Fidelity, truth, love must guide Church outreach to families

BY CINDY WOODEN

GRANGER — In a statement following the all-school Mass Sept. 29, Superintendent of Catholic Schools Marsha Jordan announced to all present students, faculty, staff and parents that St. Pius X Catholic School has been honored as a 2015 National Blue Ribbon School.

The U.S. Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, released the names of 335 schools across the country as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2015 based on their overall academic excellence or their progress in closing achievement gaps among student subgroups. The department will honor 285 public and 50 private schools at a recognition ceremony on Nov. 9-10 in Washington, D.C.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades noted in a statement: “I offer my heartfelt congratulations to the community of St. Pius X School in Granger on being named a National Blue Ribbon School. I am very proud of this recognition of the educational excellence of St. Pius School. I am even more proud of the strong Catholic identity of St. Pius School, its vibrancy as a community of faith, and its commitment to the moral and spiritual formation of its students. Both academic excellence and spiritual strength make St. Pius X School an exemplary educational institution.”

“It is really quite remarkable and a testament to the hard work of the principal, faculty and staff, that in just seven years since its establishment, St. Pius X School has received this wonderful recognition,” Bishop Rhoades said.

Carl Loesch, the Secretary for Catholic Education for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, said, “This recognition certainly highlights the quality of our schools and RIBBON, PAGE 4
Today's Catholic

Where is the conscience of the world?
Where is the conscience of our nation?

The following is a copy of the homily delivered by Bishop Rhoades at the Red Mass on October 6, 2015, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne:

The Gospel we just heard is from the famous Farewell discourse of Jesus, His teaching to the Apostles at the Last Supper, which is contained in five chapters of the Gospel of John. These chapters are a rich source for prayerful reflection. The page from chapter 15, which we just heard, is one that can give us much consolation and strength when we experience criticism, especially persecution, for standing up for our faith and witnessing to Christ in our increasingly secularized culture.

“If the world hates you, realize that it hated me first,” Jesus says to the disciples and to us. “No slave is greater than his master. If they persecuted me, they will also persecute you.”

It wasn’t much later that the apostles experienced what Jesus predicted. In the reading today from the Acts of the Apostles, we are told about the persecution of the apostles before the Sanhedrin. They had been forbidden from teaching about Jesus and bearing witness to His death and resurrection. They did so anyway. Peter and the apostles said to the high priest those famous words: “We must obey God rather than men.”

We must obey God rather than men. What happened to them? They were flogged and ordered to stop speaking in the name of Jesus. They were then released. But what did they do? Saint Thomas More and Saint John Fisher, the two men who were tried in 1534, did not stop teaching and proclaiming the faith. They were men filled with the Holy Spirit’s gift of fortitude and courage.

We see this same courageous faith in the lives of so many Christian martyrs through the centuries and in the lives of so many Christian martyrs through the centuries and in the lives of so many Christian martyrs through the centuries and in the lives of so many Christian martyrs through the centuries and in the lives of so many Christian martyrs through the centuries and in the lives of so many Christian martyrs through the centuries. They would not obey an unjust order, even if it meant suffering or even death.

Today’s Gospel also may remind us of the parables of the talents. The story of the talents is a parable of the kingdom of heaven because of the divine and natural law, this time, by redefining marriage. We’ve seen and will see many attempts to force the Church and individuals to recognize same-sex unions as marriages. How far will this go, I don’t know. There are already dioceses in our country being sued for not allowing persons in “same-sex marriages” to teach in our schools. The Church is accused of bigotry and discrimination. Yet, the Church is also saying that we are to live our faith not only in the church but in the world and the world is not going to accept our faith. This is the Church’s battle for the future of our faith. The year of the age of martyrs did not end with the Emperor Constantine. It is still with us.

Pope Francis has spoken often about the killing of Christians by terrorist groups like ISIS and Boko Haram, atrocious inhuman and incomprehensible persecutions, before which so many powers in our world remain silent and indifferent. These terrorist groups, as you know, claim that they are serving God when they kill in His name. As Pope Francis says, “they do not truly know God.” Think about those words of Jesus in today’s Gospel: “the hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think he is offering worship to God. They will do so because they have not known either the Father or me.”

My brothers and sisters, we must not be among those who ignore or are indifferent to our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. We must pray for them and take action for their protection, for those living in those dangerous parts of the world and also for those who have escaped and are now poor refugees seeking a home. In the midst of these challenges, Pope Francis has asked: “Where is the conscience of the world?”

When we think about the challenges to religious liberty that we face here in the United States, they don’t compare to the intensity of the persecution of Christians in places like Iraq and Syria. In fact, persecution is probably too strong a word to describe the violations of religious liberty that we face. But they are violations of our freedom of conscience expressed in the words of the apostles: “We must obey God rather than men.”

We are blessed to live in a country that has traditionally protected religious freedom because of the First Amendment to our Constitution. Americans traditionally have cherished religious liberty. As Catholics, we hold it to be a fundamental human right, one that is rooted in the very dignity of the human person.

Conflicts arise for us when laws are enacted, statutes are mandated, or court decisions are made that violate fundamental tenets of our faith. We accept the rule of law. We take seriously our obligation in conscience to follow the civil laws of our country and the rulings of the courts. But when the civil law or court decisions are contrary to the demands of the moral order, contrary to the divine and natural law, to the fundamental rights of persons, or to the teachings of the Gospel, we face a dilemma. Traditionally, we have had religious liberty protections in such matters, allowing us to “render unto Caesar what belongs to Caesar and to God what belongs to God.” We have been able to voice our objections in the public square. We have been able, for example, to protest Roe v. Wade and speak in defense of the right to life. We have not been forced to subsidize abortions with our tax dollars or to do abortions in our Catholic hospitals. But now, these protections are under attack. The HHS mandate, for example, forces us to facilitate, albeit through a circuitous route, abortion-inducing drugs via our health plans. And there are new efforts underway right now to force Catholic hospitals to perform abortions in certain situations.

There are many other examples I could give of current threats to our religious freedom, especially in the aftermath of Hodges v. Obergefell. Again, like in Roe v. Wade, we have Supreme Court decisions that essentially have removed the divine and natural law, this time, by redefining marriage. We’ve seen and will see many attempts to force the Church and individuals to recognize same-sex unions as marriages. How far will this go, I don’t know. There are already dioceses in our country being sued for not allowing persons in “same-sex marriages” to teach in our schools.

But what did they do? Saint Thomas More and Saint John Fisher, the two men who were tried in 1534, did not stop teaching and proclaiming the faith. They were men filled with the Holy Spirit’s gift of fortitude and courage. They would not obey an unjust order, even if it meant suffering or even death.

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fact that too often Christians look we are called to share the joy of the basics of our Christian life. Living with those in need. These are the in the Eucharist (the breaking of the bread) and in sharing their goods with those in need. These are the basics of our Christian life. Living this way brings true joy, not only to our hearts, but to others with whom we are called to share the joy of the Gospel.”

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**TODAY’S CATHOLIC**

**October 11, 2015**

**Pope to Congress: Stop bickering, world needs your help**

By Cindy Wooden

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The past, the promise and the potential of the United States must not be smothered by bickering and even hatred at a time when the U.S. people and indeed the world need a helping hand, Pope Francis told the U.S. Congress.

In a long speech that gave the sense that he sees the United States as a country divided, one so focused on calling each other names that it risks losing sight of how impressive it can be when its people come together for the common good. That is when it is in a beacon of hope for the world, he said.

Pope Francis condemned legalized abortion, the death penalty and unscrupulous weapons sales. He called on Congress to “seize the moment” by moving forward with normalizing relations with Cuba, again referring to himself as a “son of immigrants” — and pointing out that many of the legislators are, too — he pleaded for greater openness to accepting immigrants.

A reporter had asked the pope in July about why he spoke so focused on calling each other names when it fosters a culture that enables people to dream of full rights for all their brothers and sisters as Martin Luther King sought to do when it strives for justice and the cause of the oppressed as Dorothy Day did by her tireless work; the fruit of a faith which becomes dialogue and sows peace in the contemplative style of Thomas Merton, the pope said.

“Every day is sacred,” he insisted, calling for the “global abolition of the death penalty” and the “responsibility to protect and defend human life at every stage of its development.”

Some U.S. politicians and pundits have expressed confusion or even anger over Pope Francis’ teaching about the damage provoked when money becomes a god and profits count more than people. The pope insists his words are straight out of Catholic social teaching.

His speech to Congress included more of that teaching, delving deeper into the positive aspects of a market economy — as long as it is ethical and includes controls, solidarity and a safety net for the poorest and weakest members of society.

“The creation and distribution of wealth,” he said, “is always important for continued efforts to reduce poverty in the United States and around the globe, he said. “The right use of natural resources, the proper application of technology and the harnessing of the spirit of enterprise are essential elements of an economy which seeks to be modern, inclusive and sustainable.”

“Business is a noble vocation” when it seeks the common good, Pope Francis said. And today, he told legislators, the common good includes protecting the environment and taking bold steps “to avert the most serious effects of the environmental deterioration caused by human action.”

After his speech, Boehner led Pope Francis through the Capitol’s Statuary Hall and showed him a statue of St. Junipero Serra, whom the pope canonized the previous day.

The pope then proceeded to the West Portico of the Capitol, where tens of thousands of people with tickets had waited for hours.

“Good morning, everyone,” he said in Spanish, then blessed the crowd.

