U.S. bishops debate priorities, focus at fall assembly

Prelates also approve documents on faithful citizenship, pornography

BY MATTHEW BUNSON

BALTIMORE, Maryland — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops held its annual fall meeting in Baltimore from Nov. 16-19, and the deliberations of the participants revealed both the massive influence of Pope Francis and the immensity of the pastoral challenges facing America’s shepherds as we head into an election year.

On the agenda for the bishops were a series of votes for new officers and staff, approving several notable documents and looking closely at their strategic priorities for the coming few years.

But all of the machinery of ballots and conversation only served to underscore how significantly tested we are as a Church and the degree to which the bishops are looking to Francis for inspiration in facing them.

Pastoral approach

Bishops tend to emulate the sitting pontiff, of course. Under Pope Benedict XVI, there was frequent mention of the New Evangelization and the

‘God turned my mess into a message’

Sally Thompson shares story of abortion, forgiveness and call

BY KRISTI HAAS

SOUTH BEND — Life was a mess. When she walked into the abortion clinic in her late 20s, Sally Thompson said, she thought having an abortion would solve the problems she faced. As a leader at her church, she feared disappointing the elders in her Christian community, since she had become pregnant out of wedlock. She kept her pregnancy secret — along with her decision to have an abortion.

Years later, Thompson said, she realizes more and more how many lives have been “connected to that one life” she bore. A long journey of both pain and God’s healing mercy have brought her to share her story and the message of life with many people, including the crowd that gathered on Saturday, Nov. 21, at St. Augustine Catholic Church in South Bend. The event was entitled “Abortion, Healing and Forgiveness: A Conversation with Sally Thompson, President of Urban Life Matters.”

The cloud of guilt, sin, shame and fear surrounding childbearing is one way society today experiences the effects of original sin, Deacon Mel Tardy said in his opening reflection. He recalled the description of fallen humanity in the Book of Genesis, which says: “In toil you shall bring forth children” (Gen 3:16).

Several participants, along with Thompson, reflected on the particular dynamic of this toil in African-American
Two resolutions for Advent

**IN TRUTH AND CHARITY**

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

This coming Sunday we begin the journey of a new liturgical year as we enter into the season of Advent. The liturgical season of Advent celebrates the coming of God in two moments: the moment of Christ’s glorious return at the end of the world (the focus of the first part of Advent) and the moment of Christ’s coming in the flesh at Christmas. Very fundamentally, Advent teaches us about God, that our God is “the God who comes.” The one true God is not distant from us, up in heaven, unconcerned about us and our history. He is the God-who-comes. Pope Benedict XVI expressed this well when he said: “God is a Father who never stops thinking of us and, in the extreme respect of our freedom, desires to meet us and visit us; He wants to come, to dwell among us, to stay with us. His ‘coming’ is motivated by the desire to free us from evil and death, from all that prevents our true happiness. God comes to save us.”

I invite you to live this beautiful season of Advent by immersing ourselves in the liturgies of Advent which focus on the coming of God to us, in the past, in the future, and in the present. We can easily forget about God and His coming to us now, in the present. So many things can distract us from God. In the Advent season, when the Church focuses on God’s coming, strangely we can become even more oblivious to God because of the busy-ness of this season. Our time can become consumed by material preparations for Christmas to the neglect of the preparation of our souls for the coming of the Lord.

In our daily lives, we can feel that we don’t have time for the Lord or even time for ourselves. We become absorbed in so many tasks: writing Christmas cards, buying presents, decorating our homes, attending parties, etc. None of these things are bad, but when they consume us and all our time, when we become absorbed in these things and neglect what really matters and is most important, the coming of the Lord, we will find ourselves unable to experience the hope of Advent and the true joy of Christmas.

How can we avoid the common pitfall of getting carried away with the materialism of “the holiday season” and absorption in the multiple distractions that easily monopolize our attention? I think it’s good to just step back and anticipate how we will spend our time these next four weeks. How can we reduce excessive activity and say no to some of the superfluous elements of the season? How can we create that “interior space” we all need to be with the Lord who desires to come to us now in the present? How can we allow God to enter into our life and speak to us? He wants to be close to us. Certainly, we wish to be close to Him, so we must make that closeness a priority, the priority of this season.

We are used to making resolutions in Lent. I suggest that we make two Advent resolutions. First: a commitment to prayer during the four weeks of Advent. Here are some examples to choose from: daily Mass; daily meditation on the Scriptures of the day; daily rosary; daily visit to the Blessed Sacrament. I think we should get concrete, otherwise, given our human weakness, we can end up with some generalized resolution to pray more and find ourselves forgetting about it.

In this Sunday’s Gospel, Jesus says: “Beware that your hearts do not become drowsy from carousing and drunkenness and the anxieties of daily life, and that day catch you by surprise like a trap… Be vigilant at all times and pray…” Moderation and prayer: great advice for the observance of Advent!

The second resolution I recommend relates to good works. In the opening prayer (the Collect) of the First Sunday of Advent, we pray that God will grant us “the resolve to run forth to meet your Christ with righteous deeds at His coming.” In this perspective, Advent is meant to be a season in which we live in special communion with those who are in need, the sick, the poor, and the oppressed. Advent and Christmas should stimulate us to charity.

I recommend, in addition to a prayer resolution in Advent, a charitable resolution. God is love. He has come to us and given us life in Jesus. He will return at the end of time and judge us according to our love for the least of our brothers and sisters. We are called to meet our God-who-comes with our works of charity, seeing God’s face in the face of our poor and suffering brothers and sisters. As we buy Christmas gifts for our loved ones, we can also buy a gift for someone in need or visit someone who is sick or lonely to share the joy of our faith.

We can learn how to live the season of Advent from the Woman of Advent, our mother Mary. She is a model of prayer whose Magnificat teaches us how to praise God and rejoice in Him. She is Our Lady of Charity who teaches us to go out, to serve the needy, as she went in haste to help her cousin Elizabeth. Mary helps us to center our lives on the God-who-comes since she is His Mother. May our Immaculate Mother guide us by her example and help us by her intercession to live Advent in a spirit of prayer and with charity, ready to receive anew the gift of her Son!
Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City, chairman of Catholic Relief Services, second from right, responds to a reporter's question during a Nov. 17 news conference at the 2015 fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore.

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 from 7:45 a.m. to 8 a.m.
- Litany of the Eucharist and Benediction at 6:45 p.m.
- Mass at 7 p.m.
- The parish asks participants to pray for the protection of life from conception to natural death with special concern for the poor and vulnerable.

U.S. Bishops make statement on pornography

On Nov. 17, the U.S. bishops approved by a vote of 230-4 (with one abstaining) the document “Create In Me a Clean Heart: A Pastoral Response to Pornography.” The document was developed by the Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family and Youth. 

