SOUTH BEND — For six weeks this autumn, roughly 100 parishioners from Corpus Christi Catholic Church in South Bend gathered in small groups, deepening their knowledge of Catholicism while praying together, strengthening their faith, and connecting Church teaching to daily life. These groups are part of the diocesan-wide Why Catholic? program, which invites participants to learn from the catechism, read Scripture and engage in faith sharing.

The Why Catholic? program, launched across the diocese the first week of October, is part of a four-year “Journey Through the Catechism,” as the program motto states. This past fall and next spring center on the theme of “Prayer.” Subsequent seasons focus on “Belief,” “The Sacraments” and “Christian Morality.”

Why Catholic? small groups are led by group leaders, who open their homes to participants. Meetings begin and end with prayer, often including a meditative hymn. From there, groups make their way through the reflections, Scripture verses and readings for the day, intermingling questions and discussion between readings. And, of course, there is plenty of time to chat.

Father Daryl Rybicki, pastor of Corpus Christi Catholic Church, shares, “It is exciting that nearly 100 members of our parish chose to be part of this
Nothing can justify terrorist attacks

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Using God’s name to try to justify violence and murder is “blasphemy,” Pope Francis said Nov. 15, speaking about the terrorist attacks on Paris.

“Such barbarity leaves us dismayed, and we ask ourselves how the human heart can plan and carry out such horrible events,” the pope said after reciting the Angelus prayer with visitors in St. Peter’s Square.

The attacks in Paris Nov. 13 — attacks the French government said were carried out by three teams of Islamic State terrorists — caused the deaths of at least 129 people and left more than 350 injured, many of them critically. A suicide bomber blew himself up outside a soccer stadium, gunned attack customers at cafes and restaurants and a team of terrorists gunned down dozens of people at a concert.

The attacks, Pope Francis said, were an “unspeakable affront to the dignity of the human person.”

“The path of violence and hatred cannot resolve the problems of humanity, and using the name of God to justify this path is blasphemy,” he said.

Pope Francis asked the thousands of people who gathered at St. Peter’s for the Sunday midday prayer to observe a moment of silence and to join him in reciting a Hail Mary.

“One the Virgin Mary, mother of mercy, give rise in the hearts of everyone thoughts of wisdom and proposals for peace,” he said. “We ask her to protect and watch over the dear French nation, the first daughter of the Church, over Europe and the whole world.”

“Let us entrust to the mercy of God the innocent victims of this tragedy,” the pope said.

Speaking Nov. 14, the day after the terrorist attacks, Pope Francis had told the television station of the Italian bishops’ conference, “I am shaken and pained.”

“I don’t understand, but these things are difficult to understand, how to turn our heads or do this,” the pope said. “That is why I am shaken, pained and am praying.”

The director of the television station recalled how the pope has spoken many times about a “third world war being fought in pieces.”

“This is a piece,” the pope responded. “There are no justifications for these things.”

On social media, Islamic State elites claimed responsibility, but Pope Francis insisted there can be no “religious or human” excuse for killing innocent people and sowing terror. “This is not human.”

French authorities reported Nov. 14 that eight terrorists were dead after the night of attacks; six of them committed suicide and two were killed by police, who stormed the concert hall where the terrorists had taken hostages and where the majority of victims died.

Cardinal Andre Vingt-Trois of Paris issued a statement calling for calm and for prayers, not only for the Paris victims, but also for the victims of recent terrorist attacks in Lebanon and in Africa.

“May no one allow himself to be defeated by panic and hatred,” the cardinal said. “Let us ask for the grace of being peacemakers. We must never lose our hope for peace if we work for justice.”

With some 1,500 inside Paris’ Notre Dame Cathedral and hundreds more gathered outside Nov. 15, Cardinal Vingt-Trois celebrated a special Mass in memory of the victims. As the cathedral bells tolled a death knell, police patrolled the square in front of the cathedral and checked people as they entered the Paris landmark for Mass.

The cardinal told the assembly — which included government officials and ambassadors from a variety of nations — that the Mass was intended as a sign of sharing the pain of the victims and of praying for them, their families, for Paris and for France.

“Nothing can justify terrorist attacks. Coordinated attacks the previous evening claimed the lives of 129 people. The Islamic State claimed responsibility.

People light candles in the shape of a cross and heart in Republique square in Paris Nov. 14 in memory of victims of terrorist attacks. Coordinated attacks the previous evening claimed the lives of 129 people, including about 100 at the Bastille day hall.

“God invites His ministers” to work for justice.”

Father Lombardi was asked about security concerns throughout Europe, and particularly whether the terrorist attacks would impact plans for the Year of Mercy, which is scheduled to begin Dec. 8.

“These murderers, possessed by senseless hatred, are called terrorists precisely because they want to spread terror,” Father Lombardi responded in a statement. “If we let ourselves be frightened, they will have already reached their first objective.”

“It goes without saying that we must be cautious, and not irresponsible,” he said, but “we must go on living by building peace and mutual trust.”

“I would say that the Jubilee of Mercy shows itself even more, more necessary,” Father Lombardi said. Preaching God’s love and mercy also is a call for people to love one another and reconcile with each other. “It is precisely the answer we must give in times of temptation to mistrust.”

Contributing to this story was Paul Haring in Paris.
‘No happy endings’ between Eastern Christians and Islam, professor says

BY CORINE B. ERLANDSON

FORT WAYNE — When it comes to Christians in the Middle East, there are “no happy endings.” This was the blunt assessment of Dr. Adam DeVille in his talk on “Eastern Christians and Islam” at Brookside Mansion at the University of Saint Francis. This talk was part of a series open to the public offered by the Department of Philosophy and Theology. There were close to 50 people in attendance.

DeVille started his talk by telling his audience about the status of Eastern Christians in countries such as Iraq, Egypt and Syria today. “We have to appreciate the messiness of these issues. It’s not going to be neat and tidy. There are no happy endings with this topic, unfortunately,” DeVille said.

DeVille began by giving some historical background. The Emperor Constantine issued an edict making Christianity legal in the year 313. Constantine moved his imperial residence from Rome to the “New Rome” of Constantinople. From there emerged the divisions of the Byzantine-Orthodox Christians headquartered in Constantinople, and the Roman-Latin Christians, headquartered open to the West.

DeVille says that the Orthodox Church of the East and the Roman Catholic Church of the West agree on many theological issues such as the Trinity, the Eucharist and Mary the Mother of God. “The two churches are very close on many issues. The one thing that divides them is the question of the papacy, who gets to be the boss,” DeVille said.

WHY? CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

new program exploring the four ‘pillars’ of the catechism. Most people may see the catechism as too detailed or too complex. Why Catholic? has brought the catechism home to people, giving them the opportunity to explore, discuss, and learn the basic tenets of our faith in a supportive, relatively ‘low key’ and non-threatening way.

Bob Schaepker, Corpus Christi Parish member and Why Catholic? planning committee member, shares that he likes the program because “we all come from different backgrounds and perspectives. These small groups easily allow us to share our perspectives. We find that, by and large, we have similar questions and concerns. This allows us to talk about them. While we are not coming up with a definitive answer, we at least understand our perspective.”

He continues, “I find that, generally, while we, as Catholics, know what the Bible says and our traditions, we can become uncomfortable or a lost for words when others question our faith or why we believe something. So, my hope for this program is that adults understand the Catechism of the Church and feel assured that they are giving the ‘correct’ answer when others (including Catholics) have a question. We need to be less defensive with our answers.”

