

# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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## In MY Diocese

*A look at the parishes and people of Wabash County*

Pages 10-12

## Statement

*Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades responds to Laetare Medal given by Notre Dame*

Page 3

## Planned Parenthood

*1,800 Catholics process with archbishop in Denver*

Page 3

## ICC wrap-up

*The Indiana Catholic Conference wraps-up legislative session*

Page 5

## Stewardship

*Remembering the poor widow*

Page 14

# Via Dolorosa takes place around the diocese

BY LOURDES E. SILVA

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is rich in Catholic culture and diverse in the many ways that each group honors or celebrates important liturgical feast days, especially the important days of Holy Week. One of the time-honored traditions of Holy Week is the Via Dolorosa, which is predominantly re-enacted by the Hispanic population in our diocese. The event, also known as Via Crucis, originated in practices of early Christianity and still takes place all over the world.

Via Dolorosa, which translated means, Way of the Cross, is taking place in 13 parishes throughout the diocese. Via Dolorosa is a live re-enactment of Jesus' suffering, Passion and death on a cross. Some of the parishes begin their Via Dolorosa on Palm Sunday, so as to prepare the parishioners for Holy Week. Some will provide the Via Dolorosa both on Palm Sunday and on Good Friday, while other parishes will do the Via Dolorosa on Good Friday.

The practice of Via Dolorosa began in various ways throughout the diocese, but remains an important part of Lent.

VIA, page 9



Provided by Marilyn Karpinski

The Via Dolorosa re-enactment at St. Anthony de Padua Parish in Angola shows Jesus falling for the first time.



St. Bernard parishioners find solace in Eucharistic Adoration at the parish during 24 Hours for the Lord on March 4-5.

## Living the Year of Mercy

*Bear Wrongs Patiently*

Page 16

www.myyearofmercy.org

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PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

## Editorial Department

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

FREELANCE WRITERS: Ann Carey,

Michelle Castleman, Bonnie Elbersson,

Denise Fedorow, Joe Kozinski, Vince

LaBarbera and Deb Wagner

## Business Department

BUSINESS MANAGER: Stephanie A. Patka

AD GRAPHICS DIRECTOR: Mark Weber

BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION: Bethany

Belleville bbelleville@diocesefwsb.org

## Advertising Sales

Tess Steffen

tsteffen@diocesefwsb.org

(260) 456-2824

Web site: [www.todayscatholicnews.org](http://www.todayscatholicnews.org)

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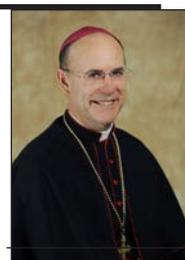
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# HOLY WEEK DURING THE JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY



## IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Throughout this Jubilee Year of Mercy, we are contemplating the mercy of God and our call to be *merciful like the Father*. Many have been studying the stories of God's merciful actions in the Old Testament and praying the psalms of mercy. Many have been reading and meditating upon the merciful actions of Jesus, *the face of the Father's mercy*, as well as His parables of mercy. This week, Holy Week, we arrive at the liturgical commemoration of the supreme manifestation of divine mercy. I encourage everyone to enter into Holy Week with particular devotion during this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

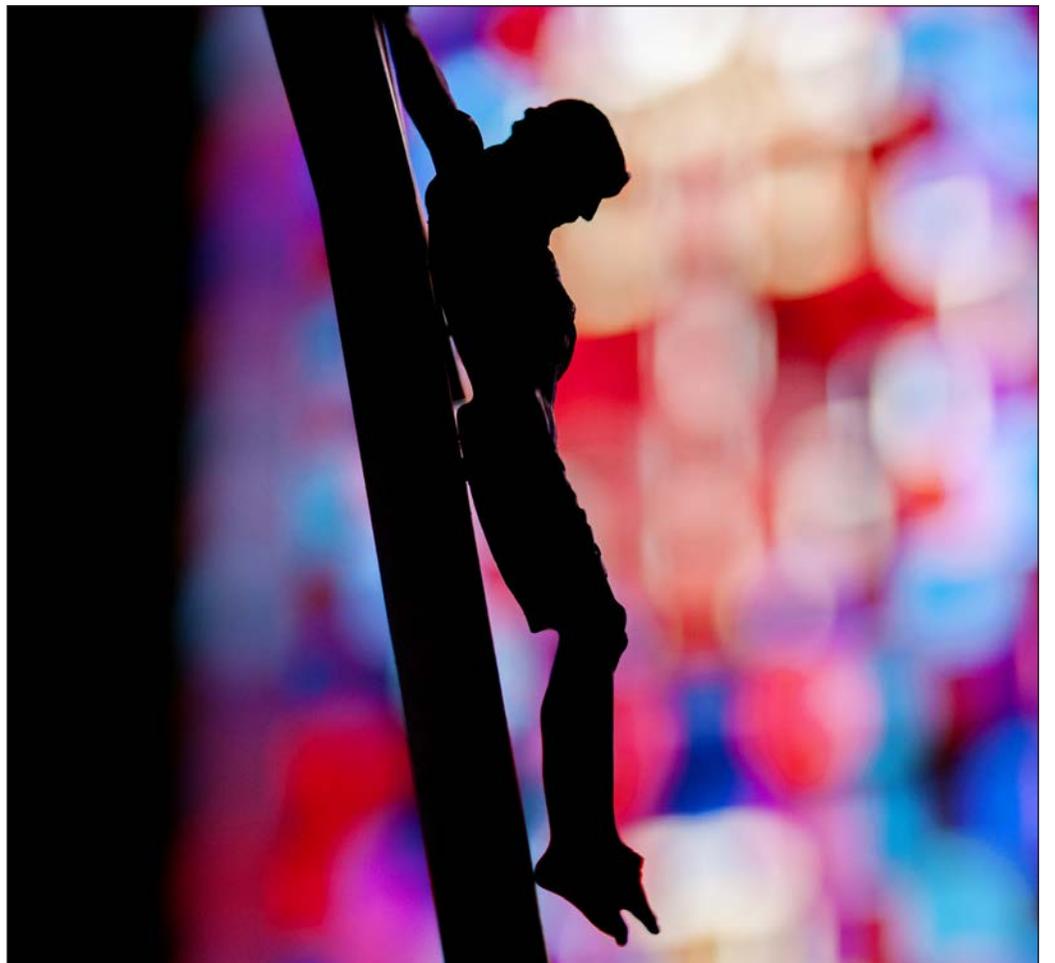
During Holy Week, we remember and we celebrate the greatest manifestation of God's mercy, God the Father's gift of His Son on the cross for our redemption. Jesus shared His Father's love for us and embraced His Father's will to save us when He suffered through the agony in the garden and the agony of the cross. This is God's mercy, God's love to the end. It wasn't an abstraction. It was something totally concrete. There were whips and thorns and nails and the rough wood of a cross.

The crucifixion, which was the most horrible torture, witnesses to us the depth of God's merciful love. He gave His totally innocent and beloved Son over to death out of love for us. The cross of Jesus is a radical revelation of God's mercy, of the love that Saint John Paul II once said "goes against what constitutes the very root of evil in the history of man: against sin and death." This merciful love conquers the deepest sources of evil. It is victorious. It is triumphant in the Resurrection.

This week, we will liturgically commemorate this great mystery, the Paschal mystery, the passion, death, and resurrection of Jesus, the greatest revelation of God's merciful love, the love that redeems us, the love that conquers sin and death because it is more powerful than sin and death.

