Pray for me...

Pope Francis visits the United States
Thank you, Pope Francis!

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

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This past week in the United States, Pope Francis touched the hearts of millions of Americans, Catholics, other Christians, peoples of other faiths, and even unbelievers, with his messages of love, joy, humility, and hope. It was an incredible week as we welcomed with deep affection the successor of Saint Peter to our nation.

From the moment I entered the Fort Wayne Cathedral for the papal Mass in Philadelphia and Washington, people approached me with excitement to talk about the visit of Pope Francis. Everywhere I went throughout the week, on the streets, in churches, restaurants, and hotels, people were smiling as they talked about the Pope’s visit. It was extraordinary to see the interest of so many people, even strangers, who have been touched by the goodness and the faith of our Holy Father.

I was happy to participate in several of the papal events as well as activities at the World Meeting of Families. Pope Francis spoke to the U.S. bishops during Midday Prayer on Wednesday, September 23rd, in Saint Matthew Cathedral in Washington. He encouraged us in our ministry, reminding us that this is really God’s ministry, not ours. The Holy Father reminded us that a bishop’s ministry must be marked by compassion, joy, and inclusivity. He said, “A bishop’s ministry must be marked by the dialogue, self-giving, and mercy.”

It was especially moved by his words about the Church attracting people by “the family fire” that offers warmth, comfort, and community. Pope Francis encouraged us to care for the poor and immigrants and to stay close to our people, keeping our eyes focused on Jesus and our hearts open to others. I thought about how the Pope models these things in his own life and ministry.

Later on Wednesday, we concelebrated with the Holy Father the canonization Mass of Saint Junipero Serra outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. In his homily, the Pope reflected on Saint Paul’s words in his letter to the Philippians: Rejoice in the Lord always! I say it again, rejoice! Pope Francis asked: “How do we make the joy of the Gospel increase and take deeper root in our lives?” He said that Jesus gives us the answer: He told us to go forth and make the joy of the Gospel increase and take root in our families, schools, parishes, and in the Church in our diocese.

On Thursday, I returned to Philadelphia. That evening, I celebrated Mass at Saint Peter Church and the Shrine of Saint John Neumann. It was a Mass for the deaf and persons with disabilities who were participating in the World Meeting of Families. My family and several of my friends from my deaf community were also among the ministers and deacons. Despite the crosses they carry, the people prayed and sang with much joy. They know the Lord’s tender love and teach us so much about perseverance in faith in the midst of trials and suffering. I was very moved by this liturgy and an encounter I had there with a man who was blind and deaf. I could only communicate with him by touch. These are truly God’s especially beloved children and must be welcomed as our beloved brothers and sisters in the Church.

Friday was mostly free so I met with old friends and enjoyed walking through center city Philadelphia. We visited the Cathedral of Saints Peter and Paul and the outdoor shrine there of Our Lady, Undoer of Knots. Thousands of people wrote prayer intentions on cloth and tied and attached them at the shrine where others untied the cloth and prayed for one another’s intentions. We also visited and prayed at the relics of Saint Maria Goretti brought from Italy to Saint John the Evangelist Church in Philadelphia as part of the World Meeting of Families.

On Saturday morning, I was happy to celebrate Mass with the pilgrims from our diocese at Saint John the Evangelist Church. Three of our priests concelebrated the Mass: Father Daryl Ryhlicki, Father Glenn Kohnman, and Father Andrew Curry. Saint John’s is a beautiful church, the former cathedral of the Philadelphia Archdiocese, including when Saint John Neumann was the bishop. It was also the home parish of Saint Katharine Drexel and her family. It is good to see many people from our diocese enjoining the World Meeting of Families and looking forward with excitement to see Pope Francis.

On Sunday morning, Pope Francis arrived in Philadelphia from New York. Despite the very tight security and closed streets, the people’s enthusiasm was not dampened. As he entered Washington and New York, the streets were filled with people hailing and catching a glimpse of the Holy Father. I and my brother bishops again went through screening by the Secret Service and were bussed to the event at Independence Hall. It was a long wait, but well worth it to see Pope Francis standing before the seat of our nation’s independence. While waiting, I was happy to chat a while with former Pennsylvania governor, Tom Corbett and his wife, whom I hadn’t seen since leaving Harrisburg.

Speaking from the podium used by President Abraham Lincoln for the Gettysburg Address, Pope Francis praised our nation’s immigrant history. He encouraged the many immigrants in attendance, saying: “I ask you not to forget that, like those who came here before you, you bring many gifts to your new nation.” Hearing these words, I thought about the gifts that many immigrants bring to the Church in our diocese.

Pope Francis also spoke about religious freedom in his speech at Independence Hall, reminding us about the ideals on which our nation was founded. He spoke of religious freedom as “an essential part of the American spirit.” Clearly the Holy Father is aware of the challenges we face today in defending our religious freedom here in the United States.

The climax of the papal visit began Saturday evening with the Festival of Families on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in Philadelphia. It was a festal evening with beautiful music and faith-filled testimonies given by families representing the five continents. Pope Francis set aside his prepared speech and gave what I thought was his most animated and passionate talk of his U.S. visit. He spoke about the family. He shared some witty stories. He noted with humor how kids often ask difficult questions. He shared a question a child once asked him: “Father, what did God do before creating the world?” The Pope shared his answer: “Before creating the world, God loved, because God is love: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.”

God’s love was then poured out in creation and most importantly in creating the family. And later His love came into the world with His Son who entered the world through the family, through Mary and Joseph who accepted, welcomed, and loved Him. The Holy Family shows us the mission of the family. This love involves the cross. The love of the family overcomes division and is the foundation of peace and goodness in society. The Pope’s message really resonated with the huge crowd which seemed to hang onto his every word.

On Sunday, nearly a million people gathered throughout the day along the Benjamin Franklin Parkway and nearby for the final Mass of the papal visit and the World Meeting of Families. We bishops again went through security clearance and arrived two hours before Mass began. In the homily at this beautiful liturgy, the Holy Father again spoke about the family. He stressed the importance of small acts of love in family life. “Love is shown by little things,” he said. They show that the Spirit is alive and at work. The Pope called them “little miracles” that are signs of Christ’s own living and active presence in our world.

Before the Holy Father boarded the plane to return to Rome, he said his time in the United States had been “days of great grace” for him. He prayed they were also days of great grace for us. They were for me. I hope and pray that Pope Francis’ visit, his words and his example, will motivate and inspire us all and Americans and will bear much good fruit for the Church’s mission in our country. Thank you, Holy Father! And as he asked many times, let us pray for him!
Serve, care for each other, pope tells families at closing Mass

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Pope Francis urged the hundreds of thousands of people gathered for the closing Mass of the World Meeting of Families to serve and care for each other as freely as God loves the human family.

The pope called upon the faithful to embrace signs that the Holy Spirit can work through everyone. He referred to the readings in the multilingual Mass — from the Book of Numbers and the Gospel of Mark — in which members of the faith community questioned the work of those not part of their group and for prophesying in the name of God.

“‘To raise doubts about the working of the Spirit, to give the impression that it cannot take place in those who are not ‘part of our group,’ who are not ‘like us,’ is a dangerous temptation,’ the pope said. “Not only does it block conversion to the faith, it is a perversion of faith. Faith opens a window to the presence and working of the Spirit. It shows us that, like happiness, holiness is always tied to little gestures.”