“I am so grateful for your welcome and your presence here, especially for the most important ones here — the children. I will ask God to bless you. ‘Lord, father of all, bless this people, bless each one of them, bless their families, give them what they need most. And I ask you all please to pray for me. And if there are among you any who do not believe or cannot pray, I ask you please to send good wishes my way. Thank you. Thank you very much. And God bless America.”

A video to accompany this story can be found at https://youtu.be/GiZWb9SRqY.
Conference explores Pope Francis’ encyclical on the environment, Laudato Si’

BY CORINE B. ERIANDSON


The half-day conference on the USF campus featured four speakers, including John Carr, director of the Initiative on Catholic Social Thought and Public Life at Georgetown University; Dr. Matthew Ashley, associate professor and chair of the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame; Dr. Maryanne Cusimano Love, associate professor of International Relations in the Politics Department of the Catholic University of America; and Dr. Adam DeVille, associate professor and chair of the Department of Philosophy and Theology at the University of Saint Francis.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades attended the conference with nearly 60 in attendance and opened it with prayer. Conference organizer Dr. Lance Richey, USF dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences, noted in his opening remarks that in “Laudato Si’,” one hears Pope Francis’ concern about the earthly environment, as well as St. Francis of Assisi’s love and wonder for creation.

Speaker John Carr noted Pope Francis’ integrated approach to protecting nature and combating poverty. Pope Francis focuses on the “least of these,” he explained. “I think the most important word in the encyclical is the word ‘and,’” Carr said, explaining that the encyclical proposes a commitment to the poor and creation, and care for the planet and people.

“Laudato Si’” is not a document focused only on climate change, Carr stressed. Rather, “Laudato Si’” considers air and water quality, plant and animal species affected by the environment and life in the cities. Overall, Pope Francis is building upon a growing consensus among climate scientists that the health of the environment is suffering. Ashley spoke about two different kinds of knowledge, assertions of science and assertions of faith and morals.

“Laudato Si’” shows a relationship between science and faith. Science and faith need to be brought into a dialogue for synthesis,” Ashley said.

Pope Francis’ concern for the poor was apparent in the encyclical noted Ashley. “The degradation of the environment impacts the poor. The Church’s social teaching of a preferential option for the poor should guide our thinking” as we deal with the environment, said Ashley.

Dr. Maryann Cusimano Love marveled at the impact of Pope Francis during his recent U.S. trip. “This poor Argentinian priest has the whole world listening to him,” Cusimano Love said. “Pope Francis is an antidote to the age of the selfie.”

Cusimano Love spoke of Pope Francis’ belief that “the world’s poor have contributed the least to environmental problems and global climate change” but are impacted the most. Cusimano Love gave an example with her recent trip with Catholic Relief Services to northern Ghana in Africa during the summer of 2015.

She said that 88 percent of northern Ghana households survive on subsistence farming. It is a very poor area that has no tractors or mechanized equipment and the soil is depleted. Climate change has caused recent drought conditions, which has decimated the crops that they live on. There is no money for seeds and fertilizers, Cusimano Love said. Malnutrition has affected the children, which impacts their growth and development.

“Neighborhoods … are congested, chaotic and lacking in sufficient green space. We were not meant to be inaduated by cement, asphalt, glass and metal.” DeVille questioned if Pope Francis’ apparent dislike for some aspects of city living or ideas about urban planning should be included in “Laudato Si’.”

“Do such comments belong in a papal encyclical?” DeVille asked. Such a far-reaching discussion in a papal document feeds into the misguided perception that popes can make any changes they want to the Church or doctrine.

Cusimano Love answered that one can argue with Pope Francis’ criticism of city living, “but the overall themes that he is highlighting and the connections that he is making are very important.”

John Carr concurred, saying, “Pope Francis is pointing out that part of being a Catholic is caring for our earth and for the poor, the least of these. This is one of the most remarkable examples of evangelization that I have ever seen.”
TODAY’S CATHOLIC

NEWS BRIEFS

CARDINAL WUERLL TALKS WITH U.S. CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN ROBERTS AFTER ANNUAL RED MASS

Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington talks with U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts as they leave the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington after the annual Red Mass Oct. 4. The Mass traditionally marks the start of the court year, including the opening of the Supreme Court term.

Pope asks youth to perform works of mercy in run-up to WYD

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis asked the world’s young Catholics to perform spiritual and corporal works of mercy every month in the run-up to World Youth Day next July. He asked that they not be afraid to experience God’s “boundless mercy, so that in turn you may become apostles of mercy by your actions, words and prayers in our world, wounded by selfishness, hatred and so much despair.” The pope’s request was part of his message for World Youth Day 2016 — an international gathering that will be celebrated in Krakow, Poland, July 26-31. The celebration’s theme, from the Gospel of St. Matthew, is “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.” Jesus and His beatitudes show how it is better to give than to receive and how people will be truly blessed and happy only when we enter into the divine ‘logic’ of gift and gracious love, “he said in the message, released Sept. 28 at the Vatican. When people discover that “God has loved us infinitely in order to make us capable of loving like Him, without measure,” they say themselves can become instruments of God’s mercy, bringing hope and healing to those in need.

Pope says synod is not parliament, but place to listen to Holy Spirit

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The world Synod of Bishops on the family is not a parliament where participants will negotiate or lobby, Pope Francis said, but it must be a place of prayer where bishops speak with courage and open themselves to “God who always surprises us.” Opening the first working session of the synod Oct. 5, the pope said the synod’s 270 voting members need courage, “pastoral and doctrinal zeal, wisdom, frankness and to keep always before our eyes the good of the Church and the families and the supreme law — the salvation of souls.” Arriving about 15 minutes before the session began, Pope Francis welcomed to the synod hall the members, delegates from other Christian communities and the men and women who will serve as experts and observers. The synod is not a convention or a parliament, Pope Francis said, “but an expression of the Church, it is the Church that walks together to read reality with the eyes of faith and with the heart of God.” Synod members must be faithful to Church teaching, “the deposit of faith, which is not a museum to be visited or even simply preserved, but it is a living spring from which the Church drinks to quench the thirst and enlighten” people, he said.

Pope pleads to commute death sentences

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Less than a week after Pope Francis told a joint meeting of Congress that he backs U.S. efforts to abolish the death penalty, news came of his U.S. nun-cio’s letters to authorities in two states appealing on the pope’s behalf to commute death sentences. On Sept. 29, Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò unsuccessfully appealed on the pope’s behalf to Georgia officials to commute the death sentence of Kelly Gissendaner, who was executed shortly after midnight the next day. Within hours of receiving the letter on the pope’s behalf, the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles rejected Gissendaner’s request for clemency and her execution proceeded. Earlier, speaking for Pope Francis, the nun-cio weighed in Sept. 19 on another highly publicized execution scheduled in Oklahoma for Sept. 30, that of Richard Glossip, whose challenge to the state’s lethal injection protocol was rejected by the Supreme Court in June. In the letter to Oklahoma Gov. Mary Fallin, Archbishop Viganò and both Pope Francis and St. John Paul II as well as Oklahoma City Archbishop Paul S. Coakley. “Together with Pope Francis, I believe that a communication of Mr. Glossip’s sentence’s would give clearer witness to the value and dignity of every person’s life and would contribute to a society more conscious of the mercy that God has bestowed upon us all,” wrote Archbishop Viganò.

Vatican says pope’s meeting with Kentucky clerk is not endorsement

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis’ meeting with Kim Davis, the county clerk from Kentucky who was jailed for refusing to issue marriage licenses, does not equate support for her “position,” the Vatican spokesman said after discussing the issue personally with the pope. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the spokesman, issued a statement Oct. 2 saying the pope had met with “several dozen persons who had been invited by the nunciature to greet him” in Washington and that “such brief greetings occur on all papal visits and are due to the pope’s characteristic kindness and availability.” Father Lombardi made a distinction between the brief greet- ings and more official meetings by saying, “The only real audience granted by the pope at the nunciature was with one of his former students and his family.” Late Oct. 2, Father Lombardi said in a statement that the former student was Yayo Grassi of Argentina. Grassi, an openly gay man, was accompanied by his partner, his mother and several friends in the meeting at the nunciature Sept. 23. Father Lombardi said Grassi, “who had already met other times in the past with the pope, asked to present his mother and several friends to the pope during the pope’s stay in Washington. As noted in the past, the pope, as pastor, has maintained many personal relationships with people in a spirit of kindness, welcome and dialogue,” the statement said.

House passes measure to allow states to defund Planned Parenthood

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The House Sept. 29 passed the Women’s Health and Public Safety Act to give states the authority to defund Planned Parenthood. Speaking from the House floor in support of the measure, which was sponsored by Rep. Sean Duffy, R-Wisconsin, Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, cited the pope’s Sept. 24 address to a joint meeting of Congress. “Pope Francis admonished a joint session of Congress to follow the Golden Rule — to ‘do unto others as you would have them do unto you’ — and said that the Golden Rule compels us to ‘protect and defend human life at every stage of development.’” Smith said, State and federal fund- ing of Planned Parenthood has come under scrutiny after a series of videos, filmed undercover, were released by the Center for Medical Progress, based in Irvine, California. The videos show phys- icians and others associated with Planned Parenthood describing the harvesting of fetal tissue and body parts during abortions at their clinics. Also discussed are what researchers are charged for the tissue and parts.

