TODAY’S CATHOLIC

Take up the challenge of St. John Paul II, dare to be saints

Bishop celebrates all-schools Mass

BY TIM JOHNSON AND KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — On the feast of St. John Paul II four young men dressed as the contemporary saint for the all-school Mass in Fort Wayne. During his homily, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades called all four students to the stage.

One of the four, who was a student at Fort Wayne’s St. Charles Borromeo School when asked his given name, surprised the bishop by responding confidently, “John Paul.” Another of the four, this time from St. John the Baptist School in New Haven, also had the name John Paul.

Asking for some facts about his patron saint, John Paul Meyer of St. Charles School told Bishop Rhoades that St. John Paul II had canonized 483 saints, which was very appropriate for a Mass celebrating saints.

Young Meyer was complimented on his saint’s papal garb by Bishop Rhoades, but one thing was missing — a miter. Bishop Rhoades briefly “loaned” his miter for a minute to Meyer to complete his wardrobe.

Nearly 3,000 students, teachers, principals, chaperones, parents and guests filled the expo center for the annual school Mass at Allen County War Memorial Coliseum Expo Center during the all-schools Mass. Bishop Rhoades was the celebrant of the Mass, and parish priests and deacons also joined in the celebration.

SCHOOL, PAGE 10

WANTED: STUDENT ART

Today’s Catholic is seeking “Let us Give Thanks” artwork for the Nov. 22nd Thanksgiving issue. We invite elementary, junior high and high school students to express their gratitude through artwork or photos with a one-sentence description of what their work shows. The works will be displayed through social media and published in Today’s Catholic newspaper.

All submissions may be sent via e-mail as a scanned artwork or a photo of the art. Be sure to include your first and last name, grade level, age and school. Submit entries to editor@diocesefwsb.org before Nov. 12 to meet the publishing deadline.

SYNOD, PAGE 5

Synod urges ‘accompaniment’ tailored to family situations

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While not specifically mentioning the controversial proposal of a path toward full reconciliation and Communion for the divorced and civilly remarried, members of the Synod of Bishops on the family handed Pope Francis a report emphasizing an obligation to recognize that not all Catholics in such a situation bear the same amount of blame.

The 94-paragraph report approved Oct. 24, the last working day of the three-week synod, highlighted the role of pastors in helping couples understand Church teaching, grow in faith and take responsibility for sharing the Gospel. It also emphasized how “pastoral accompaniment” involves discerning, on a case-by-case basis, the moral culpability of people not fully living up to the Catholic ideal.

Bishops and other full members of the synod voted separately on each paragraph and the Vatican published those votes. The paragraph dealing specifically with leading divorced and remarried Catholics on a path of discernment passed with only one vote beyond the necessary two-thirds.

Austrian Cardinal Christoph Schönborn of Vienna told reporters Oct. 24 that the key word in the document’s discussion of ministry to divorced and civilly remarried people is “discernment.” He invited all to remember there is no black or white, no simple yes or no. The situation of each couple “must be discerned,” which is what was called for by St. John Paul II in his 1981 exhortation on the family, he said.

The cardinal told Vatican Insider, a news site, that although St. John Paul called for discernment in those cases, “he didn’t mention all that comes after discernment.” The synod’s final report, he said, proposes priests help
The medical profession as a mission of hope and healing

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHoades

Euthanasia reveals culture of death and despair

Following is the text of the homily given by Bishop Rhoades at the White Masses for physicians, nurses, and other health care workers in Fort Wayne and South Bend in October:

As I thought and prayed about what to preach about at this year’s White Mass, the theme of hope kept coming to my mind. Saint Paul writes about hope in our first reading in reference to the redemption of our bodies. He wrote to the Romans: “For in hope we were saved. Now hope that sees for itself is not hope. For who hopes for what one sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait with endurance.”

I was thinking about how the sick come to you who serve in the medical profession with hope, hope for a promising diagnosis, hope for help of the grace of the Holy Spirit (“pain,” hope for good news about their physical condition. Sometimes you are able to give them good news. What a joy that is for you! To tell a person that a tumor is benign, that a condition can be successfully treated, that a suspected terminal illness is not really terminal, that a person’s pain can be alleviated. There are so many examples where a person in anguish is restored to peace. In such situations, you are truly messengers of hope. This must be such a fulfilling part of your profession.

Then there are other situations where the news you give to your patients is not good news. In these situations, it is very difficult to be a messenger of hope. When you have to tell a patient that his or her condition is not curable, that a tumor has metastasized, that surgery is not possible or is futile, that treatment will not bring a cure or may not even extend life, that it will be difficult to alleviate their pain. It is incredibly difficult to be the bearer of such bad news. But yet, as Christian doctors and health care professionals, you are still called to be messengers of hope, not primarily through your words, but through your deeds, your loving concern, your compassion and sensitivity, your help of a patient in a state of anguish or even despair. As disciples of Jesus, we have hope even in the face of death.

A culture of death is a culture of despair. A culture of life is a culture of hope, even in the face of death. “In hope, we are saved,” Saint Paul says. Hope is a theological virtue. The Catechism defines it in these words: “Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ’s promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit” (CCC 1817). I imagine that many of your patients have this virtue. In suffering, that virtue can grow, keeping the person from discouragement and despair, sustaining him or her in illness and in dying. That hope can even be manifested as joy in the midst of suffering. We see this so clearly in the lives of the saints. As doctors and nurses and medical workers, you can help your patients to hope, even in what may be called “hopeless cases.” But we’re talking here not about clinical cases, but about human persons and in this. You can help a patient of God and no person should be considered hopeless, since hope is not anchored in physical health and wellbeing, it is anchored in the spiritual reality. It is anchored in God. Notice how the symbol of hope in Christian art and iconography is an anchor.

On October 8th, California became the fifth state in our nation to legalize euthanasia. The culture of death continues to grow. Euthanasia, like abortion and suicide, reveals what I believe is not only a refusal of love of neighbor or oneself, but a refusal to hope. We have a crisis of hope in our culture. Perhaps this is most obvious in the face of the acceptance of euthanasia.

When a person’s health deteriorates, when suffering and pain increase, when a patient is terminally ill, he or she needs human and Christian accompaniment. Here is where doctors and health care workers are called to respect and protect life in a special way. You are called to accompany your patient, care for him or her, no less than when they were not in a terminal condition. You help the dying patient who is in your care in the final experience of his or her life on earth. This is a profound duty and it is beautiful, caring for a person as he or she prepares for eternity, for the encounter with our merciful and loving God. You provide them, of course, with medical assistance to help alleviate the pain that may accompany death. Most important is your loving concern, your compassion, your help of a patient in a state of anguish or even despair. As disciples of Jesus, we have hope even in the face of death.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrates the White Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Oct. 20. Medical professionals were invited to the Mass followed by a dinner and speaker at St. Mary, Mother of God Church.
Virtues of medicine emphasized at White Mass in Fort Wayne

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Oct. 20 celebrated the annual White Mass for area medical professionals at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne. A buffet reception followed at nearby St. Mary, Mother of God Catholic Church with pediatrician and bioethics professor Dr. Ashley K. Fernandes speaking on “Reclaiming the Medical Culture.” The diocese and the Dr. Jerome Lejeune Charitable Foundation of Northeast Indiana sponsored the White Mass and dinner.

“I was thinking about how the sick come to you who serve in the medical profession with hope, hope for a promising diagnosis, hope for healing and a cure, hope for relief of pain, hope for news about their physical condition,” Bishop Rhoades said in his homily. “Sometimes you are able to give them good news. What is clear is that for you. To tell a person that a tumor is benign, that a condition can be successfully treated, that a suspected terminal illness is not really terminal, that a person’s pain can be alleviated.”

“In such situations, you are truly messengers of hope, of neighbor or oneself, but a refusal to accept despair,” Bishop Rhoades added. “This must be such a fulfilling part of your profession.”

He also spoke of the situation where the news doctors give their patients is not good news. In these situations, it is very difficult to be a messenger of hope.

“When you have to tell a patient that his or her condition is not curable, that a tumor has metastasized, that surgery is not possible or is futile, that treatment will not bring a cure or may not even extend life, that it will be difficult to alleviate their pain. It is incredibly difficult to be the bearer of such bad news,” Bishop Rhoades stressed. “But yet, as Christian doctors and healthcare professionals, you are still called to be messengers of hope, not primarily through your words, but through your deeds, your loving concern, your compassion and sensitivity, your help of a patient in a state of anguish or even despair. As disciples of Jesus, we have hope even in the face of death.”

Bishop Rhoades reminded the congregation that on Oct. 5, California became the fifth state to legalize euthanasia. And, like abortion and suicide, euthanasia reveals a culture not only of death, but also of despair.

“At its root, we see what I believe is not only a refusal of love of neighbor or oneself, but a refusal to hope,” Bishop Rhoades added. “We have a crisis of hope in our culture. Perhaps this is most obvious in the face of the acceptance of euthanasia.”

“Never underestimate the confidence and hope you give to your patients who are dying, just by your caring attention,” he emphasized.

Medical professionals gather with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades following the White Mass in Fort Wayne on Oct. 20 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

“You can help a patient whom you inform of a terminal condition or whom you accompany in the final weeks of life in such a way that their anguish gives way to hope, not despair.”

Bishop Rhoades concluded his homily, “My brothers and sisters, it is your indispensable and holy mission to defend, promote and love the life of every patient, of every human being from its beginning until its natural end. May you have the faith and courage to live this mission and to be messengers and witnesses of hope to all whom you care for. May the Holy Spirit guide you in your work and help you to bear witness that human life is always sacred!”

Dr. Fernandes said he was going to talk about truth in his talk at St. Mary’s, which followed the White Mass. Quoting a popular comment made concerning the climate of religion and ethics in medicine today, he said: “Do not confuse religion with ethics. They are completely separate. One need not have religion to be an ethical person and your religion should not be a factor in the decisions you make in your job. If religion comes into play at all, it is the healthcare recipient whose religion matters, not yours. Ethics put forth by your professional association may still put you in conflict with a patient but religion drives only the choices for your own personal healthcare, not for the people you are serving.”

“And that just about encapsulates the attitude of medical education today as any medical student in a secular, public university or not will tell you,” Dr. Fernandes said. “So we have a big problem as the culture of death seems to march on,” he emphasized. “The issue is what are we going to do about it and where are we going to draw strength from.”

“It’s not over! ‘Reclaiming the Medical Profession’ is a provocative title. The idea that Catholic physicians are reclaiming rather than discovering or conquering implies that the foundation of bioethics was first owned by us and somehow surrendered,” Dr. Fernandes said.

“When you have to tell a patient that there is nothing more that can be done, that you have to say it, that treatment will not bring relief, that surgery is not possible or is futile, that a tumor has metastasized, that it will be difficult to alleviate their pain. It is incredibly difficult to be the bearer of such bad news,” Bishop Rhoades stressed. “But yet, as Christian doctors and healthcare professionals, you are still called to be messengers of hope, of neighbor or oneself, but a refusal to accept despair.”

