Pope Francis said his reasons for going to Mexico are "easy and simple." "I want to come as a missionary of mercy and peace," he said in a video message to the Mexican people released by the Vatican Feb. 7. "I want to meet with you to profess our faith together and share a fundamental truth in our lives: that God loves us very much, that He loves us with an infinite love, beyond our merits."

The pope said he was "very happy" for his apostolic visit Feb. 12-17 and that he carries the people of Mexico in his prayers and in his heart.

"I want to be as close as possible to you, but in a special way to those who suffer, to hug them and tell them that Jesus loves them very much, that He is always at their side," he said.

One of his "greatest desires" during the six-day visit, he said, is to visit the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which houses the image of Mary that was miraculously imprinted on the cloak of St. Juan Diego. The pope said that to feel the "tenderness of her gracious presence" would be a "beautiful" experience.

"There I will look in her eyes and plead that she never stops looking upon us with mercy because she is our mother in heaven," he said.
“I am a sinner”

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY
BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

The following is the homily of Bishop Rhoades, delivered at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Ash Wednesday, February 10th.

In a famous interview after Cardinal Bergoglio was elected Pope, a reporter asked the new Pope Francis: “Who is Jorge Mario Bergoglio?” The Holy Father answered: “I am a sinner.” We learned later that this is also what he said when he was asked by the Cardinals in the Sistine Chapel if he would accept his election. He said to them: “I am a sinner, but I trust in the infinite mercy and patience of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

In coming forward to receive ashes today, this is what we are admitting and saying: “I am a sinner.” Without sorrow for our sins and the humble admission of our sinfulness, receiving ashes is meaningless. Remember the words of Jesus: Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners” (Mark 2:17).

While recognizing that we are sinners, we also know and believe that God is greater than that, that, as Pope Francis says, “the forgiveness of God is greater than any sin.”

“The Jubilee Year of Mercy reminds us of this truth.”

Through the prophet Joel, God called the people of Israel to repent and return to Him. He calls us to repent and return to Him during this season of Lent. Joel assures the people and assures us that the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment. This should give us all hope and confidence when we pray in the words of Psalm 51: Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

A woman receives ashes in 2015 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Wichita, Kan. Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10 this year, marked the start of Lent.

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A woman receives ashes in 2015 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Wichita, Kan. Ash Wednesday, Feb. 10 this year, marked the start of Lent.
Pope, Russian Orthodox patriarch to meet in Cuba, Vatican announces

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After almost three decades of tense Catholic-Russian Orthodox relations, Pope Francis will meet Patriarch Kirill of Moscow and All Russia Feb. 12 in Cuba on the pope’s way to Mexico.

It will be the first-ever meeting of a pope and Moscow patriarch, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, told reporters Feb. 9.

As Pope Francis travels to Mexico and as Patriarch Kirill makes an official visit to Cuba, the two will meet at Havana’s Jose Marti International Airport and plan to sign a joint declaration, Father Lombardi said. The pope will leave Rome earlier than planned to allow time for the meeting without forcing any changes to his schedule in Mexico, he added.

The meeting “will mark an important stage in relations between the two churches,” said a joint declaration on the meeting.

The Cuba meeting was not an “improvisation,” Father Lombardi said; it took two years of Pope Francis planning and negotiations to schedule. Even when the idea of a meeting was just a vague hope, both Catholic and Orthodox officials insisted it would have to take place on “neutral” territory rather than at the Vatican or in Russia.

Being the first-ever meeting of a pope and Russian patriarch, he said, “is an event that, in the ecumenical journey and in the dialogue between Christian confessions, has an extraordinary importance.”

The meeting will come as representatives of Orthodox churches from around the world are preparing for a pan-Orthodox Council meeting in Crete in June. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople, spiritual leader of Orthodox Christians, “naturally, has been informed” of plans for the pope and Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill to meet, Father Lombardi said.

Holding a simple meeting with a Moscow patriarch, spiritual leader of the world’s largest Orthodox church, was a failed dream of St. John Paul II and an opportunity that escaped Pope Benedict XVI as well.

Repeatedly after the Soviet bloc began dissolving in 1989 and the once-repressed Eastern Orthodox churches began functionally publicly again, Russian Orthodox leaders insisted there could be no meeting between a pope and a patriarch as long as Catholics were “proselytizing” in what the Orthodox considered their territory.

The Vatican insisted the Catholic Church rejects proselytism, which it defines as actively seeking converts from another Christian community, including through pressure or offering enticing. The Russian Orthodox had insisted such types of proselytism occurred in both Russia and Ukraine, although the Vatican said that when asked, the Orthodox provided no proof.

St. John Paul II re-established the Latin-Rite Catholic hierarchy in Russia in 2002, which led to the Russian Orthodox withdrawing from dialogue with the Vatican for several years. Even as tensions over the Catholic presence in Russia waned, the Russian Orthodox insisted a bigger example of proselytism was the loss of its churches in the newly independent Ukraine.

The Vatican recognized there were some instances of excessive zeal early on, but rejected the use of the term “proselytism” as a blanket description for the re-establishment of the Ukrainian Catholic Church. The Ukrainian Catholic Church was outlawed by the Soviet government in the 1940s and its property was confiscated by the government, which in turn gave some churches to the Russian Orthodox. Byzantine-Rite Catholics who once could worship only in a Russian Orthodox church, returned to Catholic services and sought the return of church property.

Father Lombardi said the fact that a meeting has been scheduled “allows one to think that on various points dialogue has matured and allowed some things that were once seen as obstacles to be overcome.”

“Every step toward dialogue, understanding, a will to draw closer to each other, understand each other and walk together” after “a past of distancing themselves and even of polemics and division is a positive sign for everyone,” especially considering the huge numbers of Catholics and Russian Orthodox in the world, the spokesman said.

Pope Francis, reflected Father David Nazar, rector of Rome’s Pontifical Oriental Institute and a Ukrainian Catholic from Canada, in Catholic News Service. “If this were to take place, it would be big news in the Year of Mercy. To make a step in this direction is beautiful, but also irreversible.”

Especially for Catholics in Russia and Ukraine, he said, relations with the Russian Orthodox are complicated, including because of the close relationship between the Russian Orthodox Church and the Russian government, which annexed the Crimea and is supporting fighting in Eastern Ukraine.

Father Nazar described his reaction to the news as “cautiously optimistic” and said he hoped it would mark “a new beginning” in Catholic-Russian Orthodox relations.

Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill is shown during the Christmas service Jan. 7 at Christ the Savior Cathedral in Moscow. After almost three decades of tense Catholic-Russian Orthodox relations, Pope Francis will meet Patriarch Kirill Feb. 12 in Cuba, on route to Mexico.

CNS photo/Sergei Chirkov, EPA

BY CINDY WOODEN

The glass case contains the body of St. Padre Pio in St. Peter’s Basilica where they were to stay for veneration until Feb. 17.

At the papal audience, joining members of the Padre Pio Prayer Groups from around the world were shift members of the hospital he founded, the Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza (House for the Relief of Suffering), whose work is supported by the prayers and donations of the prayer groups. Pope Francis told them that their devotion to Padre Pio should help them rediscover each day “the beauty of the Lord’s forgiveness and mercy.”

