change of behavior. As Pope Francis observes, our sins alienate us not only from God and our neighbor, but also from creation itself. He requests that the Genesis, after Adam has toil in order to cultivate the earth, and Cain is banned from the land he knows after he kills his brother Abel. Today, our crisis is spiritual, social and ecological all at once.

Of course, the point of “On Care for Our Common Home” is not to incite guilt or despair, but the opposite: to deliver the good news that allows us to confront these realities.

All those of honest faith are of God

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

The Book of Numbers, the source of the reading for this weekend, is one of the first five books of the Bible. The ancient Hebrews, and Jews today, attribute these five books, collectively called the Pentateuch, to Moses. Jews see Moses, however, as only the human instrument through whom God spoke to the people. Thus, these five books, in the Jewish theological mind, are the very words of God. For this reason, the Pentateuch, or the Torah, is the basis of all Jewish belief and religious practice. Even historical events, such as that mentioned in this weekend’s reading, are interpreted in a religious sense.

The message in this reading is that God’s inspiration does not necessarily follow the route that humans might suppose or prefer.

Additionally, mere humans cannot judge whether or not a person possesses God’s grace.

The story is as clear. The men discussed in the reading did not appear to be worthy messengers of God. Moses warns his contemporaries that they should not judge these men. God does not operate according to any human timetable or set of requirements.

For its second reading the Church this weekend presents a section from the Epistle to James.

All the epistles are interesting since they reveal the circumstances of Christian life several generations after Jesus. They were written years after the times remembered in the four Gospels.

The Christians living in the last third of the first century A.D. had to face the fact that some people, then as now a minority in the population, were wealthy. This circumstance produced for the rich not only ease but a certain sense of security.

Wealth is impermanent. It guarantees nothing. It is only temporary. Even the wealthy of today may be fleeting when eternity and things of the spirit are considered.

Reflection

The story is told that when Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, Archbishop of York, in the time immediately prior to King Henry VIII’s break with the Church, and chancellor, or prime minister of England for many years, was dying, he said that if he had served God as diligently as he had served the king, he would not be afraid to die.

This worldly cardinal was hardly alone among humans in looking back upon life with regret. For that matter, Wolsey was hardly the only human approaching death to realize that he squandered time on earth by running after material rewards. He finally saw that only the spiritual endures.
Jailed for defending marriage

Kim Davis, the now-famous Clerk in Rowan County, Kentucky, who became known for her refusal to issue marriage licenses, was arrested and incarcerated in September of 2015. She had refused to affix her signature to licenses being sought by two people of the same sex, even after the Supreme Court had legalized gay marriage, noting that this would force her to act against her conscience and deeply held religious convictions. Her resolve to stop issuing licenses under these circumstances needs to be grasped for what it really is, namely, a morally coherent exercise of action that respects the authentic nature of marriage and recognizes the duties of an informed conscience.

Jonathan Adler, a canonist in Detroit, explains it this way:

“Five justices imposed on marriage (true marriage, natural marriage, traditional marriage, whatever pleonastic phrase one wishes to use) the lie that marriage includes the union of two persons of the same sex. The Court has published a pleonastic phrase one wishes to use)”

First, the claim that public servants have a stringent duty to uphold the law tends to be selectively applied by those who make the claim. Nearly 18 months before Ms. Davis was jailed, and 15 months before the Supreme Court decision on gay marriage, another public servant in Kentucky named Jack Conway, the state Attorney General, failed to carry out his duty of defending the Kentucky Constitution that affirmed marriage to be between one man and one woman. He publicly refused to defend the law of the Commonwealth before the Supreme Court, and Mr. Conway was praised and celebrated for his decision by numerous voices in the national media and in the legal establishment. Mr. Conway’s refusal to perform this duty clearly contravened Kentucky law KRS §522.020; nevertheless, he was neither punished nor incarcerated for his failure to uphold the fundamental marriage laws of the state. Second, it would be wrong to suppose that workers and employees are mere cogs in the machinery of government or corporations, mindlessly following orders. Many German government officials and workers seemed to make this presumption during the last World War. Officials and employees are rather called to assist their employers in an attentive and collaborative way, so that the work of the institution or corporation they represent is marked by integrity and sound ethics. Ms. Davis sought to con-scientiously protect the integrity of marriage and the work carried out in the Clerk’s Office by declining to issue licenses to two people of the same sex.