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

• St. Joseph Church, 1300 N. Main St., Bluffton, hosts prayer for vocations and religious freedom the first Thursday of each month beginning with Morning Prayer at 7:45 a.m., Mass at 8 a.m., Adoration from 8:30 a.m. to 7 p.m., Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m., Litany of the Eucharist and Benediction at 6:45 p.m. and Mass at 7 p.m. On the second Wednesday of the month, Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty takes place beginning at 5 p.m. and ending with Mass at 7 p.m.

• St. Charles Borromeo Church, 4916 Trier Rd, Fort Wayne, has a holy hour all Fridays from 7:30-8:30 p.m in the chapel.

• Queen of Peace Church in Mishawaka has an hour and a half (3:30-5 p.m.) of Adoration and Exposition every Saturday prior to the Vigil Mass at 5:30 p.m. They dedicate this time in honor of private prayer for the Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty.

• St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Decatur, hosts Eucharistic Exposition on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 4:30-6 p.m. and on Thursday from 9-10 a.m. and 4:30-8 p.m. The parish asks participants to pray for the protection of marriage, religious freedom and unborn children.

• Our Lady of Good Hope Church, 7215 St Joe Rd., Fort Wayne, hosts a holy hour for religious liberty beginning with a rosary at 9:30 a.m. every Tuesday.

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings and prayerful wishes as you gather for Sankofa: A Celebration of Black Catholic Faith and Culture! I hope and pray that your gathering together in prayer, fellowship and reflection will bear good fruit for the incordination of the Black Catholic community in our Diocese.

The joyful and faithful witness of Black Catholics in our Diocese is essential to the New Evangelization. The Church needs you to spread the joy of the Gospel in the life of the Church.

I am delighted to support and encourage your participation in this joyful day. May God bless you and our Mother Mary intercede for you!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
+ Kevin C. Rhoades
Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades
Bishop of Fort Wayne – South Bend
Jesus’ disciples are called to lead without lecturing, pope says

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As disciples, Christians are called to imitate Jesus’ heart and lead others directly to Him, without lecturing them, Pope Francis said.

Thousands gathered in St. Peter’s Basilica Oct. 25 for the closing Mass of the Synod of Bishops. The Mass concluded three weeks of intense discussion and debate on pastoral responses to the challenges facing families in the modern world.

Reflecting on the day’s Gospel reading, which recalled Jesus’ healing of Bartimaeus, a blind beggar from Jericho, Pope Francis said Christ is not content with giving the poor man alms, but preferred to “personally encounter him.”

Jesus asking the beggar what he wanted may seem like a senseless question, the pope said, but it shows that Jesus “wants to hear our needs” and “talk with each of us about our lives, our real situations.”

When Jesus’ disciples address Bartimaeus, they use two expressions: “take heart” and “rise,” the pope said.

“His disciples do nothing other than repeat Jesus’ encouraging and liberating words, leading him directly to Jesus, without lecturing him,” he said. “Jesus disciples are called to this, even today, especially today: to bring people into contact with the compassionate mercy that saves.”

In moments of suffering and conflict, he said, the only response is to make Jesus’ words “our own” and most importantly, to “imitate His heart.” Today, the pope said, “is a time of mercy.”

However, Pope Francis also warned that the Gospel shows two temptations that face those who follow Jesus when confronted ed with people who are suffering.

The first is the temptation of falling into a “spirituality of illusion,” shown in the indifference of those who ignored Bartimaeus’ cry, “going on as if nothing were happening.”

“If Bartimaeus was blind, they were deaf: his problem was not their problem,” the pope said. “This can be a danger for us: in the face of constant problems, it is better to move on, instead of letting ourselves be bothered.”

This “spirituality of illusion,” he said, makes one capable of developing world views without accepting “what the Lord places before our eyes.”

“A faith that does not know how to root itself in the life of the people remains arid and creates other deserts rather than oases,” he said.

The second temptation the pope warned against was of falling into a “scheduled faith” where “everyone must respect our rhythm and every problem is a bother.” The pope said that like those who lost patience with the blind man and rebuked him for crying out to Jesus, there is the risk of excluding “whoever bothers us or is not of our stature.”

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“Jesus, on the other hand, wants to include above all those kept on the fringes who are crying out to Him,” he said. “They, like Bartimaeus, have faith, because awareness of the need for salvation is the best way of encountering Jesus.”

Pope Francis celebrates the closing Mass of the Synod of Bishops on the family in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Oct. 25.

Pope Francis exchanges the sign of peace with Italian Archbishop Bruno Forte of Chieti-Vasto, special secretary of the extraordinary Synod of Bishops on the family, during the closing Mass of the synod in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Oct. 25.
SYNOD
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

divorced and remarried couples undergoing conversion and repentance so that they recognize whether or not they are worthy to receive the Eucharist. Such an examination of conscience, he said, is required of every Catholic each time they prepare to approach the altar.

As Pope Francis said at the beginning of the synod, Church doctrine on the meaning of marriage as a lifelong bond between one man and one woman open to having children was not up for debate. The final report strongly affirmed that teaching as God’s plan for humanity, as a blessing for the Church and a benefit to society.

While insisting on God’s love for homosexual persons and the obligation to respect their dignity, the report also insisted same-sex unions could not be recognized as “marriage” and denounced as “totally unacceptable” governments or international organizations making recognition of “marriage” between persons of the same sex a condition for financial assistance.

The report also spoke specifically of the changing role of women in families. The Church, it said, “can and should exist in the reality of families, single people and their contributions to the family and the Church; the heroic witness of parents who love and care for children with disabilities; the family as a sanctuary protecting the sacredness of human life from conception to natural death; and the particular strain on family life caused by poverty and by migration.”

The Catholic Church recognizes a “natural” value in marriage corresponding to the good of the husband and wife, their unity, fidelity and desire for children. But the sacrament of Marriage adds another dimension, the report said. “The irrevocable fidelity of God to His covenant is the foundation of the indissolubility of marriage. The complete and profound love of the spouses is not based only on their human capabilities: God sustains this covenant with the strength of His Spirit.”

But human beings are subject to sin and failure, which is why synod members recommend the need for “accompaniment” by family members, pastors and other couples. “Being close to the family as a traveling companion means, for the Church, assuming wisely differentiated attitudes: sometimes it is necessary to stay by their side and listen in silence; other times it must indicate the path to follow; and at still other times, it is opportune to follow, support and encourage.”

A draft of the report was presented to synod members Oct. 22, and 51 bishops spoke the next morning about changes they would like to see in the final draft. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, told reporters that several bishops mentioned specifically a need to improve the text’s references to “the relationship between conscience and the moral law.”

The text refers to conscience in sections dealing with procreation and with marital situations. The Church considers irregular, particularly the situation of divorced and civilly remarried Catholics.

First, though, synod members promised greater encouragement to couples in crisis and praised divorced Catholics who, “even in difficult situations, do not undertake a new union, remaining faithful to the sacramental bond.” Such Catholics, they noted, can and should “find in the Eucharist the nourishment that sustains them.”

Those who have remarried without an annulment of their sacramental marriage must be welcomed and included in the parish community in every way possible, the report said. “They are baptized, they are brothers and sisters, the Holy Spirit gives them gifts and charisms for the good of all.”

Quoting from St. John Paul’s exhortation on the family, the report insists that pastors, “for the sake of truth,” are called to careful discernment when assisting and counseling persons who are divorced and remarried. They must distinguish, for instance, between those who “have been unjustly abandoned, and those who through their own grave fault have destroyed a canonically valid marriage,” in the words of St. John Paul.

Priests must “accompany interested people on the path of discernment in accordance with the teaching of the Church and the guidance of the bishop,” the report said.

While the report makes no explicit mention of absorption and the return to Communion, it seems to leave some possibility for such a solution by quoting the Catechism of the Catholic Church’s affirmation that “imputability and responsibility for an action can be diminished or even nullified.”

In several places the text praises the teaching of “Humanae Vitae,” the document of Blessed St. John Paul on married love and the transmission of life. “Conjugal love between a man and a woman and the transmission of life are ordered one to the other,” the report said.

“Responsible parenthood presupposes the formation of the conscience, which is the most secret core and sanctuary of a man. There he is alone with God, whose voice echoes in his depths,” said the report, quoting from the Second Vatican Council’s Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World. “Because of different conditions. Just as the measure of guilt will differ, the report said, “also the consequences of the acts are not necessarily the same in all cases.”

Pope Francis waves as he leaves a session of the Synod of Bishops on the family at the Vatican Oct. 24.

Pope establishes new dicastery for laity, family, life

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis announced he is establishing a new office for laity, family and life, which combines the responsibilities of two pontifical councils.

The pope made the announcement Oct. 22 during the afternoon session of the Synod of Bishops on the family.

“I have decided to establish a new dicastery with competency for laity, family and life, that will replace the Pontifical Council for the Laity and the Pontifical Council for the Family. The Pontifical Academy for Life will be joined to the new dicastery,” the pope said.

The responsibilities of the new office will be spelled out in a document being drafted by a commission the pope said he already has appointed.

Members of the pope’s international Council of Cardinals have been discussing the move for months. Cardinal Dionigi Tettamanzi, the retired archbishop of Milan, was tasked by the pope to study the feasibility of creating the new dicastery.

Following a presentation by Cardinal Tettamanzi, the council made a formal proposal to bring together the current pontifical councils for the laity and the family and place the Pontifical Academy for Life under the new office’s jurisdiction.

Established in 1967 by Blessed Paul VI, the Pontifical Council for the Laity is charged with overseeing the apostolate of the laity and “their participation in the life and mission of the Church,” both as individuals and through organizations and movements. It was reformed 10 years later and included among the permanent dicasteries of the Roman Curia. The current president of the council is Cardinal Stanislaw Rylko.

The Pontifical Council for the Family was established May 9, 1981, by St. John Paul II and took the place of the Committee for the Family created by Pope Paul in 1973. The council, which promotes pastoral ministries and apostolates aimed at supporting families and the defense of human life, is headed by Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia.

Although there was no immediate word on who would lead the new dicastery, Pope Francis said that the special commission’s text on its competencies will be presented for discussion to the Council of Cardinals, which is scheduled to meet Dec. 10-12.

BISHOP DWENGTER OPEN HOUSE
November 5, 2015
6:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Main Gym

- Tour the school
- Meet Faculty, Staff, and Administration
- Explore 10 Academic Departments
- Visit with Campus Ministry Representatives
- Discuss Service Opportunities
- Spend time with coaches and players
- Learn about extra-curricular clubs

WELCOME FUTURE SAINTS!

BISHOP DWENGTER HIGH SCHOOL
Cause opens for Florida martyrs who proclaimed faith ‘at all cost’

BY PEGGY DEKEYSER

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (CNS) — A slight breeze stirred the Spanish moss of the ancient live oaks as the late October afternoon sun slanted across the wide lawn of the deserted mansion.

It was easy to imagine going back more than 300 years to the dawn of the 18th century, hearing the sounds of an Apalachee village, and seeing the peaceful native people with their families. It was difficult to imagine the violence that would enter their world as they were brutally murdered by a British military force at war with their Spanish missionary friends.