Nancy Stopczynski, also on the planning committee, has a strong vision for this program, sharing that parishioners are able to strengthen their understanding of our faith, that the small faith communities can bond together, and lastly that we as a parish become an even stronger faith community.

The program extends over four years, participants only need commit for one six-week session at a time. Father Rybicki encourages participation, saying, “Although the idea of a four-year program may seem daunting and distant to many, spending two seasons of Why Catholic? on each of the four pillars of the catechism will allow ample time for the richness of this beautiful Church treasure to take roots in the hearts and lives of those participating, making them better able not only to explain the faith to others but also to understand it themselves. I look forward to the remaining three seasons and the grace of understanding that they will bring.”

For information regarding participating, contact your parish office to see if your parish participates. To find a parish with a program, contact Cindy Black, director of Adult Faith Formation, at CBlack@diocesefwsb.org or 260-399-1436.
Panel at USF discusses death penalty

BY MADELEINE RICHEY

FORT WAYNE — There’s a brightly lit stage, four chairs and four people to sit in them: a bishop, a philosopher, a law professor and a judge. They’ve gathered at the University of Saint Francis (USF) to hold a discussion about a very old institution that predates the birth of Jesus Christ and His subsequent death upon the cross, and has become one of the most controversial in current times — the death penalty.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Dr. Earl Kumfer, professor of philosophy and theology at USF, Dr. Carter Snead, professor of law at the University of Notre Dame, and Judge Wendy Davis of the Allen County Superior Court criminal division, each bringing years of experience and beliefs deeply rooted in faith, begin the conversation.

“I spend my time trying to persuade our fellow citizens that capital punishment does more harm than good,” Dr. Kumfer tells listeners, remaining steadfast in his belief that it is never morally permissible.

“Does not make a right. However, the principle of double effect, in which an action has both a good and a bad result, is the only model,” according to Dr. Kumfer, “that can be used to justify capital punishment.”

One of the dominant arguments against the death penalty states that capital punishment violates the dignity of a human person. However, Judge Davis brings up the quality of life for inmates without parole. Small cells with tiny windows, secluded for the safety of other inmates, shackled to keep officers safe in transit. … “I’ve seen with my own eyes trying to balance what dignity actually means,” Judge Davis tells her audience, to which Dr. Snead adds that in the case of dehumanizing conditions we must try to improve their circumstances, but can never accept the death penalty as the more humane option.

For Judge Davis, it’s not just about the dignity criminals, but also that of the victim, and their right to justice. “What about the dignity of this human being?” she asks. Bishop Rhoades, however, reminds us that the Church must be concerned with mercy.

“It is deeply rooted in faith, begin the discussion about the University of Saint Francis (USF) to hold a discussion about the death penalty,” Bishop Rhoades brings a historical perspective to Church teaching, saying that the Church, through the ages, has been consistent in allowing the death penalty — as a judge she is required to follow the rule of law, and, as Dr. Snead points out, the death penalty is not unconstitutional.

“I spend my time trying to persuade our fellow citizens that capital punishment does more harm than good,” Dr. Kumfer tells listeners, remaining steadfast in his belief that it is never morally permissible to punish a human being with death, and still uphold the unique dignity and respect for human life that the Church teaches.

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“Getting even — restoring balance — is not enough. According to the teachings of the Catholic Church, there is no intrinsic evil in the death penalty, but often, Bishop Rhoades reminds listeners, “the death penalty does more harm than good.”

A general consensus among panelists, with differing views on the death penalty, is that what is really being sought by the justice system and the families of victims, is closure. For some this means that the death penalty provides a way of keeping proven dangerous criminals from harming more innocent people, for others it offers only a false hope that this form of justice will somehow provide an end to the suffering.

“In my experience, there is more healing when the death penalty is not used,” says Bishop Rhoades. In other places in the world, he says, such as the Middle East, “There will never be peace because there is no forgiveness.”

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Confirmation Masses announced for spring 2016

Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne — March 28, 7 p.m.
Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne
Queen of Angels Parish, Fort Wayne
St. Mary Mother of God Parish, Fort Wayne
St. Peter Parish, Fort Wayne
Immaculate Conception Cathedral Parish, Fort Wayne
St. John the Baptist Church, Fort Wayne — March 30, 7 p.m.
St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne
St. Therese Parish, Fort Wayne
St. Joseph Church, Mishawaka — March 31, 7 p.m.
St. Bavo Parish, Mishawaka
St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka
St. Monica Parish, Mishawaka
Queen of Peace Parish, Mishawaka — April 1, 7 p.m.
St. Dominic Parish, Bremen — April 3, 10:30 a.m.
St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Decatur — April 8, 7 p.m.
St. Joseph Parish, Bluffton
St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Decatur
Immaculate Conception Church, Auburn — April 9, 10 a.m.
Immaculate Conception Parish, Auburn
St. Joseph Parish, Garrett
Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Warsaw — April 10, 10:30 a.m.
St. Paul of the Cross Church, Columbia City — April 12, 7 p.m.
Immaculate Conception Parish, Ege
St. John Bosco Parish, Churubusco
St. Paul of the Cross Parish, Columbia City
St. Joseph Parish, Fort Wayne — April 13, 7 p.m.
Sacred Heart of Jesus Church, Warsaw — April 15, 7 p.m.
Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish, Warsaw
St. Francis Xavier Parish, Pierceton
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart
(two Confirmation Masses) — April 16, 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.
Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame — April 17, 11-45 a.m.
University of Notre Dame and Holy Cross College students
St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Plymouth — April 17, 5 p.m.
St. Anthony of Padua Parish, Angola — April 19, 7 p.m.
St. John the Baptist Church, New Haven — April 21, 7 p.m.
St. John the Baptist Parish, New Haven
St. Louis-Besancon Parish, New Haven
St. Rose of Lima Parish, Monroeville
St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne — April 23, 10 a.m.
St. Jude Church, Fort Wayne — April 24, 3 p.m.
St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne
St. Patrick Parish, Arcola
Holy Family Church, South Bend — April 29, 7 p.m.
Holy Family Parish, South Bend
St. John the Baptist Parish, South Bend
St. Stanislaus Kostka Parish, New Carlisle
St. Mary of the Lake Church, Culver — April 30, 9 a.m.
(celebrated by Bishop Dale J. Melenchuk)
Culver Academy students
St. Mary of the Lake Parish, Culver
St. Patrick Church, South Bend — April 30, 10 a.m.
Our Lady of Hungary Parish, South Bend
St. Augustine Parish, South Bend
St. Hedwig Parish, South Bend
St. Patrick Parish, South Bend
St. Therese, Little Flower Parish, South Bend
St. Patrick, Walkerton
St. Pius X Parish, Granger (two Confirmation Masses) — April 30, 5:30 p.m. and May 1, 12:15 p.m.
St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Avilla — May 3, 7 p.m.
Blessed Sacrament Parish, Albion
Immaculate Conception Parish, Kendallville
St. Gaspar del Bufalo Parish, Rome City
St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Avilla
St. Joseph Church-Hessen Cassel, Fort Wayne — May 4, 7 p.m.
St. Joseph Parish-Hessen Cassel
St. Henry Parish, Fort Wayne
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne — May 5, 7 p.m.
St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Fort Wayne — May 7, 5:30 p.m.
St. Adalbert Church, South Bend — May 8, 5 p.m.
St. Adalbert Parish, South Bend
St. Casimir Parish, South Bend
Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Huntington — May 17, 7 p.m.
St. Mary Parish, Huntington
Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Huntington
St. Bernard Church, Wabash — May 19, 7 p.m.
St. Bernard Parish, Wabash
St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, North Manchester
Most Precious Blood Parish, Fort Wayne — May 20, 7 p.m.
St. Joseph Church-Hessen Cassel, Fort Wayne — May 20, 7 p.m.
St. Joseph Parish-Hessen Cassel
St. Henry Parish, Fort Wayne
Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Huntington
St. Bernard Church, Wabash — May 19, 7 p.m.
St. Bernard Parish, Wabash
St. Robert Bellarmine Parish, North Manchester
Most Precious Blood Parish, Fort Wayne — May 20, 7 p.m.
Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne — May 22, 7:30 a.m.
Adult Confirmations
St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend — June 5, 11 a.m.
Adult Confirmations