Syrian patriarch in Detroit: ‘We are begging’ West to help refugees

DETROIT: ‘We are begging’ West to help refugees

Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington talks with U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts as they leave the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington after the annual Red Mass Oct. 4. The Mass traditionally marks the start of the court year, including the opening of the Supreme Court term.

The family is the answer to world’s brokenness, blindness, Pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The family is the answer to the two extremes facing the world — fragmentation and “homogenization,” in which everything is forced to be the same, Pope Francis said. The family based on marriage between a man and a woman is the answer because “it is the cell of a society that balances the personal and communal,” he said at his general audience Sept. 30 in St. Peter’s Square. The family also can be “the model of a sustainable management of goods and the resources of creation” against today’s culture of consumerism, he added. The pope dedicated his audience talk to reviewing his Sept. 19-27 trip to Cuba and the United States, where he visited Washington, New York, the United Nations and Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families. He thanked Cuban President Raul Castro, U.S. President Barack Obama and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for their warm welcomes and extended his thanks to all the bishops and everyone who worked to make the trip possible.

Planned Parenthood

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Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington talks with U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts as they leave the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle in Washington after the annual Red Mass Oct. 4. The Mass traditionally marks the start of the court year, including the opening of the Supreme Court term.

The family is the answer to world’s brokenness, blindness, Pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The family is the answer to the two extremes facing the world — fragmentation and “homogenization,” in which everything is forced to be the same, Pope Francis said. The family based on marriage between a man and a woman is the answer because “it is the cell of a society that balances the personal and communal,” he said at his general audience Sept. 30 in St. Peter’s Square. The family also can be “the model of a sustainable management of goods and the resources of creation” against today’s culture of consumerism, he added. The pope dedicated his audience talk to reviewing his Sept. 19-27 trip to Cuba and the United States, where he visited Washington, New York, the United Nations and Philadelphia for the World Meeting of Families. He thanked Cuban President Raul Castro, U.S. President Barack Obama and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for their warm welcomes and extended his thanks to all the bishops and everyone who worked to make the trip possible.

Planned Parenthood

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Researchers are charged for what researchers are charged for more official meetings by saying, “The only real audience granted by the pope at the nunciature was with one of his former students and his family.” Late Oct. 2, Father Lombardi said in a statement that the former student was Yayo Grassi of Argentina. Grassi, an openly gay man, was accompanied by his partner, his mother and several friends in the meeting at the nunciature Sept. 23. Father Lombardi said Grassi, “who had already met other times in the past with the pope, asked to present his mother and several friends to the pope during the pope’s stay in Washington. As noted in the past, the pope, as pastor, has maintained many personal relationships with people in a spirit of kindness, welcome and dialogue,” the statement said.
FATHER MCCARTHY OFFERS DAY OF REFLECTION, RETREAT

Father Paul McCarthy, pastor of St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish in New Carlisle, held a day of reflection for his parishioners and members of the Serra Club of South Bend. The retreat began with Mass, several presentations on “Traveling the Narrow Road,” outdoor rosary at the parish grotto, lunch and concluded with the offering of the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, shown above. This is the seventh year Father McCarthy has offered the retreat. He is the chaplain for the Serra Club of South Bend.

Retreat to be offered at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods

SAINT-MARY-OF-THE-WOODS — “Holy Ground Retreat, Tending the Soil, Tending the Soul with St. Mother Theodore,” will be hosted by the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, beginning at 7 p.m., on Thursday, Oct. 15, through 5 p.m., on Friday, Oct. 16, at Providence Hall Conference Room. Sister Mary Montgomery will facilitate the retreat, and will use music, Scripture, prayer and reflexive readings to help refresh the soul. Cost is $100, which includes meals. The registration deadline is Oct. 12. For more information or to register, call 812-535-2952, email jfrost@spsmw.org or register online at events.sistersofprovidence.org.

Former child slave, now drummer, to tell story at Sacred Heart

WARSOW — Drummer Bill Nathan, an international drummer, will share his talents and tell his story of being a child slave in Haiti and his rescue at a presentation at Sacred Heart Church, Warsaw, on Sunday, Oct. 11, from 6-7 p.m. in the gym. Orphaned in Haiti by age 6 and then involved in child slavery, Nathan was rescued and placed in an orphanage where he was able to use his “five-gallon white bucket skills.” He and two others now direct that orphanage. Nathan travels the country performing and sharing his story. He was the translator and guide for the Haiti Mission team from Sacred Heart Parish last summer. Light snacks and beverages will be available. A freewill donation will support Nathan’s ministry, Kids Today — Adults Tomorrow.

AMERICAN HERITAGE GIRLS OFFER NATIONAL DAY OF SERVICE

The American Heritage Girls IN3712 of St. Vincent de Paul Church, Fort Wayne, demonstrated faith through service during The American Heritage Girls (AHG) National Day of Service. On the third weekend of September, troops in the nation participated in service to the local communities. This National Day of Service coincides with AHG’s 20th anniversary. This is the fifth year of service for troop IN3712 and includes 67 members.
ELKHART SCHOOL COLLECTS FOOD ITEMS FOR PANTRY

In honor of the feast of St. Vincent de Paul on Sept. 27, the students at St. Thomas the Apostle School in Elkhart collected food items for the St. Vincent de Paul Society Food Pantry during their school Mass on Sept. 25. Pictured are the Young Vincentian students with Father Jason Freiburger, pastor, and Young Vincentians group leader Barb Bremigan.

MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL ANNOUNCES NATIONAL MERIT SEMI FINALISTS

Marian High School in Mishawaka has announced their National Merit Semi-Finalists. Pictured with Marian’s Principal Mark Kirzeder, at left, are seniors Garrett Meyers, Christian Dennis and Theresa Rice. They are among the 50,000 highest-scoring participants on the PSAT/NMSQT in the nation. As semi-finalists they are able to enter the 2016 National Merit Scholarship Program. They were honored at the all-school Mass on the feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary on Oct. 7.

Queen of Peace principal to maintain success

BY DENISE FEDOROW

MISHAWAKA — New Queen of Peace School Principal Jill Patrick said her main priority is to continue the success the school has already experienced.

“I’ve come into such a well-established school, I just want to maintain the success that’s already been established at Queen of Peace,” she said.

Patrick and her husband Cory attend Queen of Peace along with their youngest son Zak, a seventh grader at Jimtown Junior High. The couple’s two oldest are in college — daughter Kelsie is a senior at Michigan State and 18-year-old Matthew attends Indiana University at South Bend (IUSB).

The family previously attended St. Pius X Parish in Granger where Patrick grew up but joined Queen of Peace with her new position as principal. “We actually live closer and it’s been a good parish for all of us to be a part of,” she said. Her husband Cory is enrolled in their RCIA program.

Patrick earned her bachelor’s degree in special education at IUSB. She received her license in Mild and Moderate Interventions through Ball State and her Masters of Education at Xavier College in Cincinnati. She worked for 16 years as a special education teacher at several different schools, most recently at School City in Mishawaka. She completed her internship while finishing her administrative license at Ball State.

Her leadership experience includes being chairperson of a behavioral team and an intervention team, among others.

Patrick said the best thing about Catholic schools is having one’s Catholic identity be a part of the everyday lives of students and staff.

“Helping children grow into faithful, contributing members of the community and having faith be a part of that journey,” she said.

“Every day I look forward to seeing the smiling faces of the students and being a part of a team of staff and professionals who are so successful already,” she said.

Patrick believes that Catholic education is important because, “We want to produce well-rounded, contributing members of society.”

“Part of our job at Queen of Peace is to develop students into the best face of Catholicism,” she said.

The Catholic education that is at the center of Queen of Peace will help students be strong in their faith, more trustworthy and more active in school, church and community on a lot of different levels, according to Patrick.

“They are going to be the face of our Catholic faith in the future,” she said.

The new principal wants parents, staff and students to know she is open to suggestions and feedback.

“I may be the principal, but I’m not alone in leadership — we have a core team of very strong teachers at Queen of Peace and we’re all working together along with Father John Eze (pastor at Queen of Peace Church).”

She said what she looks forward to most in her new role is working with students, parents and staff.

“The great energy here makes me want to get up and come to work every day,” she said. “I want to continue making sure we have successful students.”

Queen of Peace Principal Jill

Patrick speaks about her new position and how much she looks forward to coming to work each day at the school in Mishawaka.

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Hors d’oeuvres will follow 5:00 pm Mass Saturday.
Light breakfast will follow 8:00 am Mass Sunday.
Italian Luncheon will follow 10:30 am Mass Sunday.
University of Saint Francis marks 125th anniversary with Mass, reception

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis celebrated its 125th anniversary as an institution of higher learning with a Mass for the solemnity of St. Francis of Assisi Oct. 4 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne.

Faculty, staff, board members, alumni, students and friends of the university attended the Mass. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was celebrant and university chancellor Father David Meiningen was concelebrant, along with Msgr. Robert Schulte, Father Drew Curry, Father Edward Erpelding and Father Ajay Tiru.

Bishop Rhoades began his homily by saying, “Jesus offered praise to His Father, the Lord of heaven and earth, because although He had hidden these things (His identity and His plan) from the wise and the learned, He has revealed them to the childlike.”

He explained that though these words may be challenging for a community of academic scholars, for a university where learning is naturally esteemed, these words of Jesus are important for the faithful to ponder. Things hidden from the wise and learned, God has revealed to the childlike. So one should never get puffed up or boastful about his intellectual accomplishments or awards, he said. It was the wise and the learned, like the scribes and pharisees, who were blind to the truth about Jesus and rejected Him. It was the childlike the meek and the poor in spirit, the “little ones,” the childlike, who accepted Jesus and followed Him … God revealed to them what the wise and learned did not grasp.