Illustrating his point before the Mass, Pope Francis engaged in “little gestures” himself along the papal parade route to the Mass, kissing and blessing many babies brought to him from the sidewalk throngs by Secret Service agents, who themselves managed to crack smiles after days of maintaining a stern demeanor as they guarded the pontiff.

Pope Francis recalled that Jesus encountered “hostility from people who did not accept what He said and did,” saying they thought it intolerable that Christ was open to honest and sincere faith from men and women who were not part of God’s chosen people.

“The disciples, for their part, acted in good faith. But the temptation to be scandalized by the freedom of God, who sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous alike, by-passing bureaucracy, officialdom and inner circles, threatens the authenticity of faith. Hence it must be vigorously rejected,” he said.

“One does not reject things we can understand why Jesus’ words about causing ‘scandal’ are so harsh. For Jesus, the truly ‘intolerable’ scandal consists in everything that breaks down and destroys our trust in the working of the Spirit,” he continued.

Pope Francis held up the family as vital to building the Church for the future. He said love must be freely shared for faith to grow.

“That is why our families, our homes, are true domestic churches. They are the right place for faith to become life, and life to become faith,” he said.

“Little gestures” of love exist daily in the lives of family and serve to carry on God’s love as well, Pope Francis explained.

“These little gestures are those we learn at home, in the family, they get lost amid all the other things we do, yet they do make day different. They are the quiet things done by mothers and grandparents, by fathers and grand- fathers, by children. They are little signs of tenderness, affection and compassion,” he said.

“Like the warm supper we look forward to at night, the early lunch awaiting someone who gets up early to go to work. Homely gestures. Like a kissing before we go to bed, or a hug after we return from a hard day’s work. Love is shown by little things, by attention to small daily signs which make us feel at home.”

Pope Francis asked the worshippers to consider how they share God’s love with people in their families and in the world around them.

“What kind of world do we want to leave to our children?” he asked, referencing a line in his encyclical “Laudato Si’: On Care for Our Common Home.”

“Our common house can no longer tolerate sterile divisions,” he continued. “The urgent challenge of protecting our home includes the effort to bring the entire human family together in the pursuit of a sustainable and integral development, for we know that things can change.”

The pope asked the congregation to consider how they treat each other in their own home. “Do we shout or do we speak to each other with love and tenderness? That’s a good way of measuring our love.”

Calling the Church to renew faith in the word of God, the pope said people can live prophetic lives as a kind of miracle in today’s world.”

“Would that we could all be prophets. Would that all of us could be open to miracles of love for the sake of all the families of the world, and thus overcome the scandal of a narrow, petty love, closed in on itself, impatient of others,” he said.

As the Mass concluded, Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia, president of the Pontifical Council for the Family, who also was lead Vatican organizer of the World Meeting of Families, announced the next meeting will take place in Dublin, in 2018.

Six families, representing five continents, received copies of the Gospel of Luke. Families from Syria, Vietnam, France, Australia, Congo and Cuba were chosen for their Church involvement and faith life. The Vatican also planned to distribute 100,000 copies of Luke’s Gospel in the families’ home countries.

For more photos and local comments visit
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PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

• Sunday, Oct. 4, 3 p.m. — 125th Anniversary Mass of University of Saint Francis at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne

• Monday, Oct. 5, 10 a.m. — Meeting of Bishop’s Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne

• Monday, Oct. 5, 6 p.m. — Mass and Dinner with Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne, Queen of Angels Parish, Fort Wayne

• Tuesday, Oct. 6, 5:30 p.m. — Red Mass at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne

• Wednesday, Oct. 7, 10 a.m. — All Schools Mass, Purcell Pavilion, University of Notre Dame

• Thursday, Oct. 8, 9 a.m. — Mass at Catholic School Mission Day, Saint Joseph High School, South Bend

• Thursday, Oct. 8, 12 p.m. — Lunch and Meeting with Catholic students at Bethel College, Mishawaka

• Friday, Oct. 9, 9 a.m. — Mass at Catholic School Mission Day, Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne

• Saturday, Oct. 10, 9 a.m. — Mass at ZEAL Missionary
Pope says he left U.S. praying for, impressed by its people

BY CINDY WOODEN

ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT FROM PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — As the American Airlines plane taking him to Rome from Philadelphia took off, Pope Francis said he pictured the faces of all the people he met, and he prayed for them.

At the end of his first-ever visit to the United States, the pope told reporters he “was surprised by the warmth of the people” and how they were “so loving. It was beautiful.”

Spending close to 50 minutes with members of the media flying back to Rome with him Sept. 27, the pope said he also was struck by the sincere piety of people at his Masses and prayer services.

Shortly after takeoff, Pope Francis responded to a dozen questions, including why he spoke with such compassion to U.S. bishops in Washington about what they went through in the aftermath of the clergy sex abuse crisis.

“I felt a need to express compassion because what happened was horrible, and many of them suffered a lot,” the pope said. For “men of prayer, good pastors” the crisis was truly a “tribulation.”

Sexual abuse occurs in families, schools and other environments, he said, but when the abuser is a priest it is “a kind of sacrilege,” because a priest’s job is to help a person grow in love of God and, instead, an abuser’s job is to hurt someone.

An abusive priest “has betrayed their sacred trust,” he said, and “It is an issue that needs further discussion.

He highlighted the contributions of the sisters in the United States “to the life and ministry of the Church.”

“‘I felt like I needed to thank them for what they have done,’” he said.

After participating in the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia and looking ahead to the opening Oct. 4 of the Synod of Bishops on the family, Pope Francis was asked about his decision to streamline the annulment process needed reform because of the backlog of cases.

“The sisters in the United States have done marvelous things — in the field of education, in the field of health care. And the people of the United States love the sisters.”

“Since I am a Jesuit, and I come from a Jesuit tradition, I can tell you that the Jesuits, the Society of Jesus, was founded in 1540 and this was a Jesuit who was the first bishop of Rome and he was the first Jesuit to be elected pope.”

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Pope canonizes Junipero Serra, says faith is alive only when shared

BY CINDY WOODEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Canonizing the 18th-century Spanish missionary, Blessed Junipero Serra, Pope Francis insisted a person’s faith is alive only when it is shared.

Celebrating a late afternoon Mass outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Sept. 23, the pope declared the holiness of St. Junipero, founder of a string of missions in California.

Some people had objected to the canonization — like the beatification of the Spaniard in 1988 — because of questions about how Father Serra treated the native peoples of California and about the impact of Spanish colonization on native peoples throughout the Americas.

Pope Francis mentioned the controversy only briefly, saying: “Junipero sought to defend the dignity of the native community, to protect it from those who had mistreated and abused it. Mistreatment and wrongs, which today still trouble us, especially because of the hurt which they cause in the lives of many people.”

Vincent Medina, who has questioned the wisdom of the canonization, read the first Scripture reading in the Chochenyo language of the Ohlone people of Northern California.

Before the formal proclamation of the missionary’s sainthood, a choir and the congregation chanted a litany invoking the intercession of Jesus, Mary, the apostles and a long list of saints, including other saints who lived and worked in the United States, such as St. Frances Cabrini, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. John Neumann and St. Kateri Tekakwitha, the first American Indian to be canonized. The canonization of St. Junipero, however, was the first such ceremony to be celebrated in the United States rather than at the Vatican.

After the formal proclamation, Andrew Galvan, curator of Dolores Mission in San Francisco, brought a relic of St. Junipero up to a stand near the altar as a song was sung in Spanish accompanied by a drumbeat.