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BISHOP RHoades at Opening Meeting of USCCB

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend listens to speakers Nov. 16 during the opening of the 2015 fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore.

The pope had announced Oct. 22 the establishment of a new office for laity, family, life and culture, which combines the responsibilities of two pontifical councils. “It is one of the normal dicastery meetings that are scheduled every six months,” Father Lombardi said. Noting that the themes of the meeting were scheduled in advance, Father Lombardi told journalists that the plight of migrants and the problems facing refugees and the countries that receive them were discussed. The Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers, headed by Cardinal Antonio Maria Veglio, wanted to update the pope and members of the Curia on its work in aiding thousands of migrants and refugees coming into Europe.

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Laypeople are not second-class members of Church, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Laypeople are not second-class members of Church, as is sometimes suggested by the Church hierarchy, but are disciples of Christ called “to live every environment, every activity and every human relationship according to the Gospel,” Pope Francis said.

The pope sent a message Nov. 10 to Cardinal Stanislaw Ryylko, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, and participants of a workshop marking the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council’s Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, which defined the role of laypeople in the Catholic Church. In his message, the pope said that the Second Vatican Council did not highlight the importance of the laity in the Church, but defined their role as a vocation. The proclamation of the Gospel “is not reserved to some ‘mission professionals,’ but should be the profound aspiration of all lay faithful who are called to evangelize by virtue of their baptism,” he said.

The pope said that while the council’s teachings have contributed to the growth of lay formation, its application challenges “the old association of lay people with the Church by giving priority to laypeople, because it is a priceless gift of the Holy Spirit that must be accepted with gratitude and a sense of responsibility.”

Chaldean patriarch to Iraqi president: Veto law on child conversions

MANCHESTER, England (CNS) — The patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic Church has called upon Iraq’s president to veto a law that will force some Christian children to convert to Islam. The Assyrian News Agency reported that Chaldean Patriarch Louis Sako of Baghdad had met with Iraqi President Fuad Masum Nov. 6 and asked him to reject a new national charter approved by the Assembly of Deputies Oct. 27. Religious minorities in Iraq, including Christians, oppose the charter because it decrees that children under the age of 18 must become Muslims if their father converts to Islam or if their mother marries a Muslim. Patriarch Sako told the president that the charter violates the sections of the Iraqi constitution that guarantee freedom of religion and conscience, the news agency reported.

Vatican releases list of new synod council members

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Rounding out the membership of the council that will coordinate the follow-up to the Synod of Bishops on the family and help prepare the next synod assembly, Pope Francis named the patriarch of the Chaldean Catholic Church, the new archbishop of Madrid and the archbishop of Brazil’s capital city. The papal nominees join the 12 members of the synod council elected by members of the Synod of Bishops on the family; the Vatican released the list of new council members Nov. 14. Those elected at the end of the Oct. 4-25 synod, included several cardinals and bishops who had expressed concerns over synod procedures, as well as members who took strongly divergent positions at the synod, particularly on the question of a possible process for admitting some divorced and civilly remarried Catholics to the Eucharist. Those elected to the synod council included: Cardinal Wilfrid F. Napier of Durban, South Africa; Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments; and Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia.

Pope Francis nominated Chaldean Catholic Patriarch Louis Sako of Baghdad; Archbishop Carlos Osoro of Madrid; and Archbishop Sergio Da Rocha of Brasilia, Brazil.

Pope, Roman Curia heads discuss refugees, dialogue with Muslims

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The difficulties facing migrants coming into Europe and the continuing dialogues with Muslims were among the topics discussed during Pope Francis’ meeting with the heads of the Roman Curia offices, the Vatican spokesman said. Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, said the Nov. 16 meeting did not deal with the pope’s reform of the Curia or with further changes to the existing offices.

Mexico foreign minister confirms pope to visit capital, three states

CUAUHTÉMOC IZCALLI, Mexico (CNS) — Mexican Foreign Minister Claudia Ruiz Massieu has confirmed that Pope Francis will visit the capital, Mexico City, along with the states of Chihuahua and Chiapas — on the northern and southern borders respectively — and Michoacan in western Mexico. “The details will be known in December,” she said Nov. 11, acknowledging where the pope will travel early next year. Spokesmen for dioceses in the three states and Mexico City confirmed details when contacted by Catholic News Service.

The Mexican bishops’ conference, however, refused to confirm details of the trip, not even Mexico City Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera’s announcement that the pope would arrive Feb. 12. The bishops said the pope’s plans were still not finalized and would be revealed Dec. 12, when the country celebrates the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. “We cannot confirm or deny what the foreign ministry said,” Guadalajara Cardinal Francisco Robles Ortega, conference president, told a Nov. 12 news conference. “We don’t know their motives or sources of information.” Cardinal Robles also did not disclose many details of any topics for the trip, although he said he expected the pope to meet with victims of violence and vulnerable groups, such as the migrants transiting Mexico in attempts to reach the United States.

The document reflects on long-held concerns related to abortion and the family; the Vatican released the list of new council members Nov. 16 during the opening of the 2015 fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore.

Faith leaders ask U.S. to help meet growing needs of Ukraine’s people

WASHINGTON (CNS) — “Time is of the essence” to get humanitarian aid to the people of Ukraine as winter sets in, a group of Ukrainian religious leaders said in a Nov. 9 appeal to President Barack Obama. They said they were making the appeal “on behalf of our people to help address the humanitarian catastrophe gripping our country. The needs are enormous, ranging from medical supplies to everyday items such as food, water and clothing.” At a news conference at the National Press Club, the Ukrainian group issued a joint statement that cited U.N. statistics showing that as a result of fighting between the army and pro-Russian separatist rebels in Ukraine that continues unabated, over 5 million people — including 1.7 million children — are in desperate need of humanitarian assistance. The statement said that 8,000 people have died and over 17,000 have been injured and wounded. The number of those displaced is over 1.39 million, with 174,000 children among them. “The challenges of this human tragedy are overwhelming,” the group said. “Even the most conservative estimates show that over 65 percent of projected needs have yet to be met.”

Bishops had set aside 45 minutes at the document requires two-thirds of the 12 members of the working group to vote for changes. “The pope’s reform of the Curia or with further changes to the existing offices.”