With his long hours in the confessional, the pope said, “Padre Pio was a servant of mercy and he was full time, carrying out the ‘apostolate of listening’ even to the point of fainting.”

“The great river of mercy” that Padre Pio unleashed, he said, should continue through the prayers and, especially, the willingness to listen and to care for others shown by members of the prayer groups.

If prayer were just about finding a little peace of mind or obtaining something specific from God, then it would basically be motivated by selfishness. “Pray to feel good, like I’d take an aspirin,” the pope said.

“Prayer, rather, is a work of spiritual mercy that carries everything to the heart of God” and says to Him, “You take it, You who are my Father.”

Padre Pio, he said, used to tell people prayer is “a key that opens God’s heart.”

“God’s heart is not armored with all sorts of security measures,” the pope said. “You can open it with a common key — prayer.”

CNS photo/Paul Haring

The glass case contains the body of St. Padre Pio in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican Feb. 6. The bodies of St. Padre Pio and St. Leopold Mandic were brought to Rome at the request of Pope Francis for the Year of Mercy.

CNS photo/Paul Haring

Open God’s heart with prayer, pope tells Padre Pio Prayer Groups

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Praying is not like taking an aspirin, something that one can feel a little better, Pope Francis told thousands of members of Padre Pio Prayer Groups from around the world.

Prayer is not a business negotiation with God, either, the pope told more than 60,000 people gathered in St. Peter’s Square Feb. 6. Prayer is a “work of spiritual mercy,” a time to entrust everything to the heart of God, he said.

The pilgrims were in Rome for the Year of Mercy and a week of special events that included veneration of the relics of St. Padre Pio and St. Leopold Mandic, both Capuchin friars who often spent more than 12 hours a day hearing Confessions.

Although many faithful believe the body of Padre Pio, who died in 1968, is incorrupt, Church officials have never made the claim. When his body was exhumed in 2008, Church officials said it was in “fair condition.” Chemicals were used to ensure its long-term preservation and the face was covered with a silicone mask.

Pushed through the center of Feb. 6, the glass coffins on rolling platforms, the relics of Padre Pio and St. Leopold were escorted by Italian military police, dozens of Capuchin friars and thousands of faithful.

When the procession reached St. Peter’s Square — the boundary of Vatican City State to which the Italian police stood at attention and the Swiss Guard took over the honor-guard duties. Cardinal Angelo Comastri, archpriest of St. Peter’s, welcomed the relics, blessed them with incense and accompanied them into St. Peter’s Basilica where they were to stay for veneration until Feb. 17.

The public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

• Sunday, Feb. 14, 10 a.m. — Mass at St. Joseph Church, South Bend
• Sunday, Feb. 14, 2 p.m. — Rite of Election, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
• Thursday, Feb. 18, and Friday, Feb. 19 — Meeting of Board of Trustees of Ave Maria University, Florida
• Saturday, Feb. 20, 4 p.m. — Mass at Rekinder the Fire

Public Schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades
Turnstone offers unique services to persons with disabilities

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — As the Catholic Church and the Fort Wayne community at large work to serve those with physical and other disabilities, a unique mission is taking place with just that work in mind. Turnstone, a nonprofit organization, provides a comprehensive network of services for people with disabilities. What makes this agency unique anywhere across the U.S. is that it “fundamentally provides services from cradle to grave,” said Turnstone CEO Mike Mushett. Turnstone, established in 1943 by a group of parents of children unable to attend area schools due to their disabilities, currently provides an Early Learning Center with an integrated day care education program that helps children with and without disabilities develop skill sets and interpersonal skills needed to adjust to kindergarten. The facility also provides adult education programs now serving approximately 90 individuals five days a week that offers a combination of social, recreational and respite activities.

Turnstone offers speech, physical, occupational and aquatic therapies and both the early learning and adult programs provide individuals with the opportunity to receive any therapies needed. Turnstone also provides a team of pediatric and adult social workers who ensure each individual receives the services they need. Support groups, including one for parents, Parkinson’s sufferers and amputees walking schools, are also part of the services there. “It’s a holistic approach,” said Mushett, “to both the individual with the disability, but just as importantly their family as well.”

The Plassman Athletic Center, a newly constructed $14 million 150,000 square foot athletic facility was opened on Sept. 15, 2015, and includes a health and wellness fitness center with meeting rooms and all equipment accessible to all abilities, designed with space between the equipment to allow for wheelchair mobility. A large warm water aquatic therapy pool, 230-meter running track, group fitness rooms and NCAA dimension basketball courts are also highlights of the facility. Turnstone sponsors seven competitive sports teams including three wheelchair basketball teams, two power soccer teams, and sled hockey. It has hosted countless basketball and sled hockey tournaments and will host the power soccer national championship in June.

Mushett who has overseen the facility for over a year said, “I am amazed everyday with the things that I see and experience. We are very blessed that it’s a very mission-driven organization. We are providing our educational and therapy health and wellness and sport and recreation programs to empower people with disabilities. The people that work here are really focused on that as a mission and it’s a very committed staff.”

Along with that dedicated staff Turnstone is dependent on volunteer assistance for most of its programs as well. Many volunteers serve from Bishop Luers and Bishop Dwenger high schools. Bishop Luers Key Club has volunteered for Turnstone’s golf outing for over 20 years and Bishop Dwenger’s students serve to fulfill service requirements as well. “We know that we can call on the athletic teams if we need some muscle to move equipment or set up for events,” said Mushett.

St. Charles Borromeo School fourth graders have long supported Turnstone with their annual read-a-thon that raises funds for the facility. Over the past 18 years, the students have raised over $45,000 for Turnstone. “It’s a joy to work with St. Charles,” noted Mushett, adding that the fourth-grade students are invited each year to Turnstone to experience wheelchair basketball and other activities for the disabled. Current fourth-grade teacher Rita Sordelet said, “We tour Turnstone where they incorporate lessons about people with disabilities. They get hands-on experience and it’s very enlightening. We’ve seen it progress from a small facility to this big facility that offers so much more through donations.” Sordelet added that the students are excited each year to know that the money they go to purchase specific equipment such as wheelchairs designed for playing basketball. “This is close to their hearts,” noted Sordelet.

Mushett noted too that St. Vincent de Paul Society has been a regular contributor to Turnstone providing cash, equipment and supply donations over the years. In 2015, Turnstone served over 2,000 unique individuals with varying abilities and does not turn anyone away due to inability to pay. “Ninety-five percent of our clients require reduced fees and we work with them to afford the services. … It’s part of our mission,” said Mushett. He noted that the individuals served have positive attitudes and know the strengths. “It’s an environment where they can be themselves — where they can be with their peers and we really focus on helping them develop the skill sets and the strengths that allow them to function as independently as possible,” said Mushett.

Recently Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was invited to visit this unique facility. “I knew that he was someone that we wanted to invite to Turnstone. I found a lot about his ministry and interest in providing services to people with disabilities,” noted Mushett. Bishop Rhoades toured the facility on Jan. 7 and said, “I was happy to visit Turnstone and see their services for persons with disabilities. The athletic, educational and other programs are really excellent. I was happy to learn that students in some of our schools understand that there is a very important outreach and a great opportunity for us to support our brothers and sisters with disabilities from whom we also can learn so much.”