More resources

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ website has various resources at this link: http://tinyurl.com/q8pxhwd, including a list of support groups for those battling an addiction to pornography, educational resources about its harmful effects and guidance for families and those who work with children to protect youngsters from pornography.
Columbia City clinic serves those who ‘fall through the cracks’

BY TIM JOHNSON

COLUMBIA CITY — The Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic in Columbia City needs a few more volunteers — doctors, nurse practitioners, nurses and office support staff.

The clinic serves those who could be best described as “falling through the cracks” — they don’t qualify for assistance through the Affordable Care Act and don’t earn enough income to pay for private insurance.

Tucked away between State Road 9 and State Road 109 and U.S. 30 on Columbia City’s north side in a space made available by Parkview Whitley Hospital, Thomas Hayhurst, M.D., is the medical director and Margo Phillips, a registered nurse and member of St. Mary of the Angels Oratory at Big Long Lake, functions as the executive director.

Patients come from the surrounding counties and beyond — as far away as South Bend, and some from Michigan. “We don’t close our doors to anybody,” Phillips said.

Some patients, Phillips said, don’t have an income. “There are people who are homeless, living under bridges, in tents, in campers,” she said.

Others have incomes, but either lost their insurance, or make less than $22,000 per year. Many are working people who only earn about $15,000 per year, Dr. Hayhurst noted.

The clinic is a walk-in clinic and operated the second and fourth Thursdays of the month, but the schedule varies with holidays in November and December — operating the second and third Thursdays.

Dr. Hayhurst and Phillips hope to add additional days.

Dan would be a typical patient of the Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic: Dan worked construction, and lost his insurance, or make less than $22,000 per year. Many are working people who only earn about $15,000 per year, Dr. Hayhurst noted. They are excellent people.”

Dan related. “So I love these guys. Smoking since July. “If it wasn’t for you people, I would be dead today.”

Dan would be a typical patient of the Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic: Dan worked construction, and lost his insurance, or make less than $22,000 per year. Many are working people who only earn about $15,000 per year, Dr. Hayhurst noted. They are excellent people.”

Dan related. “So I love these guys. Smoking since July. “If it wasn’t for you people, I would be dead today.”

Dan would be a typical patient of the Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic: Dan worked construction, and lost his insurance, or make less than $22,000 per year. Many are working people who only earn about $15,000 per year, Dr. Hayhurst noted. They are excellent people.”

Dan related. “So I love these guys. Smoking since July. “If it wasn’t for you people, I would be dead today.”

Dan would be a typical patient of the Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic: Dan worked construction, and lost his insurance, or make less than $22,000 per year. Many are working people who only earn about $15,000 per year, Dr. Hayhurst noted. They are excellent people.”

Dan related. “So I love these guys. Smoking since July. “If it wasn’t for you people, I would be dead today.”

Dan would be a typical patient of the Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic: Dan worked construction, and lost his insurance, or make less than $22,000 per year. Many are working people who only earn about $15,000 per year, Dr. Hayhurst noted. They are excellent people.”

Dan related. “So I love these guys. Smoking since July. “If it wasn’t for you people, I would be dead today.”

Dan would be a typical patient of the Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic: Dan worked construction, and lost his insurance, or make less than $22,000 per year. Many are working people who only earn about $15,000 per year, Dr. Hayhurst noted. They are excellent people.”

Dan related. “So I love these guys. Smoking since July. “If it wasn’t for you people, I would be dead today.”

Dan would be a typical patient of the Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic: Dan worked construction, and lost his insurance, or make less than $22,000 per year. Many are working people who only earn about $15,000 per year, Dr. Hayhurst noted. They are excellent people.”

Dan related. “So I love these guys. Smoking since July. “If it wasn’t for you people, I would be dead today.”

Dan would be a typical patient of the Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic: Dan worked construction, and lost his insurance, or make less than $22,000 per year. Many are working people who only earn about $15,000 per year, Dr. Hayhurst noted. They are excellent people.”

Dan related. “So I love these guys. Smoking since July. “If it wasn’t for you people, I would be dead today.”

Dan would be a typical patient of the Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic: Dan worked construction, and lost his insurance, or make less than $22,000 per year. Many are working people who only earn about $15,000 per year, Dr. Hayhurst noted. They are excellent people.”

Dan related. “So I love these guys. Smoking since July. “If it wasn’t for you people, I would be dead today.”

Dan would be a typical patient of the Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic: Dan worked construction, and lost his insurance, or make less than $22,000 per year. Many are working people who only earn about $15,000 per year, Dr. Hayhurst noted. They are excellent people.”

Dan related. “So I love these guys. Smoking since July. “If it wasn’t for you people, I would be dead today.”

Dan would be a typical patient of the Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic: Dan worked construction, and lost his insurance, or make less than $22,000 per year. Many are working people who only earn about $15,000 per year, Dr. Hayhurst noted. They are excellent people.”

Dan related. “So I love these guys. Smoking since July. “If it wasn’t for you people, I would be dead today.”

Dan would be a typical patient of the Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic: Dan worked construction, and lost his insurance, or make less than $22,000 per year. Many are working people who only earn about $15,000 per year, Dr. Hayhurst noted. They are excellent people.”

Dan related. “So I love these guys. Smoking since July. “If it wasn’t for you people, I would be dead today.”

Dan would be a typical patient of the Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic: Dan worked construction, and lost his insurance, or make less than $22,000 per year. Many are working people who only earn about $15,000 per year, Dr. Hayhurst noted. They are excellent people.”

Dan related. “So I love these guys. Smoking since July. “If it wasn’t for you people, I would be dead today.”

Dan would be a typical patient of the Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic: Dan worked construction, and lost his insurance, or make less than $22,000 per year. Many are working people who only earn about $15,000 per year, Dr. Hayhurst noted. They are excellent people.”

Dan related. “So I love these guys. Smoking since July. “If it wasn’t for you people, I would be dead today.”

Dan would be a typical patient of the Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic: Dan worked construction, and lost his insurance, or make less than $22,000 per year. Many are working people who only earn about $15,000 per year, Dr. Hayhurst noted. They are excellent people.”

Dan related. “So I love these guys. Smoking since July. “If it wasn’t for you people, I would be dead today.”

Dan would be a typical patient of the Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic: Dan worked construction, and lost his insurance, or make less than $22,000 per year. Many are working people who only earn about $15,000 per year, Dr. Hayhurst noted. They are excellent people.”

Dan related. “So I love these guys. Smoking since July. “If it wasn’t for you people, I would be dead today.”

Dan would be a typical patient of the Multi-County Medical Outreach Clinic: Dan worked construction, and lost his insurance, or make less than $22,000 per year. Many are working people who only earn about $15,000 per year, Dr. Hayhurst noted. They are excellent people.”

Dan related. “So I love these guys. Smoking since July. “If it wasn’t for you people, I would be dead today.”
God never shuts the door; Church always must be open, too

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Because God always keeps open the door of His mercy and offer of salvation to everyone, the doors of church and every Christian heart must never be closed to others, Pope Francis said.