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A family that doesn’t eat together is ‘hardly a family,’ pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A family that chooses to watch TV or play with their smartphones rather than talk at the dinner table is “hardly a family,” Pope Francis said. “When children at the dinner table are glued to the computer, or the telephone and do not listen to one another, they are not a family, they are retired,” the pope said Nov. 14 during his weekly general audience. The pope said that “to share a meal — and not just food, but also affection, stories, events — is a fundamental experience.”

The pope said Christians have a special vocation to foster family togetherness. The dinner table, he noted, is the place chosen by Jesus to teach His disciples and where He summarized the meaning of His death on the cross “that nourishes true and everlasting love.” For this reason, the family feels “at home” at the celebration of the Eucharist where they bring their “experience of togetherness and open it to the grace of a universal coexistence, of the love of God for the world,” he said.

‘Faithful citizenship’ revisions reflect words of Popes Benedict, Francis

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Revisions to guidelines for U.S. bishops’ social teaching document on political responsibility draw on the teachings of Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis and take into account developments in U.S. foreign and domestic policy over the past four years. The document, revised by a working group of bishops comprised of the chairman of several committees since March 2014, is affected by public policy, was to be voted on Nov. 17, the second day of public sessions during the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishop’s fall general assembly. For passage, the document requires two-thirds of voting bishops to support it. The bishops had set aside 45 minutes to discuss the document before the vote. The revised document is longer than its predecessors of 2007 and 2011, which garnered much public attention during the two previous presidential election years. The working group has been working on its revision since March 2014. The document reflects on long-held concerns related to abortion and the needs of poor people. It also reflects growing interest in court decisions on same-sex marriage, public policies that impact religious freedom and a rising concern for the environment as climate change affects more people around the world.

News Briefs

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WASHINGTON (CNS) — “Time is of the essence” to get humanitarian aid to the people of Ukraine as winter
Franciscan Sisters open 150th anniversary year

FRANKFORT, Illinois — A house walk at the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Frankfort, Illinois, on Dec. 6 will mark the opening of the 150th anniversary of the congregation’s founding in Germany. The sisters, who have served in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend since 1876, are inviting the public to St. Francis Woods, 9201 W. St. Francis Rd. in Frankfort, to meet the sisters, hear stories about their life and history, learn of their special peace and justice advocacies and tour the motherhouse.

The sisters serve in schools, hospitals, nursing homes and in various organizational, parish, diocesan, university and congressional positions. They offer spiritual formation, spiritual direction and retreats. In addition, they serve the poorest of the poor in the Amazonian area in Brazil.

The sisters have had a special presence in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for 139 years, serving at St. Joseph School-Hessen Cassel, Fort Wayne; Immaculate Conception School, Ege; Sacred Heart Hospital, Garrett; St. Joseph School, Garrett; Immaculate Conception School, Auburn; Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne; Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne; St. Bernard Parish, Wabash; University of St. Francis, Fort Wayne; Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne; St. Mary School, Avilla; and currently serve at Presence Sacred Heart Home, Avilla, and St. Charles Borromeo, North Campus, Fort Wayne. The congregation also sponsors Presence Sacred Heart Home, Avilla.

Charity-Fest benefits assisting those in need

FORT WAYNE — The Fort Wayne St. Vincent de Paul Society’s fourth annual Charity-Fest was held on Oct. 3 at the USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center. Over 300 people participated. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades provided the invocation.

The dinner-dance event included a live and silent auction and generated a profit of $15,000. The society is grateful to all who donated financially or provided items for the live and silent auction. The $15,000 profit has already been given away to the most in need conferences. The fifth Charity-Fest will be Oct. 1, 2016, at the USF Robert Goldstein Performing Arts Center.

USF announces 2015 Christmas festivities

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis has announced the schedule for its annual Christmas tradition of yuletide celebration, Christmas at USF.

Events at USF features events the first three weekends in December. Many are free, and all have free parking. An event schedule with details follows. More information is also available at sfsedu/christmas.

Christmas in the Castle will allow visitors to tour historic Brookside, the former Bass mansion, and to see it specially decorated for Christmas by local florists and designers.

Christmas in the Castle: Friday, Dec. 4 — 4-6 p.m.; Saturday, Dec. 5 — noon-5 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 6 — noon-5 p.m.; Monday, Dec. 7 — 4-6 p.m.; Wednesday, Dec. 9 is Senior Day in the Castle ($4 for senior citizens) — noon-5 p.m. Admission is $6 per person, with a $25 maximum for a family of six.

Tickets must be purchased in the North Campus lobby on event days. Free parking and shuttles for those with mobility issues are available at the former Bass mansion, and to see it specially decorated for Christmas by local florists and designers.

The 122nd Fighter Wing Honor Guard held a flag folding service before the Nov. 6 all-school Mass at St. Aloysius Church, Yoder. Students at St. Aloysius School invited veterans and active military personnel to the Mass and fellowship time. Msgr. Bernard Galic, pastor of St. Aloysius, reminded all that the Eucharist means “thanksgiving” and offered thanks to the men and women who serve the country. The 122nd Fighter Wing is located near by the parish and many military personnel are parishioners.

A Fair Trade Alternative Shopping Bazaar will be conducted on Saturday and Sunday, Dec. 5 and 6, from noon to 5:30 p.m. at the North Campus. The shopping bazaar offers high quality, fairly traded handicrafts of disadvantaged producers from all over the world. “Fair trade” means that producers earn a fair price, get access to credit and training and maintain long-term relationships with principled organizations. USF students will perform Las Posadas at 5:30 p.m. on Dec. 6 as they portray Mary, Joseph and St. Francis on a journey through the USF campus, re-creating Joseph and Mary’s search for lodging. A traditional part of Mexican Christmas celebration, posadas (meaning “shelter” or “inn”) are held in Mexico on each of the nine nights leading up to Christmas from Dec. 16-24. The USF procession will begin at the Pope John Paul II Center clock tower and proceed through campus before ending on the shore of Mirror Lake to lead into the Living Nativity.

Lighting of the Lake will honor special loved ones on Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. in the Pope John Paul II Center amphitheater, in concert with the Living Nativity. As a symbol of Christmas, vigil lights will encircle part of Mirror Lake. Luminaries dedicated to loved ones can be purchased for the light display at $10 each by calling 260-399-8037 by Dec. 4. The event is free.

A Living Nativity with children’s petting zoo will take place Sunday, Dec. 6, with the petting zoo open from 5-5:45 p.m. and the Living Nativity at 6 p.m. in the amphitheater next to the Pope John Paul II Center. Members of the university community present a Living Nativity, which recalls the tradition of re-enacting the first Christmas, started in 1223 by St. Francis of Assisi. The event is free, with parking off Leesburg Road.

Christmas at USF wraps up on Dec. 19 with a special event for 2015. “Cultural Christmas at USF: World Music with Chilean Roots” is a Christmas concert featuring Chilean cultural group KelsCote. Their original compositions are a gift of educational and cultural enrichment for the Fort Wayne community in this joyous season.

The Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival announces its 2016 season, audition dates

NOTRE DAME — The Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival (NDSF) has announced the titles and audition dates for its upcoming 2016 summer season. In order to explore and celebrate Shakespeare in its final plays, NDSF has selected two works that embody the playwright’s voice at the close of his career. The 2016 season is named “Shakespeare’s Last Words” and will feature adventure, exhilaration and redemption.