The outdoor Mass and opening of the sainthood cause for 82 Florida martyrs — known as Antonio Cuipa and Companions — was celebrated Oct. 12, just east of Tallahassee, the site of what will become the Shrine of Mary, Queen of the Martyrs.

It’s a short distance from U.S. Hwy. 90, known during the Spanish exploration and settlement of north Florida as El Camino Real, the king’s highway. The road once tied together the missions of Spanish Florida like a “string of pearls” bringing the Catholic faith to the indigenous people. Also along this road, atrocities were committed by the forces of a Protestant English king against these same people, in the name of conquest and colonization.

Bishop Gregory L. Parkes of Pensacola-Tallahassee was the main celebrant of the Mass.

Bishop Felipe Estevez of St. Augustine, retired Bishop J. Kevin Boland of Savannah, Georgia, and retired Bishop Sam G. Jacobs of Houma-Thibodaux celebrated the Mass, along with priests from across Florida and Georgia.

In his homily, Bishop Parkes thanked all who came far and wide to participate, saying that it was a “special, historic and important day for the Church in Florida, as the 80 or more martyrs remembered lived and died in what are now the dioceses of Pensacola-Tallahassee, St. Augustine, St. Petersburg, Orlando, Palm Beach and Venice.

“From Father Luis de Can near Tampa Bay in 1549 to Antonio Cuipa and his companions at Ayuhue in 1704, they gave their lives in witness to the faith,” Bishop Parkes said. “We pray that through their intercession, we may be empowered to imitate their example. We pray that they might inspire us to live more holy lives, always for the glory of God.”

Cuipa was an Apalachee Indian from San Luis Mission, in present-day Tallahassee, who was converted by Franciscan missionaries. His martyrdom included other Native Americans and Franciscan friars as well as Dominican and Jesuit missionaries. Father Cancer was the first Dominican martyr in the country.

At the conclusion of the Mass, Dr. Mary Soha of Ponte Vedra Beach presented Lynn Mangan of Tallahassee with a framed rendering of the vision of Cuipa. While hanging from the cross with fire at his feet, he said Mary appeared to him. He said to those who were being tortured to “stand firm. Our Lady is near. Be strong; be strong. Our Lady is here with us.”

Cuipa was a leader among the Apalachee people, carpenter and a catechist for the Franciscan friars. He was slain in 1704 at the mission of La Concepcion de Ayuhue by the English and Creek forces of English Col. James Moore.

Soha commented as she presented the art that it was fitting that the story which began with the Shrine of Our Lady of La Leche at Mission Nombre de Dios in St. Augustine — the first shrine to Mary in the United States — would conclude where the story ended along El Camino Real with the deaths of the martyrs.

Following Mass the first formal session of the martyrs’ sainthood cause began with a procession of Bishop Parkes, Bishop Estevez, the members of the tribunal for the cause, and the vice postulatos of the cause.

The history of the cause was recounted, as were the stories of the many martyrs who have been identified. The letters exchanged between Bishop Parkes and Cardinal Angelo Amato of the Vatican Congregation for Saints’ Causes were read aloud, establishing that Bishop Parkes, with consent from the other Catholic bishops of Florida, is the competent authority to investigate the cause.

Tribunal members are Father Joseph Fowler, Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, episcopal delegate; Father Timothy Lindenfelser, Diocese of St. Augustine, promoter of justice; and Father Joseph Waters, Diocese of St. Petersburg, notary.

Retired Bishop Rene H. Gracida of Corpus Christi, Texas, who was the founding bishop of the Pensacola-Tallahassee Diocese, is the postulator. The vice postulatos are Soha, Xaverian Brother Reginald Cruz, Lynn Mangan, Father Leonlaz Plazewski and Father Wayne Payse, a New Orleans priest who is former executive director of the Black and Indian Mission Office in Washington.

Interrogation of witnesses for the cause — to be conducted by Father Fowler — will begin immediately primarily in Tallahassee at the Florida Conference of Catholic Bishops. Bishop Estevez is scheduled to be the first to testify Nov. 4.

In his address at a dinner following Mass, Bishop Estevez posed the questions: “Because we care about the communion of saints, we care about the Florida martyrs, for, if we don’t do, who will? If we don’t care now, when will we?”

“We want to promote the martyrs of Florida because we want to know their stories accurately, establish the historical facts, and when approved by Holy Mother Church, we want to seek their intercession. As they were victims for their religious freedom — today we need their courage to stand firm in the current waves of secularism and subtle persecution.”

Recounting the earliest beginning of the cause, when Pope Clement XI established a commission in 1704 to document the martyrdom of the Apalachee Christians, Bishop Estevez traced the history of the initiative to the present day.

“It is significant that the passage of time has allowed us to discover that it was not only the missionaries who laid down their lives for Christ in La Florida. Rather, we now know the incredible stories of so many Native Americans who chose martyrdom rather than renounce the faith they had accepted. It is a meaningful sign that the faith was not simply imposed upon them, but rather they freely accepted the Catholic faith to the point that they understood it that was worth dying for.”

Bishop Estevez continued, “The one faith is expressed in different ways. There can be no question of adulterating the Word of God or of emptying the cross of its power, but rather of Christ animating the very center of all culture. Not only is Christianity relevant to these Indian people, but Christ, in the members of His body, is Himself ‘Indian.’”

More information about the “Martyrs of La Florida” and the canonization cause can be found at www.martyrsoflafloridamissions.org.

Peggy DeKeyser is a freelance writer and editor in Florida.

Vatican spokesman says claims pope has tumor ‘entirely unfounded’

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said an Italian newspaper’s claims about the pope’s health were “entirely unfounded.” After checking with the pope himself and other sources, Father Lombardi told reporters the pope enjoys good health and that the unsubstantiated news report was “a serious act of irresponsibility, absolutely unjustifiable and unspeakable.”

The Quotidiano Nazionale reported Oct. 21 that an unnamed nurse at a clinic in Pisa told the paper that the pope visited the clinic several months ago and that tests revealed a “small dark spot” — a small brain tumor. The paper reported that the anonymous source said the condition could be taken care of without surgery and that the specialist following the case was Dr. Takamori Fukushima, a neurorosurgeon who teaches at Duke University Medical Center in North Carolina and travels to clinics in Japan and Pisa. However, the doctor denied the reports in a written statement later in the day, saying, “I have never medically examined the pope. These stories are completely false.”

Mexico mops up after Patricia; ‘nature was kind,’ official says

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Mexico is mopping up after Hurricane Patricia hit its Pacific Coast with Category 5 strength, but left surprising little damage and few deaths, given the severity of the storm. An official with Caritas Mexico, the Church’s charitable arm, says the storm left a mess in parts of the dioceses serving the western states of Colima, Jalisco and Nayarit with flooding and property damage, but mostly impacted small settlements and rural areas — which were being provided with assistance from parishes diocesan collections.

The evaluation that they’re doing at this time says that there is not a crisis situation,” said Jose Luis Lopez, director of emergency responses for Caritas Mexico, relaying information provided by local Caritas chapters. The aftermath came as a relief for Mexico, which was bracing for the worst. Hurricane Patricia was predicted to crash both coasts frequently.

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“Let’s not err in responding to strong storms — which crash both coasts frequently,” Lopez said.

“What has surprised us was the rapid increase (in the storm) to the point it reached Category 5 strength,” Lopez said.

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PARISH MISSIONS

Sacred Heart Parish to host mission

WARSAW — Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw, 125 N. Harrison St., will host a parish mission consisting of the Eucharist on Nov. 16-18 from 6:30-7:30 p.m.

Father Bill Rhinehart, a Vincentian priest from Missouri, will speak on the Eucharistic topic, “Divine Savior, Transform Me Into Yourself: I Live now, Not I, But Christ Lives In Me.”

The presentation on the Eucharist will reconnect people to their faith and celebrate the communal dimension of what it means to be Catholic.

A social will follow in the gym each evening. Childcare will be provided.

Call the parish office at 574-267-5842 for additional information or for transportation needs.

St. Joseph to host ‘Mission Possible’


The evenings will begin with a light meal served from 5:30-6:45 p.m. and evening sessions from 7:30-9:00 p.m. Childcare will be provided.

The topics include the following:
- Monday: “How to Handle Everyday Stress: Addresses and Prescriptions for Life”
- Tuesday: “How to Cope With Losses” and “Contemplative Prayer”
- Wednesday: “Forgiving As God Forgives” and “Discipleship — Faith in Action”

Morning sessions will be held on Nov. 3 and 4 with one-hour discussion groups from 9-10 a.m. Coffee and doughnuts will be served. The parish is located at 2213 Brooklyn.

For more information, e-mail MissionPossible.sjfw@gmail.com.

St. Aloysius to host parish mission Nov. 7-11

YODER — St. Aloysius Parish, Yoder, will hold a parish mission Nov. 7-11. Deacons Robert Herrmann and Eddie Ensley from the Diocese of Savannah, Georgia, will lead the parish and community in prayer and reflection at that time. The deacons will preach the homily at all of the weekend Masses, Nov. 7-8, and speak on the following three evenings.

Both deacons are nationally known authors who have over 20 years experience leading parish missions and retreats. Passionately overwhelming audiences with their talks, they teach the same way Jesus taught the crowds, by telling stories and parables with infectious wit. Down-to-earth insights and truly holy inspiration are the hallmarks of their messages.

“The mission will enliven us spiritually for the coming seasons of Advent and Christmas,” said Msgr. Bernard Galic, pastor of St. Aloysius.

The gentle words of the deacons help tie heaven and earth together, helping the divine connect with everyday living.

The evening session will begin at 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday. A reception will follow the Wednesday session. Priests will be available for Confession on Wednesday.

Notre Dame Club of Fort Wayne to host annual UND Celebration

FORT WAYNE — The Notre Dame Club of Fort Wayne will host their annual UND Celebration on Thursday, Nov. 12, at 6 p.m. at On the Boulevard, located on Anthony Boulevard in Fort Wayne. The celebration is a chance to meet local alumni, celebrate Notre Dame’s path to the national championship this year and learn more about current projects, developments and events on campus.

Food will be provided by Bandids and a cash bar will be available. Cost is $20 per attendee.

Trent Grocock, senior director at the Office of Budget and Financial Planning at the University of Notre Dame, will be at the meeting.

The club will honor their Persons of the Year which includes Anthony Stites of Barrett McNagny and Erica Dekko of Dekko Investment Services.

Participants are encouraged to RSVP to Jacob Benedict at Jacob@aminvestment.com or call Michael Barranda at 260-347-1281.

Mother of Mercy Center to host community event

ROME CITY — Our Lady, Mother of Mercy Center is opening its doors to the public. The area community is welcome to learn about the grounds and the plans that the Mother of Mercy Foundation has for the building and grounds.

The community event will be held on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 1-4 p.m. There will be presentations at 1:30, 2:30 and 3:30 p.m. to give the community a chance to learn more about the future plans the foundation has for the property. Presentation and light refreshments will be located in the chapel. Those attending are asked to enter the building through the chapel doors, near the far end of the parking lot. The public is invited to see what progress has been made, and how they can become a part of the grounds story.