Serving the people with disabilities in the Fort Wayne area has been a privilege for the administration and staff of Turnstone. Mushett’s final message? “A lot of people with disabilities in the community still don’t know that we’re here or what type of services we provide. We know there are many, many more individuals with disabilities in the community that need us to be providing services to. … It’s a great opportunity and environment to get the needed services, develop friendships and social networks for people with disabilities.”

To learn more about Turnstone and how to volunteer visit www.turnstone.org or contact Beth Moody, director of volunteers, at beth@turnstone.org or call 260-483-2100.
Religious Liberty and LGBT rights debate to continue as legislation to advance both fails on Senate floor

INDIANAPOLIS — Religious liberty hangs in the balance as legislation to advance LGBT rights and provide some protections for religious liberty died Feb. 3 on the Senate floor.

Following a private meeting among Senate Republican leadership, Sen. Travis Holdman, R-Marble, author of the HIV civil rights bill, told lawmakers on the Senate floor he didn’t have the votes for his bill to pass so he was not going to call it for second reading.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference said he was not surprised the bill lacked the necessary support to pass.

“This is a very complex issue, and the legislation is not clear cut,” Tebbe said. “While we were appreciative of Sen. Holdman’s efforts to find common ground in balancing civil rights of the LGBT community with religious liberty, the Church was unable to support the bill.”

Holdman said, “After several months of honest, good-faith discussion, it is apparent that SB 344 lacks the support in the Senate to move forward, and as a result, I will not be calling the bill for further debate.”

Tebbe said, “No one supports unjust discrimination of anyone, which includes discrimination regarding one’s exercise of faith. No one should be coerced or forced to participate in or facilitate behavior contrary to one’s conscience.”

Tebbe said, “The proponents of LGBT civil rights appear to have the understanding that religious freedom only extends to worship in one’s congregation or in one’s home. The bill for religious liberty does not provide some protections for religious liberty for institutions.”

Tebbe went on to say that while SB 344 did provide some protections for religious institutions, the bill failed to recognize religious liberty as an inherent and fundamental right and did not provide protection for individuals and businesses on matters of conscience.

Holdman’s bill, Senate Bill 344, would have provided civil rights expansions for sexual orientation, but not gender identity. The bill prohibited discriminatory practices in acquisition or sale of real estate; housing; education; public accommodations; employment; the extending of credit; and public contracts based on military active duty status; or sexual orientation. The bill also would have provided some protections for religious liberty for institutions.

Holdman said, “After several months of honest, good-faith discussion, it is apparent that SB 344 lacks the support in the Senate to move forward, and as a result, I will not be calling the bill for further debate.”

Holdman also said, “The underlying issue is not going to go away,” but added he was hopeful that all those involved could come together to reach a compromise. Holdman warned that if lawmakers fail to reach a compromise, there is a real possibility that the courts could make the determination without them.

Senior Senate Pro Tempore, Sen. David C. Long, R-Fort Wayne, echoed Holdman’s remarks saying, “If we don’t forge a solution, the courts will. I fear religious freedom and liberty will be the loser if the courts decide the issue.”

Long said that courts are “aggressively stepping in” when the legislature fails to act. Long attributed the demise of the legislation to “extreme mutual disrespect for one another.”

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Tebbe said, “Balancing the rights of all is more complex than as simply adding four words and a comma, as many advocated.” He said, “The issue requires thoughtful and respectful dialogue. We urge all people of good will to show mutual respect for one another so that dialogue and discernment can take place to ensure that no one in Indiana will face discrimination whether it is for their sexual orientation or for living their religious beliefs.”
Peer ministers, volunteers needed to work with couples experiencing difficult prenatal diagnosis

More than 100,000 expectant couples each year receive the devastating news of a so-called poor prenatal diagnosis. It may be the detection of a heart defect, Spina Bifida or a genetic disorder such as Down syndrome, Trisomy 18 or Trisomy 13. But whatever the diagnosis, shocked and bereaved parents have lost the baby and the pregnancy they had anticipated.

With little or no information or resources available that support the option of carrying the baby to term, many of these pregnancies end in abortion. When offered a service of comprehensive support, however, parents more often chose to carry to term. Those who have carried to term following a prenatal diagnosis, or have experienced the loss of a child by miscarriage, stillbirth or newborn death are encouraged to consider becoming a peer minister. Peer ministers engage parents carrying to term and journey with them based on shared experiences and an ability to empathize. Interested persons who may not have experienced a prenatal diagnosis or perinatal loss can also volunteer to support parents by prayer sponsorship, funeral planning, birth support, assistance with childcare and meals, translating, etc.

Peer ministers and volunteers are screened and trained. They work in teams and the outreach is informed by a pastoral care manual.

To expectant parents, they offer unique insight and sensitivity regarding such difficult issues.

Provided with permission from Be Not Afraid
Those interested in this ministry should contact Mary O’Callaghan at mary.o.callaghan@att.net or Mary Glowaski at mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org.

St. Augustine Men’s Group tackles pornography

Since its launch in spring 2015, the St. Augustine Men's Group, with chapters in Fort Wayne and South Bend that meet on alternating weeks, has impacted the lives of nearly 50 men in the diocese — resulting in stronger marriages, greater freedom over pornography and an increased desire to do God’s will. Leaders say, “You will not experience any judgment or criticism at our gatherings; it is a place of refuge and strength where you will find encouragement, inspiration and healing. We walk the journey together with God — one day at a time.” For more information about the St. Augustine Men's Group, including meeting times visit www.staugustinefwsb.org or call 260-673-5515.

Courage works with those with Same Sex Attraction

As we examine the nature of God, we discover at His core He is an eternal exchange of life-giving love between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. And when we examine the core of mankind, we discover that we have been created in the image of this “Relational Love.” To be a human, is to be created in the image and likeness of God, and experience a deep desire to get both our emotional and spiritual needs fulfilled. Satisfying our hearts’ desires is difficult, because our hearts were made for the infinite love of God. Our hearts desire deep emotional intimacy with others.

In the case of those who experience Same Sex Attraction, it can be difficult to get these spiritual and emotional needs met, just as it is for heterosexual couples, because our society is so focused on sexual contact, rather than on the hearts deeper desire for emotional and spiritual intimacy.

This is what excites me about Courage. Courage groups try to provide a safe harbor for its members to grow in relationship, and also allows members to reflect on the unique challenges and hurts these men face. Like all of us, our members desire to do great things for the Lord, while all the while struggling with sin. This group has beautifully shown me how the Lord can work through our struggles and make us into something beautiful.

— Father Ben Muhlenkamp
www.diocesefwsb.org/courage

St. Augustine Men’s Group

For more information about the St. Augustine Men’s Group, including meeting times visit www.staugustinefwsb.org or call 260-673-5515.

Immaculate Conception Parish, 500 East 7th Street, Auburn 46706
Celebrating 24 Years of Divine Mercy

To learn more about Divine Mercy go to:
http://www todayscatholicnews.org/2015/11/the-devotional-pieces-of-divine-mercy/ for an explanation of Divine Mercy by Father Dan Cambra, MIC

(St. Faustina Diaries 699 On one occasion, I heard these words)

My daughter, tell the whole world about my inconceivable (138) mercy, I desire that the Feast of Mercy (139) be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of my tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of my mercy.