All over the world, individual Christians and the whole Church must be seen as “the hospitality of a God who never shuts the door in your face with the excuse that you’re not part of the family,” he said during his weekly general audience Nov. 18.

The pope dedicated his catechesis to the symbol of the Holy Door, which will be opened at St. Peter’s Basilica Dec. 8 to mark the start of the extraordinary Holy Year of Mercy.

Holy doors around the world represent the “great door of God’s mercy” and are generously opened to receive people’s repentance and offer the grace of God’s forgiveness, he said.

The recent Synod of Bishops on the family was an occasion “to encourage the Church and all Catholics to meet God at this open door and to open their own doors to others — “to go out with the Lord” to encounter His children who are journeying, who are perhaps uncertain, perhaps lost, “in these difficult times,” he said.

“If the door of God’s mercy is always open, the doors of our churches, our love, our communities, our parishes, our institutions, our dioceses also must be open so that we can go out in the name of God’s mercy” to others, he said.

The jubilee year also represents the need to open the many small doors in everyone’s life so that “the Lord can come in or, many times, to let out the Lord imprisoned by our structures, our selfishness,” the pope said. “The jubilee means to let the Lord come in and go out.”

Don’t let the fact that so many homes and businesses bolt their doors for security reasons influence one’s personal approach to life, he said.

“We must not succumb to the idea of having to apply this system to our whole life, to family life,” to life in the city and community and much less to Church life, he said. “It would be terrible. An inhospitable Church — just like a family closed inside itself — mortifies the Gospel and parches dry the world. No bolted doors in the Church.

None. Everything open,” he said to applause.

The symbolism of how a door is opened, how Jesus always knocks and asks permission to come in, “He never forces open the door” of one’s heart, is crucial, the pope said. The door is watched over and safeguarded by a custodian, but it is never slammed shut on anyone.

“The door is opened frequently and in order to see if there is anyone outside waiting and perhaps doesn’t have the courage, perhaps not even the strength, to knock,” he said.

“These people have lost trust, they don’t have the courage to knock on the doors of our Christian hearts, the doors of our churches, and there they are — they don’t have the courage, we took away their trust,” Pope Francis said. “Please, this must never happen anymore.”

How people watch over this door says a lot about the Church and the community, he said, so how one cares for “the doorway” calls for great discernment and must inspire confidence and trust in people on the outside.

“Each one of us has something that weighs on us inside, right? We are all sinners,” he said. “Let us take advantage of this moment that is coming and cross the threshold of this mercy of God who never tires of forgiving, who never tires of waiting for us, who looks upon us and is always by our side. Courage! Let’s enter through this door.”

If miracle approved, Blessed Teresa could be canonized Sept. 4, 2016

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican calendar for the Year of Mercy deliberatively set aside Sept. 4, 2016, as a possible date for the canonization of Blessed Teresa of Kolkata, if her sainthood cause is concluded by then.

The canonization would be celebrated by Pope Francis in St. Peter’s Square at the end of a three-day pilgrimage of people who, like Blessed Teresa was, are engaged in corporeal works of mercy.

“Sept. 4 is a hypothesis or plan within the calendar for the jubilee year,” Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, told Catholic News Service Nov. 19.

The Italian news agency AGI reported Nov. 18 that a panel of physicians convoked by the Congregation for Saints’ Causes agreed there was no medical or natural explanation for the recovery of a Brazilian man suffering from multiple brain tumors. His healing after prayers for the intercession of Blessed Teresa was submitted as the miracle needed for her canonization.

Father Lombardi urged caution, however. “The process is still underway and official communications will be given at the appropriate time.”

Members of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes still must review the physicians’ report on the healing. If the members have no further questions, Pope Francis would be asked to issue a decree recognizing the healing as a miracle worked by God through the intercession of Mother Teresa.

With the decree, the pope would survey the world’s cardinals and set a date for a consistory of cardinals who live in or could come to Rome for the occasion. They would be asked to recommend the pope canonize Blessed Teresa; if the pope agrees, he would set the date for the ceremony.

AGI had reported the likely date of the canonization would be Sept. 5 — Mother Teresa’s feast day and the anniversary of her death. However, Sept. 5 is a Monday in 2016 and Father Lombardi said the canonization would not take place on a Monday.

Pope Francis said people can learn from concierges, porters and doormen around the world, who always smile and make people feel welcome and at home. Thanking them for their work, he said the astuteness and politeness they display right at the entrance set the tone for the whole building.

Jesus is the door and the good shepherd whose sheep hear, recognize and follow Him, the pope said referring to chapter 10 of the Gospel of St. John.

Like the sheepfold, where God’s people are gathered, the pope said, “the house of God is a shelter, not a prison.” Jesus is the gate that lets people go in “without fear and go out without danger.”

The role of the gatekeeper is to listen to the shepherd, to open the door and to let in all the sheep, “all of them, including the ones that were lost in the wilderness that the good shepherd went to bring back.

The gatekeeper does not choose the sheep, the parish secretary doesn’t choose them,” the pope said. “All the sheep are invited. They are chosen by the good shepherd.”

The gatekeeper, that is, everyone in the Church, must obey the voice of God and remember “the Church is the custodian of the Lord’s house, not the master of the Lord’s house.”

The pope also said that it takes courage to “cross the threshold” and accept God’s invitation.

“If each of us has something that weighs on us inside, right? We are all sinners,” he said. “Let us take advantage of this moment that is coming and cross the threshold of this mercy of God who never tires of forgiving, who never tires of waiting for us, who looks upon us and is always by our side. Courage! Let’s enter through this door.”

PRAY FOR PEACE, WEEP FOR WORLD AT WAR

“Jesus wept.” Pope Francis opened his morning homily with those words as he spoke about the wars and violence engulfing numerous parts of the world. “Jesus is weeping today, too, because we have preferred the path of war, the path of hatred, the path of enmity,” the pope said during the Mass in the chapel of the Domus Sanctae Marthae where he lives. In this photo Migrants walk toward the Hungarian border after arriving at the train station in Botovo, Croatia, Oct. 6. As scores of migrants continue to flow into Croatia, there are reports that Hungary could close its unofficial border crossings.
The Saints go marching ... to Lucas Oil Stadium

BY JOSEPH AND JENNIFER MILLER

SOUTH BEND — The Bishop Dwenger Saints are one step away from accomplishing their dream. The Saints advanced to the Class 4-A state championship football game for the second consecutive year with a convincing 41-7 triumph over host Saint Joseph at Father Walter Bly Field Nov. 20.

Dwenger employed a balanced offensive attack and a stifling defense to end Saint Joseph’s surprising playoff run.

The Saints were down early after Saint Joseph scored on the first possession with a 1-yard touchdown pass from Tony Cammola to Burk Madden. That score cut the deficit in half with 5:29 left in the second quarter.