Bishop Rhoades continued, “As we celebrate the 125th anniversary of the University of Saint Francis, it is good to reflect on this prayer of Jesus. Your name-sake, your patron, whose feast we celebrate today, the poor man of Assisi was one of the childlike, the little ones, to whom God revealed His mystery.”

“All who follow Jesus, like St. Francis did, with humility and meekness, find peace, real peace, true rest, the peace and rest that are born of love, born of that greatest love, the love of the cross. In the cross, Francis saw love and he experienced love. His journey to Christ began at San Damiano with the gaze of the crucified Jesus, a deep experience in prayer of God’s grace and love. St. Francis became a new creation. This is what happens to us, Pope Francis says, when we let the crucified Jesus gaze upon us.”

“Francis is a model for us of taking up the cross of Jesus every day. … The cross is love and the truth that sets us free. We should boast in nothing else. The humble St. Francis teaches us this great lesson.”

Bishop Rhoades spoke directly to his audience by saying, “As a university your pursuit of excellence, learning and scholarship is obviously very important. But that pursuit does not completely define your mission. You are a university under the patronage of the humble and poor St. Francis of Assisi, who reminds us of the words of Jesus, that God has revealed His mysteries not to the wise and learned, but to the little ones, the childlike.”

Bishop reminded his listeners, “From its small and humble beginnings in Lafayette 125 years ago until today, this university has been Catholic, inspired by a vision that goes beyond worldly success. It’s a vision rooted in the Gospel, the Gospel that was St. Francis’ daily bread. It’s a mission that embraces learning in all its facets, yet most deeply and fundamentally, learning at the school of our Teacher and Master, the One who said, ‘Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart.’”

Bishop Rhoades asked for God’s blessing on the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, the university’s founding order of nuns who were in attendance in large numbers. Though the university has grown and changed, he said, its “Catholic identity and Franciscan inspiration has remained.”

Following Mass, a reception was held in the USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center on the university’s downtown West Berry campus.

University of Saint Francis President Sister Elise Kriss meets with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who celebrated the 125th anniversary Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Oct. 4. A reception followed at the USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center on the university’s downtown West Berry campus.

“We are in attendance in large numbers. The university has grown and changed, it has always been Catholic, inspired by a vision that goes beyond worldly success. It’s a vision rooted in the Gospel, the Gospel that was St. Francis’ daily bread. It’s a mission that embraces learning in all its facets, yet most deeply and fundamentally, learning at the school of our Teacher and Master, the One who said, ‘Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart.”

The University of Saint Francis was founded in 1890 in Lafayette by the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration as a small training school for sisters who wished to become teachers. Today it has an enrollment of 2,300 male and female students in a wide array of undergraduate and graduate degree programs.

There appears to be no limitations on what the future may hold for the growing, vibrant, faith-filled institution of higher learning that is the University of Saint Francis.
Respecting Life

St. André Bessette Guild promotes faith in medicine

BY MOLLY GETTINGER

SOUTH BEND — Amid a field increasingly void of a respect for the dignity of the human person, the newly founded St. André Bessette Guild of the Catholic Medical Association promotes the Church teaching in the medical field, providing medical professionals with faith, formation and fellowship that fosters the practice of Catholicism amid the practice of medicine.

Chartered April of 2015, the guild operates under the direction of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and the leadership of guild president Dr. John Rice, pediatrician, and vice president Dr. David Parker, obstetrician gynecologist. Father Glenn Kohrman of Holy Family Parish in South Bend serves as the chaplain. The St. André Bessette Guild of the Catholic Medical Association is both a community and a resource for Catholic medical professionals in the Michiana region, educating on Church teaching, fostering a network of supportive individuals, and providing opportunities for spiritual enrichment.

The guild is under the patronage of St. André of Montreal, a Congregation of Holy Cross brother who was known for his gift of healing. A humble doorkeeper at Notre Dame College in Montreal, Canada, St. André spent his days in the simple service of greeting visitors, inviting them to always “go to Joseph!” with their intentions. He would bless them with oil from his oil lamp, and individuals often found healing. Brother André received visitors in such large numbers that he built a church to St. Joseph where visitors could go to pray. St. Joseph’s Oratory in Montreal, Canada, is now one of the largest churches in North America. St. André was chosen as patron due to his gift of healing and because this area is both named for St. Joseph and filled with a Holy Cross presence.

Dr. John Rice, president, is a pediatrician who believes in the antecedence of the importance of life and foundation of faith in the medical field. A lifelong Catholic, Rice shares that, “My own experience of raising seven children and practicing pediatrics has helped me appreciate the beauty of life from its very beginning and in all its forms.” For Rice, the practice of faith cannot be separated from the practice of medicine: “The Catholic physician must first have an active prayer life and be close to the sacraments.”

Guild Vice President Dr. David Parker, obstetrician gynecologist, echoes the importance of having a strong faith while working in the medical field. In the field of reproductive health, Parker recognizes that the mainstream OB/GYN field is saturated with contraception and sterilization. He shares, “I felt pregnancy and childbirth was such a beautiful life event that, despite the seeming barriers to becoming an obstetrician gynecologist (committed to the teachings of the Church), I wanted to pursue it anyway.” He believes that a respect for life begins with a respect for a dignity of the human person and that “an important aspect of the dignity of the human person is his or her procreative potential.”

Parker continues, “All healing comes through Christ, and as medical professionals we have a real opportunity to be the healing hand of Christ in the world. It can be easy to get lost in the ‘mechanics of medicine’ and forget that each patient is an encounter with the suffering Christ. We believe having a strong sacramental life is essential to living out our vocation as medical providers, because it transforms medical practice from simply treating physical illness to being the healing hand of Christ. Being a member of the Catholic Medical Association can help us to live out our faith in our medical practice.”

The guild serves the Michiana area and is open to all medical professionals and to anyone interested in healthcare. Students are also welcome to join the group. Joining the Catholic Medical Association is not a requirement of joining the guild; although, it is certainly encouraged.

Meetings allow for members to spend time in prayer together, and include discussions of the practice of medicine in light of the Catholic faith. Rice shares, “It is important for Catholics in the health professions to know that they are not alone; that there are others who are also committed to integrating the faith into their professional lives. We have much to learn from each other as we share the challenges each has encountered in living the faith within the world of medicine.”

As the guild continues to grow, events will include educational conferences, service opportunities and activities for students and community members. They are in the process of planning a morning reflection in November.

The guild encourages all medical professionals to attend the South Bend White Mass, which will be held at St. Pius X, in Granger, on Thursday, Oct. 15, at 6 p.m. Hors d’oeuvres will be served after Mass, with a 7:15 p.m. panel discussion titled “End of Life Rituals and Traditions. ... Jewish, Christian and Islamic Perspectives.” Panelists include Imam Sirajuddin, Holy Cross Father Tom Jones and a Jewish rabbi. For reservations, contact Maria Toth at 574-335-2351 or tothml@sjrmc.com.
The gift of a child

BY ALLISON CIRAULO

SOUTH BEND — As an academic researcher and now as a parent and pro-life advocate, Mary O’Callaghan has found that it is those living at the margins of society who show us what is most central to who we are as humans.

O’Callaghan holds a Ph.D. in developmental psychology from the University of Notre Dame and is the mother of five children, including her youngest, Tommy, who has Down syndrome.

After completing her doctoral work in developmental disabilities, O’Callaghan started a family and devoted herself primarily to raising her children. But when Tommy was born eight years ago, she says, “I felt like I kind of came full circle and returned to the field of disability in a way I hadn’t anticipated, with a much different perspective.” Having studied disability in terms of addressing deficits, she found that parenting a child with disability shattered the neat categories she had used as a researcher.

“When you have your own child,” she says, “you realize that those categories are not at all helpful, because the way that people function in relationship and in community with other people. We realized quickly that it almost didn’t matter what Tommy’s disabilities were, because in our family we could adjust and compensate. We focus on the gifts he gives us as a person.”

O’Callaghan admits that she had never thought of abortion as a disability issue until Tommy was born. “It wasn’t until I was holding my own child with a disability in my arms that the horror of it struck me, because the gift of his life was so self-evident that it was really painful to contemplate that people could so easily dispose of children like my son.”

While O’Callaghan continues to raise her children and home-school her two youngest, she has also become a passionate advocate for the pro-life cause as it relates to disability. As a Public Policy Fellow at Notre Dame’s Center for Ethics and Culture, she regularly gives talks on the topic of prenatal diagnosis, disability and abortion.

In February 2015, she testified before the Indiana Senate in favor of a bill that would ban abortion due to poor prenatal diagnosis.

“Because the U.S. does not keep consistent data on the reasons that abortions are performed, it is difficult to determine the percentage of children aborted due to a prenatal diagnosis of Down syndrome or other disabilities. Recent research suggests that between 60 and 90 percent of babies diagnosed but not terminated live to term or long after birth. Modeled after a non-profit called Be Not Afraid, the outreach will connect families with a peer mentor to help them walk through the process of carrying their child to term, understanding the diagnosis, dealing with grief or whatever the family may need.

“I think that the Church, and rightly so, asks parents to step out in radical trust when they have a child with a poor prenatal diagnosis,” says O’Callaghan. “I love this approach because it’s telling parents, ‘This is a hard journey, but we’ll help you.’ It’s really about accompanying parents on a difficult but very joyful journey of letting them experience the gift of their child.’”