Send us your photos showing works of mercy. Visit MyYearofMercy.org or email editor@diocesefwsb.org.
**Around the Diocese**

**St. Monica Church to hold parish mission**

MISHAWAKA — St. Monica Church in Mishawaka will be holding an “Awaken Our Hearts” Parish Mission, Feb. 21-24. Each evening of renewal will begin at 7 p.m. The Parish Family Concert with Vince Ambrosetti will be held on Sunday, Feb. 21. The Family Mission will be held Monday through Wednesday, Feb. 22-24.

**St. Rose of Lima to host mission**

MONROEVILLE — Father Lourdivo Fernandes has announced St. Rose of Lima Church, Monroeville, will host a parish mission March 13-16, to coincide with this being the “Year of Mercy.” Each session begins at 7 p.m. at the St. Rose School Chapel, 401 Monroe St.

Father Derrick Sneyd will present “God, Rich in Mercy,” on Sunday, March 13; Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will give the mission talk on Monday, March 14, “People Rich in Mercy.” On Tuesday, March 15, Father Ben Muhlenkamp will speak on “God’s Gift of Mercy and Forgiveness.” Visiting priests will be available for the sacrament of Reconciliation. Mission speaker Msgr. Robert Schulte, will present the talk for the final evening, “Go Forth and Proclaim God’s Mercy,” on Wednesday, March 16. This evening will also include a Eucharistic Celebration.

Childcare for children up to age 2, will be available each evening. Special children’s program for ages 3-5 and kindergarten to grade 3 has been organized. Contact Natalie Foster at 260-341-4240 to make arrangements.

For transportation contact Carol at 260-348-8095.

For those unable to attend evening sessions, they will have the opportunity to participate in morning meetings Monday through Wednesday, following the 8 a.m. Mass. Coffee and doughnuts will be served while Father Fernandes leads discussion of the previous evening’s topic. All are welcome to attend any or all sessions.

**Rekindle the Fire Annual Diocesan Men’s Conference set Feb. 20**

FORT WAYNE — Catholic men of all ages are encouraged to attend the largest gathering of Catholic men in Indiana at the Rekindle the Fire Annual Men’s Conference, Saturday, Feb. 20, at the Coliseum Expo Center in Fort Wayne.

More than 1,000 men will come together for a daylong dynamic, spirit-building experience that includes internationally renowned speakers, interactive sessions, confession, Mass, exhibit booths and more.

Rekindle the Fire aims to strengthen every man in their spiritual journey to become better leaders, friends, husbands, fathers and sons — to be the men God is calling each of them to be through prayer, fellowship, faith and spiritual service to family, parish and community.

This year’s conference will feature several of the Church’s most dynamic speakers: Matt Fradd, Jesse Romero and Dr. Marcellino D’Ambrosio. New this year will be interactive battle sessions with each speaker and a session specifically for high school students.

Additionally, there will be a Hispanic event for Catholic men on Friday, Feb. 19, at the Coliseum from 7-9 p.m. For more information, call Huberto Vazquez at 260-443-2262 or 260-780-0967.

The Feb. 20 conference begins at 9 a.m. and concludes with 4 p.m. Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

The cost to attend the conference is $35 and includes lunch and coffee. To register for the conference, visit rekindlethefire.net or call 260-452-6875.

**Immaculate Conception to hold Lent services**

AUBURN — Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Auburn invites the community to its ongoing Lenten devotions which include Stations of the Cross, Feb. 12, 19, 26, March 4, 11, 18 at 7 p.m. (preceded by Soup and Bread Supper at 5:45 p.m. in the Parish Hall; Reconciliation, Feb. 15, 20, 27; March 5, 12, 19, 4-4:45 p.m.; and Parish Lenten Penance Service, March 9, 7 p.m.)

Immaculate Conception Church is located at 500 E. Seventh St., Auburn. For information call the parish office at 260-925-3930 or visit www.iscauburn.com.

**Community leaders honored at Queen of Angels School**

Queen of Angels School in Fort Wayne invited community leaders Feb. 2 to the Community Leader Service Recognition and Brunch program. The event was one of the appreciation days that included parents, students, teachers as well as the community leaders during Catholic Schools Week. Political leaders — including Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry — judges, police and fire departments, diocesan educational leaders and representatives from the Women’s Care Center, the St. Vincent de Paul Society and the Mustard Seed were invited.

Father Ajay Tiru opened the celebration with a welcome and prayer. Principal Rebecca Elswesky was the emcee for the program. Each grade performed and winners of the essay contest, “What Our Catholic Education Means to Me,” read their pieces. The student council hosted the brunch.

**Young adults gather for mini retreat**

College-age students gathered at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center on Jan. 30 for a day retreat sponsored by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Marie Langford, left, sings with other young adults during Mass.
Catholic schools provide opportunity for students to grow in holiness

Fifth-grade students sign “Happy Birthday” to Kevin Haggenjos, a Today’s Catholic freelance photographer, and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. Haggenjos was surprised and said his birthday was last month.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, after receiving a St. Michael sweatshirt, poses with students, from left, Emma Kruyer, Ellie Houin and Ashley Rosas, right.

Photos by Kevin Haggenjos

Fifth-grade students sign “Happy Birthday” to Kevin Haggenjos, a Today’s Catholic photographer and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. Haggenjos was surprised and said his birthday was last month.

Photos by Kevin Haggenjos

More photos are available in the photo gallery at todayscatholicnews.org.
Bishop Rhoades awarded St. Michael’s Crusader of the Month

BY DENISE FEDOROW

PLYMOUTH — St. Michael Principal Amy Weidner presented Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades with the Crusader of the Month Award at the conclusion of the celebration of the all-school Mass during his pastoral visit to St. Michael School on Feb. 5 in Plymouth.

Principal Weidner welcomed Bishop Rhoades and said they were looking forward to his visit with the staff and children. She explained that St. Michael’s has a “long-standing tradition of Catholic education, which instills in children faith and morals to help them fulfill their roles in life.” She noted that students are involved in community service projects, food drives, visits to nursing homes, etc.

“Our students shine with God’s love each day,” Principal Weidner said, explaining they are recognized at Friday’s all-school Mass for Students of the Week and Crusader of the Month. With thanks to Bishop Rhoades for his strong emphasis and passion for Catholic education she explained they were naming him St. Michael’s Crusader of the Month. “May God bless you forever,” she said.

Bishop Rhoades said, “This is quite an honor and a big surprise. I feel proud to be an honorary Crusader.”

During his homily at Mass that began his pastoral visit to the school, Bishop Rhoades spoke to the students and St. Michael parishioners about St. Agatha, whose feast day was February 5. He also spoke about the benefits of St. Michael’s. The fifth-grade teacher Mary Beth Kolter’s fifth-grade students explained a top 10 list about St. Michael’s. The fifth-grader Andrew Schmalzli shared his reason — being able to pray and learn about God in school. Seventh-grader Anna Schmalzli shared her reason — being able to go to Church three times a week and “thankful through St. Michael’s School God gave me a second chance to save my faith.”

Mary Beth Kolter’s fifth-grade students explained a top 10 list wasn’t sufficient so they came up with a top 30 favorite things about St. Michael’s. The fifth-graders also demonstrated their sign language skills, and signed Happy Birthday to a surprised Today’s Catholic photographer, Kevin Haggenjos.