Catholics in the United States and throughout the world are indebted to St. Junipero and thousands of other witnesses who lived their faith and passed it on, the pope said in his homily.

St. Junipero “was excited about blazing trails, going forth to meet many people, learning and valuing their particular customs and ways of life,” Pope Francis said.

A missionary’s life is exciting and brings joy, he said, because it is not sedentary or turned in on itself. Sharing the Gospel is the way to keep experiencing the joy it brings and keeps the heart “from growing numb from being anesthetized.”

More than speaking about St. Junipero, Pope Francis spoke about keeping faith alive and joyful, calling on all Catholics to be missionaries.

“Mission is never the fruit of a perfectly planned program or a well-organized manual,” he told the crowd of about 25,000 people.

“Mission is always the fruit of a life which knows what it is to be found and healed, encountered and forgiven.”

Pope Francis insisted that Jesus does not give Christians “a short list of who is, or is not, worthy of receiving His message, His presence.”

Instead, Jesus embraced people as they were, even those who were “dirty, unkept, broken,” he said. Jesus says to believers today, like yesterday, “Go out and embrace life as it is, and not as you think it should be.”

“The joy of the Gospel,” the pope said, “is something to be experienced, something to be known and lived only through giving it away, through giving ourselves away.”

Before the Mass, Pope Francis made a short visit inside the basilica, where he briefly greeted families and men and women studying to be priests and sisters. They had waited inside for more than two hours.

Parents like Margarita and Carlos Ramos, who brought their 7-year-old son Samuel to Mass, were in the pews, sharing a prayer before all started, while Secret Service snipers stayed alert in several balconies.

“I like Pope Francis because he was born in Argentina; he is one of us. I would love to have the chance to be blessed by him. I’m telling everybody in my second-grade class that I was sitting here the day he made Junipero Serra a saint,” said Sister Maria Virgen Oyente of the Servants of the Lord and the Virgin of Matará. She was in the line to get inside the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception with a group of about 20 nuns. “We are very happy to be here. The line is long and it is getting hot, but we are reading about Fray Junipero Serra, and that makes us feel better.”

“My expectations for today are very high,” said St. John Vianney College seminarian Gustavo Santos.

“Imagine what it is to be in the same place with your pastor, the vicar of Christ on earth. I can’t even describe it with my own words.”

“I admire Pope Francis’ simplicity and mercy for the poor and vulnerable,” said Yoandy Gonzalez, born in Cienfuegos, Cuba, and currently attending St. John Seminary.

“The pope teaches us all simple ways to truly live the Gospel as Christ every day.”

Contributing to this story was Constanza Morales.
Text of Pope Francis’ formula for canonization of Junipero Serra

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Here is the text of the formula for canonization of Junipero Serra, as pronounced by Pope Francis Sept. 23:

In the name of the Father, and of the Holy Spirit, and of the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and our own, after due deliberation and frequent prayer for divine assistance, we enroll him among the saints, decreeing that he is to be venerated.

For the honor of the Blessed Trinity, the exaltation of the Catholic faith and the increase of the Christian life, by the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, and our own, after due deliberation and frequent prayer for divine assistance, and having sought the counsel of many of our brother bishops, we declare and define Blessed Junipero Serra to be a saint, and we enroll him among the saints, decreeing that he is to be venerated as such by the whole Church. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Pope Francis raises a chalice as he celebrates Mass outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Sept. 23 in Washington.

WASHINGTON D.C.

Pope Francis arrives to begin three-city visit

JOINT BASE ANDREWS, Md. (CNS) — Pope Francis arrived in the United States the late afternoon of Sept. 22 to begin his first apostolic journey as pontiff. His plane, an Alitalia jetliner, touched down at Joint Base Andrews near Washington at 3:51 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time, nine minutes ahead of schedule.

In the minutes before and after the plane landed, a group of excited Catholics, after having prayed the rosary, began and sustained a chant: “We love Francis, yes we do; we love Francis, how ‘bout you?” Other chants later erupted: “Ho, ho, hey, hey; welcome to the U.S.A.!” and “Francis-co!”

Ready to greet the pontiff as he descended from the plane, which bore U.S. and Vatican flags, were President Barack Obama, his wife, Michelle, and their two daughter, Sasha and Malia. A group of bishops stood on the tarmac waiting to greet Pope Francis, among them Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington, in whose archdiocese Joint Base Andrews is located.

Others on hand from the episcopacy were Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, USCCB vice president; Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington; Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, a former Washington auxiliary bishop; and Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the Washington-based Archdiocese for the Military Services.

Pope, ‘son of immigrant family,’ tells Obama he’s ready to learn in U.S.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Francis introduced himself to President Barack Obama and all people of the United States as a “son of an immigrant family” arriving in the United States for the first time to learn from others and to share from his own experience. In a country the pope said he knows was “largely built” by immigrant families, he made his debut speech to Americans Sept. 23 on the South Lawn of the White House with some 20,000 people in attendance.

Obama told him, “Our backyard is not typi-
cally crowded,” but the attention on a bright, sunny morning was a reflection of the devotion of U.S. Catholics “and the way your message of love and hope has inspired so many people; across our nation and around the world.” While obviously honored by the welcome, Pope Francis was clear in issuing several challenges, including by publicly voicing his support for the U.S. bishops’ defense of religious freedom. The bishops have objected to the Obama Administration’s efforts to force almost all employers, including many Catholic institutions, to fund contraception coverage in health insurance policies.

“Mr. President,” the pope told him, American Catholics want “a society which is truly tolerant and inclusive,” one that safeguards individual rights and rejects “every form of unjust discrimination,” but also respects the deeply held religious beliefs of citizens and the moral and ethical obligations that flow from them.

Pope’s words on immigration, bishops as pastors stand out at cathedral

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Francis had much to say to the U.S. bishops during his remarks at a midday prayer service at St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington Sept. 23. From a full day of his U.S. apostolic journey, because of that, different bishops could take away different things.

What resonated most for Bishop Daniel E. Flores of Brownsville, Texas, was the pope’s remarks about immigration. “It’s a historical legacy but also something very, very real” today, Bishop Flores told Catholic News Service after the prayer service had ended.

“I liked how Pope Francis saw the immigrant as a gift, and how we are called to love one another,” Bishop Flores added. “In the Rio Grande Valley, that means a lot. It was beautiful, beautiful.”

Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore took heart in what Pope Francis said to bishops about “the encouragement he gave to the episcopacy. He cares to see us express discipleship in our roles as pastors. That, and the care of the poor and the immigrants. It was a beautiful address.”

‘No justification whatsoever’ for lack of housing, pope says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — “We can find no social or moral justification, no justification whatsoever, for lack of housing,” Pope Francis told an audience of about 200 clients of Catholic Charities gathered at St. Patrick Church. “I want to be very clear,” Pope Francis told the crowd, many of whom have low incomes, are immigrants, and receive medical care or clinical and mental health services from Catholic Charities in the Archdiocese of Washington.

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Healthcare inspired by faith.

At Saint Joseph Health System, our values of reverence, commitment to those who are poor, justice, stewardship and integrity give us strength.

These values guide every decision we make.

It's what we're called to do.
A girl hugs Pope Francis as he visits with people at St. Maria’s Meals Program of Catholic Charities in Washington Sept. 24.