The 2016 Professional Company production will present “The Tempest,” and the 2016 Young Company, NDSF’s free Shakespeare-in-the-park touring show, will present “Pericles, Prince of Tyre.”

The Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival will be holding open auditions on Saturday, Dec. 5, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The festival is seeking community and professional actors for “The Tempest” and undergraduate/graduate students for the Young Company. Young Company actors will be cast in both productions. Please prepare one classical monologue under two minutes in length. For more information and to schedule an audition time, contact NDSFAuditions@nd.edu.

Call 574-631-3777 or visit nd.edu to learn more about the 2016 Notre Dame Shakespeare Festival and other exciting programs by Shakespeare at Notre Dame.

Ancilla College named a Military Friendly school, fourth year in a row

DONALDSON — Ancilla College has been designated as a 2016 Military Friendly School by Victory Media, the leader in successfully connecting the military and military families with employers, colleges and universities.

This is the fourth consecutive year the small college near Plymouth has been named among the top 20 military-friendly institutions in the nation. AncillaCollege.com features a Military Friendly school designation tool for veterans and military families.

“Ancilla College is focused on students. We don’t have a massive, impersonal campus. Classes have an average of 14 students, led by instructors who work directly with them. That’s the kind of environment veterans can come back to without getting lost in a sea of young people who are away from home for the first time,” Wignall said.

“Military Friendly, being supportive of veterans and their families, is important to us. Most veterans earned educational benefits through programs that are paid for by the government. That is not an easy task. The transition from military life to civilian can be jarring. At Ancilla, we make sure they’re earning a college degree and also get the support that they’ve earned a place in our classroom,” Wignall said.

“Post-secondary institutions earning the 2016 Military Friendly School award have exceptionally strong programs for transitioning service members and spouses,” said Dan Caplen, chief program officer of Victory Media and a U.S. Navy Reserve veteran.

“Our Military Friendly Schools are truly aligning their military programs, services and resources with the needs of students to help veterans translate military experience, skills and training into successful careers after graduation,” Nichols said.
We are grateful Catholics

Miguel Carmona, St. John the Baptist, South Bend

Braeden Grounds, St. John the Baptist, South Bend

Bobby McLeish, Homeschooled, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne

Lucy McLeish, Homeschooled, Fort Wayne

Benjamin Adamson, Catholic Homeschoolers of Michiana

Gregory Fitzmaurice, Homeschooled

Megan Rieker, Marian High School

Jude Serrani, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne

Irvin Mejia, St. John the Evangelist, Goshen

Jack Krider, St. John the Evangelist, Goshen

Valeria Torres, St. John the Evangelist, Goshen

Mya Taylor, St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne

Logan Kien, St. Charles Borromeo

Charlotte Sweigert, St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne

Ally Brown, St. Charles Borromeo
For what are YOU grateful?

Today's Catholic invited elementary, junior high and high school students to express “gratitude” through art and photography. Many responded and Today’s Catholic is pleased to present them here. More artwork is available online and through social media.

- Visit www.todayscatholicnews.org and click on the photo gallery.
- Like us at www.facebook.com/diocesefwsb and view the album “Gratitude Art”
- Follow us on Twitter @diocesefwsb
- Follow our NEW Instagram account @diocesefwsb. Just in time for the beautiful images of this holy season and the Jubilee Year of Mercy…

JOIN THE CONVERSATION
#G R AT E F U L C A T H O L I C # G R AT E F U L F W S B

Lizzie Klimek, Marian High School

Ericka Wright, Marian High School

Our cup runneth over with gratitude…

Saint Anne Communities

...to our incredible team of bright, caring staff who serve from their hearts each day

...for the opportunity to expand our continuum of care with a second location, Saint Anne Grace Pointe

...to be a part of the fantastic Fort Wayne community

...and especially to the residents at Saint Anne’s who bring us joy, wisdom and inspiration every day.

Nicholas Eddy, St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne

Sabrina Williams, St. John the Evangelist, Goshen

William Adamson, Catholic Homeschoolers of Michiana

Lucy McLeish, Homeschooled, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne

Devota Tippmann, St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne

Ally Brown, St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne

Catherine Koepke, St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne

William Adamson, Catholic Homeschoolers of Michiana

Lizzie Klimek, Marian High School

Ericka Wright, Marian High School
More photos available!
Click on the photo gallery at www.todayscatholicnews.org
or follow the NEW Instagram account @diocesefwsb

Christmas at the University of Saint Francis

This season, celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ with your family at the University of Saint Francis. Many events are free (including parking), and occur the first weekend in December. Visit sf.edu/christmas for details.

- Christmas in the Castle (Brookside tours) Dec. 4-7
- Las Posadas
- Lighting of the Lake
- Living Nativity
- Art Exhibits
- “Star of Bethlehem” Planetarium Show
- Petting Zoo
- “Cultural Christmas” Chilean Music Concert

Visit sf.edu/christmas for more information.
Learning from Mom’s humility

S
ome people are naturally funny and good storytellers. I wish I were one of them. I have to speak in public often, and at times I have no choice but to wing it. I’m not funny or especially quick-witted, though. So when I go to speak extemporaneously, it’s a bit scary. I launch into sentences like a man walking down a blind alley, not knowing quite how he’ll get out the other end.

Usually it works out. But the other day I drew a blank. I was trying to remember the name of a historian (Michael Burleigh, as it turns out) whose book I wanted to recommend. I ended up blowing my cheeks out like a goldfish out of water.

My first thought was that I looked like a dummy. My second thought — a much scarier one — was that maybe I was losing my fastball the same way my mother did.

For the last 10 years of her life, Mom remained mentally keen, but she gradually lost the ability to speak. At first, her brain’s proper noun file seemed to fail. Then, it was more common words.

For a few years, she had enough residual vocabulary to substitute equivalent phrases. When that didn’t work, she could still make herself understood to me — we knew each other’s sentences were going and could finish them, much like smartphones do nowadays when you start typing an email or text message.

It had to be frightening for her. I remember having a talk with her one night, a few years after Dad died, about her increasing difficulty with words. I told her how much I admired her grace in the circumstances.

What she had, and I don’t, was humility. No one enjoyed laughter with Mom. I did — even, or especially, when the joke was on her.

We have a family story about my brother’s efforts to teach her to use an answering machine. The great thing about the machine, he explained, was that even when she was too confused to answer, she could let it answer, and find out who was calling. If it was one of the kids, she could pick it up. If it was a salesman, she could ignore it.

My brother then said, “OK, Mom, now hang up and I’ll call you back. The answering machine will pick up.” She agreed. They both hung up. My brother called. Mother answered, “Hello?” They both started laughing. My brother explained again, “Don’t pick up, Mom. Listen to the tape.” Mother agreed. He called again. Mother answered, “Hello?”

She wasn’t messing with him. She was just forgetting. Mother laughed hard at her blunder, then said humbly that she could hardly breathe. She saw how funny her predicament was. With absolutely no sense of vanity, she could enjoy the joke as though it were on someone else.

People often try to project humility through self-deprecation — as I did at the beginning of this column. But fishing for compliments isn’t real humility.

John Garvey is president of The Catholic University of America.

Companions for the journey

A
ll of us learn from our friends and family. We get tips on restaurants, doctors, service providers or best places to get this and that. I just sent a request to a friend for her pickled cucumbers recipe and I am looking at colorful origami cranes a Catholic Relief Services colleague taught me to make.