We are the recipients of the graces that flow from the Paschal Mystery: the gift of new life, reconciliation with God, redemption, liberation from sin, and the promise of the resurrection, all fruits of Christ's sacrifice. We see these graces revealed when the soldier pierced the side of Jesus on the cross. From His Sacred Heart flowed blood and water. On the surface, this flow of blood and water showed that Jesus was truly dead. But there's a profound spiritual reality here. The blood and water signify that Jesus' death is the source of spiritual life for all who are in darkness and dead in sin.

In the Old Testament, Ezekiel, Joel, and Zechariah prophesied that the life-giving waters of mercy and regeneration would flow from God's temple on the day of salvation. Well, Jesus had spoken of His body as God's new temple. Water flowed from His pierced side, from the temple of His body on the cross. These waters of mercy, regeneration, and new life in the Spirit flow in the



CNS photo/Mike Crupi, Catholic Courier

**A crucifix is silhouetted against a stained-glass window at the chapel inside Elmira Correctional Facility, a maximum security prison in Elmira, N.Y. Good Friday, commemorates the passion and death of Jesus.**

sacrament of Baptism. At the Easter Vigil, so many catechumens in our diocese and throughout the world will be born again of water and the Spirit. Let us pray for these brothers and sisters as they receive the new life of Christ and are incorporated into His Body, the Church.

Blood also poured forth from the pierced side of Jesus. The blood of Jesus, poured out for us from His heart, is offered to us sacramentally in the Eucharist. By eating His body and drinking His blood, we grow in communion with Jesus and share now already in His eternal, resurrected life. At the Easter Vigil, the newly baptized and those who will enter into full communion in the Catholic Church will share for us for the first time at the table of the Lord. With joy, we welcome them to the Eucharistic banquet, the sacrament that makes us one body in Christ.

The Church was born from the pierced heart of Jesus. The Second Vatican Council taught: "For it was from the side of Christ as he slept the sleep of death upon the cross that there came forth the 'wondrous sacrament of the whole Church'" (SC 5). "As Eve was formed from the sleeping Adam's side, so the Church was born from the pierced heart of Christ hanging dead on the cross" (CCC 766). We were born as a people, as Christ's Church, from the heart of Christ pierced on the cross. There would be no Church without the divine mercy.

All the sacraments of the Church are gifts of God's mercy. I mentioned the sacraments of Baptism and the Eucharist represented in the water and blood that flowed from Jesus' side. All the sacraments are gifts from the Sacred Heart of Jesus. They commemorate and renew the Paschal Mystery of Jesus. All the sacraments are a source of life for the

Church. We should work hard in every parish to bring people to the sacraments, to share with others these great gifts of God's merciful love.

We naturally think of the sacrament of Penance as a sacrament of mercy. It is a beautiful gift given to us by Jesus the first Easter night. Pope Francis says that "among the sacraments, certainly reconciliation renders present with particular efficacy the merciful face of God." He says: "Let us never forget, both as penitents and confessors: there is no sin that God cannot forgive. None! Only that which is withheld from divine mercy cannot be forgiven, just as one who withdraws from the sun can be neither illuminated nor warmed" (March 12, 2015). I encourage all who have not yet been to confession during Lent to go during Holy Week.

I encourage everyone to participate in the beautiful liturgies of Holy Week. The liturgies of the Sacred Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil, and Easter Sunday) are rich in meaning as we remember the sacred events of our Lord's Last Supper, His passion and death, and His resurrection. Participation in these liturgies is a great opportunity to ponder the Paschal Mystery and to experience anew God's mercy. The Church's liturgies help us to encounter the mercy of God which transforms our lives and makes us holy.

During this Holy Week in the Jubilee Year of Mercy, let us beseech the Lord to bestow His mercy upon us, the mercy that moved Him to carry the cross for us and to pour out His blood for the forgiveness of our sins. In the words of the Divine Mercy chaplet, we pray: *For the sake of His sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.*



## STATEMENT OF BISHOP RHOADES CONCERNING THE DECISION OF NOTRE DAME TO HONOR VICE-PRESIDENT BIDEN AND FORMER SPEAKER BOEHNER WITH THE LAETARE MEDAL

*In response to many inquiries, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the diocese where the University of Notre Dame is located, offers the following statement about the granting of the Laetare Medal by the University of Notre Dame to Vice-President Joseph Biden and former Speaker of the House John Boehner:*

The Laetare Medal is given by the University of Notre Dame 'in recognition of outstanding service to the Church and society.' Several months ago, Father John Jenkins, C.S.C., the president of the university, discussed with me his consideration of conferring the Laetare Medal upon Vice-President Joseph Biden and former House Speaker John Boehner, two Catholics who have served in public office for many years, elected officials of different political parties. Father Jenkins made it clear to me that in recognizing Vice-President Biden and Speaker Boehner, Notre Dame would not be endorsing the policy positions of either, but rather, would be honoring them for their public service in politics. I know that this honor is also an attempt to recognize two Catholics from different political parties at a time when our national politics is often mired in acrimonious partisanship. I appreciate Notre Dame's efforts to encourage civility, dialogue, mutual respect and cooperation in political life.

While I understand Notre Dame's intentions in conferring the Laetare Medal upon Vice-President Biden and Speaker Boehner, I disagree with the decision. In dialogue with Father Jenkins about this matter some months ago, I shared with him my concerns with honoring the Vice-President. I believe it is wrong for Notre Dame to honor any "pro-choice" public official with the Laetare Medal, even if he/she has other positive accomplishments in public service, since direct abortion is gravely contrary to the natural law and violates a very fundamental principle of Catholic moral and social teaching: the inalienable right to life of every innocent human being from the moment of conception. I also question the propriety of honoring a public official who was a major spokesman for the redefinition of marriage. The Church has continually urged public officials, especially Catholics, of the grave and clear obligation to oppose any law that supports or facilitates abortion or that undermines the authentic meaning of marriage. I disagree with awarding someone for 'outstanding service to the Church and society' who has not been faithful to this obligation.

I realize that Notre Dame is trying to separate or distinguish the conferral of the Laetare Medal upon the recipients from their positions on public policies. I do not think this is realistically possible or intellectually coherent. To accomplish the goal of promoting cooperation, civility, and dialogue in American politics, I think it would have been better if Notre Dame had invited Vice-President Biden and Speaker Boehner to speak at Notre Dame on this topic rather than bestow an honor that can provoke scandal. My principal concern about this whole matter is scandal. In honoring a "pro-choice" Catholic who also has supported the redefinition of marriage, which the Church considers harmful to the common good

of society, it can give the impression to people, including Catholics in political office, that one can be "a good Catholic" while also supporting or advocating for positions that contradict our fundamental moral and social principles and teachings.

Notre Dame serves the Church and my diocese in many exemplary ways and I strive to serve the community of Notre Dame through my active presence and involvement on campus. For the sake of the unity of the Church and the Church's witness in society, I wish we could overcome disagreements which, at least in the public eye, can overshadow the good collaboration that goes on in other areas of Catholic life and mission.