**BRIEF**

Continued From Page 6

After his remarks at St. Patrick’s, he exited from a side door of the church to visit the main headquarters of the archdiocesan Catholic Charities agency, blessing the chapel there. Outside the Catholic Charities office Sept. 24, many homeless clients receive a meal from the St. Maria’s Meals Program. He stopped at the line and told them with a smile, “Buen apetito!” — “Enjoy your meal!” — to applause followed by a swarm of outstretched arms and hands. Pope Francis waded into the throng, waving and shaking hands, surrounded by nearly as many photographers and security agents as hungry people. He also posed for a number of selfies taken by ecstatic members of the crowd. Washington Mayor Muriel Bowser, who was a teen lector at her District of Columbia parish, stayed behind to talk with the homeless diners after the papal motorcade left.

Deacon Bob Garrow, diocesan seminarian from St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend

Having the opportunity to see and hear Pope Francis and attend the canonization Mass of St. Junipero Serra is an opportunity that I will not forget. I have had the privilege of being at two papal Masses before: Pope Benedict XVI 2011 in Madrid in speaking to seminarians and 2012 at the opening of the year of faith in Rome.

Pope Francis’ homily was extremely wonderful to hear, especially the words: “So let us go out, let us go forth to offer everyone the life of Jesus Christ. The people of God can embrace everyone because we are the disciples of the One who knelt before His own to wash their feet.”

This resonated for me as I pray, think and ponder on my future Priesthood. I also enjoyed his reflection on our mission as Catholics, we are to evangelize and share the good news of Christ.

As Pope Francis said: “Go forth! Proclaim! The joy of the Gospel is something to be experienced, something to be known and lived only through giving it away, through giving ourselves away.”

I am extremely excited that the United States and the Catholic Church in America has had this historic visit, and I pray that from this visit many fruits will develop from it.

Andrew Polaniecki, Communion acolyte and director of Campus Ministry at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame

I was moved during the canonization Mass during the Litany of Saints. During the litany the Church calls upon us to intercede and help guide the Church. Included in the Litany was St. Brother André Bessette. In 2010, I attended the canonization of Brother André in Rome and to now hear his name invoked for the canonization of Junipero Serra was a breathtaking and emotional moment. Seeing the unity of the Church and an inner continuity to the faith and movement of the Church is a testimony to the workings of Divine Providence.

The Communion process involved the coordination of nearly 400 individuals, as nearly 200 deacons were needed to distribute Communion and an escort was needed for each deacon. During the 15 minutes that was allotted for Communion, the Blessed Sacrament was offered to 27,000 people. To be part of the organizing and planning that went into that process was a great honor. People were at the Mass to, of course, see the pope and participate in the canonization, but they also were there to encounter Christ in the Sacrifice of the Mass, and to see the joy on the faces of the congregation and the unity of the Church during Communion helped me be drawn into the sacramental power of the Church. It was a moment I will never forget.

Michael Griffin, Ph.D., associate professor and chair, Department of Theology and director of Service Learning at Holy Cross College, Notre Dame

As we sat on the Capitol terrace listening to Pope Francis’ address, I jumped for joy when I heard him name Dorothy Day as a key American icon. Not only had I participated in the great conference on Dorothy Day at the University of Saint Francis, but my wife and I were Catholic Workers in South Bend. Both of us were formed in a style of Christian discipleship embodied by Dorothy Day: a radical commitment to non-violence and love of the poor.

In some ways, the role of Dorothy Day in this historic moment is astonishing. You have the first time ever that the leader of the Catholic Church speaks to Congress, and he points us to a woman who neither voted or paid taxes! Of course, her reason for these stands was a preference for the values of the Gospel, compared to the standards of the values of an empire.

Dominican Brother Patrick Mary Briscoe, St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne

For days, we watched as the excitement built (literally around us). Seeing the presence of so many, some who had come from so far, told the entire world of our love for the Holy Father, and our love for the Church.

As a young religious, I joined thousands of other religious and seminarians who were greeted by the Holy Father inside the basilica. As soon as Pope Francis entered, the silent church erupted with enthusiastic cheering! When I set eyes on the Holy Father, I couldn’t help but think, here was the one the Lord had sent us, the one to guide us. The joy characteristic of Pope Francis’ Pontificate was palpable as he walked and stood among us. One striking element of the Rite of Canonization itself was the Litany of Saints. The litany ended with a number of our American saints, including Indiana’s own Mother Guérin. Hearing these names, then listening to the Holy Father’s exhortation (during his homily) by “keeping moving forward,” I found the call to joyfully live for Christ exhilarating.

Immediately after the Canonization Mass, the Holy Father placed a Rosary at the feet of the Blessed Mother.
NEW YORK (CNS) — Honoring both the pain and the strength of the families of those who died at the World Trade Center on 9/11 and drawing on the pools of water that are part of the site’s memorial, Pope Francis spoke about tears and quenching the world’s longing for peace. “The water we see flowing toward that empty pit reminds us of all those lives lost in 2001,” he said. “The flowing water is also a symbol of our tears. Tears at so much devastation and ruin, past and present.”

The pope and New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan each left a single white rose on the edge of the fountain in Memorial Plaza. Pope Francis also met briefly with 20 family members of fallen first responders, shaking their hands, blessing them and listening to them carefully with the help of an interpreter. Gathered around the fountain were 1,000 people — including some injured when the Twin Towers fell.

Afterward, Pope Francis joined a varied group of religious leaders and about 400 people in Foundation Hall to offer prayers for the deceased and for peace in the world. Rabbi Elliot Cosgrove of Park Avenue Synagogue and Imam Khalid Latif, the Muslim chaplain at New York University, offered reflections before the pope spoke. “Intolerance and ignorance fueled those who attacked this place,” Latif said. “We stand together as brothers and sisters to condemn their horrific acts of violence and honor each life that was lost.”

People come first, human life is sacred, pope insists at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Dealing with war, development, the economy or environmental concerns, bureaucrats and diplomats always must remember that the lives of real children, women and men are at stake, Pope Francis told the United Nations. Helping to celebrate the organization’s 70th anniversary, Pope Francis visited its headquarters Sept. 25 and pleaded with government leaders and U.N. officials to keep the dignity and sacredness of every human life and the value of all creatures at the center of their concern. “Above and beyond our plans and programs,” he told the U.N. General Assembly, “we are dealing with real men and women who live, struggle and suffer and are often forced to live in great poverty, deprived of all rights.”

More than 190 heads of state were attending the General Assembly, and many of them made a point of being in the U.N.’s historic hall for Pope Francis’ speech on the eve of discussion of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and, later in the year, the Paris Conference on Climate Change.

The first hour of Pope Francis’ visit was heavy on protocol and posing for official group photographs. He met privately with U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and spoke briefly with U.N. employees, urging them to make their workplace a model of the peace and respect they work to promote around the world. He also paid tribute to the sacrifice of U.N. employees killed in the line of duty.

**NEW YORK**

Pope at 9/11 Memorial:

Violence is never impersonal, always brings tears

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In New York service, pope offers encouragement to men, women religious

NEW YORK (CNS) — During an evening prayer service at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York, Pope Francis thanked the nation’s priests, brothers and women religious for their service and gave particular thanks to women religious saying, “Where would the Church be without you?”

The pope began with unscripted remarks, extending his sympathy to the Muslim community for the stampede in Mecca, Saudi Arabia, that killed more than 700 people that morning. He offered his “sentiments of closeness in face of tragedy” and his assurance of his prayers. “I unite myself with you,” he added.

The pope arrived by popemobile at St. Patrick’s Sept. 24 after traveling from Washington.