The students presented Bishop Rhoades with a book of photos of the students and some of their remarks and a St. Michael’s sweatshirt.

The bishop then visited each classroom. In kindergarten he was introduced to Mater and Fred, the class birds. In the sixth-grade class on the liturgical year and Stations of the Cross, the students presented paintings about the seven last words of Jesus. The eighth-grade class discussed the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Bishop Rhoades shared with the students the opportunity to ask him questions and following the class visits he concluded his visit by sharing lunch with the faculty.

The Sisters of Holy Cross of St. Mary founded St. Michael’s Academy in 1861 on the corner of Center and Madison Street. The school now at 612 N. Center St., currently educates 162 students in grades kindergarten through eighth grade.

Alumna Amy Weidner is the principal and said of the ever-growing diversity of the school, “I am most proud that over the course of our population changing our teachers maintain very high growth percentage rate for our students of high ability and students who need intense intervention.”

Students are taught a core curriculum including religion, language arts, mathematics, music/band/choir, social studies, science/health, art, physical education, computer and Spanish. Interactive SMART boards are used in each classroom as well as computers available for student use. The school also has a computer lab and library. St. Michael’s also has a comprehensive speech program, including an annual speech competition and an annual spelling bee and science fair. The school has consistently received “A” grades for its exemplary academics.

Other opportunities include taking part in all areas of the Mass, leading the All School Rosary, Advent Prayer Service and Stations of the Cross.

St. Michael’s participates in the ICCL (Inter-City Catholic League), which serves 15 area Catholic grade schools. In grades 5-8, girls’ sports opportunities include soccer, volleyball, basketball, golf, and cheerleading. Boys’ sports in grades 5-8 include soccer, basketball, baseball and golf.

St. Michael’s students are also encouraged to participate in community service with nursing home visits, bake sales and food drives.

Parents and staff members spoke about the benefits of St. Michael’s School.

Amber Payne said her family is new to the parish having relocated from Ohio and said they’ve always been dedicated to Catholic education. “Catholic schools embody the whole child—they receive a great education and are really helped to become disciples. I believe they carry that with them. We’re happy to be here and we feel a part of the family.”

Fifth-grade teacher Mary Beth Kolter also mentioned family. “Like that we all treat each other as family—we are one big family,” she said. “We can teach them ways to love each other.”

Principal Weidner said, “We desire for our students to learn, no matter what life lays in their path, they are never alone. God is always with them supporting and guiding them. Their daily conversations with God will build an eternal and enriched relationship with Him.”

Fifth-grade St. Michael students and their teacher Mary Beth Kolter get a “selfie” at the bishop’s pastoral visit to the school.
Light of Learning luncheons celebrate excellence

By Tim Johnson

Teachers and administrators who express core values of Catholic education and incorporate those values into their curriculum were celebrated in both Fort Wayne and South Bend with the Light of Learning luncheons last week.

Quality Dining, Inc., sponsors the annual luncheons. The luncheons also mark the beginning of the You Can Lend a Hand coupon book campaign. Catholic school students in the diocese sell these coupon books that may be used at restaurants and sporting venues in the region. Since 1982, Quality Dining has given more than $10 million for area Catholic schools.

Teachers honored with the Light of Learning Award in Fort Wayne include the following: Nicholas Peppler, Most Precious Blood School; Katherine Willoughby, Queen of Angels School; Claudia Schnurr, St. Charles Borromeo School; Elizabeth Straley, St. John the Baptist School; Paula Svitek, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School; Evan Smith, St. Joseph School; Michelle Szychalski, St. Jude School; Kimberly Reber, St. Therese School; Maryalice Beach, St. Vincent de Paul School; Emily Nichter, St. Joseph School-Hessen Cassel; Cynthia Renshaw, Bishop Dwenger High School; and Joshua Smith, Bishop Luers High School, all Fort Wayne schools; Krystle Starr Martin, St. Aloysius School, Yoder; Brigette Fogarty, St. John the Baptist School, New Haven; Debbra Groves, St. Rose of Lima School, Monroeville; Mary Yoder, St. Mary of the Assumption School, Avilla; Jill Marshall, St. Joseph School, Garrett; Ashley Fullenkamp, St. Joseph School, Decatur; Pamela Rork, Huntington Catholic School, Huntington; Jennifer Finney, St. Bernard School, Wabash; and Rose Smith, Sacred Heart School, Warsaw. Jason Shiffli, principal of Bishop Dwenger High School, was the administrator honored.

Teachers honored with the Light of Learning Award in South Bend include the following: Mary Gallagher, Christ the King; Keith Foley, Corpus Christi; Katherine Kowalski, Holy Cross; Robert Budzinski, Holy Family; Amy Black, Our Lady of Hungary; Jennifer Crain, St. Adalbert; Karen Bogol, St. Anthony de Padua; Michele Weldy, St. John the Baptist; Jennifer Sweazy, St. Joseph; Mary Johnson, St. Jude; Janice Horan, St. Matthew Catholic/All Saints; Goodrich, Saint Joseph High School; all South Bend schools; Stephanie McCune-Bell, Queen of Peace, Mishawaka; Lehmann, Mishawaka Catholic, Mishawaka; Elizabeth Camp, St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart; Stephanie Kronk, St. John the Evangelist, Goshen; Kelly Lohr, St. Pius X, Granger; Barbara Blad, St. Michael, Plymouth; and Angela Kramer, Marian High School, Mishawaka. Elaine Holmes, principal of St. Pius X School, Granger, was the administrator honored.

At both luncheons Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades served as the keynote speaker. He provided statistics from the Pew Research Center that reveal why Catholic schools are needed today more than ever. His talk was featured in the Today’s Catholic Feb. 7, 2016 issue in his column, In Truth and Charity.

At the dinners, the Msgr. J. William Lester Award winners were announced. In Fort Wayne, the award was presented to Mike and Mary Jane Millikan. Mary Jane was a graduate of the first Bishop Luers class. The Millikans five children and many of their grandchildren either attended or are attending Bishop Luers.

Superintendent of Catholic Schools Marsha Jordan, in presenting the award, spoke of the Millikans’ commitment to Bishop Luers High School. She described the Millikans as superstars in a quiet way. “They have been involved on all different levels for many, many years — LuersKnight, football field dad, capital campaigns, class gifts, class reunions, homecomings, alumni board, development committee and office renovations to name a few,” Jordan said. “They have supported the school financially and spiritually on both a personal and corporate level,” she said. “It is not uncommon to see them at the All School Masses, and their faith is a wonderful example to students, faculty and staff.”

J. Patrick and Aimée Matthews, faithful supporters of Saint Joseph High School in South Bend, were the Msgr. J. William Lester Award recipients in South Bend. Both are 1985 alums of Saint Joseph High School. Three of their children have graduated from Saint Joseph, and two are still to graduate.

Aimée Matthews chaired the Saint Joseph Auction two years in a row, and has served on numerous committees over the years. The Matthews are involved with the Saint Joseph High School Parent Group, with Aimée serving as president for several years. In addition, Aimée currently serves on the school board and several committees.