We need to reflect more deeply on the meaning and significance of the bestowal of honors in relation to the Catholic identity and mission of our institutions. I would encourage Notre Dame and other Catholic colleges and universities to "raise the bar" in considering the granting of honors. I believe a higher standard is needed. There are many important values which we seek to teach, uphold, and live in our Catholic colleges and universities. These are the values we should look for in the lives of those we wish to honor. We should seek to honor those who act to protect human life and dignity from conception to natural death, who respect true marriage and the family, who promote peace, justice, religious freedom, solidarity, the integral development of the poor, the just treatment of immigrants, and care for creation. We should not honor those who may be exemplary in one area but gravely irresponsible in another.

If we honor Catholic politicians or public officials, we should make sure there is a basic consistency between their political decisions and sound Catholic moral and social teaching. We should not honor those who claim to personally accept Church teaching, but act contrary to that teaching in their political choices. We should choose for honors those whose lives and work are exemplary in witnessing to the Gospel and disqualify those who dissent from the truths and values we profess and hold dear. When we do so, when we "raise the bar," so to speak, we not only avoid scandal, but we also have an opportunity to recognize and thank authentic witnesses to the Catholic faith for their fidelity. We also lift them up in a way that may inspire others to imitate their example.

Pope Francis is calling all of us to embrace the challenge of a missionary spirituality. He refers to "a sort of inferiority complex which leads to relativizing or concealing our Christian identity and convictions." He also warns against a "spiritual worldliness that consists in seeking not the Lord's glory but human glory." I think this counsel is also relevant in decisions about conferring honors.

I recommend to all the document of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*. Though it does not directly address the issue of awards to public officials, I believe it gives important principles relevant to this matter and can be a helpful guide in discerning criteria for bestowing honors.



## Public Schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

- Sunday, March 20, 11:30 a.m. — Palm Sunday Mass, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Monday, March 21, 7:30 p.m. — Chrism Mass, Saint Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
- Tuesday, March 22, 7:30 p.m. — Chrism Mass, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, March 24, 7 p.m. — Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, Saint Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
- Thursday, March 24, 11 p.m. — Tenebrae Service, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame
- Friday, March 25, 1 p.m. — Celebration of the Passion of the Lord, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Saturday, March 26, 8:30 p.m. — Easter Vigil of the Holy Night, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne

## Denver archbishop leads 1,800 in procession around Planned Parenthood

DENVER (CNS) — Denver Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila described leading 1,800 Catholics in a Eucharistic procession around Planned Parenthood in Denver as "truly a moment of grace, a moment of blessing."

On the morning of March 5, the procession went seven times around the abortion clinic, essentially surrounding the facility with silent prayer for over an hour.

It was "a moment of praying to our Lord that hearts may be changed," Archbishop Aquila told the Denver Catholic, the archdiocesan newspaper. "It was wonderful to see how many turned out today."

Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains, located in the city's Stapleton area, also is a regional headquarters and includes Planned Parenthood affiliates of Colorado, southern Nevada, New Mexico and Wyoming.

The archbishop announced his intention to lead the procession in mid-February, and the response to the event was overwhelmingly positive, said Karna Swanson, communications director for the archdiocese.

"We set up a simple website with a no-nonsense invitation for people to come and pray with the archbishop, and immediately we were hearing from people just thanking the archbishop for doing this," Swanson said.

In describing the event, the Archdiocese of Denver website stated: "No shouting or arguing. Only prayerful witness to the love and mercy of God."

According to the Denver Catholic, the archdiocesan liturgy office set the tone for the event to ensure the sacred nature of the Eucharistic procession. It organized the logistics of the transferring the Eucharist to the site and provided prayer books for those in attendance.

Before the procession began, Father Scott Bailey, who is secretary to Archbishop Aquila, addressed the crowd and emphasized the importance of silence. "Silence is an essential part of the procession as we unite our voices with those who have been



CNS photo/Andrew Wright, Denver Catholic  
**Denver Archbishop Samuel J. Aquila leads 1,800 Catholics in a eucharistic procession around Planned Parenthood in Denver March 5.**

silenced by abortion," he said.

Seminarians from St. John Vianney Theological Seminary led participants in hymns and prayers each time the procession passed around the building. They also assisted with crowd management.

"We were honestly expecting 500 to 800 people," Swanson told the Denver Catholic. "Three times that number showed up. This provided a bit of a challenge for us logistically, as 1,800 people don't exactly fit on the sidewalk of a city block."

"We wanted to make sure everyone who wanted to participate could, but we also didn't want to give any reason for the police department to shut the event down."

Though the procession spilled out into the street, local off-duty police officers were there to make sure it didn't impede traffic or prevent cars from entering or leaving the facility.

Swanson described "wonderful teamwork on the ground" with the seminarians, members of a cycling group, police officers and participants.

# Holy Year brings more to confessionals in St. Peter's Basilica

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The number of people going to confession in St. Peter's Basilica increased noticeably in the first months of Year of Mercy, but not among English-speakers, who apparently are staying away from Europe out of fear of terrorism, said the rector of the basilica's team of confessors.

Conventual Franciscan Father Rocco Rizzo, the rector, told the Vatican newspaper that from the opening of the Holy Year Dec. 8 and through February, he heard about 2,000 confessions in St. Peter's.

But, he said, "we are noticing that the majority of penitents are Italian. I think that is due to the alarm over terrorist attacks" following the series of attacks in Paris in November. "This is why the English-language priests have fewer confessions this year."

In an interview published in the March 10 edition of *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper, Father Rizzo said that in addition to the 14 Conventual Franciscans assigned full time to the confessionals in St. Peter's Basilica, another 30 of their confreres are supplementing their work during the Holy Year.

The Conventual Franciscans hear confessions every day from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3:30-6:30 p.m. in the winter; they stay until 7 p.m. in the spring and summer. In addition to Italian, Spanish, English, French, German, Portuguese and Polish,



CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano via Reuters  
**Pope Francis hears confession from a man during a penitential liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican in this March 28, 2014, file photo.**

confessors can offer the sacrament in a variety of languages, including Maltese, Chinese and Croatian.

Father Rizzo said he usually hears 20-30 confessions a day

in Italian or Spanish, but the number of penitents increases on Saturdays and Sundays, and he will offer the sacrament to at least 50 people each day on the weekend.

Another phenomenon that is increasing, he said, is people coming to the confessionals who are not Catholic. "They want to confess to see what it is about," he said. While confessors can listen to and counsel non-Catholics, it is not considered a sacramental confession in most cases.

Even Catholics visiting St. Peter's Basilica as tourists or even pilgrims may not be very familiar with the sacrament, Father Rizzo said. Many young people will say they have not been to confession since they made their first Communion, and it is not usual for someone to come and say it has been 30 years since they last confessed.

"I have had people come who listened to the words of the pope and then remembered that 30 or 40 years ago they committed a serious sin and they now feel the need to reconcile with the Lord," he said. "In particular, women have come to me who have had an abortion, and they carry with

them this open wound that never heals. Even if they already have confessed the sin, they want to re-confess it."

For the Year of Mercy, Father Rizzo and the other priests who hear confessions at St. Peter's and the major basilicas of Rome have been given special faculties to extend absolution even in cases like abortion that normally require consultation with the local bishop or even with the Vatican.

Another Year of Mercy change, he said, is in the penance given to those coming to confession. Increasingly the priests in the basilica will ask someone to show their repentance not by reciting a set number of prayers, but through a work of mercy, "like visiting someone who is sick, doing the shopping for an older person, paying a bill for someone who is lacking money" or helping someone get to church.