Saint Joseph’s offense struggled early, but was finally able to score on the scoreboard first. Dwenger Saints are one step away from reaching the championship game.

Junior fullback Peter Winkeljohn. Moments later, Saint Joseph answered with a 13-yard touchdown pass from Michael Hauert to Mike Hake.

The Saints quickly posted two more touchdowns to take a commanding 24-4 lead to the locker room. The Saints two quick strikes came thanks to the fancy footwork of Amaun Clark on a 22-yard scamper and the arm of Podschinkle, who has had about 16 million abortions... the number of current living blacks (in the U.S.) is 85 million...

South Bend, this high level matchup of two Catholic schools served as a proud testimony. For competitors on the field and in Christ off the field, the game also provided many resources available.

The big news this evening: "Abortion, Healing and Forgiveness: A Conversation with Sally Thompson, President of the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life," addressed the abortion issue which is the leading cause of death for African Americans in the U.S. God in their lives.

Other participants included Fred and Lisa Everett, who described the Women’s Care Center and other efforts in the diocese to promote life, marriage and family. In particular, Fred described the effort to rebuild the trustworthiness of women and men, which in turn provides a foundation for healthy Christian marriages open to life. In the same spirit, Deacon Tardy said, there is a need to rebuild the trust among races and classes, including in the pro-life movement.

Sally Thompson spoke at St. Augustine Church on Nov. 21. Her topic, “Abortion, Healing and Forgiveness: A Conversation with Sally Thompson, President of Urban Life Matters,” addressed the abortion issue which is the leading cause of death for African Americans in the U.S.

More information
Abortion is by far the leading cause of death for African Americans in the U.S. The strategic plan of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend provides a foundation for healthy Christian marriages open to life. In the same spirit, Deacon Tardy said, there is a need to rebuild the trust among races and classes, including in the pro-life movement.

Organized by the Black Catholic Advisory Board of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the Tolton Society in celebration of Black Catholic History Month, the event was an effort to discuss both the evil of abortion and the healing God desires to provide for every person among us affected by a past abortion.

Many resources are available, both for women and men in need of healing from past abortions.

For the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, this high level matchup of two Catholic schools served as a proud testimony. For competitors on the field and in Christ off the field, the game also provided many resources available.

The big news this evening: "Abortion, Healing and Forgiveness: A Conversation with Sally Thompson, President of the National Black Catholic Apostolate for Life," addressed the abortion issue which is the leading cause of death for African Americans in the U.S. God in their lives.

Other participants included Fred and Lisa Everett, who described the Women’s Care Center and other efforts in the diocese to promote life, marriage and family. In particular, Fred described the effort to rebuild the trustworthiness of women and men, which in turn provides a foundation for healthy Christian marriages open to life. In the same spirit, Deacon Tardy said, there is a need to rebuild the trust among races and classes, including in the pro-life movement.

Organized by the Black Catholic Advisory Board of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the Tolton Society in celebration of Black Catholic History Month, the event was an effort to discuss both the evil of abortion and the healing God desires to provide for every person among us affected by a past abortion.

Many resources are available, both for women and men in need of healing from past abortions.

FORGIVE
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

communities. In an older generation, when it came to abortion, people “knew what they were doing, but there was no outlet to talk about it.” No one showed her the baby’s heart beating at 21 weeks, she shared, and no one told her that abortion clinics were strategically placed in African American neighborhoods, “to destroy that population.

Today, however, Thompson said, youth talks with often show little shame when talking openly about the abortions of family members or friends. “They don’t know what they’re doing.” Others added that in their communities, there is a stigma associated with putting one’s child up for adoption. Participants urged the importance of continuing to raise awareness of these issues in a community that is on the one hand disproportionately affected by — and even targeted for — abortion, and simultaneously distanced from the mainstream pro-life movement, which is understood to be primarily white and conservative, and even anti-black on important political questions.

Aridly surprised by the news, Thompson shared, the most powerful part of Thompson’s story was her testimonial to God’s mercy and faithful love. She has experienced God’s powerful forgiveness in the wake of her abortion, admitting the evil she had done. “Only Jesus can hold our hand in a time like this,” Thompson said.

Immediately afterward, she resolved to live in a way pleasing to God. She understands the weight of temptation, Thompson said, and she understands the young ladies who feel like they can’t even tell their mothers they are pregnant. Yet she also understands the power of God to help us live a “saved, celibate single life.”

Yet as many women and men can attest, the journey of healing still goes on to this day. The abortion remains quietly devastating for years. Eventually, Thompson saw that it was a major source of her depression, which she expressed in over-commitment to work.

The Lord made use of all her pain. Today, she is the President of Urban Life Matters and serves on the Board of Directors for the Life Centers Pregnancy Care Centers (Indianapolis) and as a member of the National Black Pro-Life Coalition. She also cares for her 81-year-old mother. She is even newly married for the first time at age 45. She and her husband sang “Great is Thy Faithfulness” as she began her story, testifying to the power of

Sally Thompson spoke at St. Augustine Church on Nov. 21. Her topic, “Abortion, Healing and Forgiveness: A Conversation with Sally Thompson, President of Urban Life Matters,” addressed the abortion issue which is the leading cause of death for African Americans in the U.S.

The Saints take on East Central this Saturday at 5:30 p.m. A determined Bojrab enjoined his players to “Enjoy tonight, because tomorrow it’s back to work.”

In Mishawaka, Marian too vied for a chance to advance to state in Class 3-A semifinals at Otisbule Field. Hopes were dashed in the last five minutes of the game as No. 3 West Lafayette took possession of the ball and won, 14-10.
BISHOP RHoades JOINS BLUE RIBBON CELEBRATION

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades joined the St. Pius X School community in a blue ribbon celebration on Nov. 6 where he signed a beam to be placed as part of the steel structure of the new church being built at St. Pius, celebrated an all-school Mass and enjoyed a reception. St. Pius X School was recently named one of 335 schools recognized as National Blue Ribbon Schools for 2015 based on their overall academic excellence as nominated by The Council for American Private Education (CAPE). Father William Meininger, parochial vicar at St. Pius X, Principal Elaine Holmes, Assistant Principal Stephanie Molnar and art teacher Anne Bostwick attended a recognition ceremony on Nov. 9-10 in Washington, D.C. to receive the award. Pictured are, from left, St. Pius pastor Msgr. Bill Schoeller, Assistant Principal Stephanie Molnar, Bishop Rhoades and Principal Elaine Holmes.

Lecture, panel to discuss helping those in need

FORT WAYNE — The Notre Dame Club of Fort Wayne and Catholic Charities of Fort Wayne-South Bend, in conjunction with the Alumni Association of the University of Notre Dame, will host a lecture followed by a panel discussion focused on current research and programs aimed at helping those in need. The lecture and panel discussion will be held Wednesday, Dec. 2, at 6 p.m. in the Allen County Main Library, Meeting Rooms B and C. The event will include a scholar from the University of Notre Dame and two panelists from the Fort Wayne community. Attendees will have an opportunity to interact with panel members during a Q&A session.