“The Matthews are members of Christ the King Parish, Pat and Aimée have demonstrated many times over their faithful support of Catholic education, and Saint Joseph High School,” Jordan said. “They strongly believe in the mission of the school and support Saint Joseph High School in any way possible. True servants of the Church, Pat and Aimée always give freely of their time, talent and treasure to their alma mater. Saint Joseph High School has been blessed over and over by their goodness and generosity, including their support of the Forward in Faith campaign and the Annual Fund drive. Pat and Aimée personify what we hope all of our students will be upon graduation from Saint Joseph High School.”

In the photo at the Fort Wayne Light of Learning luncheon are the following: front row, from left, Elizabeth Straley, Debbra Groves, Krystle Starr Martin, Jennifer Finney, Pamela Rorick, Kimberly Reber and Jill Marshall; middle row, Michelle Szychalski, Paula Svitek, Emily Nichter, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Maryalice Beach, Katherine Willoughby, Ashley Fullenkamp and Mary Yoder; back row, Secretary of Catholic Education Carl Loesch, Brigette Fogarty, Evan Smith, Joshua Smith, Rose Smith, Nicholas Peppler, Jason Shiffli, Cynthia Renshaw, Claudia Schnurr, Superintendent of Catholic Schools Marsha Jordan.

In the photo at the South Bend Light of Learning luncheon are the following: from left, front row, Elaine Holmes, Katherine Kowalski, Stephanie Kronk, Angela Kramer, Barbara Blad, Mary Johnson and Amy Black; middle row, Michele Weldy, Kelly Lohr, Karen Bogol, Elizabeth Camp, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Jennifer Sweazy, Stephanie McCune-Bell and Gina Lehmann; back row, Secretary of Catholic Education Carl Loesch, Robert Budzinski, Mary Gallagher, Brett Goodrich, Keith Foley, Jennifer Crain, Janice Horan and Superintendent of Catholic Schools Marsha Jordan.

Aimée and J. Patrick Matthews were the recipients of the Msgr. J. William Lester Award at the South Bend luncheon.
Donald Trump has been saying that Ted Cruz can't be president because he was born in Canada, and the U.S. Constitution limits eligibility to natural born citizens. I thought at first that Trump was just playing a tough guy, but he had pulled ahead in the Iowa polls. But it fits too well with what is becoming a leitmotif of the Republican primaries.

The point of the “natural born citizen” clause, according to Justice Joseph Story’s famous “Commentaries on the Constitution,” was to keep “ambitious foreigners” from “intriguing for the office.” This concern about the patriotism of immigrants found statutory expression in the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798.

Those four laws, enacted in the final years of John Adams’ administration, extended the residency requirement for citizenship from 14 years to 20, and they allowed the president to deport aliens deemed dangerous, and they made it a crime to make false statements critical of the government. Adams’ Federalist Party was worried about import ing ideas from the French Revolution.

The Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798 codified an American suspicion about the loyalty of aliens. There was, however, another side to the debate. Thomas Jefferson was a Francophile. His Democratic-Republican Party was more welcoming to immigration.

We are seeing a rekindling of the suspicion of immigrants in this year’s Republican primary debates. For years, we have had a simmering disagreement about immigration from Latin America. This has been about jobs, social costs (schools, health care), language, culture, sovereignty and respect for the rule of law.

But in 2016, the Republican Congress pulled together with national security. We worry about a repeat of Sept. 11, this time with ISIS rather than al Qaeda as the perpetrator. We have an attack by Islamic extremists in San Bernardino, a policeman shot in Philadelphia. We have now turned our attention to Europe. Germans worry that they have imported an alien view that demeans women; Americans don’t want that either.

And Trump says that Cruz can’t be president because he is not the right kind of citizen. It all fits. But I really don’t like it. “You shall not oppress a resident alien,” Exodus 23:9 exhorted, but was it just a lawyer’s legal advice? “You shall know how it feels to be an alien, since you were once aliens yourselves in the land of Egypt.” This Old Testament commandment is conspicuously unlike the more famous “eye for an eye.”

God did not tell the Israelites to treat enemies or their enemies’ families like they think of how the Egyptians treated them. He told them to treat others better than they had been treated.

In Matthew 7:12, Jesus offered an even broader exhortation to charity in all matters. “Do to others whatever you would have them do to you.”

Catholics should be especially sensitive to this injunction when it comes to immigration policy. Americans of the 19th century worried about the Irish and the Italians because (it was said) that their loyalty to the pope would make them untrustworthy citizens.

In recent history, immigration issues are strong, and the fears behind them cannot simply be dismissed as frivolous because those who have been entranced by Trump, his casual disparagement of Mexicans and his desire to exclude all Muslims from America need to open their minds and hearts.

The same kind of attractive and simplistic, easy-answer thinking motivated Adams to sign the Alien and Sedition Acts, which he would later consider his greatest mistake.

Not only did his answer to a foreign threat morally and constitutionally suspect, but it’s worth remembering that Jefferson went on to beat him. There’s a lesson there for today’s Republicans, if they ever hope to govern.

John Garvey is the president of The Catholic University of America in Washington.

Holiness requires discipline, focus and faithfulness to God

Colombia, coffee and care for our common home

Once again this Lent, we will be featuring stories connected with Catholic Relief Services Rice Bowl. As many of you know, Bishop Kevin Rhoades recently returned from a trip to Haiti with Catholic Relief Services (CRS) where he was able to witness the work of global solidarity done by CRS.

This year we can report that CRS is serving more than 1 million people in 100 countries around the world. Your support of CRS programs through CRS Rice Bowl helps our brothers and sisters all over the world provide for their basic needs and live in dignity. Our first country highlight this Lent is Colombia.

Colombia has the world’s largest number of internally displaced people: 4.7 million men, women and children have been forced to flee their homes because of 5 to 7 years of conflict. It is hard for most of us to imagine the anguish we would feel to have to leave everything behind to find a safe place for our children. Often times these families leave with just the clothes on their backs and maybe one bag. The land along the Colombia/Ecuador border is widely known for its coffee production. Here the Catholic Relief Services Borderlands Coffee project helps small-scale farmers from the conflict-affected communities to increase their incomes and gain access to new jobs. Families there plant coffee on land which to grow coffee that can then be sold in the United States.

The Borderlands Coffee project also promotes environmentally sensitive agriculture techniques to increase crop yields, which helps communities overcome hunger while promoting God’s creation.

As our Holy Father, Pope Francis has told us, “A true ecological approach always becomes a social approach; it must integrate questions of justice in debates on the environment, so as to hear both the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.”

There is an intimate connection between social and economic ecologies. We are all called to care for those who are most in need in the world. The majority of hungry people around the world are closely connected to agriculture. As the environment changes, so must their growing habits.

The next time you are enjoying a cup of coffee, remember those words from Mary who is a beneficiary of the Borderlands project. “It is in my blood. Coffee is so much a part of everyday life — not just for me and my family, but globally. It’s not just a plant or something you drink, it brings people together.”

Melissa Wheeler is the director for Catholic Relief Services.

FROM THE BORDERLANDS COFFEE PROJECT

Colombia has the world’s largest number of internally displaced people: 4.7 million men, women and children have been forced to flee their homes because of 5 to 7 years of conflict.