O’Callaghan invites anyone interested in supporting this ministry, particularly in a mentoring role, to contact Mary Glowaski, director of Special Ministries for the diocese, at 260-399-1458.
Dr. Ashley Fernandes to speak at White Mass on virtues in medicine

FORT WAYNE — The White Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades for all area medical professionals on Oct. 20 at 6 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. A dinner reception will follow at St. Mary’s Church with featured speaker Pediatrician and Bioethics Professor Ashley K. Fernandes, who will speak on “Reclaiming the Medical Culture.” The White Mass is sponsored by the Catholic Medical Guild of Northeast Indiana. Today’s Catholic recently interviewed Dr. Fernandes.

TC: How did you decide to become a pediatrician?
Dr. Fernandes: I decided to become a pediatrician because I really felt drawn to heal the suffering of children, whose voice grows with every stage of development. While all patients are vulnerable, the child who needs a doctor is particularly fragile. My passion for education fed easily into the duty to provide every parent with the anticipatory guidance and confidence they need to raise healthy children. It was Frederick Douglass who said, “It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men.”

TC: Please provide a brief biography.
Dr. Fernandes: I am the associate director of the Center for Bioethics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, and an associate professor of pediatrics at Nationwide Children’s Hospital. I attended the University of Toledo, graduating in 1994 with two degrees, in philosophy and biology. I received a master’s in philosophy from Johns Hopkins University (1999); an MD from The Ohio State University (2003); and a PhD in philosophy (bioethics) from Georgetown University (2008). I have been a member of the Catholic Medical Association since medical school. I am an advisor to the CMA Medical Student Section, and a member of the national CMA Speaker’s Bureau.

I am of Indian descent, my father (a physician) and mother (an educator), having emigrated from Mumbai, India, before I was born. I have four brothers: two physicians, one magistrate (and deacon), and one a Roman Catholic priest (and dean of the seminary in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati). I became active in the pro-life cause in high school, organizing local student-run rallies for life. I am now on the Board of Trustees of Ohio Right to Life, and have testified before the state legislature as well as provided expert testimony in bioethics for legal cases supporting the culture of life. My wife Shruti (a family physician) and I raise two rambunctious boys in Hilliard, Ohio.

TC: It appears you come from a family of physicians who have a commitment to the Catholic faith. How does your faith play a role in your profession?
Dr. Fernandes: Faith is inseparable to the practice of medicine. While we must respect the inherent dignity of others, the Christian, however, Jesus must be central to everything we do — to “leave our religion at the door” is to “undermine our moral fiber” as Dr. Wilbert J.氧, a teacher for students — we perpetually shape the person we are and what we become. In my view, one can be a good physician without faith, but one cannot be a good faithful physician without faith. As a physician for children or the poor patient, the patient that suffers to social justice, and in my view, one we should not be ashamed of, because our view is simply better.

TC: Please share a few sentences about your involvement with the Ohio Right to Life.
Dr. Fernandes: I have been a president’s trustee of Ohio Right to Life since 2011. We are arguably the most successful grassroots pro-life organization run at the state level. We have passed legislation which redirected funds from Planned Parenthood, and this year — are working to pass bans on abortion for Down syndrome children, as well as a pain-capable abortion ban. ORTL utilizes a smart strategy of lobbying for incremental changes in law, which propel attitudinal change: we will not stop until the abortion business is eliminated. My role is to act for them, when I can, as an educational advisor on medical issues, and, if called upon, to deliver testimony or guidance to legislators at their behest.

TC: How do you encourage others in the medical profession to respect life at all stages?
Dr. Fernandes: Studies suggest that the way medical students and residents learn professionalism is through the observation and guidance of their teachers. To be a physician that sees the disabled patient, the poor patient, the patient that comes late, the patient that smells, the patient with Down syndrome, the gay or lesbian patient, the patient who has just had her third abortion. Treating every person as a child of God has an impact on yourself, but also on those around you. Try to be the best you can be, to work up to the talents which God has given you — but then also be prepared to speak up. And by that I mean, when physicians harm human life or disrespect the inherent dignity of others, they need to be challenged.
Abortion cannot be a human right... it is the very opposite.
- Cardinal Franz Konig

"You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb."
Psalm 119:13

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-Pope John Paul II

"It is important to work together to defend and promote life.”
- Pope Francis, Regina Coeli Address, May 10, 2015

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-Jeremiah 1:5-

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TODAY’S CATHOLIC
October 11, 2015
Maggie’s story: Living like dad

BY MAGGIE KARNER

I was nervous and uncomfortable as I drove to the hospice facility to visit my dad. Just a few weeks prior, he had suffered a severe fall that damaged his spinal cord and left him unable to move from his neck down. It took my family and me quite a while to accept that my dad was a person with quadriplegia. It took dad even longer.

My newly healthy and active father would no longer be doing much of anything for himself. His health was quickly failing due to his age and the stress the accident imposed on his system, and I realiz ed we were entering a new phase of dad’s existence: the end of his life. I struggled with how to reconcile this fact with my belief in a God who loved dad and our family.

Watching anyone suffer, especially a loved one, is one of the hardest human experiences. Physical and emotional pain seep into us and affect us profoundly. For me, watching my father come to terms with his prognosis was agonizing. At first it was awkward trying to converse with a father I only knew as “dad,” the guy who loaned me the car keys in high school and made sure I could balance my checkbook in college. But eventually, the conversation turned to life’s more significant topics. This was new, but refreshing, and it soon became a time that our family cherished. I learned more about my dad in those last five months than I had ever known. At one point he even remarked how great it was to have the time to just talk together.

As time progressed, his condition deteriorated, bringing dementia, and later, the end stages leading to his death. “Why doesn’t God just take him already?” my siblings and I cried. It was so hard to see him linger.

Looking back, I’m convinced that walking through those moments with dad made both of us different and better people. God loved us enough to allow those moments — even and especially moments of suffering — in order to teach us lessons which helped us to grow spiritually and emotionally. Dad left a legacy. He taught me how to live and die with faith and with dignity marked by patience and grace. He taught me that dignity can’t be diminished by pain or loss of personal control. Regardless of our circumstances and whether people acknowledge it, nothing and no one can take away our God-given dignity.

Dad taught me that Jesus was walking along with him through “the valley of the shadow of death” (Psalm 23:4). Christ’s journey to the cross left Him alone, in pain, and by all appearances, abandoned by His Father in heaven. Because of this, dad knew Christ experienced and understood suffering more deeply than any of us can comprehend, and he taught me that our suffering is not meaningless when we unite it with Christ’s own suffering.

I needed to know that message because my own life today is filled with chemo treatments, fatigue and side effects, because my own life today is filled with Christ’s own suffering. This is very personal for me. My brain cancer — or what I can or can’t do — doesn’t define me as a person. But it does give me the opportunity to witness to the fact that every human life has incredible dignity, whether we are infirm or able. And all the while, my family and friends can daily learn the valuable lessons of caring for me in my last days with real compassion and respect. Through their loving care, they affirm what I also know — that my life is, always has been and always will be, worth living.

The current debate about legalizing physician-assisted suicide isn’t about me or any other individual; it’s about all of us together — as a society and as a community of faith. We are meant to be interdependent, to serve each other in humility and to walk together in suffering.

Assisted suicide also involves more than just the patient. It includes doctors, pharmacists, witnesses and the state, which we trust to protect and safeguard the most vulnerable: people with disabilities, the elderly, people with mental illnesses and others. Assisted suicide may sound like it provides choices for individuals, but instead, it’s taking choices away from people by radically weakening the promise of care and support at the end of life for terminally ill patients like me.

When societies accept assisted suicide as a “quick fix” for terminal illness, people lose the incentive to improve genuine end-of-life care and pain control — even to offer it to those who want it. For example, some cancer patients in Oregon have been denied coverage of treatment to sustain their lives, and instead offered coverage for assisted suicide.

Many patients have lived full and active lives for years after receiving a six-month prognosis. Sadly, opinions about projected timelines can lead people to give up on treatment and miss out on years of life. I have decided to take part in a new clinical trial for my cancer, hoping to find a cure — if not for me, then for others who will follow me. I hope for the gift of healing from God, but I trust in His love for me and His plan for my life, however long or short that may be.

“Caring for life from the beginning to the end. What a simple thing, what a beautiful thing. So, go forth and don’t be discouraged. Care for life. It’s worth it.”

—from a homily in 2005 by Cardinal Bergoglio (Pope Francis)

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
FORT WAYNE
The shoes of the fisherman

In 1968, there was a popular film entitled “The Shoes of the Fisherman,” about an archbishop from Ukraine — a former political prisoner who is elected pope. On the evening after his election, he sneaks out of the Vatican dressed as a simple priest to explore the city of Rome. He declines to wear the papal tiara. He undertakes to sell the Church’s property to relieve a famine in China, and encourages wealthy nations to follow his example.

Ten years after the movie was released, people would have been struck by how it prefigured St. John Paul II, another down-to-earth pope from Eastern Europe, who spent much of his reign dealing with communists.

Today, it’s the simplicity of the Anthony Quinn character (Pope Kirill) that stands out. Pope Francis was here, at The Catholic University of America, recently and I found myself thinking of his humble black shoes, and of the modest Fiat 500L that picked him up at Joint Base Andrews, when he first set foot on American soil. These are not just practical gestures by Pope Francis, who lives in a modest guesthouse rather than the Apostolic Palace. After his election, he returned to the boarding house where he stayed during the conclave, to pick up his luggage and pay his bill. As archbishop of Buenos Aires, Argentina, he rode the bus, cooked his own meals and lived in a run-down part of town.