Panelists include:
• William N. Evans, Ph.D. — Professor Evans received his Ph.D. in economics in 1987 from Duke University. He was a faculty member at the University of Maryland for 20 years before joining Notre Dame as the Keough-Hesburgh Professor of Economics. His research covers a broad range of areas, including health economics as well as labor economics, public finance and the economics of education. Professor Evans is a co-founder of the Wilson Sheehan Lab for Economic Opportunities (LEO), a unique research center that partners with local agencies such as Catholic Charities in an attempt to provide evidence-based poverty solutions.
• Gloria Whitcraft — Gloria Whitcraft is the Chief Executive Office for Catholic Charities Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Inc. She possesses a bachelor’s degree in psychology, a master’s degree in science in education with a specialty in public finance and the economics of areas, including health economics, as well as labor economics.

St. Bavo to host ‘Festival of Lessons and Carols’

MISHAWAKA — St. Bavo Church, 511 W. 7th St. in Mishawaka, will host its 11th annual “Festival of Lessons and Carols” on Sunday, Dec. 13, at 4 p.m. The program will feature the Marian High School and St. Bavo Liturgical Choirs and the Antioch Youth Group. Father Bob Lengerich, pastor of St. Dominic Church in Bremen, will preside. The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is a service celebrating the birth of Jesus. It is a brief journey through salvation history. The readings begin with the story of the fall of humanity, followed by the promise of the Messiah and then the birth of Jesus. All told in nine short Bible readings from Genesis, the prophetic books and the Gospels, interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols and choral music.

The public is invited and admission is free.

Internationalization efforts at Saint Mary’s garner recognition

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary’s College had much to celebrate last week during International Education/Modern Languages Week. The 2015 Open Doors Report on International Educational Exchange, released Monday, ranks Saint Mary’s College 25th among all U.S. bachelor’s institutions in total undergraduate study abroad participation. The Open Doors Report study abroad findings are based on 2013-14 data. The Institute of International Education (IIE) publishes the Open Doors Report and releases it annually during International Education Week.

This is the second time this fall that the women’s college, with an enrollment of about 1,600 students, has been recognized for the percentage of students who study abroad. In September, U.S. News & World Report (which uses a slightly different metric) ranked Saint Mary’s College among the top 100 institutions in its list “Best Colleges: Most students studying abroad.” The college was ranked 44th in the nation, with 51 percent of the college’s 2014 graduates participating in study abroad programs.

Saint Mary’s has also experienced continued growth in the international student population, with the college’s English Language School, the international student exchange program, the Fulbright Language Teaching Assistant program, and the four-year degree-seeking international students. Beginning in the fall the college is partnering with the Training Program for Students and Teachers Proyecta 100,000 Estudante de Brasil, the host of a cohort of students from Mexico for one month to learn English. Five students came to campus in October and another group of 20 students from the Proyecta program will attend the English Language School in December.

The College’s Center for Women’s Intercultural Leadership (CWiL) oversees the study abroad program and internationalization efforts on campus.

Arthur Snyder makes commitment as a Providence Associate

FORT WAYNE — Fort Wayne resident Arthur E. Snyder deepened his relationship with the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods on Nov. 14, as he made a commitment as a Providence Associate, joining 27 other 2015 associates with the Sisters of Providence.

“Since I have been associated with the Sisters of Providence for many years, it was a more intense opportunity to understand the charism of the congregation,” Snyder said. “This reinforced my connection to my faith and the Sisters of Providence particularly as it relates to love, mercy and justice.”

Director of Providence Associates Sister Diane Mason said in order to become a Providence Associate, a candidate is paired with a Sister of Providence or Providence Associate companion and goes through a year of study, prayer and reflection. Snyder’s companion was Sister Denise Wilkinson.

Sister Diane said the Nov. 14 commitment ceremony brought the total of Providence Associates to more than 220 in the United States and Taiwan. The relationship began nine years ago.

In late October of this year, more than 100 women and men began their journey as Candidate Associates. The associate relationship is open to people of faith, age and older.

For more information visit ProvidenceAssociates.org or contact Providence Associate Debbie Dillow at 317-250-3294.
We don’t like waiting for anything — for traffic lights, for weight loss or even commercials. 

This contemporary abhorrence of waiting stands in stark contrast to Mary. Her gracefulness in beginning the prayerful preparation of Advent.

Mary reminds us that waiting is part of our Catholic faith. Sometimes God’s plan isn’t what we expected.

The only thing we know is that we don’t know.
What do we desire?

BY MIKE NELSON

It was the first Sunday of Advent. In the assembly were two visitors, an 11-year-old boy and his mother. As Mass was about to begin, the cantor stepped before the assembly and announced, with a big smile, “Today, we’re going to sing Christmas carols!”

The boy, son of a diocesan-certified liturgist, could not have been more alarmed had all his presents been stolen from underneath the tree. “Mom,” he whispered anxiously, “they can’t do that! It’s Advent!”

His mom, mindful of her role as responsible adult and visitor, calmed him down as best she could. “They must do things differently here,” she said quietly, though not without a good glare in the cantor’s direction.

Such is the ongoing struggle experienced by many Catholics in Advent, trying to celebrate the season at hand amid a society that insists we play their game.

No, it’s not easy, battling retailers who decree that Christmas shopping should begin on the Fourth of July (or, at the very latest, Labor Day). Or newspapers, TV and online ads that bombard us to “Buy now! Buy more!” before autumn even begins. Or Christmas music — sacred and secular — pumped through sound systems in shopping malls and grocery stores, in elevators and restaurants.

One radio station in Los Angeles has for years played nonstop Christmas music from Thanksgiving Day (or earlier) through Dec. 26. And they get the ratings to justify it (at least in their profit-driven world).

So what’s our response, as Catholics wishing to celebrate Advent? Not shop? Not read the papers, watch TV or listen to the radio? Not go ing to celebrate Advent? Not shop? Not read the papers, watch TV or listen to the radio? Not go anywhere?

Instead, she said, “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. Let it be done to me according to your word.”

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was 12 years old at the time. It must have been such a difficult time for her; a time of rapid changes and personal “treasure hunts” in stores and online, it is clear. But what else could she do? She had to choose between her faith and her flesh.

Our response to Advent should be no different.

What do we desire?

Kelly Bothum is a freelance writer and mother of three.

Food for Thought

Waiting seems like a long-lost virtue in a world that’s increasingly in a hurry. But the Bible assures us that if we wait, great things will come our way. And perhaps Advent is the perfect time to put that into practice. Take a page from James, who advised us to be like a farmer who reaps rewards from waiting. But what we, as Christians, wait for is more precious than food.

"Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You, too, must be patient. Make your hearts firm, because the coming of the Lord is at hand" (Jas 5:7-8).
St. John the Evangelist mom needs kidney

BY DENISE FEDOROW

GOSHEN — It’s not easy for St. John the Evangelist parishioner Elizabeth Lopez to talk about her illness and her need for a kidney donor, but she agreed to speak about it for two reasons — her family, including her two young sons, and others who like her, might need an organ donation to survive and thrive.

A 14-year Goshen resident, Lopez was born and raised in California. She and her husband moved to Goshen after visiting here. “We liked it and thought it would be a good place to raise kids — except for the snow,” the native Californian admitted.

They’ve been members of St. John the Evangelist Parish, Goshen, for 12 years and both sons, Oscar and Ruben, attended St. John School. Ruben is currently a fifth grader, while Oscar attends Goshen Middle School.

Lopez was diagnosed with Lupus — an auto-immune disease — 11 years ago, shortly after Ruben was born. The diagnosis came after her kidneys began failing. Lopez said she was able to control her illness well for about 10 years. The day before last Thanksgiving she was admitted to the hospital and her levels were dropping fast.

Despite health issues, Lopez is still working. She’s employed at Oaklawn, a mental health facility, and said her employer understands the time off that she’s needed. “Working keeps me sane,” she said. She is also taking classes at Ivy Tech in Business Administration and Human Resources.

Lopez said her pastor, Father Anthony Steinacker, and parishioners at St. John have been very supportive. “St. John’s has been so helpful — they’ve brought so many meals and (parents) have taken the kids to school.”

Her faith has definitely helped sustain her. “I believe God doesn’t give me more than I can handle. I believe He helps me or I wouldn’t be here. I believe He has a plan for me,” she said.

One of those plans, she believes, is to be a co-facilitator of a local Lupus support group. She’s contacted the Lupus foundation and applied. She said people need a place to go for support, to vent and to talk with others who can truly relate.

She said her illness has been a strain on her family. “There’s not a day I don’t think about it or want to cry about it and sometimes I do on my way home — but I have to be strong for my kids,” said Lopez, adding that her boys have had to grow up fast. She describes them as shy and caring and always looking out for each other. They also help her out around the house and on bad days, cook while she supervises.

Lopez receives dialysis three days a week for four hours. It drains her but she still goes to work, school and cares for her family.

Dr. Tim Taber, transplant nephrologist at IU Health, Indianapolis, said while dialysis is a good thing, it does shorten a patient’s life expectancy. “The longer a patient is on dialysis their life expectancy is diminished and that’s why a transplant is important,” Dr. Taber said. Dr. Taber said of the 300-400 kidney transplants done at IU Health, 35-40 percent are living donors. “If you give a kidney to someone on the waiting list, that moves someone else up so you’re really helping to get two people transplants,” he said.

She said it would “mean the world” to her to get a kidney and her sons expressed the same. Ruben said he prays a lot about it — “For mom to get a kidney donated so she can feel better,” Oscar said if his mom got a kidney donated she’d have more energy and feel good. “I hope one day someone actually goes in to donate.”

Lopez said she also wants to spread the word about the importance of organ donation. “Please think of becoming an organ donor. I know it’s hard to think of giving a kidney — you have a family, too. But please consider it. If not for me, then for someone else,” she implored. “And if not a live donor, then think about when you pass on — you have the ability to save so many lives.”

To assist Lopez, contact IU Health Live Donor Coordinator Kathy Carnes at 1-800-382-4602 or by email at kcarnes@iuhealth.org. To learn more about living kidney donation visit iuhealth.org/transplant or donatelife.net/living-donation.

Enjoy nine lessons of Advent and traditional Christmas carols.

Ancilla Domini Chapel Choir

December 13, 2015 • 7 o’clock p.m. e.s.t.

Everyone is welcomed.

The Center at Donaldson • 9601 Union Road, Donaldson IN 46513

Sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ
The death crawl and purgatory?

Since November is the month of purgatory, I want to write about purgatory here in an unusual way, as a model for men — physical and spiritual fathers. You might be familiar with the movie “Facing the Giants,” where a “losing coach with an underdog football team faces their giants of fear and failure on and off the field to surprising results” (IMBD.com). The film’s pivotal moment is the “death crawl.”

Brock, the team’s captain, cynically wins his moment is the “death crawl.”

Brock, the team’s captain, cynically winning encouragements to do better. “Don’t tell me you can’t be giving me more than what I have been seeing!” “Give me all you got!” “Don’t quit! Don’t quit!” “I know it hurts — don’t quit on me!” “It’s all heart from here!” Brock exceeds his own expectations by 80 yards! Coach saw Brock’s potential and loved him enough to challenge him to become his best self, a.k.a. holy. If one is emphasized over the other, infighting and internal intrigue.

With the end of the unified monarchy under David and his heirs, no other house or authority had God’s commission to exercise the role of strengthening the national bond with the Almighty.

More ominously, it seemed as if the instrument selected by God for this purpose, namely the Davidic dynasty, somehow yielded to pressures and temptations. It seemed as if too often the monarchs forgot their obligation to preserve the people’s relationship with God.

Despite these circumstances, Jeremiah promised that indeed God will endure. His justice will endure. The people must not lose faith.

For its second reading, the Church presents a passage from the First Epistle to the Thessalonians. The reading calls upon the Christians of Thessalonica to love each other. The call was simple, but not easily achieved given human nature. Christians must love all, no one exempted.

The Epistle insists that the Lord soon will return to earth, in triumph, as the great judge. It will be a revolutionary moment. All evil will be subdued. Good and truth will reign supreme. Jesus will reign.

Christians should prepare themselves for this great event by loving others in the model of Jesus, who loved all humankind even to the point of sacrifice on Calvary.

St. Luke’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. When reading, or hearing a reading from any of the Gospels, it is important to realize that the Gospels were written generations after Jesus.

This does not mean that the Gospels are fiction. Rather it recognizes the fact that each evangelist saw the coming of Christ, and happenings in the life of Christ, with his own perception and allure. This is why life influenced events occurring after Jesus. The message of Jesus is timeless.

When Luke’s Gospel was written, the tide was turning against Christians. The culture was against them. So was the law. They were in danger.

The author of St. Luke’s Gospel recalled words of Jesus that were in danger. The Gospel reassures, the Lord is coming again.

How do we prepare for all this? We prepare by keeping first and foremost our purpose to love God. It’s all else, and by making everything secondary to that determination. 

The message of Jesus is timeless.

Jerusalem. Walking through the narrow, winding streets of Jerusalem’s Old City on my first visit here in 15 years, I was wonderfully struck once again by the grittiness of Christianity, the palpable connection between the faith and the quotidian realities of life. For here, as in no other place, the believer, the skeptic, the “searcher,” encountered a faith that shattered the boundaries of his or her expectations.