The population is composed of more than 200 small-scale farmers from the conflict affected communities. They work to increase their incomes and gain access to new jobs.

The Borderlands Coffee project helps farmers plant coffee in land that is suitable for growing coffee but not for growing crops.

The coffee is then sold in the U.S. and the proceeds are used to support microcredit programs and agricultural training for the farmers.

By supporting the Borderlands Coffee project, you are helping to provide a sustainable livelihood for these farmers while also contributing to the fight against hunger and poverty in Colombia.

To make a donation to the Borderlands Coffee project, visit www.crsricebowl.org and select the option to support the project.

The Borderlands Coffee project is supported by Catholic Relief Services, a member of the Catholic Charities USA network.

February 14, 2016

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES
RICE BOWL

MELISSA WHEELER

Director for Catholic Relief Services

Borderlands Coffee Project

CRS Rice Bowl

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Pope Francis and the evangelicals

The whole Christian world has watched with fascination as Pope Francis, over the past several months, has reached out to evangelicals. Who can forget the mesmerizing iPhone video, released last fall, of the pope’s (late) friend Bishop Tony Palmer, in which the Bishop of Kome communicated, with father-like compassion, to a national gathering of American evangelical leaders? His smile, his tone of voice, and the simple, direct words that Bishop Tony’s outreach constituted a bridge between Catholics and evangelicals. What I found particularly moving was the remarkable receptivity of the audience after they had taken in the video: a real evangelisation event, after they had watched it.

What constituted a bridge between Catholics and evangelicals? The pope’s (late) friend Bishop Tony Palmer’s outreach, with an open heart, was key. Bishop Tony’s outreach was a bridge, not just an event. And this for two basic reasons.

First, it tended to make the Church appropriately focused on the joy of that proclamation. It should lead today as it led 2,000 years ago, with the good news. Ecclesial disciples, “going out to the world, becomes a band of “missionary disciples,” going out to the world, as Pope Francis and his ecumenical form of life, before he was elected pope, any beautiful thing can be dedicated to the service of the Kingdom of God. "My spirit rejoices in God my savior;" as a summation of His message and ministry, Jesus declares to His disciples, “I have said these things to you so that My joy may be in you and your joy may be complete". In the Acts of the Apostles we are told that “wherever the disciples went, there was good joy." The pope concludes with a wonderfully unchristian rhetorical question: “Who should we not also enter into this great stream of joy? Why not indeed? Displaying his penchant for finding the memorable image, Pope Francis exorcizes Christians who have turned “into quaaludes and disillusioned pessimists, sour-pusses,” and whose lives “seem like Lent without Easter." Such people might be smart and they might even be morally upright, but they will never be successful evangelizers.

Once this basic truth is understood, the rest of the Church’s life tends to fall more correctly into place. The joyful proclamation of the Gospel becomes a band of “missionary disciples,” going out to the world with the good news. Ecclesial structures, liturgical precision, theological clarity, bureaucratic meetings, etc. are accordingly relativised in the measure that they are placed in service of that more fundamental mission. The pope loves the liturgy, but if evangelical proclamation is the urgent need of the hour, “an ostentatious preoccupation with the liturgy" becomes a problem. A Jesuit, the pope loves the life of the mind, but if evangelical proclamation is the urgent need of the hour, “an ostentatious preoccupation with the liturgy" becomes a problem. The pope loves the liturgy, but if evangelical proclamation is the urgent need of the hour, “an ostentatious preoccupation with the liturgy" becomes a problem.

Bishop Robert Barron

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ICCL divisions square off in hoop competition

BY MATTHEW SODIERSALSKI

ST. JOSEPH COUNTY — The unseasonably warm February temperatures helped keep the atmosphere warmer than normal for the hoopers of the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL). Mishawaka Marian and Saint Joseph high schools hosted a slate of basketball games that could very well help decide division champions toward the top of the De Porres Division.

In the biggest game of the day in all the ICCL at Mishawaka Marian, the St. Anthony Panthers squared off with St. Thomas the Apostle, New Haven. It was the last game of the day and the last game of the week for both teams, with games slated to be played next weekend as teams position themselves for the postseason.

The St. Thomas and St. Anthony game was not the only game that was tense at Marian on Sunday. The day’s first game saw the Pumas of Peace battle the Saints of Mishawaka Catholic. The winner of this game could maneuver themselves toward the top of the De Porres Division. In a shootout of a game, the purple and gold of Mishawaka Catholic prevailed behind the hot shooting of Hunter Renner. Renner led the Saints with 25 points. Renner was not only the player lighting up the scoreboard as Johnny Wang of the Pumas netted a game high 27.

In the final games at Marian, the Bulldogs of Our Lady of Hungary High School (4-2) gave the Lions of St. Jude (3-3) a hard-fought game. It felt like we only won by a bucket or two. However, our team was well coached and very tough.” PB finished second (5-1) in the Blue League and claimed the top seed for the 2016 CYO tournament, which kicks off the week of Feb. 8.

In the Gold League, a pleased Coach Christine Nix reported that the Lady Eagles from St. Jude toppled St. Charles, 29-17. “This is the first time we have beaten them in four years,” Nix explained. “It was a great team effort,” she added. Delaney Hogan had 10 points for St. Jude and Carrissa Wiegman chipped in nine in the victory. The No. 3 seed Eagles (3-2) hope to carry their momentum into the tournament where they will open with St. John the Baptist, New Haven.

In boys’ action, Most Precious Blood picked up two conference wins beating St. Mary, 45-25, and St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, 53-43. In the St. Mary win, Gardner Barile had 17 points and Connor Christian had a “double double” with 14 points and 11 rebounds. Against the Squires, Barile and Christian combined for 40 points. Chrisman also had 18 rebounds and six assists, while Xavier Allen added nine points and four assists. Coach Justin Allen detailed, “It was a hard-fought game. It felt like we only won by a bucket or two. Hessen Cassel is well coached and very tough.” PB finished second (5-1) in the Blue League and will face Queen of Angels in their first round of tournament play, which will be on Sunday, Feb. 14.

In the small school boys’ junior varsity tournament hosted by St. Therese, Coach Mike Foster was happy that his St. Rose-St. Louis fifth-and-sixth-grade Twins were crowned champions on Friday night, Feb. 5, at St. Aloysius.

FORT WAYNE — In their final weeks of the regular season, girls’ varsity teams geared up for the 2016 CYO tournament, which kicked off the week of Feb. 8.

ST. JOSEPH-HENSEN CASSEL kept their record perfect in the Blue League and claimed the top seed with their 37-17 win over St. Rose-St. Louis. Although Beard and Jelana Girod led the Squires with 10 points each, while Liz Rauner added eight. In the loss, Audrey Renninger paced the Twins with 21.

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- Locally manufactured natural toothpaste by a Fort Wayne company (St. Vincent parishioners).
- Product is used by several Hollywood stars and is not sold in stores.
- Product has clinical benefit over store-purchased toothpaste.
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Dentisse

called David @ 260-797-8898 to learn more!

Ireland

Travel to St. Patrick’s Ireland Sept. 4-13, 2016

NEW PRESENTATIONS ANNOUNCED!