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# Protection for unborn, low income persons and improvements in school choice among ICC's legislative successes

INDIANAPOLIS — As Hoosier lawmakers completed their legislative business March 10, the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) succeeded in making strides toward adding new protections for the unborn, assisting low income persons, and improving certain aspects of the state's school choice program.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the ICC, said, "It was a good session; we had some positive things move forward and we were able to avert some negative things from happening. I'm really pleased with the way things turned out. It was a positive session."

Tebbe said, "We made some positive strides to protect the unborn and upholding the sanctity of life. We also were able to correct an area where the abortion industry has been skirting regulations with regard to hav-

ing a back-up doctor available in hospitals for follow-up care."

Supported by the ICC, House Bill 1337, authored by Rep. Casey Cox, R-Fort Wayne passed the final week of the Indiana General Assembly. Cox described the bill as a "human rights cause" for the unborn. Cox said it gives protection to fetuses that are "most vulnerable."

The measure prohibits a woman from getting an abortion if her decision is based solely on the sex, race, or disability of the fetus. The bill also places restrictions on how fetal remains are to be handled. The proposal requires fetal remains either from an abortion or a miscarriage to be interred or cremated rather than treated as medical waste. Concerns on the handling of fetal remains erupted nationwide when unethical practices by Planned Parenthood were cap-

## INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BRIGID CURTIS AYER

tured on video by the Center for Medical Progress and released to the public.

The ICC also supported and worked toward improving the school choice program. A bill to improve access and streamline administration of the school choice program passed. The proposal, originally in Senate Bill 334, authored by Sen. Carlin Yoder, R-Middlebury, but added to House Bill 1005, includes a second opportunity to access a Choice Scholarship during the

school year. The bill also reduces the endorsement signature requirement from multiple times per year, to a single annual endorsement on the scholarship checks.

"Simply put, the bill provides the ability for children to receive a voucher for the spring semester of school," said Yoder. "Under current law, students have to receive the voucher in the fall and if anyone wants to attend a nonpublic school at any other time during that school year, they are stuck waiting until the next school year."

Tebbe said, "More families can take advantage of school choice with the extended deadlines for applications, and the bill also reduces the administrative burden for school staff and the families by eliminating some of the multiple signatures during a single school year."

Low income individuals were helped this session by an expansion of a special savings account called an Individual Development Account (IDA). The measure, authored by Sen. Mark Messmer, R-Jasper, aims to improve the state's IDA program by ensuring more individuals can take advantage of this resource by increasing the maximum income eligibility from 175 percent to 200 percent of the federal income poverty level guidelines. For a family of four the income eligibility for IDAs would be up to \$48,600 annually. "Every dollar saved, the IDA participants get a three dollar match on their deposit up to \$900 per year," said Messmer.

Currently under the program, IDA savers can receive financial management support including financial literacy courses and assistance in planning for a business, attaining higher education or buying a home. The IDA bill allows participants to use IDA funds to purchase a vehicle when used as transportation to adult or secondary educational opportunities. Tebbe said, "The IDA expansion will help more low income Hoosiers to work toward becoming self-sufficient by giving them the tools to save more income with a state match." The ICC was instrumental in getting the original IDA legislation passed in 1997, when the program was created for low income Hoosiers.

Low income persons also were protected from exploitation by the failure of a payday lending bill expansion. House Bill 1340 would have allowed expansion of the industry to lend installment loans up to \$1,000 and at an increased annual percentage rate (APR) of up to 180 percent. Lawmakers rejected the expansion, but agreed to create a summer study panel to look into alternative lending options for low income Hoosiers. Tebbe said, "We kept payday lending legislation from expanding in such a way that would have harmed low income individuals, and we supported the study of the industry in the summer study committee. We are hopeful the summer panel will offer positive lending alternatives for low income Hoosiers."

### Most Precious Blood Church

#### EASTER TRIDUUM

THURSDAY 7:00 PM MASS OF THE LORD'S SUPPER  
(ADORATION AFTER MASS UNTIL 10:00 PM)

FRIDAY - 1:30 PM GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY & COMMUNION

SATURDAY - 9:00 PM EASTER VIGIL MASS

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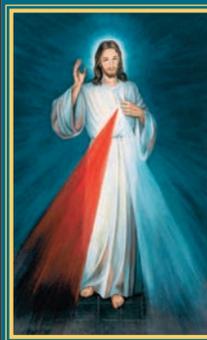
Saturday, March 19, 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, March 20, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Information on registration for 2016-17 available



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# NEWS BRIEFS

## Daughters of St. Paul launch novena to tie into 'The Young Messiah'

BOSTON (CNS) — The Daughters of St. Paul have launched a "Cinema Novena" as an online prayer companion to the just-released film "The Young Messiah" and "to draw audiences deeper to the Holy Family," said an announcement from the Boston-based religious community. Beginning March 11, the online novena of prayer goes until March 19, the feast of St. Joseph. Each day, the online novena will include a film clip from "The Young Messiah," a corresponding question for reflection/meditation and a prayer to the Holy Family. The studio has released nine clips on various themes related to the Holy Family as depicted in the film. Individuals who want to participate in the "Cinema Novena" can register at <http://lightalongtheway.com/youngmessiah>. Families, religious education classes, adult faith formation classes, parishes, schools, clergy and religious also are invited to join in the novena. The novena is using the hashtags #CinemaNovena, #TheYoungMessiah and #HolyFamilyPrayForUS.

## Sainthood cause of Argentine cardinal moves forward

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The sainthood cause of Argentine Cardinal Eduardo Francisco Pironio, who organized the first World Youth Days as president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, has been forwarded to the Vatican. Cardinal Agostino Vallini, papal vicar for Rome, formally closed the diocesan phase of the sainthood process March 11. The cause now advances to the Congregation for Saints' Causes. Born in Argentina in 1920, Blessed Paul VI named him auxiliary bishop of La Plata in 1964 and bishop of Mar del Plata in 1972. He served as secretary general of CELAM, the Latin American bishops' council, from 1968 to 1972 and as president of the council from 1972 to 1975. Blessed Paul VI brought him to Rome in 1976 as prefect of the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life. St. John Paul named him president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity in 1984; at the council, he played a key role in establishing the World Youth Day celebrations. Cardinal Pironio was a close friend of Pope Francis during his time as Jesuit provincial of Argentina. In a 2008 interview, then-Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio recalled Cardinal Pironio's humility in the face of persecution and calumny, even before his death to bone cancer in 1998.

## Auschwitz sets tour dates for World Youth Day pilgrims



CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec

Visitors look over displays of photographs of concentration camp prisoners outside the Auschwitz-Birkenau Memorial and State Museum in Oswiecim, Poland, Sept. 4. The Auschwitz memorial and museum is setting aside days exclusively for World Youth Day pilgrims who want to tour the former Nazi death camp.

OSWIECIM, Poland (CNS) — The Auschwitz memorial and museum is setting aside days exclusively for World Youth Day pilgrims who want to tour the former Nazi death camp. The museum has set aside July 20-28 and Aug. 1-3 for participants in World Youth Day, which runs July 26-31 in Krakow, about one-and-a-half hours away. World Youth

Day officials set aside 300,000 spots and asked participants to register for the dates. In early March, they said about 57,000 spots remained. Participants who wish to visit the museum on the designated days must register at <http://mlodzi.duszpasterstwa.bielsko.pl/auschwitz>. A record 1.72 million people visited the Auschwitz memorial and muse-

um in 2015. It was the largest group ever to tour the former Nazi death camp in any given year. The largest number of visitors came from Poland, 425,000; the United Kingdom, 220,000; and the United States, 141,000. Young people made up the majority of visitors, according to the museum's annual report.