Beyond gaining knowledge and skills, I am also struck by how people can touch our lives with profound impact, at times helping us grow as a person or as a person of faith.

At a dinner with a classmate I had not seen for over 40 years, I told her that I would like to pick up Spanish in my retirement, not so much to be fluent but to be able to sing along at bilingual Masses.

She shared that she has been teaching herself Spanish in the past few years since her son married a Panamanian woman whose first language is Spanish, even though she operates perfectly in English.

My classmate wants to be able to relate to her daughter-in-law’s mother, who knows only Spanish, and to her grandson to encourage his dual heritage. Moreover, she told me that she is not self-conscious and will venture forth despite rudimentary vocabulary, sentence construction and pronunciation.

I was totally inspired by her commitment to know and engage her in-laws, her appreciation for the diverse ethnicity of her grandson, discipline in learning a new language and a desire so strong that overcomes our usual self-centered unease.

She taught me what it means to welcome a new member into the family and showed that yes, even at our age, we could pick up a new language.

Days later, I was told that a former colleague donated her kidney to someone she did not know. A friend of mine participated in a donation program for his nephew, and my brother underwent a kidney transplant. But I did not know any person who made it a priority to give a kidney to a stranger.

In fact, I was told it was on her bucket list. Then I wondered why more people don’t think about organ donation as the ultimate statement of human bondedness.

At a reception soon after, I greeted an acquaintance who had cheered me on when I served as dean at the University of Notre Dame. Responding to the usual “How are you?” he spoke philosophically and urgently of his current challenge.

Recent cancer treatments had damaged his only kidney (the other one being lost over 30 years ago).

WOO, PAGE 12

Christ the King belongs to us

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Christ the King
Jn 18:33b-37

This weekend the Church concludes its 11th Sunday in the Season of Christ the King. In the preceding 12 months, the Church has taught us as we have gathered on the weekends about Jesus. It has taught us the Gospel of Jesus. Now, it’s time to proclaim him passionately and joyfully proclaiming Christ as king.

The first reading is from the Book of Daniel. Written about a time of great hardship and anxiety for God’s people, Daniel summoned the faithful to stand up and take stock of the state of trust in God, come what may.

Daniel also spoke of the faithful servant who is identified with the title, “Son of Man.”

This servant, the Son of Man, lived through the hardships and perils endured by all the people. Yet, he distinguished himself. “This Son of Man,” said the Ancient One, “received Him and gave Him dominion, glory and power, and understanding. All mankind is his ministry. This Son of Man will govern his ministry until a mighty idea comes with power and wisdom and intelligence, and understanding. This Son of Man will govern his ministry until a mighty idea comes with power and wisdom and intelligence, and understanding.

The second reading on this feast, the Church presents a passage from the Book of Revelation. We are called, in the beginning, “The Everyday Church.” We are called to be the Church that understands its existence. We are called to be the Church that understands its existence. We are called to be the Church that understands its existence.

For its second reading on this feast, the Church presents a passage from the Book of Revelation. We are called, in the beginning, “The Everyday Church.” We are called to be the Church that understands its existence. We are called to be the Church that understands its existence. We are called to be the Church that understands its existence.

In these readings, the Church calls us to remember that Jesus is the king. He reigns over all. It is more than a mere acknowledgement of divine creation or of Almighty power. Jesus is king over evil, the worries and hardships of life, the scheming of humans and, of course, over death itself. He prevails. He lives. All else comes and goes. His word prevails. If we bond ourselves to Jesus, truly in love and death, we too can rise above even death.

To give ourselves to Jesus, we need the strength of Jesus. We need not hopelessly yearn for this strength. The Lord offers it strength and peace uncompromisingly and in unlimited supply — if humbly we ask for it.

Knowing that she was queen of the Netherlands, Wilhelmina asked, “Mommy, do all these people belong to me?” “No, dear,” the queen-regent answered, “You belong to them.”

The wonder of this great feast is that Christ the king belongs to us. He died for us. He gives us life.

READINGS

Sunday: Dn 7:13-14 Ps 93:1-2, 5 Rv 1:5-8 1833b-37

Monday: Dn 1:1-6, 8-20 (Ps) Dn 352-36 Lk 21:5-11

Tuesday: Dn 3:68-74 (Ps) Dn 357-61 Lk 21:11-15

Wednesday: Dn 5:1-6, 13-14, 16-17, 23-28 (Ps) Dn 362-67 Lk 21:12-19

Thursday: Dn 6:12-18 (Ps) Dn 368-74 Lk 21:20-28

Friday: Dn 7:24-29 (Ps) Dn 375-81 Lk 21:29-33

Saturday: Dn 7:15-27 (Ps) Dn 82-87 Lk 21:34-36
Tear down this wall: Holy Year calls for human barriers to tumble down

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — For a spiritual leader who denounces a world divided by walls, a Church shuttered by cliques and hearts hardened to compassion, opening wide the Holy Door for the Year of Mercy will be a significant and symbolic moment for Pope Francis.

In Catholic tradition, the Holy Door represents the passage to salvation — the path to a new and eternal life, which was opened to humanity by Jesus.

It also symbolizes an entrway to God’s mercy — the ultimate and supreme act by which He comes to meet people. Mercy is “the bridge that connects God and humanity, opening our hearts to the hope of being loved forever despite our sinfulness,” the pope wrote in “Misericordiae Vultus” (“The Face of Mercy”), instituting the Holy Year of Mercy.

Doors have always had a special meaning for the Catholic Church, according to the late-Cardinal Virgilio Noe, the former archpriest of St. Peter’s Basilica.

“The door of a church marks the divide between the sacred and profane, separating the church’s interior from the outside world. It is the boundary defining welcome and exclusion,” he wrote in the book, “The Holy Door in St. Peter’s” in 1999.

The door is also a symbol of Mary — the mother, the dwelling of the Lord — and she, too, always has open arms and is ready to welcome the children of God home. Pope Francis, scheduled to open the door Dec. 8, the feast of Mary’s immaculate conception.

But the Holy Year especially represents Christ Himself — the one and only way to eternal life. As Jesus said, according to the Gospel of John (10:9), “I am the gate. Whosever enters through me will be saved, and will come in and go out and find pastures.”

The Holy Year begins officially with the opening of the Holy Door to represent a renewed opportunity to encounter or grow closer to Jesus, who calls everyone to redemption.

Jesus knocks on everyone’s door; He yearns to accompany and nourish everyone. “If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, then I will enter his house and dine with him, and he with Me,” the Book of Revelation quotes Him as saying.

But doors are also narrow, Cardinal Noe wrote, and people must stoop with humility and “be brought down to size by conversion” in order to be “fit” for eternal life.

That is why passing through a Holy Door is part of a longer process of sacrifice and conversion required for receiving an indulgence granted during a Holy Year. A plenary indulgence, the remission of temporal punishment due to sin, is offered for pilgrims who also fulfill certain other conditions: reception of the sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist, visits and prayers for the intention of the pope and performing simple acts such as visiting the sick.

This spiritual process of encounter and conversion is made tangible in the elaborate rituals developed over time for the opening of the Holy Door.