For how else could a ragtag bunch of men and women from the bleachers of civilization have found the commitment and courage to go out and change the world, had not something utterly unprecedented happened to them: something that shattered the boundaries of their expectations of the possible; something that demanded to be shared?

All that happened, just as the Passion narrative of Jesus happened, amidst the daily give-and-take of life in the bazaar that the Middle East was, and is, and probably always will be. There’s nothing ethereal-Gothic about Jerusalem’s Old City or its Christian focal point, the Basilica of the Holy Sepulcher: it’s all grit all the way down, as you walk past stall after stall of souvenir and curio stalls, their sameness broken by the occasional spice shop with its distinctive aromas of cinnamon and cloves, en route to the places where, according to ancient tradi- tion, the events that changed the world and the cosmos took place — Calvary and the Empty Tomb. And the basilica itself is the very embodiment of grittiness, for there is no aesthetically pleasing symmetry here, but rather a hodgepodge of architectural and decorative styles, ranging from classic Byzantine to delirious-modern-Italian.

Yet none of that matters, really. For if the God of the Old Testament came into the world, not to fetch us out of our humanity but to redeem and glorify us in it, then the places most closely associated with the redemption should

READINGS

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16 Ps 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 Th 3:12-42
Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Rom 10:16-18 Ps 198:11 Mt 4:18-22

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-17, 17 Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 5:25-28, 34-36
Ps 147:1-6

Thursday: Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a Mt 21:24-27

Friday: Is 29:1-7 Ps 74:1, 13-14
Mt 9:27-31

Saturday: Is 29:1-7 Ps 47:1-6 Mt 9:35—10:1, 5a-6b

The grittiness of Christian faith

Dave Mcclow

Otiners researched the factors that produced such heroes. They found it was not simply the disappearances (or in electronics) — a purifying love that will allow us an even greater experience of His love in heaven!

If one is earthly loved by God: He totally gives Himself to us in Jesus; He makes us His beloved sons (Mt. 1:11); we are “chosen” (Lk. 15:16), “a gift” (Jn. 17:24, NAB), forgiven, delighted in and given everything God has (Lk. 15:11-35).

We need to experi- ence this kind of love, then we also need challenge. And God does not disappoint — He challenges us tremen- dously — He calls us to pick up our cross (Mt 16:24), to die to self. (Rom 12:1) — or else. These challenges are impossible without the love that God has for us.

Love and challenge are at the heart of spiritual and physical fatherhood and relationships, too. If one is “chosen” by God, then one should feel that love of God.

Consider Holocaust rescuers — some of the greatest unsung heroes. They knew not enough to love, nor enough to love them. They received challenge, but little love.

Consider the Holy Family — some of the greatest unsung heroes of the last century, people like Oscar Schindler and those who helped Anna Frank’s family. In 1992, the

Weigel, page 12

GEORGE WEIGEL

Reflection

Advent often is described as the time to prepare for Christmas. It is this, but it has two other purposes. It exists to enable us to reform ourselves, so that the Lord can come to us on any day.

Finally, it calls us to prepare ourselves for the decisive coming of Jesus when we die, and at the end of time, by reminding us that we are mortal, and that Jesus will return to the world. It is to vindicate the right. The forces of evil will wither and die. They will fall before the glory of the Risen Lord.

He will reign forever.
Parents and ‘sex ed’

While some parents might be happy to avoid the awkward conversations that arise around human sexuality by allowing the school system to provide their children with sex education, it is nonetheless important for parents to recognize that they are the most significant teachers and models for their children as they mature sexually.

Instilling a healthy attitude about sexuality in young people involves a variety of considerations, including conveying a proper sense of constraints and boundaries. These boundaries arise organically through the virtue of chastity, by which a person acquires the ability to renounce self, to make sacrifices and to wait generously in consideration of loving fidelity toward a future spouse, out of self-respect, and out of fidelity to God. This critical process of developing sexual self-mastery is an area where parents are particularly well suited to help their children.

At the end of the day, the parental duty to influence in a positive way a child’s upbringing around sexuality cannot be abdicated or delegated. Parents know their children in a personal and individual way and are able to determine their readiness for, and receptivity to, sexual information. Moreover, the reality of parental love towards their children enables a parent to say certain “hard things” in love that may need to be said, in a manner that only a parent may effectively be able to take.

I recall the story that a middle-aged woman once shared with me about something that happened when she was 12. She was sitting at home watching TV with her mother, who was the strong authority figure in the family. At a certain moment, a scene came across the screen where a woman was removing her clothing and dancing in front of a group of men. Her mother glanced over at her and without skipping a beat said: “I’ll kill you if you ever do that.” Her daughter understood, of course, that she didn’t mean it literally, but appreciated that her mother cared enough about her to be very direct: “What my mom said on that and many other occasions stayed with me for years afterwards, and helped me to reflect carefully on the right use of my sexuality.” Parents influence their children in thousands of different ways, sometimes not even realizing how particular comments or observations they make can become highly significant to their child’s thinking.

Helping children to think correctly about human sexuality remains a delicate and challenging task in the midst of a sex-saturated society like our own. Indeed, our thinking about human sexuality can easily go off the rails, and sexual activity itself can quickly degrade into a selfish and self-referential kind of activity, even within marriage, if we aren’t careful to attend to deeper realities.

Spouses who have made a lifelong marital commitment to each other in the presence of God are uniquely empowered to live in a way that exceeds merely viewing each other as objects or as a means to satisfying their appetites; they become called to, and capable of, a higher kind of love that involves friendship, sacrifice and self-giving.

Otherwise, a dominance of things over persons can take over, leading to forms of selfishness in which persons are used in the same way as objects are used. In the context of this kind of selfishness, a woman, for example, can become a mere “object” for a man, and children can be reduced to mere “hindrances” on the part of their parents.

Father Tad Pacholczyk, Ph.D., serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

WEIGEL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

reflect the glibly diversity of the human condition. And so it is here, as pilgrims from all over the world hustle, bustle and jostle their way toward the Twelfth Station, the site of the crucifixion, and the Aedicule that surrounds the Empty Tomb. The distractions don’t distract, though; the Twelfth Station remains the easiest place in the world to pray, in Brother Lawrence’s sense of prayer as “practicing the presence of God,” why I chose to call a challenge: experience God’s unbreakable love; live a heroic life of spiritual fatherhood and love your spiritual children until it hurts, and then challenge them to love others. Build the civilization of love.