## West Virginia Legislature overrides governor's veto on abortion bill

WHEELING, W.Va. (CNS) — West Virginia has become the third state to outlaw second-trimester dismemberment abortion after the state Legislature voted March 10 to override Gov. Earl Ray Tomblin's veto of the Unborn Child Protection from Dismemberment Abortion Act. "The West Virginia Legislature and the pro-life people in our state have been very strong in showing their support for the protection of human life," Bishop Michael J. Bransfield of Wheeling-Charleston said in a statement. "I commend all those who have worked so hard not only in the passing of this bill, but to override the governor's veto as well," he said. Tomblin vetoed the bill March 9. The next day, the House of Delegates voted 85-15 to override the veto and the Senate voted 25-9. If the law is unchallenged, the ban will go into effect in May. The bill outlaws a

form of second-trimester abortion that "dismember(s) a living unborn child and extract(s) him or her one piece at a time from the uterus."

## Catholic school students get chance to talk to astronaut on space station

RUTLAND, Vt. (CNS) — Students at Christ the King School in Rutland got a firsthand experience of the vastness of God's creation and the work of astronauts aboard the International Space Station as Astronaut Timothy L. Kopra and other crew members orbited the Earth over Australia, traveling at 17,500 miles per hour. Thanks to amateur radio operators — and the school's science education specialist — they were the first students in Vermont to speak with an astronaut on the space station. "God's creation is ongoing. You never know when it's going to stop," eighth-grader Sophia Tedesco said, commenting

on the thrill of speaking directly to Kopra, a mission specialist/flight engineer. She was one of 10 students who asked the astronaut prepared questions during a recent assembly of all students at the school, which is pre-kindergarten to eighth grade. The students stood on the stage and read their questions into a microphone, and the sound was transmitted by landline telephone to a conference call with an amateur radio operator in Sweden and one in Australia. The man in Sweden was the moderator for the session, and the Australian used his radio to connect the students to the space station as it passed more than 200 miles above that continent.

## With drought, Ethiopian church feeds kids to keep them in school

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — Feeding children to prevent them dropping out of school is a

priority for the church in Ethiopia, which is experiencing its worst drought in about 50 years, a church worker said. "Children don't go to school if they have empty stomachs," Argaw Fantu, regional director for the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, told Catholic News Service March 11 in a telephone interview from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia's capital. "We have limited resources and so we have had to focus on the northern parts of the country" where the effects of the drought are worst, "but we heard yesterday of a school in the southern diocese of Hosanna where 236 of its 552 pupils have dropped out because of hunger," Fantu said. More than 10 million people of Ethiopia's population of around 100 million require emergency humanitarian food assistance because of the El Nino-driven drought. With more than 83 percent of Ethiopians living in rural areas, where most rely on rain-fed agriculture, "the bulk of our assistance is to people in rural areas," said Matt Davis, Catholic Relief Services' representative in Ethiopia.

## Challenging questions can be sign of faith, preacher tells pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At the end of a Lenten retreat focused on questions in the Gospels, Servite Father Ermes Ronchi told Pope Francis and senior members of the Roman Curia that it is tempting to bristle when the faithful ask challenging questions, but he is certain it is a sign of how seriously they take the faith. "It gives me hope to see how, among the people of God, questions continue to grow and no one is content with the same old answers," Father Ronchi told the retreatants March 11 during his last talk before the pope and Curia members returned to the Vatican. "When everyone silently accepted the word of a priest, was it a time of greater faith?" he asked. "I think the opposite is true and even if this means more work for us, it is also an 'alleluia,' a 'finally.'" Mary's question — "How can this be?" — in response to the Annunciation was Father Ronchi's focus for the final meditation at the March 6-11 retreat at a center run by the Pauline Fathers in Ariccia, 20 miles southeast of Rome. While the retreat was private, Vatican Radio and *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper, provided coverage of Father Ronchi's talks. "Being perplexed, asking questions is a way of standing before the Lord with all of one's human dignity," the Servite said. Like Mary, "I accept the mystery, but at the same time I use my intelligence."

## Kroger donates to Bishop Luers Capital Campaign

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne has received a \$5,000 donation from Kroger towards Phase II of the school's capital campaign, "Faith in Our Future."

Phase II includes building a new chapel, a new performing arts assembly hall, media center and complete improvements to the school infrastructure.

For more information about our capital campaign, visit [www.BishopLuers.org/campaign](http://www.BishopLuers.org/campaign).

## Center of Liturgy to host Merton lecture

NOTRE DAME — The Notre Dame Center of Liturgy will host the lecture, "The Mystical Fire of Christ's Charity: Thomas Merton on the Mass," by Gregory K. Hillis, Ph.D., associate professor of theology, Bellarmine University. This event will take place on Thursday, March 31, 7-8 p.m. in 140 De Bartolo Hall, the University of Notre Dame. This lecture is free and open to the public.

## St. Vincent to offer 'Tenebrae'

FORT WAYNE — St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, will offer "Tenebrae" — a musical meditation on the seven "last words" of Christ on the cross — at the church located at 1502 E. Wallen Rd. on Good Friday, March 25, at 8:30 p.m. Tenebrae is the Latin word for "darkness." The gradual extinguishing of all candles in the church symbolizes the temporary triumph of the prince of darkness over the Light of the World. The loud noise, or strepitus, at the conclusion of the service suggests the earthquake described in the Passion narratives. The single candle left burning, the Paschal candle, is the symbol and promise of Christ's triumph over death and darkness.

## Carter Snead named to Pontifical Academy for Life

NOTRE DAME — Carter Snead, William P. and Hazel B. White Director of the University of Notre Dame's Center for Ethics and Culture and professor of law, has been appointed to the Pontifical Academy for Life, the pope's principal advisory group on the promotion of the consistent ethic of life in the Catholic Church.

Founded in 1994 by Pope John Paul II, the academy meets annually, holds conferences, publishes reports and collaborates with partners in the Vatican Curia and worldwide.

"I am honored and humbled to serve the Holy Father and the Church as it continues its efforts to defend and bear witness to the

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Scouts and Knights join for 'The Footsteps of Saints'



Provided by Laura Ray

The LaSalle Council Boy Scouts take their duty to God very seriously. On March 11, the scouts had the opportunity to earn achievements related to their faith. They participated in the program "The Footsteps of Saints." The scouts and their families celebrated Mass followed by a simple Lenten dinner with the choice of Knights of Columbus fish or cheese pizza at St. Matthew Cathedral. The special talk given to the scouts was a lesson on the life of Father Michael McGivney, the founder of the Knights of Columbus and the work of the Knights within the Catholic Church.

inalienable dignity of every member of the human family, born and unborn," Snead said.

"We are thrilled Carter Snead, and, by extension, Notre Dame, has been given this opportunity to serve the Church in our efforts to build a culture of life worldwide," said University president Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins.

Snead traveled to Rome in March for the academy's annual assembly, where he met Pope Francis in a private audience.

"This is a wonderful honor and a powerful example of Notre Dame's continued service to the Church both locally, nationally and at the Vatican," said Holy Cross Father William M. Lies, Notre Dame's vice president for mission engagement and Church affairs.