Third, when Ms. Davis was elected to the office of Clerk in Rowan County, gay marriage was still illegal, so she was elected to a position where, some time later, the ground beneath her feet abruptly shifted, and a new job description requiring her to violate her conscience was suddenly thrust upon her. Simply put, she hadn’t signed up for this.

Fourth, legality does not automatically equate to morality. If workers or officials are asked to perform a gravely immoral activity, even one sanctioned by a legislature, a parliament, or a Supreme Court, they must instead advert to a higher law, and individual conscience rights must be safeguarded to assure that they are not forced to comply with serious wrongdoing.

In sum, Kim Davis’ measured actions at the Clerk’s Office in Kentucky offer a coherent and courageous response to chaotic attempts to undermine marriage and the rule of law. Our society needs more of her coherence and courage, not less.

FATHER TADEUSZ PACHOLCZYK

with both sober honesty and joyful Christian hope. The good news is that our actions really matter. God opens our hearts through each small “ecological conversion,” beginning to heal our vast “interior deserts” (217) and providing a beautiful witness to others. The good news, above all, is that these conversations draw us not only away from greed, complacency, the throwaway culture and what Pope Francis calls the “ecological pandemic,” but also toward something much greater than our comfort — the God of love who created us to praise Him with all creation, to partake of true beauty and to become a sign of the reconciliation of all things in Christ.

As our group discerned how to respond, we were blessed by signs of hope as nearby as the tragedies. The Bowman Creek Restoration Project works with residents to renew the waterway. A group of citizens worked to preserve the valuable wetlands at Elbe Park. Our Amish and Mennonite brothers and sisters bear witness to life in harmony with creation. The Global Catholic Climate Movement allows us to speak to our officials together as Catholics, discussion groups like ours meeting at other parishes, such as St. Matthew and St. Therese Little Flower.

If you have ever shared the wonder of a child’s wonder at the growth of a plant, chosen reusable instead of disposable products, prayed in gratitude for creation or fasted from products that provide convenience at the expense of the earth or other people, you have cared for our common home and for our brothers and sisters who rely on it most closely.

Yet our faith calls further, to a continuing journey of the heart. The journey begins wherever we are, formed by the throwaway culture and complacent in the face of terrible destruction. It continues when, becoming more aware of the harm we have wrought, we repent both individually and collectively, turning toward God in deep wonder, gratitude and care for our common home.

The Gospel for September 27, 2015

Mark 9:38-43; 45, 47-48

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: dramatic teachings about being a disciple. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

Father Kristi Haas facilitated a group at St. Joseph Parish in South Bend that met to discuss “Laudato Si.”

Answer Key can be found on page 19.
**St. Charles commands CYO football**

**BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN**

FORT WAYNE — In Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) football action, St. Charles moved to 3-0 on the season and took command of the CYO standings with a 30-0 win over archrival St. Vincent.

The Cardinals’ defensive unit has been stifling, not giving up a first down in their first three games. Once again this week, the backups had outstanding play. Patrick O’Keefe had two interceptions and Jack Hartzog, Jeren Kindig and Jaden Parnin had several big breakups and tackles.

On offense, the Cardinals had rushing touchdowns from Hayden Ellinger, O’Keefe and Devon Tippmann.

The Tippmann touchdown was set up by a beautiful pass from Drew Lytle to Kindig. St. Charles’ final score came on a 62-yard strike from O’Keefe to Patrick Finley.

Coach Sam Talarico concluded, “The defense is a surprise. I expected our defense to be good, but they have been off the charts. Their performance the first three weeks would stand up against any CYO team I have seen during my time as a coach.”

In other gridiron action, the JAT Knights defeated Central Catholic, 20-0.

**Undefeated football Panthers, Crusaders battle at ICCL matchup**

**BY JOE KOZINSKI**

MISHAWAKA — Sunday’s battle saw two resolute forces dictating their wills as the undefeated teams searched for the goal line in the Inter-City Catholic League matchup at Marian High School’s Otoliski Field.

The Panthers of St. Anthony, behind sizable defensive linemen Michael Conery and Ryan Flanagan with the aid of Tyler DeBoe and Ian O’Connell, brandished a barricade that the Crusaders of Holy Cross would attempt to penetrate for the entire game.

The black-and-blue-clad Crusaders also built a wall that featured Miguel Zyniewicz, defensive back Gavin Stefanek with the bruising foundation of linemen Chase Black and Sam Rose.