Dave McGow, M.Div., is a counselor with the Pastoral Solutions Institute Tele-Counseling Services. Read more at CatholicExchange.com.
The All-Diocese Team highlights athletes from Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. These student-athletes are recognized in character, sportsmanship, leadership, athletics and Catholic values. The athletes are selected by their coaches.
MARIAN

Boys' cross-country
Jacob Imus senior, St. Monica
Connor Loesch sophomore, St. Matthew

Girls' cross-country
Morgan Guynn sophomore, St. Anthony de Padua

Boys' soccer
Kevin Torres-Villa senior, St. Thomas the Apostle

Girls' soccer
Max Frausto junior, Holy Family

Boys' tennis
Christian Derucki senior, TE, St. Matthew

Girls' tennis
Gavin Verslype senior, LB, St. Bavo

Girls' golf
Molly Pendergast junior, St. Matthew

Volleyball
Abby Whitfield senior, OH/DH, St. Joseph, Mishawaka

Boys' golf
Alex Barton senior, St. Vincent de Paul

Boys' soccer
Trevor Landers senior, St. Charles Borromeo

Girls' soccer
Alexa Siegel senior, St. Jude

Football
Zach Norton senior, St. Charles Borromeo

Girls' cross-country
Megan Brelage senior, No. 2 singles, St. Pius X

Boys' cross-country
Alex Barton senior, St. Vincent de Paul

Girls' cross-country
Megan Brelage senior, No. 2 singles, St. Pius X

Football
Zach Norton senior, St. Charles Borromeo

Boys' tennis
Gavin Williams senior, St. Vincent de Paul

Volleyball
Abbie Grace Lee senior, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Boys' soccer
Trevor Landers senior, St. Charles Borromeo

Girls' soccer
Alexa Siegel senior, defender, St. Vincent de Paul

Football
Zach Norton senior, OL, St. Vincent de Paul

Boys' soccer
Trevor Landers senior, St. Charles Borromeo

Girls' soccer
Alexa Siegel senior, defender, St. Vincent de Paul


WHAT’S HAPPENING?

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

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 6153 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Dec. 4, 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.

Day of recollection planned
Fort Wayne — An Advent Morning of Reflection will be Saturday, Dec. 5, at Our Lady of the Angels Oratory, 2610 New Haven Ave. Mass at 7:45 a.m. will be followed by rosary and Holy Hour with two conferences with Brother Fidelis Maria. A potluck lunch will end the day at 1 p.m. Catholic books and gifts available. Free will offering. Call 260-739-6882 for information. Sponsored by Confraternity of Penitents.

St. Monica concludes 100 year anniversary celebration
Mishawaka — St. Monica Parish, 222 W. Mishawaka Ave., will celebrate the conclusion of its centennial year with a Mass Sunday, Dec. 13 at 10 a.m. followed by a reception in the church lower level. The St. Monica choir will sing and the 100-year banner will be taken in procession to a permanent location in the church. Visit www.stmonicanish.org or www.facebook.com/stmonica100.

Lessons and Carols
Elkhart — St. Vincent de Paul Parish and School, 1108 S. Main St., will present an Advent festival of Lessons and Carols on Monday, Dec. 14, at 6 p.m. Music provided by parish, school and community choirs. Reception to follow in Vincent Hall. No charge for admission.

Journey through Advent
Fort Wayne — Bob Deck will present “A Journey through Advent” Saturday, Dec. 5, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the spiritual center at St. Vincent de Paul Church. Lunch will be potluck style and a free-will offering will be taken. Call 260-909-2113 by Dec. 4 to register.

Christmas cookie and candy sale
Monrovia — The St. Rose Altar and Rosary Society will have a Christmas cookie and candy sale sold by the pound on Saturday, Dec. 12, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Monrovia Fire Station, 205 W. South St.

Camp Program Director
SHARE FOUNDATION

Job Description: Share Foundation seeks a person to take over the camp program at Sharing Meadows.

Responsibilities: Responsibilities include recruiting and scheduling staff for each camp; recruiting, inviting and scheduling campers for each camp session; organizing paperwork; establishing themes, planning menus, craft projects and activities for each camp session; purchasing food and supplies and keeping an inventory; conducting orientation and training for camp staff; and evaluating each camp session. The position will also include marketing the camp building for rental to outside groups, scheduling rental contracts and seeing that renter’s needs are met.

Qualifications: Candidate should have a bachelor’s degree in human services or a related field, good organizational skills, proficiency in Microsoft Office, proven public speaking skills and be able to work with minimal supervision.

Benefits: This full-time position offers a salary commensurate to experience, health insurance, vacation and paid holidays. More importantly, the right person will be a part of meaningful experience and know the joy of making a difference in the lives of our other abled campers.

Please submit a résumé to share@sharefoundation.org or by mail to:
Share Foundation - P. O. Box 400 - Rolling Prairie, IN 46371

Director, Human Resources PHJC Ministries

The Center at Donaldson is part of a faith-based, not-for-profit group of ministries sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ located in Donaldson, Indiana. We are seeking a Director, Human Resources PHJC Ministries. Although the position will be housed on the Donaldson, IN campus, it will have responsibility for all the ministries sponsored by The Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. The ministries are located in Donaldson, East Chicago, Fort Wayne, Hammond, Hobart, and Gary, IN, and also includes a ministry located in East Saint Louis, MO. The Director, Human Resources PHJC Ministries is responsible for ministry-wide strategic human resource planning and directing that includes recruitment, policy development, performance management, compensation and benefits administration, organizational training and development, and work-er’s compensation. Qualified candidates will have a Master’s degree in Human Resources or another related organizational discipline with 10 years experience in Human Resources and five years in a Director, Human Resources role. A professional certification in Human Resources is required. Previous experience working in a not-for-profit, faith-based environment would be a definite plus. This position requires regional travel to all ministries on a regular basis.

Please visit our website at www.poorhandmaids.org or www.thecenteratdonaldson.org to learn more about our ministries.

We offer a competitive wage, and excellent benefit package. Résumé, including salary history, should be submitted by December 11, 2015 to:

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ
The Center at Donaldson
Attn: Human Resources
P.O. Box 1
Donaldson, Indiana 46513
Phone: 574-936-9936
Fax: 574-935-1735
E-mail: hr@poorhandmaids.org

Christmas Sale Nov. 23-28, 2015
20% off Religious Christmas Cards
20% OFF one item with this ad!
(Expiration date: Nov. 30, 2015)

THE GALLEY
Famous Fish & Seafood
Chicken & Steaks • Banquet Facilities
Set Sail Soon!
We now have served over
3,000,000 lbs. of our
FAMOUS FISH!
Celebrating our 37th Anniversary!

622 North 13th Street • Decatur (260) 724-8181
www.thegalleydecatur.com

McElhaney-Hart FUNERAL HOME
715 North Jefferson
Huntington
(260) 356-3320
www.mcelhaneyhartfuneralhome.com
H.O.P.E. Club packs 325 food boxes

Each year the Saint Joseph High School’s h.o.p.e. (Helping Other People Endure) Club hosts a food drive that gives a box of food/toiletries to needy families in Michiana. Students pledged a donation amount in their first hour class that was applied towards $50 food baskets. The school raised over $25,000 and will provide 325 boxes of food to families.