The academy's 110 members are drawn from all over the world and from a wide variety of academic fields, including medicine, science, law, public policy, philosophy and theology. Snead, one of 12 Americans in the academy, is the second Notre Dame faculty member to be appointed, joining John M. Finnis, Biolchini Family Professor of Law, who was appointed in 2001.

## Former Catholic Rural Life head gets posthumous award

MINNEAPOLIS (CNS) — The late Brother David Andrews, a Holy Cross brother who served 12 years as head of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, was posthumously given the National Farmers Union's highest honor during its March 4-7 convention in Minneapolis.

Brother Andrews received the Meritorious Service Award, the highest honor the organization's board of directors can bestow on an individual. It is conferred upon those who have made particularly noteworthy contributions to agriculture, humanity and the National Farmers Union at the state and national levels.

Brother Andrews conceived of the "Eating Is a Moral Act" campaign of the rural life conference, now known as Catholic Rural Life. "I think I've achieved a lot of the goals I've set for myself in the National Catholic Rural Life Conference," he told Catholic News Service in a 2007 interview as his tenure neared an end. "The NCRLC

got put back on the map, nationally as well as internationally. We have a fully professional staff."

After his time with Catholic Rural Life, Brother Andrews served as a senior representative for Food and Water Watch, which advocates for contaminant-free waterways, food production and distribution systems. Health issues forced his retirement in 2014. He died in January of the following year.

A 2008 study on industrial farming practices that Brother Andrews co-wrote with Tim Kautza, then a science and environmental education specialist with Catholic Rural Life, said, "What began with a pursuit of efficiency to improve production for all farms has unintentionally resulted in a decline in economic freedom for them and an imbalance of economic power favoring dominant firms within the industry, rather than individual producers."

It added: "It is clear that industrialized animal production has adverse impacts on rural communities. The consolidation of the nation's animal agriculture has led to a more concentrated, industrialized model, which has

had dramatic and increasingly problematic impacts on rural communities and the traditional farm."

"Through his work, he was actively involved in protecting small-scale farmers by advocating for stronger enforcement of antitrust regulations," the National Farmers Union said in a statement announcing the award. "Brother Andrews served also as a senior adviser to (Maryknoll Father) Miguel D'Escoto, president of the 63rd General Assembly of the United Nations, and met with Vatican leaders to address world hunger and humanity issues."

## Empowered to Connect conference planned

SOUTH BEND — The Empowered to Connect Conference is a two day web simulcast designed to help adoptive and foster parents, ministry leaders, churches, and professionals better understand how to connect with "children from hard places" in order to help them heal and become all that God desires for them to be. This conference is ideal for adoptive and foster parents, those considering adoption or foster care and those who are serving and supporting others. This includes social workers, agency professionals, church staff and ministry leaders, counselors, therapists and others.

St. Joseph Parish will be hosting the conference April 8-9, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in Founder's Hall in the Ackles Parish Life Center at 711 E. Colfax Ave.,

The conference costs \$25 with checks made payable to St. Joseph Parish. Coffee and light refreshments will be available; participants will be responsible for lunch on their own each day.

Register online at [stjoeparish.com](http://stjoeparish.com) or the parish office at 574-234-3134. Contact Janel Charlton at [janel.l.charlton@gmail.com](mailto:janel.l.charlton@gmail.com) or Erin Seeley at [eseeley@stjoeparish.com](mailto:eseeley@stjoeparish.com) for information.

## USF School of Creative Arts offering summer music and arts programs

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis School of Creative Arts is hosting a chamber music academy July 18-22 for high school students in grades 9-12 at the USF North Campus, 2702 Spring St. Classes run 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. and an awards ceremony will be held July 22.

Children in grades 1-8 can also learn several art skills through the program "Art in the Morning," from July 5 through July 22 from 9 to 11:30 a.m. at the Mimi and Ian Rolland Art and Visual Communication Center

The cost is \$125 for each child and includes all materials and instructional fees. For a registration form or further information, contact the USF School of Creative Arts at 260-399-7700, ext. 8001.

## Making room for ecological conversion this Lent

BY DAVID GIBSON

The world's vast deserts enjoy a reputation as arid, harsh, inhospitable places. Nonetheless, millions of people rather happily inhabit desert regions.

Still, a familiar image from the annals of literature and films quickly comes to mind when the word "desert" is heard. It is an image of fearsome places where a person might well become hopelessly lost and where thirst and sandstorms prevail.

Increasing the size of our geographical deserts is no one's goal, I suppose. But it is the increasing size of deserts of another kind that has concerned recent popes. These deserts mirror the arid, dry qualities of the planet's geographical deserts, and they represent a major concern in Lent.

They are called "internal deserts." They stake out claims within people's lives, proving harmful to them and expanding their reach into the surrounding world.

That is why Pope Francis expresses concern about them in "Laudato Si'," his 2015 encyclical on the environment. "The external deserts in the world are growing because the internal deserts have become so vast," the encyclical states, quoting Pope Benedict XVI.

In his 2005 inaugural homily, Pope Benedict said that because internal deserts "have become so vast," the vast treasures of the earth "no longer serve to build God's garden for all to live in but they have been made to serve the powers of exploitation and destruction."

Pope Francis fears that "violence present" in human hearts gives rise to "the symptoms of sickness evident in the soil, in the water, in the air and in all forms of life." With his encyclical, he hopes to motivate Christians to "a more passionate concern for the protection of our world."

He strikingly affirms that "living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential

to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience."

Does it sound strange to hear care for the environment described that way, as a key concern for Christians? Cardinal Peter Turkson, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, discussed this in a Jan. 27 speech prepared for the International Eucharistic Congress in Cebu, Philippines.

The sacraments are central in the life of the church. But central to the celebration of the sacraments are the good things of the earth, Cardinal Turkson pointed out. He said, "A premise of the celebration of sacramental liturgy is that we use the good things from this earth to worship God."

Among these good things are the bread and wine brought to the altar for every Eucharistic celebration. "Every time we take bread and wine in the act of doing the Eucharist we articulate the theology of the goodness of creation," the cardinal remarked.

In fact, he indicated, "God's goodness is the source of the things of this earth used in liturgy." Moreover, "through sacramental liturgy human persons put their lives and the world itself into proper perspective."

A proper perspective on the world for Pope Francis reveals that believers "do not look at the world from without but from within." This perspective encompasses an awareness "of the bonds with which the Father has linked us to all beings," the encyclical emphasizes.

Bearing in mind the internal deserts that inhabit and inhibit the lives of individuals and communities, Pope Francis concludes in "Laudato Si'" that the contemporary "ecological crisis" also delivers "a summons to profound interior conversion."

For Pope Francis, the earth itself today "is among the most abandoned and maltreated of our poor." His firm wish is that "an ecological conversion can inspire us to greater creativity and enthusiasm in resolving the world's problems."



CNS photo/Narendra Shestha, EPA

**A Nepalese youth hugs a tree while celebrating World Environment Day in 2014 at the forest of Gokarna in Nepal. As we journey through Lent, we can contemplate ways of being better disciples of the Lord, and that means contemplating conversion — in our habits and hearts — that can help us care for our common home.**

## Bishop Dwenger High School wins Regional Science Olympiad

FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Dwenger High School Science Olympiad team recently competed at regionals and took home the first-place trophy. The team earned medals in 23 of the 26 events, and had nine first-place finishes. Bishop Dwenger Science Olympiad is in its fifth year. This is the first year they have won regionals, and the third consecutive year they have qualified for the state tournament. The team starts preparing in early September by doing research for their events and by designing and building devices such as bridges, airplanes and robotic arms.