The opening play from scrimmage would put the game in perspective as Crusader tailback Zyniewicz was stopped for a loss of two, and embellished as the Panthers bent a little, but stuffed a run on fourth and seven to win battle No. 1.

The Panthers would not fare much better after a consecutive six yards by Backs, Kenzel, Kelly and DeBoe were stalled by numerous penalties and boggled snaps leading to a four and out.

Besides a nice pitch and catch by Crusader quarterback Evan Price to Owen Bartus for 14 yards, they could not solve the defense of the Panthers.

The maroon-and-gold-armored cats were their own enemy as the pigskin squirted out and into the sure hands of Stefanek on their opportunity to flex offense might.

Holy Cross would return the favor as they offered up the ball to waiting lineman Flanagan, who was only too happy to accept the generous gift.

Late in the first half the Panthers looked like they were on the move when Luke Leonard threw a strike to Mitchell Florin in stride on a second and 25 for a huge gain aided by addition penalty yards placing the ball near the shadow of the goal line.

Defensive back Jaiden Ivey stepped up and intercepted a Leonard pass in the end zone with 23 seconds left in the half denying a score.

The second stanza was more of the same highlighted by stellar defense but marred by penalties and miscues. The biggest turnover came late in the fourth when Panther Paxson Campbell jumped a Price pass and during the return was improperly tackled taking the ball to the 15 of the Crusaders.

After a Kelly 10-yard run, a counter play to DeBoe sealed the deal finally breaking the stalemate and keeping the Panthers undefeated and leaving the Crusaders wanting to play for another 24 minutes.

“The defense is a very well coached team, but I thought that both squads played an outstanding defensive game,” explained Coach James DeBoe after the 8-0 victory.

“Turnovers and penalties haunted us all day. I was happy that the kids responded and scored when we had the opportunity.”

“We struggled this week at practice and it followed us into the game. We couldn’t find an offensive rhythm,” remarked long-time Crusader Skipper John Krzyzewski.

“I thought our defense did what we wanted them to — tackled, didn’t get burnt deep and handled their blocking. We will learn from this and get better.”

In other action, the Saints of Mishawaka Catholic shutout Ocesola Grace and remained undefeated, 24-0, behind the arm of Josh Gill, who found Michael Schnippel and Eddie Murphy for 20-plus yard strikes. A ground touchdown was added by Michael Schafer.

A complete list of schedules and highlights can be found at www.icclsports.org.

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**St. Vincent 8 beat St. Elizabeth 8 in two games and 25-14, 25-23. St. Vincent 8 beat the seventh-grade Twins, the host Pioneers’ seventh graders downed the seventh-grade Twins, 25-7, but had to claw from O’Keefe to Patrick Finley. Coach Sam Talarico concluded, “The defense is a surprise. I expected our defense to be good, but they have been off the charts. Their performance the first three weeks would stand up against any CYO team I have seen during my time as a coach.”**

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**SAINTS HOMECOMING**

Join Bishop Dwenger High School for a

**HOMECOMING TAILGATE**
Friday, October 2, 2015, before the Saints take on the Carroll High School Chargers at Zollner Stadium

**Food, Fun, & Live Music performed by BDHS students! Local food trucks will be at the tailgate from 5:00 pm through halftime - a perfect meal for your entire family!**

Prices vary by vendor.

All are welcome! Go Saints!

**WE ARE BD!**

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**HAPPY HOMECOMING FOR COUGARS IN 42-POINT CONQUEST**

The 17th-ranked University of Saint Francis bolted to a 38-0 lead and sent more than 3,000 fans home with a 45-3 win over Trinity International University on Sept. 19. NAIA Offensive Player of the Week Nick Ferrer threw for 313 yards and four TD passes, while junior running back Aaron Harris muscled his way to 150 yards rushing for the 3-0 Cougars.

Linebacker Matt Muncy had an interception that led to a USF field goal and finished with 10 tackles.

Senior Cale ‘Tbler picked off his sixth interception in USF’s last six games to extend the Cougars’ streak of two or more INTs to six consecutive games, and DB Jerrell Holman had nine tackles.
SIX STUDENTS NAMED SEMIFINALISTS IN 2016 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

Saint Joseph High School announced Maria Anthony, Clare Firth, Aidan Gonzales, Mitchell Murphy, Margaret O’Brien and Love Osunnuga were named semifinalists in the 2016 National Merit Scholarship competition. These academically talented high school seniors have an opportunity to continue in the competition for some 7,400 National Merit Scholarships worth over $32 million that will be offered next spring. To be considered for a Merit Scholarship award, semifinalists must fulfill several requirements to advance to the finalist level of the competition. They are shown with Principal Susan Richter, left.