Monday, Feb. 15, 6:30 p.m.
at St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne

Wednesday, Mar. 2, 6:30 p.m.
at St. Pius X, Granger

South Bend
Spiritual Host
Father Zak Barry

For more information or to register, visit: RekindleTheFire.net

Aspiring musicians invited to USF Marching Pride Band Day

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis invites student musicians to participate in USF Marching Pride Band Day on Saturday, Feb. 13. The day begins at 10 a.m. with a meet-and-greet where students and parents can meet current USF Marching Pride band members in the USF North Campus gymnasium, 2702 Spring St.

During the band’s rehearsal, teachers and parents will have an opportunity to speak with Rick Cartwright, dean of the School of Creative Arts, and lunch will be provided by the University of Saint Francis. After lunch, participants are invited to Hutzell Athletic Center to support the USF women’s basketball team as they take on Taylor University at 1 p.m. Following the game, there will also be opportunities for students to audition for available USF marching band talent scholarships.

Those interested in participating in this event can contact Band Director Steven Kandow at 260-399-7700, ext. 8024 or skandow@sf.edu and provide the student’s name and current school.

The remaining USF marching band audition dates are as follows: Friday, Feb. 12; Friday, March 4; and Friday, May 13.

To schedule an audition on these dates call 260-399-8064.

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To schedule an audition on these dates call 260-399-8064.
Fish fry to benefit Scouts
Fort Wayne — A fish fry sponsored by the St. Vincent Boy Scouts will be Feb. 19, March 4 and March 18, from 5-8 p.m. in the St. Vincent School cafeteria, door No. 9, Auburn and Wallen roads. Tickets are $10 adult and $5 child. Carry-outs available.

Fish fried by Tyner lodge
Walkerton — St. Patrick Church, 811 Tyler St., will have a fish fry prepared by Tyner 100F Lodge Friday, Feb. 19, from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are $9 for adults and $4 for children 6-10, children under 6 are free. Drive-through carry-out available for $9. No all fish carry-outs. Contact korteole@ yahoo.com or 574-656-8853 for information.

St. Louis Besancon to host fish fry
New Haven — St. Louis Besancon Parish will host a Lenten Fish Fry on Friday, Feb. 19, from 4-7 p.m. in the parish hall. Ticket prices are $9.50 for adults, $5 for children 5-12 and children under 5 eat free. Carry-out is available for the adult ticket price. Check the website www.stlouisb.org or call the parish office at 260-749-4525 for information and directions.

St. Matthew Cathedral plans fish fry
South Bend — St. Matthew Cathedral will have a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 26, from 4-7 p.m. in the school gymnasium. Tickets at the door are $9 for adults; $6 for children 4-12; free for children age 3 and under. Tickets may be purchased in advance at a reduced price by calling 574-289-5539.

Knights of Columbus fish fry
Mishawaka — The Queen of Peace Knights of Columbus will have a fish fry Friday, Feb. 26, from 4-7 p.m. in the school gymnasium. Tickets at the door are $9 for adults; $6 for children 4-12; free for children age 3 and under. Tickets may be purchased in advance at a reduced price by calling 574-289-5539.

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Our Lady School gearing up for 2016-17 school year opening

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Our Lady of Good Hope Parish is currently accepting applications for admission to its new school for the 2016-2017 school year. Our Lady School will educate grades kindergarten through 8 with a maximum of 150 students served.

Our Lady of Good Hope pastor, Father Mark Gurtner, explained that a two-year process of investigation brought the parish to this exciting venture. “It was really parents who came to me who were sending their children to other Catholic schools. And honestly they just wanted a school at their own parish,” said Father Gurtner.

Located on Saint Joe Road on the north side of Fort Wayne, Our Lady School will be housed in the building that was once used for preschool at the parish. Renovations have been minor, said Father Gurtner. New flooring and paint with a few adjustments to the walls, a new secure interior entrance, new exterior doors and windows and a new science lab and computer wiring will have the building completed and ready for the students in the fall of 2016. Father Gurtner is quick to note that all start up costs have been funded by private individual and foundation donations, including the Mary Cross Tippmann Foundation.

Father Gurtner noted that currently 127 students have been registered for the school. Kindergarten and second grade are now full, he said, but openings are still available in all other grades. There will be one class per grade K-8 with classes educating between 17 and 20 students each.

Our Lady School will be accredited through the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and will offer financial assistance to those who qualify, accepting Indiana Choice Scholarships and SGO scholarships. The school will employ a Classical Liberal Arts curriculum, which will afford the students a more integrated or holistic education.

“The idea is that, it seems that especially in public education, education has become very stratiﬁed — the subjects are taught in a way that are not related to one another. So the Classical curriculum seeks to do that in a more integrated way,” said Father Gurtner, adding, “The way that can be especially beneﬁcial to the faith is... a more integrated method of teaching has the advantage of possibly the teaching of the faith as part of all our subjects.”

“In a classical curriculum one of the main questions we put before us is searching for the true, good and beautiful. So as we present information, see how it reﬂects the glory of God, even in something like math or science. What’s true, good and beautiful and to present that to the kids,” noted Father Gurtner.

The curriculum will include art, computer and physical education. Our Lady School’s mascot is the knight, with anticipated sports teams and CYO participation.

Dr. Eric Grekowicz will oversee the new school as principal, bringing his enthusiasm and experience with Classical curriculum from his former position as Catholic school principal in Michigan. “Kids get invested in their education and interested in the history of the Church and daily Mass. It’s exciting for the kids, families and teachers,” said Grekowicz, adding, “What the school is doing is it’s going back 100 years ago to the way we used to educate kids. The Catholic Church educated people in a very holistic manner for almost 2,000 years. It’s only been since the rise of industrialization that we educate this way, it used to be that everything was taught simultaneously, and the connections between different disciplines were then clear.” The method is what teachers want naturally to do, noted Grekowicz, who is grateful to be part of the start up of this school.

His hope for the new school, “That children come out holy and well prepared for their life and eternity,” Father Gurtner added, “First and foremost I want them, in addition to what their parents do, to become disciples of Jesus Christ through the school. And hopefully the education we will give them will be part of that.”

Superintendent of Catholic Schools Marsha Jordan said of Our Lady School, “In an era where there continues to be a decline in Catholic schools across the country, we are fortunate in our diocese to welcome the second new elementary school within a three year span. Each of our parish schools is blessed with strong religious instruction, excellent academics and supportive parish communities. Our Lady of Good Hope will continue this tradition with a holistic approach to instruction, while nurturing the Catholic faith in its students. Our Lady will become both state and AdvancED accredited by following all legal and curricular standards of the diocese and the state. As I have worked closely with Eric Grekowicz over the last six months, I have been impressed with his energy, enthusiasm and vision for the future of Our Lady School and its students.”

Secretary for Catholic Education Carl Loesch concluded, “Over the 159-year history of our diocese dating all the way back to St. Mother Theodore Guérin, Msgr. Benoit and so many other visionary leaders, our diocese has been blessed with many outstanding Catholic schools. May the Blessed Mother, patroness of our diocese, watch over this school named in her honor and all the schools in our diocese.”

The school recently offered the community an open house where parishioners and other interested visitors could see the building and learn more about the school. The search for teachers has begun and those interested may contact the school.

For more information about Our Lady School, to schedule a tour or inquire about employment call 260-485-9615, see the Facebook page or visit www.olghfw.com.