He encouraged those with religious vocations and also acknowledged the pain of the clergy sexual abuse crisis in the Church saying, “You suffered greatly in the not distant past by having to bear the shame of some of your brothers who harmed and scandalized the Church in the most vulnerable of her members.”

He said he wished to accompany them “at this time of pain and difficulty.”

Although the pope was speaking in Spanish, a translation of his remarks was posted on large screen TV. The congregation applauded his remarks about women religious in the United States, whom he described as women of strength and fighters and said their “spirit of courage” puts them “in the front lines in the proclamation of the Gospel. To you, religious women,
sisters and mothers of this people, I wish to say thank you, a big thank you, and to tell you that I love you very much.”


Pope brings Gospel of ‘encounter’ to Madison Square Garden

NEW YORK (CNS) — Seeing New York for the first time in his 78 years of life, Pope Francis said he knew Madison Square Garden was an important gathering place for sporting events and concerts.

For him, it was transformed into a chapel in the heart of the Big Apple.

True peace in a big city comes from seeing the vast variety of people not as a bother, but as a brother or sister, Pope Francis said in his homily during the Mass Sept. 25 at “The Garden” where 20,000 people gathered to pray with him.

With tough security and long lines, people arrived hours early. They prayed and listened to inspirational music sung live by Gloria Estefan, Jennifer Hudson and Harry Connick Jr.

Before vesting for Mass, Pope Francis entered the arena in an electric cart, riding up and down the aisles, kissing babies and blessing several sick children.

In his homily, the pope urged the congregation to go out into the city, to seek the face of Jesus in the poor and suffering and to share the joy of the Gospel with all. Jesus urges His disciples “to go out and meet others where they really are, not where we think they should be,” Pope Francis said.

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Pope Francis celebrates Mass at Madison Square Garden in New York Sept. 25, day four of his six-day visit to the United States.
Building strong Catholic families

Diocesan faithful encouraged at theological congress

By Tim Johnson

Philadelphia — Bishops, cardinals and Catholic theologians, interfaith leaders and authors brought their expertise to celebrate Catholics families. And several diocesan families will bring home to their parish communities what they learned at the Philadelphia World Meeting of Families conference Sept. 22-25.

Being created in the image of God is a mission, an adventure and a command that each Catholic is called to carry out into the world and something we need to rediscover as people of faith living in today’s secularized culture, said Auxiliary Bishop Robert E. Barron of Los Angeles Sept. 21. He made the comments in the opening keynote address at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia.

Bishop Barron is the founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries, host of the award-winning “Catholicism” film series, and from 2012 to 2015 was the rector/president of the University of St. Mary of the Lake/Mundelein Seminary outside Chicago. He was ordained an auxiliary bishop Sept. 8.

Bishop Barron explored how each person is made in the image and likeness of God — “imago Dei” — and the great responsibility and mission that comes with that.

Rebecca Fitzmaurice, attending the conference with her husband Mike and son Gregory, 13, all members of Queen of Peace Parish in Mishawaka, called Bishop Barron’s talk “phenomenal.” She said, “We must understand — and share with others — that the ‘no’ of God’s law is always in service of a greater and more abiding ‘yes.’ We must also share with others that the Church’s extravagant demand of holiness is matched — even surpassed by — a greater mercy.”

At the opening Mass, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was one of the celebrants. Jeremy Reidy, attending with his wife Becky and five children and members of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne, told Today’s Catholic, “We saw Bishop (Kevin C.) Rhoades in the procession and even got his attention for a quick hello. Archbishop Chaput was the homilist.”

African Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship, presented the Wednesday morning keynote on “The Light of the Family in a Dark World.”

“The family is called to show Christ’s love to the end, he reflected, so that what was said about the first Christians might be said of Christ’s disciples today: ‘See how they love one another.’”

“Cardinal Sarah gave an inspiring lecture,” reported Jeremy Reidy. “He traced the role of sin through salvation history — beginning with the fall, through the flood, all the way to modernity. The breakdown of relationships — divorce, contraception, abortion, disconnected sexuality, unwillingness to care for sick or elderly family members — all of these are the result of sin. All of these cause the breakdown of families.”

The afternoon keynote was given by professor of law Helen Alvare, former spokesperson on pro-life issues for the U.S. bishops who is also a wife and mother. Alvare reflected on how human beings are made for relationship in imitation of the Holy Trinity, and how the family is the first place where we learn to welcome one another.

Fitzmaurice attended the session by Alvare. Fitzmaurice took to heart Alvare’s message that family life provides endless — and relentless — opportunities to learn to love, and “she reminded us of what Pope Francis has said about the reality of married life — that

“My experience was wonderful. I spent time with other Belles that I would have never met otherwise. We got to feel all the energy of the city because of this event. The feeling of all these different people coming together for one purpose in one faith was beautiful. I also really enjoyed learning and experiencing this historical city. This is where our country started and being able to experience that and see the pope was a blessing all in one.”

— Claire Thornton, senior at Saint Mary’s College who attended Marian High School

“I’ve never experienced anything quite like this before. To be in the Holy Father’s presence, to be in the audience and blessed by Pope Francis at the beautiful Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of Immaculate Conception was incredibly moving and spiritually enriching.

I am in awe of the Holy Father’s courage to say what should be said, as a Gospel imperative, on behalf of the poor, vulnerable and marginalized to audiences from whom he must have known he would likely receive mixed reviews.

His authenticity, grace, warmth, love and tenderness was so wonderfully evident and seemed to transform even cynics and people of no particular faith. I watched a lot of coverage on television as well as personally participating in the events in Washington and was struck by the enthusiasm Pope Francis generated among punters and seasoned reporters.

In one word, this experience was transformational. The added bonus was sharing all of this with my Catholic Charities colleagues and friends from all over the United States.”

— Gloria Whitcraft, director of Catholic Charities

“THERE were so many people it was beautiful. I hadn’t experience the greatness of a universal faith until the papal Mass. All the waiting and walking and fasting and Power Bars were worth it and I will forever cherish it. I thought to myself, “The Church is not dead! We are the Church.”

Eucharistic ministers brought the Eucharist into the crowds that couldn’t make it into the Mass. “I received Communion and that was amazing. I was sharing this moment with the leader of our faith … and with all my brothers and sisters.”

— Perla Ocadiz, Saint Mary’s College
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Theological congress for the World Meeting of Families came to a close on Friday with a final joint keynote by Cardinal Sean O’Malley, the archbishop of Boston, and Pastor Rick Warren, author of “The Purpose-Driven Life,” on the topic of “The Joy of the Gospel of Life.”

Warren gave a rousing reflection on five characteristics of joy-filled families: they are based on the love of God, built on a strong sense of purpose, focus on becoming like Christ, serve others together as a family, and fulfill their mission by sharing Christ with others.

Cardinal O’Malley, with his characteristic gentleness, described the family as the school of love, where pilgrims learn to make a gift of themselves to God and to others, where they are meant to experience and to express unconditional love.

He spoke of a family that made a deep impression on him as a young priest. Bill and Dorothy had six children of their own and then adopted another child. But their generosity was only beginning. On their large farm in Ohio, they took in several severely handicapped children and provided a loving home for them.

“We need to be able to see the world through God’s eyes,” he said. “Beauty and joy are the most powerful tools we have to evangelize.”

By every measure, the theological congress was a tremendous success, and provided the inspiration and fellowship that many Catholic families around the world crave.

The World Meeting of Families moved into its final phase with the visit of Pope Francis on Saturday and Sunday.