Since owning the property, the foundation has worked on overall improvement and renovation to the building, and maintenance to the grounds.

“Our Lady, Mother of Mercy Center is excited to be able to share all of the recent updates to the center since our June Open House,” said Sheri McBride, executive director of the foundation. “We can’t wait to reveal to the community our plans for the future of the grand building and beautiful grounds.”

Andulcan College offering accelerated winter term

DONALDSON — College students looking to earn extra college credit over the holiday break can enroll in Ancilla’s second annual winter term. The accredited college is offering five courses in an accelerated four-week winter term this year from Dec. 12 to Jan. 9.

“Ancilla is offering a winter term to help students who receive the Indiana State grant earn 30 credits by the end of the academic year,” said Vice President for Academics Dr. Joanna Blount. “The Incentive Program, 15 to Finish, is sponsored by the Indiana Commission of Higher Education to encourage students to complete their degrees in a timely manner. Students with less than 30 credits could see a reduction in their state grant. Our winter term helps those students pick up an extra course between semesters. It is an excellent opportunity for those students home for the holidays as the courses are taught online.”

The three-credit courses include: Computer literacy, public speaking, cinema history, general psychology and introduction to sociology and are all offered at a reduced tuition rate. The online courses are $1,110 plus materials.

Students will have access to their instructor’s notes, class presentations, tests and discussions 24 hours a day on Ancilla’s online course system.

Apply by Dec. 15 for free online at www.ancilla.edu/apply and select “Winter Term” in the application. Current students can apply through their advisor. Work will be due three times a week. Class size is limited to 30 students.

Perfect marriage of science and faith at Marian High School

SOUTH BEND — Marian High School Robotics Class registered a team to support the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Walk on Saturday, Oct. 24, at Howard Park in South Bend. The connection between learning to do research and the Catholic mission of outreach and charity is the perfect service learning opportunity. The effort has already raised over $3,200 for the American Cancer Society.

This walk is designed to raise funds to support further medical research in the pursuit of curing breast and other cancers — something students like senior Alexis Thornburg are already doing at Marian High School in Mishawaka. Alexis finished second in the state in the Indiana Science Talent Search and went all the way to the International Science Fair last year with her research project titled “The Effect of Osteopontin on Gene Expression in Lung Cancer Cells.” Many students at Marian have done extensive cancer research and choose to do this type of work because their faith is an important part of their lives.

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Center for Ethics and Culture hosted discussions for the Synod on the Family

ROME — The three-week-long Synod of Bishops on the family, which formally closed with a Mass Sunday, Oct. 25, in Rome, brought 270 cardinals, archbishops and priests from around the world for what may have been the most significant and consequential such Church gathering since the Second Vatican Council half a century ago.

The University of Notre Dame was present at the synod, too, as its Center for Ethics and Culture joined Cardinal Timothy Dolan, archbishop of New York, in sponsoring three weekly evening receptions for the synod fathers, lay observers and media in the rooftop terrace garden of the Residenza Paolo VI Hotel overlooking St. Peter’s Square.

“We were honored that Cardinal Dolan asked the Center for Ethics and Culture to co-sponsor these receptions, for the purpose of allowing the synod fathers to meet in an informal setting, to form and deepen their friendships, and to promote an atmosphere of collegiality in their formal deliberations,” said O. Carter Snead, William P. and Hazel B. White Director of the center and professor of law at Notre Dame. “We are proud that through our work, the University of Notre Dame had a positive and constructive presence at the synod.”

Cardinal Dolan performed as master of ceremonies for all three receptions, which were well-attended by synod participants and observers alike. On the evening of Oct. 6, Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin led a discussion in which he reminisced about the 1980 Synod on the Family in which he was a participant, and on Oct. 12, reception guests heard from Msgr. Livio Melina, president of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family, and Bishop Jean Laffitte, secretary of the Pontifical Council on the Family.

On Oct. 20, Cardinal Dolan invited Snead to address the reception on the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision, Obergefell vs. Hodges, which legalized same-sex marriage, and its implications for the work of the synod.

Acknowledging that the 69.4 million Catholics in the United States represent only 6 percent of the world’s Catholic population, Snead said that the decision was important for the synod “because the law generally, and U.S. Supreme Court decisions in particular, profoundly shapes the attitudes and judgments of the American people about fundamental human goods. And, for better or worse, once Americans develop a strongly held view on such matters, it is rapidly exported around the world.”

According to Snead, the Supreme Court decision’s “core animating premise is that the right to marriage is fundamental because it is essential to defining and expressing one’s identity. In other words, marriage is primarily a mechanism of self-expression.” Snead said that a vision of marriage so “rooted in the ideology of radical expressive individualism” is deeply at odds with that of the Church, whose “vision of persons and our shared life together is one in which we are understood to be embodied souls (not mere wills), whose embodiment has meaning. We live not in isolation, but situated in relationships of solidarity and reciprocal indebtedness. Others have claims on us and we on them, whether we choose them or not. What is fundamental about persons is not that they can construct and pursue future-directed plans, but that they are made in the image and likeness of God, deserving of unconditional love and protection.”

St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel’s junior high social studies students recently reenacted what they learned from their teacher Brett Rupright about the Boston Tea Party and the Boston Massacre. In the photo Captain Thomas Preston played by Maddie Parsenow is shown on trial for allegedly ordering men to fire causing the Boston Massacre. The judge, played by Mary Braun, listens to eyewitness accounts and the captain’s pleas.
Gratitude to God’s mercy

‘Ask, be merciful, complete trust in God’ — ABC’s of Divine Mercy

BY TIM JOHNSON

AUBURN — When introducing Divine Mercy, Father Dan Cambra, a priest of the Marians of the Immaculate Conception, likes to discuss the Divine Mercy message and its devotion. Father Cambra’s religious community was given the task from Pope John Paul II in 1992, to make Divine Mercy known, to add it to their Marian charism to promote the Immaculate Conception.

“The devotions of Divine Mercy is what is unique about St. Faustina’s revelations,” Father Cambra told Today’s Catholic after a presentation at Immaculate Conception Parish in Auburn in October. “St. Faustina received a series of revelations — over 80 — from Jesus Christ explaining to her what His will was for all of us to show gratitude to God’s mercy.”

The other side of the discussion is the message of Divine Mercy. “It is impossible to talk about God without talking about God’s mercy,” Father Cambra said, “because God’s mercy is mentioned in every single liturgy of the Eucharist” — in the opening prayers, the preface to the Eucharistic canon, the canons themselves.

When it comes to talking about mercy, “we always begin with the Scriptures,” Father Cambra said. “There is not a single book in either the Old Testament or the New Testament that in one way or the other does not talk about God’s mercy.”

After studying the story of St. Faustina, theologian, psychologist and healing minister Father George Kosicki realized that the Divine Mercy message could be summarized in three simple Scriptural verses. He called them the ABC’s of mercy.

Father Cambra related, “‘A’ stands for ‘ask.’” Matthew’s Gospel 7:7 says: “Ask and you shall receive.” “Ask for the things that you need,” Father Cambra said, “to become the saint you are called to be at Baptism.”

“Don’t ask for frivolous things,” he said. “Don’t ask for things that may draw you away from God. Don’t ask for the things that might ruin your soul. Ask for the things that will make you the saint that you were designed to be by God before you were even created in your mother’s womb, before you were baptized. And now that you are baptized, bring that Baptism to fulfillment by embracing the light of Christ in your life and shining it out to the world around you.”

“B” stands for “be merciful.” Again, from Matthew’s Gospel 5:7: “Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.”

Father Cambra said, “Sometimes we forget, even though we say the Our Father every day … the command to be merciful is a kernel of how we are to live out our Baptismal promise.”

In the Our Father, one says, “Forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.”

Father Cambra said, “So if we’re going to hold a grudge against someone, we’re asking God to hold a grudge against us for the times we offended Him.”

“If on the other hand we genuinely attempt to show mercy towards others by forgiving them, even if they don’t deserve it, even if they don’t ask for the forgiveness — to forgive them. Then we are doing what St. Therese the Little Flower called ‘taking that first little step’.”

St. Therese talked about the importance of taking those first little steps “to show God that you are trying to do His will,” Father Cambra noted.

When St. Therese referred to herself as a “little child,” she told St. Faustina, in St. Faustina’s “Diary”: “Unless we take those first steps, like just any other child, God our heavenly Parent is going to scoop down, pick us up, take us up the staircase to heavenly glory in His bosom because that is what a parent does, because that’s what God does, because God is love. And He can’t be any other than love.”

St. Francis de Sales said, “Love is the flower, and mercy the fruit.”

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Little Flower Holy Hour

FORT WAYNE — Pray for vocations and the consecrated life on the first Tuesday of each month September to June from 7-8 p.m. at the St. Theodore Guérin Chapel. This holy hour will feature different priests from around the area. For information, contact Christine Nix in the Vocation office, chbonahomnix@diocesefwsb.org or 260-422-4611.

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SCHOOL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Traditionally, fourth-grade students come dressed as their favorite saints. Many of the area schools were well represented with a colorful array of saints.

St. Bernard, Wabash, fourth-graders Madeline Von Uhl, Isabelle Anguiln and Essie Ward were anxious to attend this all-school Mass as their favorite saints. Von Uhl represented St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Anguiln dressed as St. Elizabeth of Hungary, and Ward chose to bring Mary Magdalene to life, as her feast day is Ward’s dad’s birthday.

Adam Holzinger of Huntington Catholic School dressed as St. John the Baptist, was inspired that the saint “baptized many people.” Holzinger’s classmate Jadyn Stecher chose to represent St. Agnes of Rome because her father recalled the saint’s canonization from his childhood days at the tender age of eight.

Alex Tippmann, fourth-grader at St. Charles Borromeo in Fort Wayne, chose to portray St. Patrick because, “he taught others about the Trinity using a three-leaf clover.”

Other saints represented at the Mass were Michael the Archangel, St. Anne, St. Paul, St. Philomena, St. Mary Mother of God, St. Catherine of Alexandria and St. Germaine.

“We think about the saints today,” Bishop Rhoades said in his homily. “We’re all called to be saints,” Bishop Rhoades emphasized. “We’re all called to bear witness to the love of God and the joy of the Gospel, to help other people go to heaven — that’s our mission.”

Bishop Rhoades spoke of St. John Paul II’s love for young people, how he would challenge them, and preach the Gospel with courage.

“He challenged them to be great,” Bishop Rhoades said. “God calls us to be great, not in the eyes of the world. … True greatness is holy greatness. It’s in following Christ that one finds real joy and real peace in our lives.”

Pope John Paul started World Youth Day and Bishop Rhoades talked about the 2016 pilgrimage in which 150 young people from the diocese (16 or older) will be going to Poland next summer. He encouraged the Bishop Luers liturgical choir, who beautifully provided music for the Mass, to consider joining the pilgrimage. “There’s still time to sign up,” Bishop Rhoades offered.

Bishop Rhoades also spoke about the day’s Gospel from Matthew 16:13-19, when Jesus asks the Apostles, “Who do people say I am?” Jesus then poses to the Apostles an important question — a question He asks every one of us — “Who do you say I am?”