People are drawn to the pope because of his lack of pretension. Ordinary folk can identify with a man who walks in their shoes and rides in a car like the one they own.

The big event during the pope’s visit to Washington was an outdoor Mass, which he celebrated from the portico of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The congregation, 25,000 people, gathered on our front lawn at Catholic University. En route to Mass, the pope rode around the campus in an open car. He reached out to touch students; he even mugged for pictures.

Pope Francis has a different appeal than rock stars and presidents. People who shake hands with popes don’t imagine they’ve had a brush with greatness; they feel somehow ennobled by the contact as well. The man asking the questions was of no greater value than sand. St. John Paul II (for the record, he wore black shoes) sometimes rode in an SUV with bulletproof windows, for good reason: He was shot in 1981 while riding in an open Fiat popemobile.

Fancy clothes and cars have their place. What bride would want to go down the aisle in Dr. Martens brogues, or ride to her wedding reception in a hoodie? But the world, especially the West, needs the example Pope Francis is setting. Ownership of material goods is not intrinsically evil, but all the stuff we have can distract us from the love of God, which ought to command our attention.

John Garvey is president of The Catholic University of America.

Dorothy Day’s Legacy to the Culture of Life

In his address to Congress a few weeks ago, Pope Francis offered a lesson to our politicians who he believed symbolized the best about our nation and who left a valuable legacy for future generations. One of these people, and the only woman among them, was Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement, whose cause for canonization has been opened. While her work and with for the poor is well-known and widely admired, Dorothy Day’s convictions about abortion and birth control may be surprising to some. These convictions were forged, in part, from her own personal experience of having had an abortion at the age of 21, before her conversion to Catholicism. At the time, she had been living in the fast lane in New York’s Greenwich Village, and when she discovered she was pregnant, the father of her child insisted she have an abortion. Dorothy reluctantly agreed in the hope of saving the relationship, only to lose both her baby and her boyfriend.

Years later, in a letter to a young woman, Dorothy described the terrible aftermath she experienced from her abortion: “Twice I tried to take my own life, and the dear Lord pulled me through.” (All the Way to Heaven: The Selected Letters of Dorothy Day by Robert Ellisburg). She was left with a deep fear that she would never be able to bear a child again, and it was her only grace. Since the birth of her daughter, Tamar Teresa, a few years later that catapulted Dorothy towards conversion and the Catholic Church.

When the Supreme Court handed down its infamous Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion on demand in January of 1973, Dorothy Day was the lead signatory to the Catholic Peace Fellowship Statement decreeing the decision. Here is an excerpt:

The coming of death opened his eyes. He saw what truly mattered. This is not to say that popes were not human. Cardinal Richelieu was not. The coming of death opened his eyes. He saw what truly mattered.

For its second reading, the Church presents a section from the Epistle to the Hebrews. Drawing upon the ancient Jewish notion of material wealth, accompanied by greed, the epistles declares that knowing what God has revealed, and living accordingly, represent the greatest wealth one can have. St. Mark’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. Asked what is essential to possessing eternal life, Jesus answered that the person truly wishing to have life must obey the Ten Commandments, the great gift of God to the people of Israel through Moses. Questioned further, Jesus replied that a person must disregard their personal thirst for material things, a thirst so strong among humans, and in turn give to the poor.

The man asking the questions could not personally accept this last admonition. Greatly disappointed, he turned and walked away from Jesus. He could not remove himself from the belongings he had acquired.

This weekend’s reading is very familiar to Christians. It is the story of “rich young man.”

This man, obviously a man of means, is a sad figure. Obviously, he left the impulse to follow God’s plan. He asked Jesus what was required for salvation. He was unwilling to give his riches to the poor, as Jesus counselled, but he was sad in this decision put other words and onto his wealth brought him no joy or peace of mind.

Reflection

The French Navy, over the years, has named four warships the “Richelieu,” surely the only vessels of warfare named to honor a Catholic cardinal!

Each ship honored one of the most famous figures in French history, Cardinal Armand Jean de Plessis, Duc de Richelieu, (1585-1642), not only to lose both her baby and her boyfriend.

For many years prime minister of the French king, Louis XIII, the cardinal made France mighty, glorious and rich. He himself was one of the most powerful people on earth. Finally he needed wealth. He supposedly said, “If I had exchanged my cardinal’s red for the Carnation Court decision on abortion deprives all unborn human beings of any protection whatever against incursions upon their right to life and has thus created a situation we find morally intolerable, and one which we feel obliged to protest.

From the point of view of biological science the fetus is an individual human life. The social sciences may attempt to define “fully human” in a variety of ways, but their findings are inconclusive and, at best, tentative and certainly supply no basis for determining who is or who is not to enjoy the gift of life. No one has the right to choose life.

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Each ship honored one of the most famous figures in French history, Cardinal Armand Jean de Plessis, Duc de Richelieu, (1585-1642), not remembered for his religious piety but for his skill as a politician and statesman.

For many years prime minister to the French king, Louis XIII, the cardinal made France mighty, glorious and rich. He himself was one of the most powerful people on earth. Finally he needed wealth. He supposedly said, “If I had exchanged my cardinal’s red for the Carnation..."
I had the extraordinary privilege last week of following the pope’s pilgrimage at very close quarters. I had this access both as a bishop and as a commentator for NBC News. It was thrilling indeed to witness, just how rapturously the American people received the pope and how affected the Holy Father was by this reception. Many images stay vividly in my mind: the pope kissing the forehead of the 10-year-old boy with whom spoke some of dimension of authentic freedom. Anyone familiar with my work over the years would know that all four of these people are heroes of mine. I have a photo of Lincoln over the desk in my office; I have written extensively on King and have done a number of videos on his life and legacy; Dorothy Day is featured prominently in my documentary “Catholicism” (see Episode 2); and Thomas Merton is, quite simply, one of the major reasons that I entered the Priesthood, and a photo of him is in my eyesight as I type these words.

I would love to explore the pope’s analysis of each of these giants, but given the limited scope of this article, I will focus on the one I consider the most important, namely Merton. What Merton signaled for the pope was the openness to dialogue with other religions to be sure, but also and more significantly, the contemplative openness to the reality of God, to a dimension that goes beyond the empirical world and the achievements of the individual ego. This is of supreme importance, for when a sense of God evanesces — as it has increasingly in our secularized Western world — all we have left for understanding human affairs are psychological and political categories. Armed only with these, we fall into the customary patterns of left and right, liberal and conservative, open to change and suspicious of change, our words and theirs on any of these issues will be measured by our readiness to recognize and deal with the underlying social problems which turn many people to these deadly alternatives, to condemn all forms of social and economic injustice and to work for their elimination and the establishment of a social order in which all may find it easier to be “fully human.”

The houses of hospitality, which Dorothy Day founded, were intended precisely to help foster an environment in which all may find it easier to be “fully human” and they were open to anyone in need, including pregnant women and single mothers. Dorothy was well aware that Planned Parenthood’s push for greater access with birth control and abortion in poor neighborhoods was a thinly veiled and often racist attempt to eliminate, not poverty, but rather, the poor. In a television interview with Hubert Jessup in 1974, Dorothy called birth control and abortion another form of genocide. “They claim the poor are bringing forth tremendous numbers of children and the ‘solution’ is to kill them off — the seed that is dead seed — by whatever methods they use: whether it’s intra-uterine devices or the pill — about which they’re very dubious. ... the whole program of birth control and abortion, is a way of keeping down the population of the poor.”

As we observe Respect Life Month once again in our nation, may we be edified by Dorothy Day’s legacy and consider how we can continue to put into practice her enduring contribution to the culture of life.

Lisa Everett is a co-director of the Office of Family Life.

**WORD ON FIRE**

**BISHOP ROBERT BARRON**

etc. And this, furthermore, makes Catholic social teaching so confounding to the pundits and politicians. How can the Catholic Church simultaneously advocate against abortion and assisted suicide but for immigration reform and attention to the poor? How can we stand against the abuse of the environment and for the free market, against the death penalty, and for the family? With God out of the picture, it is indeed hard to make sense of such an array of opinions, but with God at the heart of things, the various positions of the Church fall into harmony, much like the medallions in a rose window. If God exists, then every individual person that He has created is a subject of rights, freedom and dignity. If God exists, then no one is expendable and everyone is equally worthy of respect. It is none other than the contemplative attitude exemplified by Thomas Merton that reveals this deep consistency.

How wonderful and strange that a pope would be addressing Congress, a former and parapsychologist wonderful and strange it was that he should use the occasion to hold up before the lawmakers of the most powerful nation on earth the example of a Trappist monk who gave his life to the contemplation of God.

The pope, the Congress, and a Trappist — by

**SCRIPTURE SEARCH**

Gospel for October 11, 2015

Mark 10:17-30

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: a story about camels and needles and riches. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

**JOURNEY**

**MUST I DO CALL ME FALSE FROM MY YOUTH AMAZED KNELT INHERIT GOOD DEFEALED INDOLENT TREASURE HOW HARD HOW HARD POSSIBLE NEEDLE GOSPEL**

**DIFFICULT**


**ACROSS**


**DOWN**


Based on these readings: Gen 2:18-24; Heb 2:9-11; Mk 10:1-16 and Wis 7:7-11; Heb 4:12-13; Mk 10:17-30

**SCRIPTURE SEARCH**

**ACROSS**


**DOWN**

Squires take the Blue League volleyball title

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In front of a packed house, the St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Squires and the St. Rose-St. Louis Twins squared off for the Blue League season title on Sunday, Oct. 4 at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel. Both entering the contest undefeated in league play, the matchup did not disappoint with the two well-matched teams battling it out to a third game.