NATIONAL MERIT SEMI–FINALISTS RECOGNIZED

Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne has four National Merit Semi–finalists. In the photo with Principal Jason Schiffli, left, are semi–finalists Jacob Gloudemans, Daniel Ostrowski, Francis Centlivre and Leah Schroeder.

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HOLY CROSS COLLEGE

notre dame, Indiana

Because Experience Matters.

Holy Cross College

enrollment hits record high

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross College at Notre Dame, Indiana, has achieved its highest enrollment and top freshman ACT scores in history this fall, according to numbers recently released by the college.

The 603 students registered at Holy Cross — a nearly 13 percent increase over fall 2014 — make it the highest enrollment in the college’s 49-year history. The previous enrollment record was set in fall 2001 with 557 students, when Holy Cross was a two-year college. However, since graduating its first class of baccalaureate students in 2005, the size of each graduating class has grown exponentially from 14 (in 2005) to over 120.

The Registrar’s Office reports that of Holy Cross’ 603 students, 56 percent are from Indiana. The student body is made up of residents from 23 states and 10 countries, as well as 14 different religious backgrounds. The gender mix for all enrolled students is 56 percent male, 44 percent female.

Additionally, Holy Cross has witnessed a steady increase in the quality of its students. The new freshman class boasts an average high school GPA of 3.33 for 2015, and an average ACT score of 24.

With increased enrollment and a freshman residence requirement, on-campus housing is near capacity. Despite the completion of the college’s new residence hall for women in August, the increased need for housing has required Holy Cross to continue offering off-campus residency to 42 upper-classmen at University Edge Apartments (Roseland), just a half mile north of campus.

“Holy Cross College is committed to helping young men and women negotiate that critical transition from home to college and adult life,” notes Holy Cross Brother John Paige, college president. “Our Catholic mission to develop the mind, body and spirit of our students is enhanced by personal attention in small classes, a residential campus, and a plethora of curricular and co-curricular opportunities for individual challenge. This model of a values-based higher education continues to be attractive to families and young people.”

Holy Cross College was founded in 1966 as a Catholic junior college offering associate degrees. The college began offering bachelor’s degree programs in 2003 and now nearly all students enroll seeking four-year degrees.

With nine majors and 15 minors established, Holy Cross this year also added an additional pre-professional track in science.

The pre-professional program is a category for students who intend to enter a professional school, such as medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, or pre-law, after graduating with their bachelor’s degrees.

Find information on Holy Cross College by visiting www.hcc-nd.edu.

Healthcare Professionals for Divine Mercy
(an apostolate of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception) presents the
Medicine, Bioethics & Spirituality Conference
October 21-22, 2015 Cleveland, OH
The Banquet Center at St. Noel Willoughby Hills
Nationally and internationally known speakers facilitate.

All healthcare professionals are invited.

Each participant will be able to identify the elements of bioethical principles and apply them to patient care. Participants will learn how to offer patients and their families bioethical guidelines surrounding end of life issues. Participants will be taught to recognize the importance of spirituality for medical professionals and patients.

Information and to register:
www.thedivinemercy.org/cleveland or call 1-800-462-7426
Medical education credits provided by St. Vincent Charity Medical Center
**What’s Happening?**

**Halloween luncheon and card party**
Fort Wayne — Queen of Angels Parish, 1500 W. State Blvd., will have a Halloween luncheon and card party on Friday, Oct. 30, from noon to 4 p.m. in the activities center. Play cards of your choice. Cost is $8 per person; men and women are both welcome. For tickets contact Henrietta at 260-482-1660 or Rita at 260-424-6345. Sponsored by the 50+ group.

**Haunted Castle to be open weekends**
Fort Wayne — The Haunted Castle and Black Forest, 1720 E. Fort Wayne — Rosary Society of the 50+ group.

**Day of Reflection**
Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, Oct. 7, from 9:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. The theme for the day is “A Day with St. Francis.” Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is $20 and includes lunch. Register by Oct. 2 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at 574-259-5427.

**Holiday BOO’zard**
Mishawaka — The St. Joseph Church adult choir will have a Holiday BOO’zard Saturday, Oct. 31, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. with over 70 tables of holiday craft and gift items at 217 W. 3rd St. Food, baked goods and trick or treating for the children. Bring nonperishable food items for a chance at a raffle item.