Simon, inspired by the Holy Spirit, replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God.”

Jesus said, “God, the Holy Spirit, told you that.” Because Simon made that profession of faith, Jesus said, “From now on, your name will be Peter, not Simon.” The name Peter means “rock,” in other words, he will be the rock of the Church, the leader of the Apostles, and the leader of the whole Christian community.

Bishop Rhoades said that all have to personally answer the question, “Who is Jesus for you?”

Jesus is not a distant figure up in heaven or far away from us. Jesus is alive. He is risen from the dead. We can talk to Him; we can listen to Him.

“That is what prayer is,” the bishop op said. “Everyday, He is our best friend. He is our brother. And when we mess up and sin, He’s our savior. He has mercy on us. He forgives us when we’re sorry.”

Jesus was central to St. John Paul II’s life, the bishop said. “That’s why John Paul II was so courageous.”

He is a saint because of his relationship with Jesus. St. John Paul taught people how to love and “we find joy and happiness when we live like Jesus. When we give of ourselves, we find ourselves.”

“Peter should be encouraged,” Bishop Rhoades further encouraged. “Remember the words he said to young people all the time: ‘Be not afraid.’ Don’t be afraid to be a disciple of Jesus Christ. Don’t be afraid to live your faith with conviction. Dare to be saints.”

Students sing the opening hymn at the all-schools Mass in Fort Wayne on Oct. 22 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum Expo Center.

John Paul Meyer, dressed as his hero, St. John Paul II, completes his outfit with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades’ miter at the all-schools Mass in Fort Wayne. Meyer is a student at St. Charles Borromeo School, Fort Wayne.

St. Bernard, Wabash, students, dressed as their favorite saints, pose for a photo outside the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum Expo Center.
Vocations among us

Life in the seminary brings excitement, beauty of the faith

BY TIM JOHNSON

Life for four diocesan seminarians is filled with excitement as they journey, God-willing, to their vocation to be ordained to the holy priesthood.

Two seminarians, Dennis Di Benedetto and Eric Burgener, spent their summer in a Spanish immersion program in Guatemala. Both seminarians are studying third theology at Mount St. Mary’s Seminary and looking forward to their diaconate ordination in 2016.

“Cast all your anxieties upon Him for He cares for you.” St. Peter’s words: “Cast all your anxieties upon Him for He cares for you.”

He said it offered an opportunity to grow in his understanding of the language but also the Church atmosphere there.

“The first weekend there was a five-hour long Eucharistic procession,” Bergener noted. “Everyone came out into the street to welcome Jesus. Also, many of the women would weep in front of the Sacrament. I was reminded of women would weep in front of the Sacrament. I was reminded of St. Peter’s words: ‘Cast all your anxieties upon Him for He cares for you.’”

Dennis Di Benedetto told Today’s Catholic, “I learned so much! In addition to getting much better at Spanish I learned a lot about the Guatemalan people. They have been through many hardships, including a very long civil war. Nevertheless they remain friendly and cheerful, making the best of their situation.”

He added, “I also learned what it feels like to be a foreigner who misses his home country. Attending daily Mass in Spanish was difficult. I realized my soul prays in English. This is why it is so important for us to be able to offer Mass and the sacraments in Spanish for those who have to leave their homes to find a better life in the United States.”

Father Andrew Curry, pastor of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in North Manchester, also took part in the summer program. The three men lived in the home of the Perez-Vega family.

Di Benedetto explained, “When Mexico became unsafe, many seminaries started doing immersion programs in Guatemala. The city of Antigua, where we lived, has about 34 different language schools. Our school, called Probigua, is a non-profit started by a former seminarian named Rigoberto Zamur-Churuc. It uses the tuition paid by students learning Spanish to construct schools and libraries in the mountain villages where the indigenous Maya people live.”

Burgener noted a benefit was growing “in friendship with Dennis, Father Drew Curry and other seminarians from the U.S.”

He added, “I will always remember the love everyone had for the Eucharist and the Virgin Mary, as well as a constant reminder of the poverty in which most live yet still having a joyful heart.”

Seminarian Spenser St. Louis is living and studying in Rome at Pontifical North American College with more than 250 American, Australian and Canadian seminarians. For classes, however, he attends the Pontifical Gregorian University, founded by St. Ignatius of Loyola.

St. Louis said, “The transition from philosophical studies to theological studies has been fantastic. It is really rewarding to see how these past four years of studying philosophy is coming to fruition studying our Catholic faith, namely in growing into a deeper relationship with our Lord, Jesus Christ. It has been amazing to see how many correlations can be made between the study of philosophy and the study of theology.”

In college, I primarily studied philosophy. College studies in philosophy were to prepare me and lay the foundation for my current theological studies,” Niezer said. “Now that I am studying theology, I am beginning to see the fruit of the long hours spent studying philosophy. The transition is beautiful, as I am now immersed in Scripture, moral theology and Church history, all of which are directly tied to the mission of Jesus Christ and new knowledge in Him.”

In describing Mount St. Mary’s, Niezer said, “As you may notice by the name of our school, we are located right in the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains. Just close your eyes and imagine praying in mountains, which overlook fields, farms and valleys while the sun is setting, and you’ve come pretty close to envisioning ‘the Mount’ as we like to call it.”

“In my first year here,” Niezer said, “I have encountered such a strong fraternity amongst the many seminarians. This fraternity has really helped me adjust in a major way to the new environment, and I look forward to my growth in faith due to this new formation.”

Back in The Eternal City, St. Louis said, “I am most looking forward to all of the opportunities that studying in Rome has to offer. From being close to the Holy Father and being able to hear him often, to seeing the Church universal, to growing in my personal faith and relationship with the Lord enriched by the bountiful history, and specifically Catholic history, of Rome.”

He said his experience in Rome has truly been a gift from God.

“I have had the great opportunity to attend Mass with Pope Francis a number of times, to live and study where so many saints have studied before me, and to grow in a greater appreciation of the Church universal.” he noted. “The new cultural experience has challenged me, but the fruits of studying in Rome greatly outweigh any difficulty. It is a great blessing to be able to live in the heart of the Church.”

Both St. Louis and Niezer said the best support the faithful can offer is prayers.

“I ask of your prayers for the grace to listen to God at every moment of my life,” Niezer said.

St. Louis added, “Please pray for the strength in discernment for myself and my brother seminarians, as well as for our perseverance in our studies.”

Did you know...?

- The main reason young men do not consider the priesthood is because they have never been personally asked.

- If 3 different people invite a man to consider the priesthood, he is 5 times more likely to apply to be a seminarian.

Vocations are everyone’s business.

Pray for specific men you know to consider the priesthood... then personally invite them to do so.

Dr. Andrew Budzinski
Vocations Director
Phone: 240-421-6411
Phonediscern@discernpriesthood.com
St. Charles’ vocation committee hosts religious sisters vocations evening

BY CATHY MCLEISH

FORT WAYNE — A room erupting with laughter and joy was the meeting place for over 20 young women drawn to learn more about religious life. Present to share their own discernment journey were five Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist and three Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. Additionally, Father Jacob Meyer, parochial vicar at St. Charles Borromeo, offered his knowledge of the Poor Sisters of St. Clare, a cloistered group of religious women living at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery at St. Andrew Church in Fort Wayne.

Months earlier, when several high school students had asked for the opportunity to talk and interact with sisters from different orders in a casual atmosphere, Father Meyer replied, “I can make that happen!” The energetic gathering Wednesday evening in St. Charles’ Hession Center was the byproduct of his promise.

Dave Stevens, the head of the parish’s Vocation Committee, established in the mid-‘90s, commented on their planning process. “Hosting

WOMEN, PAGE 14

The Pontifical College Josephinum

is proud to support vocations in the

DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

through the education and formation of men for the Catholic priesthood.

Preparing Priests to Serve the Church Since 1888

College of Liberal Arts | Pre-Theology Program | School of Theology
Lyon family twins discerning religious life

BY CATHY MCEISH

FORT WAYNE — Bart and Becky Lyon have parented five children with their twins, Abby and Sam who are being youngest. "We've been known to say the twins are the easiest of our children but it might be more honest to say we've gotten increasingly tired and a little more lenient in our parenting approach" confesses Bart with a smile.

Their home smells of baked cookies and colorfully wrapped gifts are stacked in front of the lit fireplace. Both are thoughtful tokens for their daughter and her community of religious sisters. 

They will soon see Sister Abigail for the first time since she left to begin formation with the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, nine weeks ago.

Sam, feeling called to become a diocesan priest, has begun his journey at the Pontifical College Josephinum. He is home for the weekend to accompany his family and visit his twin sister.

The two have always been close; not to say they haven’t fought and argued,” Becky admitted. “But they would do anything for each other.

Recalling his own discernment, Sam remembers being told by his religious education teacher that he should consider the Priesthood.

“I guess I knew more answers than most of the other kids,” Sam said. As time evolved, so did the vocation suggestion. “After eight years in public schools, Abby and I started high school at Bishop Dwenger, which was probably the best decision our family could have made. Initially, we didn’t know anyone, but we had each other. That naturally brought us closer.”

Bart Lyon offered one last reflection, “From the time all of my children were babies, my dream and vision was that every child grow up to be as happy, healthy, content and successful as they possibly could be. If Sam and Abby are following the will of God, we believe they will definitely find that degree of happiness and success. It may be measured in different ways by different people, but if they are living God’s will for their lives, what greater success could we possibly want for them?”

Jake Lyon, just two years older than the twins, encouraged them to check out the Life Teen program at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne. The three were actively involved in Church ministries and attended every teen retreat, eventually taking leadership roles.

“I know my life should be ordered around Mass and the scriptures, but I looked forward to those retreats like Christmas. They had that big of an effect on me,” said Sam.

Father Andrew Budzinski, who was parochial vicar at St. Vincent at the time, was a strong and steadfast friend and mentor to the Lyon children.

“We told him he had to stay at our parish until the twins graduated, and he did … but not a minute longer!” said Becky.

“Father Andrew started the Melchizedek Project where discerning men meet and talk with him once a month. It’s a tool I use. I have asked for them and they have to make a choice about where that help would come from. Sam and Abby chose God.”

He resumed his story. “So, after the Right to Life March in D.C. my sophomore year, our bus stopped at Mount Saint Mary’s in Emmitsburg, Maryland. It’s where we send our theologians. I was awestruck at the beauty of their chapel and as I was praying, one of the theologians lifted his violin and began to play ‘Ave Maria.’ When I say I heard God speak to me, I can only explain it as the clearest thought I’ve ever had… that I know wasn’t my own. He said, ‘Sam, will you save a thousand souls?’”

PROVIDED BY THE LYON FAMILY

WASHINGTON (USCCB) — The Catholic Church in the United States will celebrate National Vocation Awareness Week, Nov. 1-7. This observance, sponsored by the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, is a special time for parishes in the U.S. to foster a culture of vocations for the Priesthood, diaconate and consecrated life.