Students earning awards include: second-place aerial scrambler — Ben Howe, Zach Hensler; first-place air trajectory — Nikki Gloudemans, Claire Roberts with Ben Howe (build and design crew); first-place astronomy — Jake Gloudemans, Kyle Weingartner; third-place anatomy and physiology — Ryan McArdle, Nick Thelen; first-place bridge building — Max DiFilippo, Patrick Morr; second-place cell biology — Sam Fair, Ryan McArdle; second-place chem lab — Max DiFilippo, Kevin LaMaster; first-place disease detectives — Sam Fair, Nikki Gloudemans with Abby Brelage, Korinne Ellert (support crew); second-place dynamic planet — Nick Thelen, Mike Voors; first-place electric vehicle — Adam and Patrick Morr; third-place environmen-



Provided by Cheryl DiFilippo

**Pictured front row from left are team members Nicole Gloudemans, Abby Brelage, Jacob Gloudemans, Max DiFilippo, Patrick Morr, Sam Fair, Kevin LaMaster, Chino Eke, Zach Hensler; Back row from left are Laura Carroll, Korinne Ellert, Claire Roberts, Gabe Nicholson, Mike Voors, Nick Thelen, Ryan McArdle, Megan Brelage, Ben Howe, Kyle Weingartner and Adam Morr.**

tal chemistry — Max DiFilippo, Chino Eke; second-place forensics — Laura Carroll, Nick Thelen; fourth-place fossils — Sam Fair, Gabe Nicholson with Megan Brelage (binder crew); third-place game on — Gabe Nicholson, Kyle Weingartner; second-place geologic mapping — Max DiFilippo, Nick Thelen; first-place hydrogeology — Nikki Gloudemans, Claire Roberts; second-place invasive species — Megan Brelage, Mike Voors; whole team (binder crew); first-

place it's about time — Megan Brelage, Jake Gloudemans; first-place protein modeling — Jake Gloudemans, Kevin LaMaster, Ryan McArdle; first-place robot arm — Jake Gloudemans, Kyle Weingartner; second-place wind power — Megan Brelage, Claire Roberts with Abby Brelage, Nikki Gloudemans (support crew); third-place wright stuff — Adam Morr, Gabe Nicholson; and 5th place write it do it — Laura Carroll and Mike Voors.

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# Via Dolorosa



**St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Angola celebrates the Via Dolorosa every year. This year it will be at 3 p.m. at the church, 700 W. Maumee St. The event is produced by Hispanic parishioners and presented in English and Spanish.**



**Parishioners of all ages participate in the Via Dolorosa**



Photos provided by Marilyn Karpinski

**The Via Dolorosa helps remind participants and attendees of God's great mercy.**

## ***Fechas y Horarios para el Vía Crucis en nuestra Diócesis***

### **Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Warsaw**

Via Crucis: This community for a few years changed their representation of Via Dolorosa. Each station is represented by a parish family. This service will begin at 6 p.m., following the Liturgy of the Word of the Lord's Passion at 5 p.m. *Via Crucis por familia comienza 6 p.m.*

### **Our Lady of Hungary, South Bend**

Our Lady of Hungary Parish will do the Via Dolorosa on March 20, Palm Sunday after the 1:30 p.m. Mass. The Via Crucis will commence outside the church processing throughout the neighborhood. On Good Friday a Via Crucis will be inside the church at 7 p.m. Both services will be in Spanish.

### **St. Adalbert, South Bend**

Via Crucis outdoors at 2 p.m. on March 20, Palm Sunday following the 1 p.m. Mass. *El Via Crucis viviente se llevara a cabo a las 2 p.m. comenzando afuera de la Iglesia en procesión hasta el Parque LaSalle. Recomendamos zapatos cómodos.*

Participants will walk to LaSalle Park representing the Via Crucis along the way. (This is a 2 1/2 to 3 hour Via Crucis — wear comfortable shoes.)

### **St. John, Goshen**

The Lord's Passion with Via Crucis will be on Good Friday at 6 p.m. inside the church. *Habrà una combinación de la Pasión de Cristo y el Vía Crucis, 6 p.m.*

### **St. Joseph, LaGrange**

The Via Dolorosa will take place outside (weather permitting) on Good Friday at noon. *El Vía Crucis-Viernes Santo en español 12 p.m. del mediodía.*

### **St. Michael, Plymouth**

St. Michael's Via Crucis will be on Good Friday in the school gymnasium at 2 p.m.

### **St. Patrick, Fort Wayne**

The Via Crucis is on Good Friday at 11:30 a.m. and Liturgy of the Word and Adoration of the Cross at 2 p.m. *El Vía Crucis es Viernes Santo a las 11:30 a.m. y la Liturgia de la Palabra y Adoración de la Cruz es a las 2 p.m.*

### **St. Patrick, Ligonier**

Via Crucis will be outside on Good Friday at 4 p.m. followed by the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion inside.

### **St. Robert Bellarmine, North Manchester**

Parishioners will process from the church starting at 1 p.m. for the stations, rosary and songs. Liturgy in the church will be at 3 p.m. on Good Friday and Stations of the Cross at 6:30 p.m. Bilingual pamphlets are provided and the participants pray in their preferred language.

### **St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart**

Via Crucis will be on Good Friday outside beginning on S. Main St. at 4 p.m. Service of the Lord's Passion follows. *El Vía Crucis se llevará a cabo afuera, y luego dentro de la Iglesia será la Liturgia de la Palabra en español.*

### **St. Anthony of Padua, Angola**

A live passion play will be presented at 3 p.m. on Good Friday on the parish grounds. The performance will be presented in Spanish and English.

## VIA

Continued from Page 1

Attendees are invited to draw closer to Jesus and reach out to him through our Lenten suffering in the words of the thief on the cross, "Jesus, remember me when You come into your kingdom." "*Jesús, recuérdame cuando entres a Tu reino.*" Some events also take place on the streets near the parish so that the message can be visible to the general public.

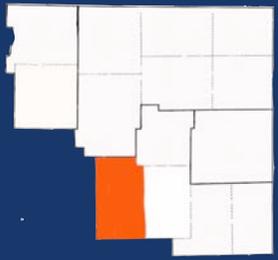
In an article from *Vistas Spring 2016* a Boston College resource, Professor Timothy Matovina from the University of Notre Dame wrote, "Hispanics have deep devotion to Jesus and to His Eucharistic presence." Professor Matovina goes on to share, "Most popular Hispanic traditions center on key moments in the life of Jesus."

This is demonstrated through the long hours and weeks of preparation for Via Dolorosa that are employed by the organizers and actors to reverently remind attendees of the sacrifice Jesus Christ offered for the salvation of souls. It is also seen in the

overwhelmingly large numbers of persons who will attend the Good Friday and Via Dolorosa services, even if they do not attend Mass regularly.

Catholics are invited to immerse themselves into the Via Dolorosa experience at a nearby parish.

**Contributors to this story include** Lourdes E. Silva, Office for Hispanic Ministry, Stephanie A. Patka, Diana Mejia, Karen Carisosa, Sofia Cavazos, Lucia Ordoñez, Father J. Steele, CSC, María Figueroa, Ana Ponce, Linda Ramirez, Marie Hardy and Evelyn Mendoza.