The symbolic ceremony of opening a Holy Door came more than a century after the first Holy Year was proclaimed in 1300. Pope Martin V, in 1423, opened the Holy Door in the Basilica of St. John Lateran for the first time for a jubilee. Next, Pope Alexander VI called for all four Holy Doors in Rome to be opened at Christmas in 1499 for the Jubilee of 1500.

Starting in the 16th century, the ceremony to open the door in St. Peter’s Basilica included the pope reciting verses from the Psalms and striking the wall covering the Holy Door with a silver hammer three times.

Masons completed the task of dismantling the brick and mortared wall, which represents the difficulty and great effort required to overcome the barrier of sin and to open the path to holiness.

Some have found meaning in the fact that Jesus had five wounds and St. Peter’s Basilica has five doors. Opening the Holy Door calls the piercing of Jesus’ side from which poured forth blood and water, the source of regeneration of humanity.

The Holy Door of St. Peter’s, in fact, is decorated with 16 bronze panels depicting the story of Jesus, in His mercy, seeking His lost sheep.

The symbolism of the hammer in the hands of the pope represents the power and jurisdiction God gives him to cast away the stones of sin, chink open hardened hearts and break down walls separating humanity from God.

For the closing of the door, at the end of the Holy Year, the traditional rite included the pope blessing and spreading the mortar with a special trowel and setting three bricks for the start of a new wall — a symbol of the spiritual rebuilding of the Lord’s house as well as the ever-present human temptation to put up new barriers against God with sin.

While there have been some changes to those ceremonies over time, the Holy Door is always a reminder that because of God’s mercy, any obstacles can always be removed, and the door to hope and forgiveness is always there waiting.

THE VATICAN LETTER

Carol Glatz

November 22 and 29, 2015

November 22 and 29, 2015

Poetry

We became good friends in the years hence. A few days ago at her kitchen while chopping vegetables, she declared, “Carolyn, I have figured something out. It is not enough to work on getting to heaven, we have to work on everyone getting to heaven.”

Boy. I have been haunted by her first statement, and now she has again raised the bar.

For the celebration of all saints, let us remember how every one of us, by the way we live, is the mirror of the goodness in which God created us.

We can make this goodness real and accessible, and inspire another to live this out. Let us be companions on our journey to heaven.

Carolyn Y. Woo is the president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States.

CHRIST RULER BLOOD BEHOLD PILATE ANSWERED NATION FAITHFUL WHO LOVES US MADE US PIERCED KING YOUR OWN EVERYONE WITNESS FREED US GLORY AMEN JEWS OTHERS MY VOICE

LOOK ON HIM


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The Crossword

Following is a word search based on the Second and Gospel readings for the Feast of Christ the King, Cycle B. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for November 22, 2015

Revelation 1: 5-8; John 18: 33b-37

November 22 and 29, 2015

49  Flightless bird
58  Sudden illness
52  Chinese cooking pan
53  Sleigh
54  Russia
55  Compass point
56  Bacon-lettuce-tomato sandwich
57  Easter egg
58  Sandstorm
59  Chinese basket
60  Bacon-lettuce-tomato sandwich
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Based on readings: Dan 7:13-14; Rev 1:1-5,8; Is 18:33b-37 & Jer 33:14-16; Ps 1:1-5; Is 38:1; Lk 21:25-28,34-36

Answer Key can be found on page 15.
Buying the building next to the abortionist’s license when he is out to the mothers on the abortionist’s who animate Divine Mercy reaching-out to the mothers on the abortionist’s doorstop, tallying 102 saves to date.

The last week was the first time in 42 years that the Diocese was without an abortion clinic. The same abortionist who has performed tens of thousands of abortions in Northern Indiana did not perform any abortions last week. This is certainly progress for the culture of life, but this accomplishment is only temporary.

Join our prayer, THE HOLY INNOCENTS NOVENA, a perpetual adoration novena November 24th thru December 2nd for the permanent closure of this clinic and the revocation of the abortionist’s license when he is before the Medical Board on December 3rd, 2015. Sign-up at www.divinemercyforlife.com and see the results of the last two novenas, stop by the Chapel, or call/text (574) 286-7850.

The APOSTOLATE is a canonical association established to buy the building next to the abortion clinic to house pro-life ministries. Go to www.divinemercyforlife.com for the founding documents. Besides the Chapel, the pro-life ministries include an adoption agency and TLC Advocates who animate Divine Mercy reaching-out to the mothers on the abortionist’s doorstep, tallying 102 saves to date. The TLC Advocates also filed the informed consent complaints against the abortionist that led to his license revocation. Go to www.divinemercyforlife.com for the full story and write sullyatlaw@shcglobal.net for more info.
WASHINGTON (CNS) — A draft statement on pornography to be considered for approval by the U.S. bishops at their Nov. 16-19 fall general meeting in Baltimore calls pornography “mortal sin” and urges Catholics to turn away from it.

"Producing or using pornogra-
phy is a mortal sin that needs to be
confessed in order for the person
to receive God’s forgiveness,” says
the draft version of “Create in Me a
Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to
Pornography.”

Those who produce and
distribute pornography harm the
common good by encouraging and
even causing others to sin,” it says.

The proposed statement, pre-
pared by the bishops’ Committee
on Laity, Marriage, Family Life
and Youth, adds, “There are many
victims of pornography — All
child pornography is automatically
trafficking and a crime, because it
involves the sexual exploitation of
a minor for commercial gain and it
is against the child’s will due to
the inability to give consent.”

It noted, “Many people struggle
with pornography addiction, includ-
ing faithful Catholics, people of faith,
people of no faith, married and sin-
gle people, fathers and mothers, the
young and the elderly, and those
in consecrated life.”

The proposed statement requires
two-thirds approval by bishops to
be accepted. It was scheduled for a
vote Nov. 17.

In presenting the document to
the bishops Nov. 16, the first day
of their annual fall general meet-
ing in Baltimore, Bishop Richard
J. Malone of Buffalo, New York,
chairman of the committee that pre-
pared it, described pornography as a
“dark shadow in our world today.”

He said that it is a “particularly
sinister instance of consumption”
whereby men, women and children
“are consumed for the pleasure of
others.”

Bishop Malone noted that the
statement, which has been in the
works for three years, is “purposely
comprehensive” but can by no
means address the entire issue.

Instead, he said, it should be seen as
more of a “launch pad” promoting
further discussion and resources to
help those harmed by pornography.

He said Pope Francis has urged
the U.S. bishops to seek out and
heal wounds and the pornography
document provides a means to do
that.

Using the penitential Psalm 51
for both the title and as a recurring
motif throughout the proposed
statement, it says in its introduction, “We
have seen the corrosive damaged
caused by pornography: children,
whose innocence is stolen; men and
women who feel great guilt and
shame for viewing pornography
occasionally or habitually; spouses
who feel betrayed and traumatized;
and men, women and children
exploited by the pornography indus-
try.”

Although U.S. courts have had
difficulty in defining pornography,
the proposed statement borrows
from the Catechism of the Catholic
Church to define it: “removing real
or simulated sexual acts from the
intimacy of the partners, in order
to display them deliberately to third
parties.”

“It encompasses what is some-
times distinguished as ‘soft’ and
‘hard-core’ pornography,” the
proposed statement adds. “This is
an artificial divide; all pornogra-
phy is harmful and wrong, while
the effects on a person may vary
on the intensity of the content.
Pornography is not art.”

It says, “Pornography can never
be justified, even within marriage.”