The Twins took the first game 25-22 and the Squires the second 25-23, but it was all Squires in the third to claim the victory, 15-8.

A pleased Squire Coach Troy Giord explained, “It’s always a great game between these two teams. Both teams played some good volleyball.”

In other action at St. Joseph, Decatur, over the weekend, the seventh-grade Twins defeated St. Therese 25-20, 25-17.

CYO football

On the gridiron, Coach Sam Talarico reported that St. Charles moved to 5-0 on the year with a 32-0 victory over a tough Central Catholic squad. The Cardinal defense was again stingy and allowed no first downs. Led by their front of Bradley Groves, Nolan Hoffman, Johnathan Knepper, Lucas Krohn and Sam “Ando” Andonian, the St. Charles defense played with energy all day. Sam Cornwell and Blayne Huston intercepted passes and Groves had a scoop-six touchdown to help with the defense as well. On offense, the Cardinals had two touchdowns from receiver Jaden Parnin as well as rushing touchdowns from Hayden Ellinger and Krohn. The passing touchdowns were thrown by Patrick O’Keefe and seventh-grader Brenden Lytle.

The undefeated Cardinals will face a one-loss St. Vincent’s squad next week with the regular season CYO title on the line.

Sisters take the Blue League volleyball title

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — With the backdrop of a blue-grey October sky the Inter-City Catholic League would crown its 2015 regular season champion as the two undefeateds met up at Bob Orolski Field at Marian High School.

The Mishawaka Catholic Saints hadn’t given up a point since Labor Day weekend and the Panthers of St. Anthony were the only team to eclipse the 100-point barrier on their way towards the historic contest.

The Saints would get the ball first and their game plan was easy — give the ball to talented backs Charlie Maxwell, Michael Schaffer and Thadeous Horvath, drive the ball behind a big line and win the point of attack. The game plan was true, however, when quarterback Josh Gill would drop back to pass the smothering defense of the Panthers and the play of lockdown linebacker Cole Farrell dominated leaving the first possession of the Saints stuck in a quagmire of maroon and gold.

The Panthers had more skill players involved in their diverse offense and used all of them — running backs Tyler Deboe, Michell Floran, Kenzel Kelly and Paxon Campbell, along with a very talented quarterback in Luke Leonard — on their opening series.

St. Anthony’s had a huge 11-play drive that was stopped by a series of self-inflicted penalties and then a big hit by Saint defender Aaron Faller that forced a punting situation.

The Saints again had a blueprint that saw their running backs flourish, but a passing attack that served up a sack, incomplete pass and finally an interception by Panther Colby Szymczak ending the drive and giving the Saints the lead.

The Saint play of attack after the intermission would be a simple one — place the ball in the belly of Horvath, block and watch him do the rest as the big back carried defenders down the field during the 58-yard march. Miguel Ortiz’s leg couldn’t be any more important as the golden limb lifted the points extra try through the uprights giving his squad an 8-0 lead.

The Panthers would not roll over as they let DeBoe and Floran do most of the heavy lifting and on the 14th play of their second half drive a counter to Floran put a stamp on the score.

The dependable leg of Panther Campbell, who was 12 for 13 during the four contests, hit the ball solid but the attempt floated just to the left of the goal post making the score, 8-6.

The opponent for the Panthers would now be Horvath and the clock and with the combination of keying on the ball, time, time and a big hit by lineman Michael Conery the Saints would give the ball back to the potent offense with 45 yards to go and 1:35 ticks left on the clock.

The Panther’s fate was sealed when ironically Saint quarterback Josh Gill, while playing defensive back, intercepted a final Leonard toss completing the undefeated regular season for the purple and gold armored gladiators.

“What a game,” exclaimed Saints’ skipper Tony Violi. “The Panthers were coached well and played well and we were fortunate to come away with a win.”

“I can’t begin to tell you how happy I am with this team,” added Violi. “Our offensive line made holes for Horvath, and Fuller came up big on both sides of the ball.”

“I really just want to congratulate Coach Violi and his team. They played like we expected and deserved the win,” remarked Coach James DeBoe. “I was proud of the way our kids battled, we will work on getting out of the blocks quicker and limiting our mistakes.”

In other action around the ICCL, Holy Cross outscored the Cardinals of West Side Catholic, 32-8, behind the leg of Miguel Zyniewicz and the rushing touchdowns from Patrick Driscoll, Asante Anglin and Evan Price.

The playoffs begin next week, as the Blazers will match up against their rival, the West Side Cardinals.

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

LADY COUGARS RESUME WINNING WAY AT BETHEL

In women’s soccer, Heather Jones and Mackenzie Starcevich scored goals helping the University of Saint Francis to a 2-0 win at Bethel College on Saturday, Oct. 3. The 29th-ranked Lady Cougars improved to 8-4 overall, 2-1 in Crossroads League action. Jones scored at 28:19 off a pass from Nicole Stephan. Starcevich scored at 80:41. Morgan Hammon had six saves in her third start in goal for USF. The Lady Cougars had a 16-10 advantage in shots, but both team has six shots-on-goal apiece. Bethel College had seven corner kicks, USF three.

USF was scheduled to play Marian University Oct. 7 at Bishop D’Arcy Stadium.

Cardegles excell in cross-country competition

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — At the West Noble Invite, which featured some of the best middle school runners and teams from Northern Indiana, Cardegles coach Dan Kaufman reported that the girls had an outstanding performance finishing fourth out of 29 teams and the boys finished 15th.

Individually, Aileen Delaney was the top Cardgele finisher at 15th followed by Nataliee Vogan at 32nd, while Cardgele Jason Kochanski was the top male finisher.

Earlier in the season the team competed at Prairie Heights where the girls won the championship and the boys placed seventh. At the Norwell Invitational, the girls had a solid fourth-place finish, while the boys placed ninth. And at Indian Springs, another big meet, the girls were third of 23 teams and the boys placed 16th out of 24 teams.

To date, the top girls have been: Delaney, Vogan, Julia Eckrich, Julia Broerman, Anna Morris, Katie Nix, Kristina Baum and Karly Ewing. For the boys, Kochanski, Atticus Wiseman, Henry Getty, Daniel Cava, Noah Thurber, Joe Schipper, Trevor Engelhardt and Noah Maskal have been setting the pace.

Kaufman summarizes, “It has been an outstanding season so far for the girls, while the boys are a young team after losing 12 eighth graders a year ago. They are making steady improvement as evident by their win at the LuthereRun meet and have a large group of promising fifth graders.”
PHOENIX (CNS) — Catholic men must reclaim and live the virtue of Christian masculinity, Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted says in his newly released apostolic exhortation, “Into the Breach.”

Addressed to Catholic men in the diocese — “my spiritual sons” as the bishop calls them — it charges them to be prepared for spiritual battle for their souls and the souls of their families is aimed.

The name of the exhortation is taken from a passage from the Book of Ezekiel: “And I sought for a man among them who should build up the wall and stand in the breach before me for the land.”

Citing statistics about the decreasing involvement in parish life and participation in the sacraments, the bishop notes that “while we know that Christ welcomes back every repentant sinner, the truth is that large numbers of Catholic men are failing to keep the promises they made at their children’s Baptisms — promises to bring them to Christ and to raise them in the faith of the Church.”

In defining what it means to be a Catholic man, Bishop Olmsted says that Jesus, fully God and fully man, is the perfection of masculinity. “Only in Jesus Christ can we find the highest display of masculine virtue and strength that we need in our personal lives and in society itself.”

Bishop Olmsted offers the saints as models of masculinity, recommending male saints such as St. Joseph, St. Francis of Assisi, St. Thomas More, Blessed Fr. Giorgio Frassati and others as examples.

Bishop Olmsted then asks: How does a Catholic man love? He describes the types of masculine love: as friend, husband and father.

Stressing the importance of men finding a “band of brothers” to join in Christian fraternity, he offers examples in the diocesan men’s conferences, Knights of Columbus, That Man Is You program and Cursillo movement.

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BY TONY GUTIERREZ

PHOENIX bishop calls Catholic men to get off sidelines, step ‘into the breach’

“Do not be fooled by those voices wishing to erase all distinctions between mothers and fathers, ignoring the complementarity that is inherent in creation itself,” he says.

“Step up and lovingly, patiently take up your God-given role as protector, provider and spiritual leader of your home. A father’s role as spiritual head of the family must never be understood or undertaken as domination over others, but only as a loving leadership and a gentle guidance for those in your care.

“To fully live, all men must be fathers and live out their fatherhood!” says Bishop Olmsted. “If you do not embrace the spousal and fatherly vocation God has planned for you, you will be stuck in the impotence of the ‘seed’ that refuses to die and refuses to give life. Don’t settle for this half-life! The question for every man is not, ‘Am I called to be a father?’ but rather, ‘What kind of father am I called to be?’”

In a special section devoted to grandfathers, Bishop Olmsted remembers his own grandparents, who passed along to him faith, the value of hard work, and a respect for all people and for God’s creation.