**Candlelight rosary planned**
Elkhart — There will be a candlelight rosary at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 4, at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Elkhart. Celebrate October as the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary.

**Knights plan fish fry**
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Oct. 2, from 5-7 p.m. Adults $8.50, children 5-12 $3.50. Shrimp for $9 and chicken strips for $8.50 will be available.

**Lasagna dinner planned**
Mishawaka — Queen of Peace Parish, 4508 Vista Dr., will have a lasagna dinner Friday, Oct. 2, from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are $8, $4 for children. Dine in or carry-out. Sponsored by the Music Ministry.

**Rummage and bake sale planned**
Fort Wayne — Rosary Society of Most Precious Blood Church, 1515 Barthold St., will have a rummage and bake sale in Mohr Hall, door 4, Thursday, Oct 1, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, Oct. 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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**Catholic Business Network group**
Fort Wayne — The Catholic Business Network Group will meet Friday, Oct. 2, beginning with Mass at 7 a.m. in the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel. Tom Didier will speak on “Family and Work — How to Incorporate Christian Living into Your Job,” following Mass in the Cathedral Center. Refreshments provided by Redeemer Radio.

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Today’s Catholic Travel now offers pilgrimage to Ireland

Today’s Catholic Travel will offer a 10-day pilgrimage to St. Patrick’s Ireland Sept. 4-13, 2016, with travel hosts Father Jacob Meyer of St. Charles Borromeo in Fort Wayne, and Father Zachary Barry of St. Vincent de Paul in Elkhart.

Informational meetings for the pilgrimage will be held in Elkhart at St. Vincent de Paul Parish on Thursday, Oct. 1, at 6 p.m. for the South Bend area. The Fort Wayne area informational presentation is scheduled at St. Charles Borromeo Parish on Thursday, Oct. 8, at 6 p.m. in the Hession Center, Door 3.

South Bend area travel host Father Barry is enthused about this pilgrimage and says, “I have wanted to make a trip to Ireland for many years because the Barry family is from County Cork. … It will be great to see some historic sites with great importance in Catholic history, and to celebrate Mass there with pilgrims from the diocese.”

Fort Wayne area travel host Father Meyer looks forward to visiting the land that helped form the Catholic faith in America. “The Catholic Church in the states was largely formed by the influence of not only many Irish immigrants but also the huge number of missionary priests who came to this country to help the embattled Catholic populations.”

Both priests agree that pilgrimages are important to the lives of the faithful. Father Meyer says, “Pilgrimage takes us away from the ordinary and the everyday and places us in new situations, places and cultures in order that we might experience Christ and pay attention again to how he speaks to us and is calling us to conversion.”

Father Barry adds, “Pilgrimages are an important part of Catholic tradition because they connect us to the universal Church, remind us of our rich history and renew our enthusiasm to live the faith and convert our hearts more and more to the Lord, seeking to open ourselves to His abundant graces.”

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Father Barry enthusiastically concludes, “When we return it is our hope that everyone who goes will be filled with a new vigor for the faith and that in talking about your experience in Ireland, it might convince others that the faith is ever ancient, but ever new and always exciting!”

South Bend Pilgrimage
with Father Zach Barry, parochial vicar
St. Vincent de Paul in Elkhart
Informational presentation at St. Vincent de Paul Parish on Thursday, Oct. 1, at 6 p.m.

Fort Wayne Pilgrimage
with Father Jacob Meyer, parochial vicar
St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne
Informational presentation at St. Charles Borromeo Parish on Thursday, Oct. 8, at 6 p.m. in the Hession Center, Door 3.

Today’s Catholic Travel now offers pilgrimage to Ireland in the fall of 2016. The 10-day trip Sept. 4-13, 2016, will present opportunities for the faithful to visit historic sites. Visit www.todayscatholicnews.org/tct.

Ireland

Today’s Catholic Travel announces pilgrimage to St. Patrick’s Ireland

Mass & Reception
Mass for the Solemnity of St. Francis of Assisi
Sunday, October 4

2 p.m. - Mass presided by Bishop Kevin Rhoades
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, 1122 South Clinton Street

3:30 p.m. - Reception with light appetizers and refreshments
USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center ballroom, 431 West Berry Street

RSVP to Kathy Comp
260-399-7700, ext. 6920
kcomp@sf.edu
125massandreception.eventbrite.com