In the meantime, many pilgrims enjoyed the electric atmosphere in the downtown area as streets were barricaded and scores of people strolled. A special attraction has been the nearby parish of St. John the Evangelist, where the remains of St. Maria Goretti rest temporarily. The line to venerate her remains was out the door and down the street.

This same church was the site of a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Rhoades for pilgrims from the diocese on Sept. 26.

Fred and Lisa Everett contributed to this article.

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WORLD
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

“Someone had the job of counting the items we all completed, and every 3,000 packages, they rang a huge gong and we all cheered,” she said.

“They rang it four times while we were there,” said son Gregory Fitzmaurice, 13. “That means we helped make more than 12,000 packages.”

On Thursday, a Catholic married couple from Panama, Dr. Juan Francisco and Gabriela de la Guardia gave the first keynote address. Dr. Juan Francisco is the founder of the Panamanian Institute of Family Education and Gabriela is a psychologist in private practice and president of the institute. Their topic was “A Gift from God: The Meaning of Human Sexuality.”

Scott Hahn, Christopher West, Helen Alvaré, Janet Smith, Robert George and Dr. Gianna Emanuela Molla, (the daughter of St. Gianna) were among the many workshop presenters on Day 3.

Juan Campos who is a candidate for the diaconate and a member of St. Patrick Parish, Ligonier, said a session he attended opened his eyes about original sin and how he needs to be vigilant to protect his loved ones in making right choices through the free will God gives us.

Cardinal Luis Tagle, the archbishop of Manila, presented the afternoon keynote address on “The Family: Home for the Wounded Heart.” He began by mentioning that since this is the World Meeting of Families, he brought along with him from the Philippines his parents, brother and cousins.

Most painful are the wounds inflicted on us by members of our families, the cardinal pointed out, but the family is also the privileged place for consolation and healing. Jesus heals us by becoming wounded, and His glorified body still bears the lasting marks of His love for us. The cardinal said as the family of God, the Church is called to continue the healing mission of Jesus Christ, and sometimes this means simply being a loving presence in someone’s life.

The theological congress for the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia

The children of Jeremy and Becky Reidy — Ellen, Gillian, Henry and Lucy — members of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne, learn about St. Nicholas at the World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia.

Part of the delegation attending the World Meeting of Families with the diocesan Hispanic Ministry.
‘Let freedom ring!’ Respect for rights helps society, pope says

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Not far from where the Liberty Bell is on display, Pope Francis urged the people of the United States to continue to “proclaim liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof,” as the bell’s inscription says. Meeting Sept. 26 with members of the Hispanic community and immigrants at Independence National Historical Park, the pope said when governments respect human rights and freedoms, especially the right to religious liberty, they benefit from their citizens’ respect and care for others.

The “ringing words” of the U.S. Declaration of Independence proclaiming the equality of all men and women and their being endowed by their creator with “inalienable rights” continue to inspire people in the United States and around the world, the Argentina-born pope said. But even such powerful words can ring hollow if they are not “constantly reaffirmed, re-appropriated and defended,” the pope said.

In a speech punctuated by off-the-cuff comments and explanations, Pope Francis urged immigrant communities in the United States to be “responsible citizens” of their new home without being ashamed of or hiding their cultural heritage.

Visiting prison, pope says all people need forgiveness, cleansing

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — While pilgrims in Philadelphia put up with a long weekend of lines and security checks at the papal venues, the pope reached out to a group of people whose lives are lines and security checks for years at a time.

Pope Francis spent about an hour at the Curran-Fromhold Correctional Facility. He entered the gymnasium from behind a blue curtain, walking up on to the small stage and carefully inspecting the large chair the inmates had made for him. He turned, with a big smile across his face, and gave the inmates a sincere Pope Francis thumbs up.

As the U.S. debates the need for penal reform, Pope Francis said prisons must focus on re habilitation, and that he insisted that no one is perfect and without need of forgiveness. While his speech was addressed primarily to the inmates, a small group of their family members, prison officials, state legislators and city officials, including Philadelphia Mayor Michael Nutter, also attended.

About 20 minutes before the pope arrived — ahead of schedule — Nutter greeted each of the inmates, who were wearing dark slacks and light blue scrubs, as they were led into the gym.

Michele Farrell, prison ward en, later told Catholic News Service that the pope “threw us a curveball by showing up early.”

Father Daniel Durkin, pastor of St. Henry Church, Fort Wayne, second from left, traveled to the World Meeting of Families with Audrey Davis, diocesan coordinator of prison ministry, right, as part of a state-wide delegation meeting with more than 300 clergy and faith leaders from across the country who are organizing concrete initiatives to take action in their communities in the spirit of Pope Francis’ message — learning how families are suffering from the “economy of exclusion,” and confronting systems that marginalizes people. On Sept. 26, the group met with Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, and Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin of Indianapolis, third from right.
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Pope delights Philly crowd with spontaneous talk on families

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Pope Francis threw away a prepared text and, to the delight of tens of thousands of people on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway, spoke from the heart about the challenges and love that come with being part of a family. After listening to testimony from six families from various continents Sept. 26, he thanked them for sharing their stories.

“A witness given in order to serve is thoroughly good, it makes us good persons, because God is goodness,” he began, continuing to increase in speed and emphasis to the delight of the crowd. He smiled, gestured with his hands and the crowd cheered as he said it was “worth being a family.”

God sent His Son into a family, he said, “and He could do this because it was a family that had a truly open heart.”

The pope spoke in Spanish, the language in which he is most comfortable; his talk was translated by Msgr. Mark Miles.

“We are celebrating the feast of the family,” he told the crowd. “Families have a citizenship that is divine. The identity card that they have is given to them by God so that within the heart of the family truth, goodness and beauty can truly grow. Some of you might say of course, Father, you speak like that because you’re not married,” he said.

“Families have difficulties. Families — we quarrel, sometimes plates can fly, and children bring headaches. I won’t speak about mother-in-laws,” he quipped. “However, in families, there is always light” because of the love of God’s Son.

PHOTO CREDIT: CNS/Paul Haring
The simple joy of family

One of the best surprises in the world was last week when my son Michael walked through the door, shocking us all with a 2,500-mile long trip home, just two weeks after major jaw surgery. I saw a guy with a baseball cap and backpack heading toward our back sliding glass door and, since we are working down from the yard, I thought, “Why does the landscaper have a backpack and why is he just walking in the door without permission?”

Then it hit me — this was no landscaper. This was my son! As my mind processed what my eyes saw, I exclaimed, “What? What? What? Michael? Michael!” I jumped up and down and hugged him. The girls upstairs heard my happy screams and came running downstairs to see who the commotion. “Oh my gosh!” each screamed as she saw him and rushed to hug him as well. While he had permission to work from home for three weeks, he said other than his wired shut jaw he felt good and that if he was going to work from home, he might as well work from this home, with us. Hallelujah!

That night, I made him a thick, hearty, cabbage, sweet potato and green soup for dinner. When his father came home he was thrilled. “Oh my gosh!” each exclaimed as she saw him and rushed to hug him as well. While he had permission to work from home for three weeks, he said other than his wired shut jaw he felt good and that if he was going to work from home, he might as well work from this home, with us. Hallelujah!