Pope Francis, in his message of April 26, 2015 on the 52nd Day of World Prayer for Vocations states: “Responding to God’s call means allowing Him to help us leave ourselves and our false security behind, and to strike out on the path which leads to Jesus Christ, the origin and destiny of our life and our happiness.” The Holy Father stresses, “The Christian vocation, rooted in the contemplation of the Father’s heart, thus inspires us to solidarity in bringing liberation to our brothers and sisters, especially the poorest.”

National Vocation Awareness Week is designed to help promote vocation awareness and to encourage young people to ask the question: “To what vocation in life is God calling me?” Parish and school communities across the nation are asked to include, during the first week in November, prayer and special activities that focus on vocation awareness.

“Encouraging others to recognize the promptings of the Holy Spirit and to follow Christ without reservations are key elements in supporting a culture of vocations,” said Bishop Michael F. Burbidge of Raleigh, North Carolina, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

“With God’s grace, we can have a positive impact on others who may be open to considering a vocation to Priesthood or religious life, by simply inviting them to think and pray about it. Our enthusiasm and willingness to speak directly to others about vocations just might be the conversation someone needs to respond to God’s call.”


“Over and over again when asked, newly ordained priests and newly professed men and women religious, credit the encouragement of family members, coworkers, friends and clergy, as being a significant factor in their pursuing a vocation,” said Father Ralph O’Donnell, USCCB’s executive director of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

Observance of Vocation Awareness Week began in 1976 when the U.S. bishops designated the 28th Sunday of the year for the celebration. It was later moved to Feast of the Baptism of the Lord in January. The Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations moved the observance of National Vocation Awareness Week to November to engage Catholic schools and colleges more effectively in this effort.
November 1, 2015

**WOMEN**

**CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12**

only three orders seemed to be our biggest barrier because we were concerned that by choosing three, we might be eliminating others. We shifted our approach to one of simply promoting the concept of women religious and allowing the Holy Spirit to come in and help the young women decide what to do after experiencing the evening.”

The Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, with their mother house in Mishawaka, enthusiastically shared about their order. Inspired by St. Francis of Assisi’s love for the Eucharist, their charism of the Perpetual Adoration Chapel gives their order a uniqueness.

Encouraging everyone to send them prayer requests via their website, inspirational stories of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Perpetual Adoration Chapel is a strong reason I am drawn to the Sisters of St. Francis.

The importance of the evening was further validated when Sister Maria Gemma added, “When a young woman is attracted to a charism of an order, the Holy Spirit may be gently guiding her towards who she is to become rather than what she is to do.”

Father Jacob Meyer, at left, parochial vicar of St. Charles Borromeo Church opens with prayer at the Evening with Women Religious at the Angels Monastery at St. Andrew Church in Fort Wayne.

Connecting the power of their prayer as it bears fruit in their active apostolates, second-year novice, Sister Karol, expanded on their charism. “Like St. Francis, through following the magisterium of the Church, we strive to integrate our mission into healthcare upholding the dignity of life while working in over a dozen hospitals in Indiana and Illinois.” On the academic level, the order has sisters teaching grade school, high school and college classes. She noted, “It’s amazing to see the Holy Spirit working through us, planting seeds, which bring the faith fully alive in those we instruct.”

Ranging from grade school to college age, those who came to learn did so for a variety of reasons: curiosity, friendship, serious discernment and simply the desire to be in the presence of joy. “I have been on several retreats with the sisters and I love spending time with them!” said Claire, a student at the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne.

The Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist had two young postulants along to share their discernment stories with interested attendees. Sister Abigail and Sister Racheal, having entered the order this past August, enjoyed an hour of one on one with a table of young ladies. “My family and my parish, especially all the great priests we were blessed to know personally, played a big part in my decision” said Sister Abigail. Her chosen order shares the beauty and awe of the Catholic faith with its tradition of being active in preaching and teaching, and contemplative with a strong devotion to Mary and the Eucharist.

With Father Meyer being a spiritual director for many of the Poor Sisters of St. Clare, he spoke of his precious time spent with them personally, played a big part in my making the decision” to join the order this past August, enjoyed an hour of one on one with a table of young ladies. “My family and my parish, especially all the great priests we were blessed to know personally, played a big part in my decision” to join the Poor Sisters of St. Clare, he spoke of his precious time spent with them personally, played a big part in my making the decision” said Sister Abigail. Her chosen order shares the beauty and awe of the Catholic faith with its tradition of being active in preaching and teaching, and contemplative with a strong devotion to Mary and the Eucharist.

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Father Meyer offered his knowledge of the Poor Sisters of St. Clare, a cloistered group of religious women living at Our Lady of the Angels Monastery at St. Andrew Church in Fort Wayne.

"I really value the power and beauty of Adoration," said Emma, a high school student discerning her religious calling. "I know the charism of the Perpetual Adoration chapel is a strong reason I am drawn to the Sisters of St. Francis."

The importance of the evening was further validated when Sister Maria Gemma added, “When a young woman is attracted to a charism of an order, the Holy Spirit may be gently guiding her towards who she is to become rather than what she is to do.”

Sisters of Saint Francis of Perpetual Adoration
Mishawaka, IN

**Black Souls Matter: Standing on the Rock, Pressing Toward the Mark**

St. Mary Mother of God Parish 1101 Lafayette St. Fort Wayne, IN 46802
9:00am - 5:00pm

Registration Fee (includes Lunch): $15.00

Alma Festaing, African Drum & Dance
Adrian Moore, Teen & Young Adult Session with Deacon Mel Tardy
African Drum & Dance, St. Mary Mother of God Parish, Indianapolis
Teen & Young Adult Session with Deacon Mel Tardy, St. Andrew School & Church, St. Andrew Church, Fort Wayne

To register, go to: diocesefwsb.org/dbcm
All Welcome!
Considering joy

I was at Notre Dame stadium last weekend, enjoying a family tailgate before the USC-Notre Dame football game. At one point, it was time to take one of my daughters over to a gate to meet her friend, so my husband and I agreed to meet inside, and my daughter and I left. After leaving my daughter with her friend, I entered my designated gate and joined the crowd past the entrance, past the concessions, with those waiting to enter the stadium underground to the stadium itself.

As I stood in the crowded line, I found myself next to two men, looking to be in their early 30s. They were decked out in Notre Dame gear — clearly fans. We were moving forward at the same rate toward the entrance, so we were entering at the same time. I hadn’t paid much attention to them until one addressed me directly.

“Is this your first Notre Dame game?” I was taken a little bit aback. There were a lot of people going in. Why did he single me out? I looked around. Yes, he was talking to me.

“Oh,” I said, then laughed. “No, not at all. I’ve been attending games since I was a girl.”

“And you?” I added to be polite. One of the men answered, “Well, it’s my first night game so I’m pretty excited.”

“That’s great!” I answered. “Night games are a lot of fun.” We processed a little further into the crowd.

“So you’re sure it’s not your first game?” the other asked.

This was weird. Why did they keep inquiring?

“Yes, I’m sure,” I answered. I paused for a moment then said, “Now I am really curious. Why are you asking me this?”

The two men looked at each other. Then one said, “Well, we were watching you going in. It’s just that you are looking up, out of the tunnel at the sky, like you are really excited and happy to be here. You have this look on your face like a kid. We just thought this was your first game.”

“Oh…” when not knowing what else to say, I continued, “Okay, I am happy and excited to be here.”

“We can tell,” one answered. “It’s just nice to see,” said the other.

Our line forward into the stadium began moving quickly, and the two men veered off to the right, while I was going left.

“Enjoy the game!” one yelled, and they both disappeared into the crowd.

As I headed up the steps to our family’s designated seat, almost immediately of my dad in my youth came to mind: You never know who is watching. Be an example. While I’m sure my father did not have smiling and exuberant attitude upon entrance at a Notre Dame game in mind when he said this (I rather thought he was counseling me to be on my best behavior no matter where I went), still it stuck with me.

Walking into the stadium I wasn’t doing anything on purpose, but just a little genuine happiness had drawn the attention of two strangers. They somehow felt compelled to comment on the joy I must have had on my face. Yes, joy! That was it. That’s what they noticed. And I wasn’t even trying. What is it about these two strangers is that for many years I tended my little children, which made it difficult to attend games. I wouldn’t trade the baby raising for the world, but I sure appreciate the relaxation and simultaneous excitement of a game now.

Also, after having lived through cancer, annoying little things (like waiting in line) don’t bother me, and treasurable little things (like attending a college football game with my husband and children) make me truly happy. As I age my life experiences, both good and bad, have also simply made me more grateful.

Then I had another thought. Joy is one of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. What a benevolent God to give this gift to me at this time, even if it was manifested in a small way. He allowed me (unknowingly) to be a little channel of His grace.

Isn’t our God amazing?

And then I had a final thought — if I can spread joy when I’m not even trying, how much more can I share when I am? As I sat down next to my husband and daughter in the stands ready to cheer on the Irish, I decided I will make a concerted effort in the days ahead to be a channel of God’s joy to everyone I meet… because people are watching, and it does make a difference.

I picked up my daughter’s hand and gave it a squeeze. Then I smiled at my husband. I think I will begin with them.

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness — Galatians 5:22.

Theresa Thomas is the wife of David and mother of nine children.

Searching for peace with help from a sage

It is the book that somehow surfaces when you need it most. The multi-tasker, solace for the stressed. It is the book you stock up on to give to others, to slip in Christmas stockings, to pay it forward. It is the book that spiritual directors recommend again and again: Father Jacques Philippe’s ten-page pamphlet with the tracts of cover, the one that delivers everything its title promises: “Searching for and Maintaining Peace: A Small Treatise on Peace of Heart.”

My friend Roxane introduced me to the book earlier this year. She had been sitting with a fellow cancer patient in a B.C., making their way to the March for Life, when she began sharing her struggles as the mother of two.

“I wasn’t sure why I brought this,” thechapereone told Roxane, reaching for her purse, “but I think I know now. And hence, Roxane was gifted with Father Philippe’s tome. “His way of approaching spiritual topics is like having a flashlight to navigate murky areas of life, when before you were just groping around in the dark,” Roxane says.

I mentioned a mental note, but it took another nudge before I bought a copy. Katrina Harrington, a 26-year-old Catholic from South Bend, recently blogged about her third baby, a 9-pound girl with a powerful set of lungs. “Ever since she was born bellowing,” Katrina wrote, “my cup runneth over in patience and humility. I suspect part comes from reading this book.”

It is the book that somehow surfaces when you need it most. The multi-tasker, solace for the stressed. It is the book you stock up on to give to others, to slip in Christmas stockings, to pay it forward. It is the book that spiritual directors recommend again and again: Father Jacques Philippe’s ten-page pamphlet with the tracts of cover, the one that delivers everything its title promises: “Searching for and Maintaining Peace: A Small Treatise on Peace of Heart.”

Christina Apcechi

Amazon link directed me to a familiar page.

This summer, when Katrina’s family was moving, she found a copy of “Searching for and Maintaining Peace” on a bookshelf. “I have no clue who bought it, since neither my husband nor I remember purchasing it or receiving it as a gift.” Katrina explains. But it made for third-trimester reading the young mom would soon need.