The proposed statement also
links pornography to other sins,
“especially masturbation.
Masturbation, which is deliber-
atively, erotic stimulation often to
the point of orgasm, commonly occurs
together with pornography use.

While our culture largely sees it
on the intensity of the content.
Pornography can never
as acceptable, masturbation is always
gravely contrary to chastity and
the dignity of one’s body.”

It noted pornography’s perva-
siveness: “Erotic, oversexualized,
and pornographic images are more
present in American society than
ever before. ... Mainstream enter-
tainment itself has become hyper-
sexualized. Novels that at one time
would have been classified as ‘erot-
ica’ are mainstream, to say nothing
of the overly sexual romance novel
genre.”

The proposed statement calls
pornography “an industry of sin.”

"Pornography is a big business.
Estimates of revenue stretch eas-
ily into the billions of dollars every
year. The pornography industry is
aggressive, savvy and regulated
only sporadically,” it said. “Other
business, such as hotel chains, cable
companies and drugstores, profit
greatly from the widespread use of
pornography and contribute to its
accessibility.”

That pervasiveness leads to nega-
tive effects on people and society,
according to the proposed statement.

“Men are particularly susceptible
to pornography because the male
brain is strongly drawn to sexual
images, a kind of ‘visual magneti-
sm’ aggressively exploited by the
pornography industry,” it says, add-
ing, “it can lead to addiction. Women
‘use pornography for similar rea-
sons as men,’ it says, and are told
wrongly that ‘using pornography is
liberating for them.’

“Viewing pornography, usually
combined with masturbation, direct-
ly affects the brain’s reward path-
ways and has been noted to have a
similar effect on the brain as cocaine
does on a person with a drug addic-
tion or as alcohol on a person with
an alcohol addiction,” it says. “The
moral culpability of an addicted
person may be lessened depending
on the circumstances, but the situation
is particularly grave.”

Pornography filters down to
younger people, accounting for the
rise of “sexting,” sexually explicit
text messages “associated with
other risky sexual behaviors,” the
proposed statement says, including
“greater risk of getting pregnant as a
teenager — or impregnating some-
one — or contracting an STI,” a
sexually transmitted infection.

In one section of the 35-page
text, those who use pornography are
urged to turn away from it and to
recommit their lives to Christ.

To those who produce pornog-
raphy, the proposed statement says,
“The Lord, in His great mercy and
justice, is calling you to turn away
from your sins and follow Him,”
adding, “If you are also — or have
been — engaged in criminal exploi-
tation, we urge you to report your
action and to hand yourself over
to civil authorities. God can use your
previous mistakes to help others.”

It tells men and women who use
pornography to “ask for forgiveness.
Many good people struggle with
this sin. You are not alone; there is
always hope!” Freedom from por-
nography is a daily choice and calls
for ongoing formation.”

The proposed statement advises
those harmed by their spouse’s
pornography use to “seek solace in
prayer, in receiving the sacraments
and in Eucharistic Adoration.”

While “anger at your spouse is
natural and often justified,” it makes
a suggestion to “set clear boundaries if
possible, such as installing an online
monitoring program, clearing the
home of any pornography, taking
care of your own health and refus-
ing to be used as an excuse for your
spouse’s pornography use.”
What’s Happening?

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

“Not Your Grandma’s Bazaar”
Churubusco — The Rosary Society of St. John Bosco Church, 216 N. Main St., will host a craft bazaar on Friday, Nov. 20, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 21, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Freshly baked cinnamon rolls and coffee offered in the morning and homemade soup, sandwich and dessert served all afternoon. Handmade crafts, hand rolled noodles and homemade baked goods. A raffle for the chance to win a handmade quilt and other great prizes is planned.

Card party and euchre tournament
Yoder — The St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus will have a card party and euchre tournament Saturday, Nov. 21, in the school basement. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Tournament fee is $5. Free will offering for food and beverages. Call 260-638-4882 for information.

Charity breakfast planned
Decatur — The Ladies Auxiliary of Knights of Columbus Council 864 will have a charity breakfast Saturday, Dec. 6, at the Knights of Columbus Pavilion at 1703 High St. Breakfast will be served from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Freewill donation. Proceeds benefit Gihault Children’s Services, The Hope Clinic and Days for Girls.

Bach Collegium plans sing-along Messiah
Fort Wayne — The Bach Collegium will have a “Messiah” sing along Sunday, Dec. 6, at 2 p.m. at Queen of Angels Church, 1500 W. State Blvd. $5 fee. Scores provided if needed. An assortment of holiday cookies will be offered following the performance.

Turkeys needed!
Fort Wayne — The Franciscan Center needs 1,800 turkeys by Tuesday, Nov. 24. Drop-off sites are the thrift store at 925 E. Coliseum Blvd.; the office at 1015 Maple Grove; or the Arlington Park Clubhouse at 4630 W. Arlington Park Blvd. For more information call 260-744-3977.

Advent Lessons and Carols at St. Pius X
Granger — An Advent Lessons and Carols service will be held Tuesday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. in the church, 52553 Fir Rd. This service will include Advent readings. Advent carols and choral pieces by the Sunday morning and evening choirs, adult handbell choir and instruments.

Day of Reflection
Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at Our Lady of Angels Convention (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, Dec. 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is “An Exarchion through the Scriptures of Advent.” Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is $20 and includes lunch. Register by Nov. 27 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at 574-259-5427.

Fish, chicken and tenderloin dinner
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 are available 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.

Bishop Luers High School announces fall activities
Fort Wayne — The Bishop Luers Turkey Trot will be Sunday, Nov. 22, from 6-10 p.m. at Columbia Gymnasium. Tickets are $20 pre-sale or $30 at the door. Visit www.bishopleurs.org for tickets and information.

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 1 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.

Pierogis on sale to purchase boiler
New Haven — St. Louis Besancon will have Pierogis on sale to purchase a new boiler. All orders must be turned in by Nov. 22. Cost is $10 for three. 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 Nov. 10-12. The Adult Learning Center is made possible by Our Sunday Visitor. For more information, contact Adalys Reyes, program director, at areyes@saintjoseph.org or call 260-432-5113, ext. 355.

REST IN PEACE

Parish is selling Starlitz Pizza Pierogis to benefit the purchase of a new boiler. All orders must be turned in by Nov. 22. Cost is $10 for three. Call 574-289-6954.

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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 Nov. 10-12. The Adult Learning Center is made possible by Our Sunday Visitor. For more information, contact Adalys Reyes, program director, at areyes@saintjoseph.org or call 260-432-5113, ext. 355.

Holiday bazaar announced
South Bend — The Corpus Christi holiday bazaar will be held on Saturday Nov. 21 at school, 2822 Corpus Christi Dr., from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The CrossWord

TODAY’S CATHOLIC

ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS AT ST. PIUS X
Granger — An Advent Lessons and Carols service will be held Tuesday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. in the church, 52553 Fir Rd. This service will include Advent readings. Advent carols and choral pieces by the Sunday morning
Second-grade student Quinn Buchan became “Principal for the Day” for St. Joseph School in Decatur on Nov. 5. Her day included Mass in the school auditorium, visiting each classroom, reviewing security camera footage, sending a few emails and negotiating with Father David Voors, pastor of St. Mary Parish, a “Free Dress Day” for teachers. Her final actions for the day were to give each teacher a pumpkin spice cupcake as a reward for their hard work.