The agonizing problems of this life are apart because of how blessed I am when we are together. The children learn patience and waiting ones turn, different perspectives, which are born from different personalities. They learn to understand an idea they didn’t think of, and consider it. They become protectors and stand up for underdogs, even under their own roof. They fight, yes. But they learn to resolve. They learn the art of compromise. Basically, they learn to love. It is not every family’s call to be great in number, but for those that are, it is a call to be answered, generously, with a big heart, for the rewards are many, even as are the sacrifices.

Last week briefly, the lives of most of my children and their parents once again converged. Bonds were strengthened. Laughter exchanged. Advice given. Encouragement offered. This occurred with more than enough to sustain until next time. We missed the one missing, but he will be back with us soon enough. I always tear up when we separate but know that this is what life is. Family is a gift. I will gladly welcome the suffering of when we are apart because of how blessed I am when we are together.

Theresa Thomas

Pope Francis’ message is not new

A s we await the Mass that closes the world meeting of the families, I have to ask myself if Pope Francis’ first trip to North America, I sit here with the many other pilgrims, awaiting the pinnacle of our time together — the celebration of liturgy. Having lived in Rome, Italy, for two years, I am not a stranger to papal Masses, but something about this journey has been different.

During his time with us, Pope Francis has time and again emphasized the innate importance of story. He used the “historical memory” of our country, when speaking to the joint session of Congress, to examine the role of government.

Last night, at the same podium when Pope John Paul II delivered the Gettysburg Address, he encouraged all people of faith to keep our stories alive, to continue to recall and share them, not to make apologies for our traditions. In fact, he said, it will be our revisiting our past that will keep us from repeating ourselves, making us raise from any promised paradises on this earth, and keeping us from ever arriving at a place in time where we think, “This is it.” We have been, and will always be, to raise the one missing, but he will be back with us soon enough. I always tear up when we separate but know that this is what life is. Family is a gift. I will gladly welcome the suffering of when we are apart because of how blessed I am when we are together.

For life is a gift. Family is a gift. I will gladly welcome the suffering of when we are apart because of how blessed I am when we are together.

Theresa Thomas

All possess equal dignity in God’s eyes

The culture surrounding the development of Genesis was not strictly Hebrew. Rather, it was enveloped by paganism. In this paganism, women were little better than animals. Genesis, however, takes pains to declare the dignity of women, equal to that of men. This is the meaning of the story that Eve was created from Adam’s rib. Adam and Eve, man and woman, were one and the same. It was a revolutionary, fundamental basis for looking at both men and women. Both genders possess an equal dignity, because all are created as God’s handiwork and infused with an eternal soul.

Finally, every person, regardless of everything else, holds the supreme privilege of being God’s own. God’s created, a physical, earthly sign of God. This reading is a powerful testament to the historic Jewish and Christian concept of marriage. Ordained by God, marriage should never be defiled by exploitation, selfishness or insincerity.

For its second reading, the Church offers us a passage from the Epistle to the Hebrews that also reaffirms the dignity of each human. According to the reading, humans who love God, and are faithful to God, one day will rejoice in the presence of God. They will be with God. The key to attaining a place in God’s presence is Jesus.

Because Jesus is human as well as God, Jesus loves all people as brothers and sisters.

St. Mark’s Gospel provides the third reading. It is a familiar passage. The question centers upon the legitimacy before God of divorce itself, not the grounds for divorce.

Often it is asked, “What is this question put to Jesus opened an entirely new debate, and that in reply, Jesus set aside the Law of Moses.

Actually, the debate was vigorously underway at the time among persons learned in the Mosaic tradition. No universal agreement per- tained as to what the Law of Moses meant in this regard.

By settling the question, by ending the debate, Jesus appeared in the role of the divinely constituted and specially empowered representative of God the Father.

Jesus set the question in its proper circle. Marriage is God’s creation. It is subject to God’s will, and ideally marriage in the hearts of the spouses reflects God’s love.

In the same passage, though on another occasion, Jesus blessed the children. Like children everywhere and at all times, these children were innocent, vulnerable, but with great potential, not simply “to succeed” in this life but to live as God in the eternal life.

Reflection

Fundamentally, these readings call us to a divinely revealed truth so often and so outrageously ignored in the world. Each human being is God’s precious child, God’s priceless masterpiece of creation. No one, and no society, has the right to demean or compromise this dignity.

The agonizing problems of this day and time all spring from refus-
Lessons from the Rough Rider for today’s political ruffians

GEORGE WEIGEL

Our Global Family

Caroly W. Woo

PHARISEES

Moses

Male

Shall Leave

Become One

Marries

Kingdom

Lawful

Hardness

FEMALE

MOTHER

NO LONGER

COMMENTS

Enter

WIFE

OF CREATION

Reason

The Two

House

Touch

Hands

MALE AND FEMALE

Scripture Search

Gospel for October 4, 2015

Mark 10:2-16

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: a trick question that turns into a lesson. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

Exploring lessons from Mary

Since Pope Francis spoke of “feminine genius,” I get questions periodically as to what it possibly means. Does it refer to the instincts that women have for good investments that she liquidated (probably on the advice of her friends) and instead used her fifth-grade education (interpreted as untruthful) by the Church, because I know that a previous attempt to spin him for partisan point-scoring be regarded, in TR’s pungent phrase, as a “gross improper.”

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

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George Weigel
St. Charles extends winning streak

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — St. Charles extended their win streak to 4-0 on the season with a 50-0 victory over a very hard-nosed JAT Knights squad.

The Cardinals gave up a first down for the first time this season in the third quarter when JAT’s No. 11 broke loose on a 70-yard run before being corralled by Patrick Finley on the five-yard line.

The Cardinals had a stellar performance from Finley who had over 200 yards in total offense and three touchdowns in addition to his touchdown-saving tackle. Hayden Ellinger was all over the field on defense and recorded a safety along the way. The Cardinals’ final touchdown was on a 12-yard run by Jack Hartzog.

The Cardinals’ eighth-grade O-line and tight ends led the way. Andonian and Braeden Groves blocked hard all day long. Andonian was pleased with the holes lineman Will Hoffman, John Knepper, Sam Andonian and Braeden Groves blocked hard all day long.

A pleased Coach Sam Talarico said, “I was very proud of our offensive line today. I thought they played their best game of the year. Defensively, Ellinger was all over the field. I wouldn’t want to coach against him.”

Volleyball update

In volleyball action reported from St. Joseph, Decatur, on Sunday, Sept. 27, the seventh graders from St. Jude defeated the seventh-grade Twins from St. Rose/St. Louis, while the eighth-grade Twins team picked up another conference win over the St. Therese eighth graders in two games. Next up, the host team seventh-grade Commodores downed the seventh-grade squad from St. Therese in two. Finally, the eighth graders from St. Joseph beat St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, 25-17 and 25-11.

Cardegles enjoy good cross-country competition

FORT WAYNE — At the midpoint of the 2015 Cardegle cross-country season, Coach Dan Kaufman’s squad has competed in seven meets. The boys’ varsity record is 34-43 and the junior varsity, 7-10. The girls’ varsity is 68-8 and junior varsity, 14-3. Most recently, the varsity Cardegles ran a split squad with 14 boys and girls competing at the 45th West Noble Invitational in Ligonier and the remainder of the team competing at the Huntington Catholic Invitational.

The Cardegles will host their own invitational on Oct. 8, at Shoaff Park. The race will begin at 4:30 p.m.

Blazers, Panthers square off in ICCL

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — Two charter members of the Inter-City Catholic League squared off as St. Matthew faced the Panthers of St. Anthony.