When her husband, a theology graduate student, had to go on a retreat six days after Elise’s birth, leaving Katrina home with no help, she felt the book’s impact, crediting it for providing “an almost miraculous amount of peace.”

Now it’s guiding her as she resumes her at-home business: Hatch Prints — a hand-lettering and art shop that illuminates the wisdom of the saints through watercolors — providing for her family amid her husband’s full-time studies.

I’ve been savoring the book, which is as practical as it is profound. Father Philippe, a 68-year-old French priest with a white goatee and a ruddy complexion, feels like a modern-day doctor of the church. Peace,

THERESA A. THOMAS

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Feast of All Saints
Mt 5:11-12

Today the church celebrates the feast of All Saints, liturgically replacing the observance of the 31st Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Setting aside a Sunday in Ordinary Time signals that the Church regards the feast to be highly significant, in great measure because of the lesson these teachings teaches. This is the case for today’s celebration of All Saints. The feast is ancient in Catholic history — traces of it appeared as early as the seventh century. It became popular among believers, and since 1486 it has been a holy day of obligation.

Of course, it honors the many men and women, from all walks of life, throughout the centuries, whose reputation for sanctity, often at great cost to them, earned them the Church’s formal recognition in canonization.

The feast reminds us that many other saints, perhaps now unremembered, add luster to Christian tradition. Many, many saints are not canonized. They achieved eternal life. The lesson is that so can we if we too earnestly follow the Lord.

The Book of Revelation provides the first reading.Probably no other volume in the New Testament has suffered as much from inexact, and even hysterical, attempts at analysis. About two centuries ago, for instance, an American Protestant preacher proclaimed wide and far that Revelation condemned the steam engine as a work of the devil. Actually, the book is a marvelous testimony to the fruit of its author, and of the Church that for so long has venerated this book as sacred. It looks to that blessed day, perhaps heavenly but maybe on earth, when Christ will reign supreme. Then all will be good and right.

Today’s reading affirms several beliefs always cherished by Christians. First, earthly death is not the end. For the holy, life continues in God’s presence. Salvation is open to anyone, regardless of nation, race or tongue. Salvation comes to people because of, and through, the Lamb, Jesus, the innocent lamb of sacrifice on Calvary, gloriously risen and reigning forever, surrounded by the angels.

The next reading is from John’s First Epistle. This reading also insists that salvation is available to all, and Jesus is the Savior. Through what theologians call the Incarnation, we are the Lord’s adopted brothers and sisters, heirs therefore of eternal life. Following Jesus is the key to realizing this wondrous status. Thus, the gospel is the source of the final reading. The two proceeding readings told us that reflecting on Jesus, uncompromisingly, in our own lives connects us with the Lord and draws us into the divine plan for our eternal salvation.

In this Gospel passage, we find the actual blueprint for attaining this goal of salvation in Jesus. We must be merciful, humble, righteous, thirsty for justice, and clean of heart, and we must make peace with others. Some call these goals the “Ten Commandments of the New Testament.” They precisely and clearly define Christian life.

Reflection

All Saints Day is a time to remember. On this day, the Church places before us a picture of the multitude of the holy whose very lives testify to the fact that total devotion to Christ is possible. Such devotions give Christian character to the life of Mary Magdalen, Francis of Assisi and Theresa of Avila, Katherine Drexel and Junipero Serra.

May Christ’s presence be with all of us, especially the poor, until we are with Christ’s Father in heaven.

Christina Apcechi

Readings

Sunday: Ps 72:4-9:14 Ps 24:1bc-4b, 5-6 1 Jn 3:1-3 Mt 5:1-12


Tuesday: Rom 125:16 Ps 131:1bcde, 2-3 Lk 14:25-15


Thursday: Rom 14:7-12 Ps 27:1bcde, 4, 13-14 Lk 15:1-10

Friday: Rom 15:14-21 Ps 98:1-4 Lk 16:1-15

Saturday: Rom 16:3-9, 16, 22-27 Ps 145-2, 10-11 Lk 169-15
SCRIPTY WARP

Gospel for November 1, 2015
Matthew 5: 1-12a

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Feast of All Saints: the Sermon on the Mount. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

CROWD BLESSED COMFORTED EARTH MERCY PEACEMAKERS REJOICE SAT DOWN KINGDOM MEEK HUNGER HEART INHERIT DISCIPLES SEE GOD EVIL REWARD

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

PIUS XII, co-conspirator in tyranny

R OME — The great Piazza San Pietro is a five-minute walk from where I’m living during Synod-2015. About three-quarters of the square is bounded the famous Bernini colonnades, which reach out from the Vatican basilica as if to embrace the world. Along the open “front” of the piazza and along the perimeter of the colonnades, a broad white stripe is embedded in the street. The casual visitor might mistake it for a kind of “No Parking” sign.

In fact, that white stripe marks the border between Vatican City State and Italy. And for many during World War II, it signified the boundary between life and internment, imprisonment or death.

When Italy declared war on the Allies — after the initial, swift success of the German invasion of the Low Countries and France seemed to suggest who was going to win World War II — all Italian citizens accredited to the Holy See but living in Rome fled into the Vatican and were housed there throughout the war. So did democratically-minded Italians on Mussolini’s hit list — like Alcide de Gasperi, who would become Italy’s first post-war prime minister.

Another boundary of consequence was defined by the walls surrounding the papal palace at Castel Gandolfo. Thousands of Italian Jews were hidden there, and dozens of babies were born in Pope Pius XII’s bedroom, some of them given the names “Eugenio” or “Eugenia” in honor of the pontiff who saved their parents’ lives.

These facts of Pius’s actions, like his quiet orders to help underwrite the day-to-day operations of the Holy Land itself and in adjoining countries like Syria and Turkey. We thank you in the name of the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from all over the world who come to pray at the shrines made holy by Jesus and His mother. Without your financial help the friars would not be able to care for the needy and all the shrines.

Respectfully and gratefully,
Father Larry Dunham, OFM
Commissionary of the Holy Land

Retirement fund for Religious gives thanks for donations

Dear Bishop Rhoades,

We are very grateful for your wire for a total amount of $100,669.96 for the 2015 Good Friday Collection for the Holy Land. We thank you in the name of Pope Francis, Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa, Custos and all the Franciscans in the Holy Land.

Your generosity will directly help the Christians in the Holy Land itself and in adjoining countries in Syria and Turkey. We thank you in the name of all Christians and in the name of the hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from all over the world who come to pray at the shrines made holy by Jesus and His mother. Without your financial help the friars would not be able to care for the needy and all the shrines.

Respectfully and gratefully,
Father Larry Dunham, OFM
Commissionary of the Holy Land

Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples appreciative

Dear Bishop Rhoades,

It is with deep gratitude that I acknowledge this past year’s generous support of the Pontifical Mission Societies from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, contributions totaling $92,920, to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Society of Saint Peter Apostle, and the Missionary Childhood Association.

Your leadership and good example, especially in promoting and participating in World Mission Sunday, Oct. 18, 2015, will inspire the faithful to join the Universal Church that day in affirming our Baptismal vocation to be missionary and to reach out in the spirit of Pentecost to brothers and sisters all over the world wanting to know Christ. This Eucharist of celebration serves as the annual culmination of a fully integrated mission animation program in your local church.

Sincerely,
Sister Janice Bader, CPS
Executive Director

Christina Capecci is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn., and editor of SisterStory.org.
ANCILLA COLLEGE ‘SWINGS’ INTO TENNIS
Ancilla College has announced the addition of a tennis program for the upcoming 2016-2017 academic school year and welcomes their new men’s and women’s head tennis coach, Jessica Kutch. Kutch is an award-winning tennis player and brings coaching experience to the new program. The Ancilla College men’s and women’s tennis team will offer scholarships to players from around the area for the 2016-17 school year.

ICCL Saints, Panthers square off for championship title

BY JOE KOZINSKI
SOUTH BEND — The biggest contest of the season would pit the two big dogs of the Inter-City Catholic League against each other with only one able to claim the title of champion at Father Bly Field at Saint Joseph High School.

The playoffs had left only two teams standing, the regular season champs, the Saints of Mishawaka Catholic and the runner-up Panthers of St. Anthony.

The regular season meeting had the Saints narrowly beating the Panthers on a successful points-after kick by Miguel Ortiz creating a revenge atmosphere in the St. Anthony locker room.

“The theme for the entire battle amongst the two juggernauts would be defense. Both teams dug into the turf field and dared the other to advance the pigskin.”

Mishawaka Catholic’s offense — quarterback Josh Gill and running backs Charlie Maxwell, Thadeous Horvath and Michael Schafer — would try as they may to pierce the Panther line and gain yardage.

The Panther offense abounded with skill players of their own adornment with the likes of Tyler DeBoe, Kenzel Kelly, Mitchell Floran and quarterback Luke Leonard.

With all of the firepower in the respective backfields neither team could muster an attack as Aaron Fuller and Eddie Murphy would loom large on the defensive side of the ball for the Saints and DeBoe along with the secondary of Floran, Colby Szymczak and Connor Farrell stymied would-be receivers all day.

After multiple unsuccessful drives and with 7:36 left in the first half, Panther Floran was stopped for a loss in the backfield, spun out of the grasp of the defender, ran the opposite direction of his blockers, broke a tackle and eventually stiff-armed his way into the end zone for a 27-yard touchdown. The points after kick was blocked.

The Saints would again try their luck against the stingy maroon-and-gold clad swarm, but on a fourth and five, Michael Conery and Ryan Flanagan, staples of the Panther line, snuffed out the attack with a huge sack.

Both squads pitted their ears back and were relentless in their quest to turn back runners in their tracks, puntmallow quarterbacks and outmaneuver receivers holding the score at 6-0 with just 6:43 left in the contest.

With the clock ticking down, all in attendance knew that one big play by the Saints and behind the toe of Ortiz that the game was far from over.

With the stage set, the unyielding Panther defense had something to prove and on four successive plays did just that, stopping Mishawaka Catholic cold.

The Saints dug in again but the slippery Floran snuck through the line of tacklers and jetted the slippery Floran snuck through the line of tacklers and jetted through the slippery Floran snuck through the line of tacklers and jetted through the slippery Floran snuck through the line of tacklers and jetted through the slippery Floran snuck through the line of tacklers and jetted home the championship trophy to his jubilant teammates making the final score 14-0 after the points after kick by Charlie Graham.

“We knew it would be that kind of day against the Saints. Our defense was fire up all week in practice,” remarked Panther Coach James DeBoe. “We thought they would do a bit more passing and guessed right. Our defense backs really stepped up, but I’m so proud of all of the boys.”

Other than the two big plays by Floran, the Saints held the Panthers to just two yards per play.

“Before Mass every Sunday I pray for two things — that there are no injuries and that my kids and coaching staff perform to their greatest potential, I think both were accomplished today,” explained Saint Coach Tony Violi. “The better team on the field today won, I would like to think that if we played 10 times, we would split, that’s how good of a matchup it was, all the credit goes to them.”

The Bill Sorukas Award was presented to Will Faulkner and Fuller. The award is given to the players in the championship game that best exemplifies the cornerstone principles of the ICCL — sportsmanship, leadership, competition and mental attitude.