Bishop Olmsted also has a message for those whose fathers were absent in their lives. “There are many reasons why men abandon their responsibilities, or even if they remain, stay distant, as a result of the lack of positive experience of fathering, or even if they may not yet have healed. … Allow Christ to show you the Father who never abandons his children, but rather offers his only begotten Son.”

He encourages those who have failed in their role as a father, to ask God the Father to guide them and to seek renewal in prayer and the sacrament of reconciliation.

The bishop concludes his exhortation with a call to action:

“We need to get off the sidelines and stand up for life on the front lines. We need faith like that of our fathers who defended the children of previous generations and who gave up their own lives rather than abandon their faith in Christ. My sons and brothers, men of the Diocese of Phoenix, we need you to step into the breach!”

Tony Gutierrez is editor of The Catholic Sun, newspaper of the Diocese of Phoenix. The text of the document can be found at www.intothebreach.net.

Hunger is a ‘scandal,’ a ‘sin’ in a world of plenty, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Hunger is a “true scandal” that threatens the life and dignity of millions of people while tons of food go to waste, Pope Francis said.

“We must face this injustice, this sin,” the pope told more than 7,000 volunteers and coordinators of Italian food banks, along with representatives from food banks in other countries.

Pope Francis met the volunteers and coordinators Oct. 3 in the Vatican at a meeting sponsored by the Italian Food Bank Foundation, which assists the local food-distribution outlets and has a special focus on encouraging large-scale food producers to donate their excess or imperfect products to local food banks rather than destroy the products.

The pope praised their efforts “to fight the waste of food, recover it and distribute it to families in difficulty and to the poor.”

Developing nations are not the only countries with a hunger problem, he said. Even the richest countries seem to struggle to feed their poor despite the world being able to produce enough food to feed everyone.

In the Gospel, the pope said, Jesus makes clear that people will be judged on how they responded to the hunger of others.

“With the Gospel that the Lord, when He realizes that the crowd who came to listen to Him is hungry, does not ignore the problem and He does not give a nice speech about fighting poverty,” the pope said, “but He does something that leaves them all in awe: He takes the little that the disciples have, blesses it and multiplies the bread and fish.”

While we cannot do a miracle like Jesus,” every person and every food bank — even those that struggle — can do at least a little something to fight hunger and to educate their families and communities about the need for solidarity, the pope said.

Pope Francis pleaded with the volunteers and coordinators to remember “always that the people who come to them are persons — not numbers — each with their burden of pain that sometimes seems impossible to carry.”

“Look into their faces, look them in the eye, shake their hand, see in them the flesh of Christ and help them regain their dignity and get back on their feet,” the pope said.

“Be brothers and friends of the poor; let them know they are important in God’s eyes.”

CNS PHOTO/CJ GUNTHER, EPA

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: fthogan@diocesefwsb.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.

Luers Knight Ladies luncheon
Fort Wayne — A ladies luncheon will be Sunday, Oct. 18, from noon to 2 p.m. at the Orchard Ridge Country Club, 4531 Lower Huntington Rd. Luncheon is free to attend with a Luers Knight auction item or a monetary donation to the auction. RSVP by Friday, Oct. 9, to 260-456-1261, ext. 3142 or email luersluncheon@gmail.com.

Mass Mob gathering announced
Mishawaka — A group bringing solidarity and support, plus a love of local Catholic history and the enthusiasm to great churches in the Michiana area, will gather at Our Lady of Hungary, 829 W. Calvert St., for the 10 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Oct. 11.

Volunteer teachers needed
Fort Wayne — The Adult Learning Center is looking for volunteer instructors and new opportunities for adult students. Instructor need not be a certified teacher to teach at the center. Contact Adalys Reyes at 260-432-5113, ext. 355 or areyes@stjohnswf.org for more information. The Adult Learning Center is sponsored by Our Sunday Visitor Institute.

St. Hedwig announces a Polish Festival
South Bend — St. Hedwig Parish will have a Polish Festival Sunday, Oct. 18, from noon to 5 p.m. in the Hedwig Memorial Center. Polka Mass at 11 a.m. in the church will be followed by music, food, games and raffles until 5 p.m.

Fancy fair and cookie bar
Rome City — The 32nd annual Fancy Fair Craft Bazaar and Cookie Bar will be Saturday, Oct. 24, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Gaspar del Bufalo Catholic Church, 10871 N. State Road 9. There will be lunch, homemade desserts, soups, sandwiches and drinks available as well as tables for rent ($20). For information call Luanne Shull at 574-202-3007.

Bingo
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel will have Bingo Sunday, Oct. 18, in the hall. Doors open at 2 p.m., games start at 2:30 p.m. Admission is $5. Free dauber with admission. Must be 18 to play. Eight regular games, four games payout $25 each, four games payout $50 each, two special games payout cash prize $100. Pull tabs and 50/50 raffle. Pop, water and popcorn available for $1. Call Maria Parasnow at 260-447-0591 for information.

Craft show, bake sale and luncheon
South Bend — Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 63568 U.S. 31 South, will have a craft show, bake sale luncheon on Saturday, Oct. 17, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free admission. Contact Sue Bennett 574-784-3214 for information.

Taste and See Cooloff
Fort Wayne — A St. Jude HASA sponsored event to promote community, fellowship and stewardship will be Saturday, Oct. 10, from 7-10 p.m. Tickets are $20 in advance, $25 at the door and include food, beverages and live music. Father Jake Runyon and his mother will be two of the 10 chefs cooking live and sharing samples in addition to a table of homemade desserts, which will be judged for prizes. Contact Pearl Henry at 260-705-8000, hemr02@hotmail.com or visit www.stjudefw.org for information.

Soup kitchen plans dinner/dance
Fort Wayne — A dinner and dance featuring Chris Worth and Company will be Sunday, Oct. 17, from 6-10:30 p.m. at St. Mary, Mother of God, 1101 Lafayette St. Casa dinner, live and silent auction, music and more. Cash bar. Tickets are $15 presale or $10 for the dinner only at the door. Presale tickets available by calling 260-705-1690 or 260-424-8231. Proceeds benefit St. Mary Soup Kitchen.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Oct. 16, from 5-7 p.m. Adults $8.50, children 5-12 $3.50.

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 8:11:30 a.m. at the Mggr. Kuczynich Life Center, 1502 E. Wallen Rd. Mass in the church at 8 a.m. will be followed by a continental breakfast in the Life Center. Kay Corad, grief educator, will speak on the topic, “Mourning With Hope.” Registration required by Oct. 12, to 260-489-4875 or emailing judymockenhaupt@hotmail.com.

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SYNOD
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Catholic ideals of marriage and family life. Marriage preparation, sexuality, procreation, communication, support for couples at risk of separation, accompaniment of divorced Catholics and possible ways to bring back the divorced and civilly remarried were all expected to be on the synod’s agenda.

The readings for the Mass were the same as those used in Catholic parishes around the world for Oct. 4, the 27th Sunday in ordinary time. But the pope said, they seemed tailor-made for opening an assembly dedicated to the family. The first reading was the Genesis account of God seeing Adam alone and creating a helpmate for him; the Gospel included Jesus’ teaching that “what God has joined together, no human being must separate.”

The Genesis story, the pope said in his homily, makes clear that the “drama of solitude” experienced by too many people — the elderly, the abandoned, widows and widowers, migrants, the persecuted — is not part of God’s plan.

The modern world, he said, seems to offer “many pleasures, but few loves; many liberties, but little freedom” and “the number of people who feel lonely keeps growing.” Yet the experience of Adam, and of human beings down through history, shows that “nothing makes man’s heart as happy as another heart like his own, a heart which loves him,” the pope said. God made man and woman “to complement” each other, “to love and to be loved, and to see their love bear fruit in children.”

Many people today doubt whether a lifelong marriage is possible or even desirable, thinking that it limits individual freedom and potential, the pope said. But at the same time, people “chase after fleeting loves while dreaming of true love; they chase after carnal pleasures but desire total self-giving.”

Reciting the Angelus prayer after Mass, Pope Francis said the 270 synod members would keep their “gaze fixed on Jesus to identify — on the basis of His teaching of truth and mercy — the best paths” for helping families “so that the Creator’s original plan for man and woman can be realized and can function in all its beauty and strength in the world.”

Pope Francis, synod members and tens of thousands of people had gathered in St. Peter’s Square Oct. 3 for a nighttime prayer vigil for the synod. Before the pope spoke, Italian families and an engaged couple shared their stories of finding love, overcoming obstacles and experiencing reconciliation and healing.

In his homily, Pope Francis asked people to pray that the synod would show the world “how the experience of marriage and family is rich and humanly fulfilling.”

The pope prayed that the synod would “acknowledge, esteem and proclaim all that is beautiful, good and holy” about family life.

But he also prayed that synod members would “embrace situations of vulnerability and hardship,” not forgetting those suffering because of “war, illness, grief, wounded relationships and brokenness.”

Pope Francis prayed that the synod would find a way to remind broken families “and every family, that the Gospel is always ‘good news,’ which enables us to start over.”

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

South Bend Pilgrimage with
Father Zach Barry, parochial vicar St. Vincent de Paul in Elkhart

Fort Wayne Pilgrimage with
Father Jacob Meyer, parochial vicar St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne

Ireland

Today’s Catholic Travel is happy to announce a pilgrimage to St. Patrick’s Ireland in the fall of 2016. The 10-day trip Sept. 4-13, 2016, will present opportunities for the faithful to visit historic sites.

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