The first drive belonged to the Blazers as a long run by Isaac Gonzalez and a couple solid carries by talented back Christian Tate, brought the squad to the shadow of the goal post where quarterback Bryce Martens plunged in for the score.

The Panthers would respond with a shot of their own by promptly marching down the field with a 18-yard scamper to Paxson Campbell, tying the score 6-6 still early in the first quarter.

The Panther defense flexed its muscles and held, placing the ball firmly in the hands of their quarterback Luke Leonard who found Mitchell Florian for a huge pass play. Then he nestled the ball in the belly of running back Tyler DeBoe who raced for 19 yards and another score.

The Panthers were not finished by any means. On the next Blazer possession Florian took the ball from a would-be receiver and then followed with a 30-yard run from scrimmage setting up huge runs including a touchdown carry from DeBoe. Campbell completed the drive with a points-after kick increasing their lead, 22-6.

It appeared it would be more Panther magic as Blazer Tate boibled a pitch and Kenzel Kelly hopped on it deep in enemy territory. But the black-clad warriors held their ground and stymied St. Anthony just before halftime.

The Blazer defense held tough the third quarter and into the fourth as their talented rivals struggled to find the success of the first stanza, but with a 20-yard gallop by the Floran express changed the Panther drought making the margin 30-6 with 3:53 left in the game.

The team from St. Matthew however ignored the scoreboard and kept battling, scoring on the final play of the game on a touchdown run by Tate giving a defeated group a bit of a resolve for their efforts.

“We were a bit flat at practice this week, and they got on us early,” expressed Panther Coach James Anthony at Marian High School’s Crusaders of Holy Cross, 16-0, behind runs from Josh Gill and Thaddeus Horvath and picks by Miguel Ortiz.

The big matchup on the final week of play will be the two undefeated, Mishawaka Catholic and St. Anthony at Marian High School’s Otolski Field at 1 p.m.

A complete list of highlights, schedule and standings can be found on the league’s website icclsports.org.

The Center for the Study of Consecrated Life Presents

THE GLOBAL CALL OF RELIGIOUS LIFE TODAY

FALL CONFERENCE — OCTOBER 15 – 17

For resources, fall course listings, and to register for the October conference, visit www.ctu.edu/conseccratedlife

Saint Luke Productions Presents

The Story of a Soul

Monday, October 19, 2015 - 1:45 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
National Shrine of the Little Flower Basilica Church
2100 West Twelve Mile Road, Royal Oak, MI 48073
Admission: Free-Will Offering - Suitable for All Ages
Information: Call 248-341-8122 ext. 85 or visit www.saintlukechurch.com
Performed by Audrey Ahern | Directed by Patti DelGiudice | www.Theresedrama.com
FORT WAYNE — Safe Harbor Widow Support Group will host a fall retreat for widows on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 8 to 11:30 a.m. at the Msgr. Kuzych Life Center, 1502 E. Wallen Rd. The retreat will begin with Mass in the church at 8 a.m. followed by a continental breakfast in the Life Center. Father Meyer will make a presentation about the Poor Clare Sisters who live in cloister at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery at St. Andrew Church in Fort Wayne.

The evening will begin with Mass at 7 p.m. at St. Charles located at 4916 Trier Rd. The presentation and casual conversation will take place at the Hession Center. Refreshments will be available.

Safe Harbor Widow Support Group to host retreat

FORT WAYNE — Safe Harbor Widow Support Group will host a fall retreat for widows on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 8 to 11:30 a.m. at the Msgr. Kuzych Life Center, 1502 E. Wallen Rd. The retreat will begin with Mass in the church at 8 a.m. followed by a continental breakfast in the Life Center. Father Meyer, grief educator, will speak on the topic, “Mourning With Hope.” Registration is required by Oct. 12.

Saint Joseph High School students spent the morning watching Pope Francis address Congress in the classroom followed by classroom discussion. “The pope’s visit to the United States is a wonderful opportunity for us to draw our students into a conversation about how our religious beliefs and our American identity interact with each other,” said Lauren Kloser, English teacher and part of the school culture and climate committee.
WHAT’S HAPPENING?

WHAT’S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today’s Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or email: fhogan@diocesefwsb.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.

Saint Joseph offers dates for prospective students
South Bend — An information session will be Wednesday, Oct. 14, in the Black Box Theater at 7 p.m. The evening will provide information about admission policies, procedure and student life at Saint Joseph High School. A placement test will be held Oct. 24 and Nov. 7 at 7:45 a.m. to noon. All prospective students are required to take the High School Placement Test (HSPT). All testing has a $20 fee. Visit www.saintjoseph.com for information.

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

Have you thanked your priest lately?
Worldwide Marriage Encounter is sponsoring World Priest Day Sunday, Oct. 25, in every parish of the diocese. It is a formal opportunity to mindfully thank each priest for their gifts and sacrifices. Thank a priest verbally or in writing for specific acts or qualities that are especially appreciated. Contact Brian and Amy Dumford at 260-341-1593 for more information.

Bishop Luers plans corn hole tournament for fall
Fort Wayne — A corn hole tournament will be Friday, Oct. 2, 5:30 p.m. Fee is $20 per two-person team and $10 for single players, cash prizes, limited to 32 teams. RSVP to 260-456-1261, ext. 3142 or kskelly@bishopluers.org.

Presentation on the Seven Deadly Sins
Reaganoke — An informational evening with Dr. Lance Richy from the University of Saint Francis will be Monday, Oct. 12, at 7 p.m. at Saint Joseph Church. His talk “From Death to Life: Recognizing and Overcoming the Seven Deadly Sins” will offer coffee, cookies and dialogue with Dr. Richy.

Pray for vocations monthly
Fort Wayne — Little Flower Holy Hour will be held on the first Tuesday of the month, in the St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel from 7-8 p.m.

Franciscan Fest family fall fair
Fort Wayne — Our Lady of the Angels Oratory, 2610 New Haven Ave., will host a family fall fair on Sunday, Oct. 18, from 1-5 p.m. A variety of food and beverages, booths, garage sale, silent auction, raffle and many other activities will be offered. All proceeds will benefit the Confraternity of Penitents renovation fund.

Bishop Luers Euchre Knight
Fort Wayne — A Euchre night will be Saturday, Oct. 3, in the cafe at 6 p.m. Euchre begins at 7 p.m. $30 per two-person team or $20 per two-person team with a LuersKnight auction item donation, $15 per single player or $10 per single player with auction item donation. Must be at least 21 to play. Cash prizes awarded. Light snacks, soda and water provided. Beer and wine available for purchase. RSVP to 260-456-1261, ext. 3142 or kskelly@bishopluers.org.

Luers Men’s Knight “Smoker”
Fort Wayne — A Smoker party will be Saturday, Oct. 17, following the 5:45 p.m. Mass. Notre Dame vs. USC game under the tent outside Bishop Luers High School. Tickets at all home varsity football games at the main gate, at the Luers Athletic Office or ticket captains. Cost is only $25 for food and beer. Funds benefit Luers athletics. For information contact Brent Egts at 260-341-8510 or brentegts@gmail.com.

Divine Mercy Mission
Speaker:
Father Dan Cambra, MIC
Divine Mercy Shrine, Stockbridge, Massachusetts

Weekend Masses:
October 10 & 11, 2015
Saturday 5:00 p.m.
Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Blessing with St. Faustina first class relic from Divine Mercy Shrine in the church about 1:00 pm
Divine Mercy materials available for purchase.

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The John Stackowicz Agency wants to welcome Pope Francis to the United States!