The B League also crowned a champion as the Crusaders of Holy Cross completed an undefeated season by beating Mishawaka Catholic, 20-7.

Crusader Caden Kenton had a monster day by scoring three touchdowns. Anthony Maxwell had the lone score for the Saints.

ICCL football coverage

In the ICCL game of the week coverage in the Oct. 25, 2015 of Today’s Catholic, Sam Rose’s name was omitted. Rose was an offensive lineman for the Holy Cross Crusaders that was one of the key players credited for their successes of the 2015 season.

St. Charles, St. Vincent vie for CYO championship

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN
FORT WAYNE — St. Charles brought home both the junior varsity and varsity Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) football championships at Bishop D’Arcy Stadium on Sunday, Oct. 25.

In the fifth- and sixth-grade game, the Cards defeated St. Vincent, 35-12. St. Charles was led by running back Henry O’Keefe, one touchdown from Patrick O’Keefe, one touchdown from Drew Lytle and two touchdowns from Patrick Finley. The St. Charles defense continued to be stifling allowing only one first down and forcing three interceptions by Brenden Lytle, Devon Tippmann and Jeren Kindig. The Cardinals also had points from Hayden “Big Poppy” Tippmann and Lucas Krohn who scored on point after conversions.

The Cardinals will now face South Bend powerhouse St. Anthony for the fourth straight year.

Coach Sam Talarico said, “We have so much respect for the St. Anthony program. Each of the last three years has been a down-to-the-wire battle. We expect to play a very hardnosed team that can block and tackle very well. It will undoubtedly be a great game.”

St. Vincent will also be part of the big showdown with South Bend on Nov. 1, playing the Saints of Mishawaka Catholic. The Panthers’ Coach Kevin Thompson could not be more proud of his unit, “It has been a great season. These boys work hard to get better every week.”

St. Charles Borromeo won the CYO football tournament championship game on Oct. 25.

PROVIDED BY ST. CHARLES BORROMEO

St. Vincent de Paul was the runner-up of the CYO football tournament championship game on Oct. 25.

PROVIDED BY ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, FORT WAYNE
Attitude carries Central Catholic football team

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — “I feel the biggest highlight for the Central Catholic football team was the attitude of the players. Throughout the season, no matter the outcome of the game on Sunday, the kids came to practice on Tuesday ready to improve as individuals and most importantly, as a team. They were a team of selfless young men,” explained Coach Mathew Tsuleff of Central Catholic.

He continued, “From the beginning of the season to the end, I saw a group of kids that didn’t know each other from the start, but grew into a team that makes up Central Catholic. I am very proud of these young men — not just for playing football, but for successfully juggling academics while practicing football. Well done gentlemen!”

Along with the parents for their unwavering support of the team and of the program, Tsuleff had much gratitude for his team and of the program, Tsuleff explained. “I feel our student athletes are beginning to understand just how special this program truly is and will be,” explained Tsuleff.

The biggest highlight of the season for the Irish was scoring four times against the No. 1 team in the league, St. Charles. The only team to do so in the league, Central Catholic tallied two touchdowns in the first meeting against the Cards and scored first on them in the playoff game — the first time all season long St. Charles actually played behind. The team also moved practices this season from Lakeside to Havenhurst — a better facility with its own field, shelter area and restrooms. With more seventh graders on the roster than eighth, the Irish have a much improved and growing program,” Tsuleff summarized.

Cardegles wrap up cross-country season

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — With the talented guidance of Coach Dan Kaufman, Scott Reiling, Chris Kaufman, Tim O’Connell, Dan Delaney, Dan Leffers and Steve Leffers, the Cardgele club of runners wrapped up another season.

In the last half of the 2015 season, the girls placed third in the large school division and the boys 10th at the New Haven Classic. At the Carroll Middle School Invitational, the girls again had a third-place finish, while the boys were eighth.

And in the final meet of the season, the Cardgele Invitational, the girls won the team and the boys finished a close second to Blackhawk Christian. Aileen Delaney and Natalee Vogan finished first and second respectively, while Jason Kochanski was sixth and Atticus Wiseman eighth overall for the boys.

The girls finished the season with the best girls’ record in Cardgele history at an impressive 96-15. Five girls — Delaney, Vogan, Kristina Baum, Katie Nix and Anna Morris — made the coveted all-time top 20 list for the Cardgeles. The junior varsity girls finished at 22-5.

The boys’ varsity final record was 52-62 and junior varsity 10-15. Coach Kaufman added, “We had many outstanding times from the underclassmen and are looking forward to next season.” Both teams were recently honored at the annual banquet and award ceremony.

The 2015 Cardgeles are shown in this photo.

Cardgele award winners

Top 7 girls:
Aileen Delaney, 7; Natalee Vogan, 7; Katie Nix, 8; Kristina Baum, 8; Julia Eckrich, 8; Julia Broerman, 7; Anna Morris, 8

Top 7 boys:
Jason Kochanski, 8; Atticus Wiseman, 7; Henry Getty, 7; Daniel Cava, 7; Noah Thurber, 5; Trevor Engelhaup, 6; Noah Maskal, 7; Joe Schipper, 7

Most Valuable Runner Award: Jason Kochanski and Aileen Delaney

Most Improved Runner Award: Trevor Engelhaup and Olivia Eisamen

Mental Attitude Award: Sam Horine and Karly Ewing

Cardgele Award: Katie Nix

Catholics Online

November 1, 2015

Cardegle of the Month: Aileen Delaney

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Fish, chicken and tenderloin dinner planned

Huntington — St. Peter and Paul Church will have a fish, chicken and tenderloin dinner by Dan’s on Friday, Nov. 20, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in Rieder Auditorium. Carry-out will be available. Advanced ticket sales will begin Saturday, Nov. 7, 8, 14 and 15 after Masses or at the church rectory during office hours. Cost is $8 for adults, $5 for children ages 6-12 and children 5 and under free. Tickets at the door are $8.50 for adults.

Little Flower plans Kris Kringle craft show

South Bend — A Kris Kringle craft show will be Saturday, Nov. 7, at St. Therese Little Flower, 5419 Ironwood Rd., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and will feature hand-made crafts, bake sale and lunch. For more information contact Eli Tyle at 574-340-7555 or buddy.tyle@aol.com.

Ham and turkey dinner

New Haven — St. Louis Besancon will have a ham and turkey dinner on Sunday, Nov. 22, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the parish hall. Tickets are $9 for adults and carry-out orders, $5 for children ages 5-12, and children 4 and under free. A silent auction and country craft store will also be taking place along with a quilt, turkey and cash raffles.

Morning of Reflection planned

Roozake — A Women’s Morning of Reflection will be Saturday, Nov. 14, at St. Catherine Church. Mass will be celebrated by Father Dale Bauman, at 8 a.m. followed by breakfast, talks and activities related to the Year of Mercy and will end at approximately 11 a.m. A good will offering will be taken. RSVP to Linda Bustamante at 260-344-3112 for information. St. Catherine Church is located on SR 9 in Whitley County.

Rosary for poor souls announced

Mishawaka — The annual rosary for the poor souls will be offered on Sunday, Nov. 1, at 2 p.m. in St. Joseph’s Cemetery, rain or shine.

Holiday Marketplace planned

Elkhart — St. Thomas the Apostle Parish will have a holiday marketplace Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Thomas School, 1331 N. Main St. Vendors, crafters and artisans from the area will be available. Doughnuts with Santa and face painting for children as well as breakfast, lunch and snacks will be available. All proceeds benefit the St. Thomas School PTO. For information contact Michelle Robinson, 574-304-0656 or Amanda Helfrich, 574-361-6501, or email michelle717robinson@yahoo.com.

Catholic Business Network Group

Fort Wayne — The Catholic Business Network Group will meet Friday, Nov. 6, beginning with Mass at 7 a.m. in the St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel. Father Daniel Scheidt will speak on “Why Did Jesus Choose Small Business Owners as His First Four Apostles (Peter, Andrew, James and John) and a Tax Man for His Fifth Apostle (Matthew), and What Does This Imply for Catholics in the World of Work?” following Mass in the Cathedral Center. Refreshments will be provided by Dave MacDonald with G.A. MacDonald Associates Insurance Agency.

Who is my neighbor?

Notre Dame — The Institute for Church Life will offer a presentation and panel discussion Sunday, Nov. 8, in Geddes Hall with Clemens Sodnik, Dawn Chapla, Michael Griffin and Kathy Kershner who will explore the social doctrine of the Church in the context of our calling as Christians living in Michiana. Admission is $9 and includes soup dinner, presentation and door prize. Purchase tickets before Nov. 2, and receive $5 cash back at the door. For information visit i.cl.edu/proclaim or contact Patricia Bellin at 574-633-1379.

Pierogi on sale to purchase boiler

South Bend — St. Stanislaus Parish is selling Starlite Pizza Pierogi to benefit the purchase of a new boiler. The sale begins Nov. 1 and all orders must be turned in by Nov. 22. Cost of the pierogi are $10 for three. One may choose from farmers cheese, sauerkraut or mushroom. Each pierogi weighs approx. 8 oz. For information contact ststs.pierogirl@gmail.com or call 574-289-6954.

Registration begins for classes at Adult Learning Center

Fort Wayne — The Adult Learning Center at St. Joseph Parish, is offering free classes in Spanish, citizenship, ESL, computer skills (English and Spanish), faith formation and more. The classes will begin Jan. 12. Registration dates are Oct. 27-29 and Nov. 10-12. The Adult Learning Center is made possible by Our Sunday Visitor. For more information, contact Adalys Reyes, program director, at areyes@saintjosephfw.org or call 260-452-5113, ext. 355.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Nov. 6, from 5-7 p.m. Adults $8.50, children 5-12 $3.50. Shrimp available for $9, chicken strips for $8.50, and cheese pizza for $1 per slice for children under 12.

Holiday decor garage sale

South Bend — At Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, 63566 U.S.31 South, will have a holiday decor garage sale, Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Free admission.

Christmas bazaar

Avilla — St. Mary Parish will have a Christmas bazaar Sunday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Craft tables, canned goods, cookie decorating and more.

Holland Bazaar

South Bend — St. Anthony de Padua Parish, 2114 E. Jefferson Blvd., will have a holiday craft bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the school auditorium. A lunch and bake sale will be on site.

Craft show, candy and bake sale

Fort Wayne — The Rosary Society of Most Precious Blood Church, 1515 Barthold St., will have a craft show and bake sale Saturday, Nov. 7, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the school gym. Raffle, door prizes every half hour and food available at a nominal cost. Wheelchair accessible.

Queen of Peace plans holiday bazaar

Mishawaka — A holiday craft bazaar will be Saturday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Queen of Peace Church, 4508 Vistula Rd. Craft vendors, piggy raffle, cash raffle, bake sale and other refreshments available.

Fall events planned

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Parish will have a fall rummage and bake sale on Thursday, Oct. 29, from 6-8 p.m., Friday, Oct. 30 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 31, from 8 a.m. to noon. $3 sack sale on Saturday.
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