# In MY diocese

Wabash County

## St. Robert bustles with activity and growth

BY TIM JOHNSON

**NORTH MANCHESTER** — Nestled on the eastern outskirts of North Manchester in northern Wabash County is the bustling parish of St. Robert Bellarmine. Hammers, saws and the sounds of construction can be heard daily as a new parish center and gathering space is being built to the northwest of the church.

Father Andrew Curry is the pastor of St. Robert's. The pastor of St. Robert's has another important ministry for pastoral care of the Catholic students at Manchester University, a Church of the Brethren school, but with a sizeable Catholic population.

Relating to the perspective of Pope Francis, "it really is kind of a parish on the peripheries," said Father Curry. "It's not a parish that people run across or hear about."

A small community of Catholics started St. Robert just over 50 years ago. The origins of the church were in a North Manchester storefront.

"It is a parish made up of some farmers, business owners, workers, and university teachers and college students," described Father Curry. "And now we are starting Hispanic ministry as well." Many of the Hispanic parishioners are employed in agriculture.

Father Curry, who spent the summer weeks last year in Guatemala, was immersed into

a Spanish language program. That has been beneficial for Father Curry and the growing Hispanic community of the church. The parish has two Sunday Masses in English and two Masses in Spanish.

The religious education program has grown from 15 students to about 50 with the Hispanic population.

The two communities come together for events such as the Irish Fest, a Wine and Cheese Night, which recently included a talk on the origin of Scriptures by Jacob Alles, and Friday Night Soccer and Food.

St. Robert is a small parish with 125 families, "but when you look at what we are doing, you realize there is a lot going on," Father Curry said.

At nearby Manchester University, the Manchester Catholics meet on Thursday nights for song, "Lectio Divina" and discussion. Building faith households is also in the process. Instead of creating just one large group, "you encourage them to look at who their friends are and form their own Catholic group based on the Catholic friends they already know with some weekly commitments such as a meal together, coming to read the Gospel from that Sunday together, and some sort of Catholic devotion-al." Once a month, the households would gather at St. Robert and participate in a Sunday



Tim Johnson

**St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in North Manchester is under construction with the addition of a gathering space and community hall.**

Mass and get involved.

Parish ministries include the Knights of Columbus, which is in the process of becoming its own council, Wednesday night Bible study, Wednesday night Hispanic dinner and presentations, a Communion-to-the-homebound team, religious education and a growing music program.

Father Curry is also active in the renewal of Cursillo in the diocese and making it a viable option in the New Evangelization. Cursillo involves a transformative weekend and then forms the retreatants into ongoing friendship groups. Cursillistas get together to pray and hold each other accountable to praying, studying the faith and putting it into action in their daily life.



Father Andrew Curry

**Members of the Manchester Catholics from nearby Manchester University gather on Thursday nights for song, "Lectio Divina" and discussion.**



Father Andrew Curry

**Members of St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in North Manchester gather for a dinner at a parish function.**

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# St. Bernard Parish: A true faith community

BY KAY COZAD

WABASH — St. Bernard Parish and School sit securely in the middle of Wabash County in a southern corner of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend serving the city of Wabash and surrounding area. Father Sextus Don, pastor there, shepherds a congregation of close to 280 families, with 83 students in St. Bernard School in grades pre-school through grade 6.

With nearly 15 years as pastor at St. Bernard, Father Don says, "St. Bernard Parish is very welcoming and friendly. The congregation participates fully in the liturgy especially in the singing." And though the church community is small in number, the ministries at St. Bernard abound.

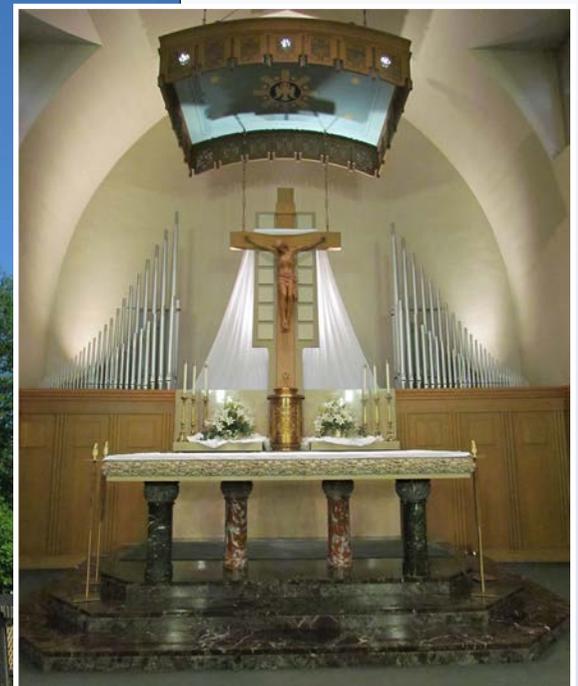
Parishioners rally together to serve as extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist at Mass and for the homebound, lectors, ushers, altar servers, gift bearers, as well as in the choir and as cantors. St. Bernard's RCIA and religious education programs provide formation for the faithful in Wabash. Several women of the parish meet monthly to pray and make shawls and blankets, which are called "Mantle of Mary" for the sick and homebound. The Knights of Columbus have a firm presence in the community in their fundraising to charitable organizations.

And the service of the faithful at St. Bernard doesn't end at the church. Outreach to the community involves service to local organizations such as Meals on Wheels, local food pantries, LIFE Center which supports women facing crisis pregnancies, Helping Hands Thrift Store and Soup Kitchen, Respect Life marches, and many other events that call for ministry response is prominent.

St. Bernard School first opened in 1922 with 40 students in six grades on the first floor of the old church. Six full-time teachers and aids under



St. Bernard Parish in Wabash. Shown at right is the sanctuary of St. Bernard Church.



the administrative leadership of Principal Theresa Carroll now house it in the current school building where 83 students are educated. St. Bernard School has been rated a "four star school" by the State of Indiana.

Father Don says of the importance of the school in the Wabash area, "As we are a small church community, maintaining an elementary school is very challenging. However, the parish

is very generous in supporting the school and other local charities." He adds, "I am a priest in the Silesians of St. John Bosco, a religious order dedicated to the service of children. Therefore, my greatest joy in being pastor is celebrating Mass with the school children on Tuesday and Thursday mornings." Ann Unger, devoted secretary at St. Bernard says, "Father's love of children is clearly evident in the way he produces suckers for children magically from his vestment after Mass is over."

One current parishioner of St. Bernard Parish is Robert C. Martin, or Bob as his friends know him. Having grown up in

Wabash, Martin recalls being part of the wonderful parish community of St. Bernard during his boyhood. He attended St. Bernard School and was baptized, confirmed and served as an altar server in "the old church." He and his beloved wife, Mary were married by Father Leo Hofmann in that old

church in 1951 before they were off to lands abroad on their new life adventure. Sixty-five years later they returned to their home parish to live their later years among family and friends.

Each Sunday between Masses, the Knights of Columbus offer doughnuts, coffee, milk, juice and hot chocolate before CCD and Adult Education classes begin.



Shown is Michelle Story's fourth- and fifth-grade class at St. Bernard School taken January 2016.

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Marie Hardy  
Parishioner  
St. Robert Bellarmine

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## St. Patrick Oratory

BY MARK WEBER

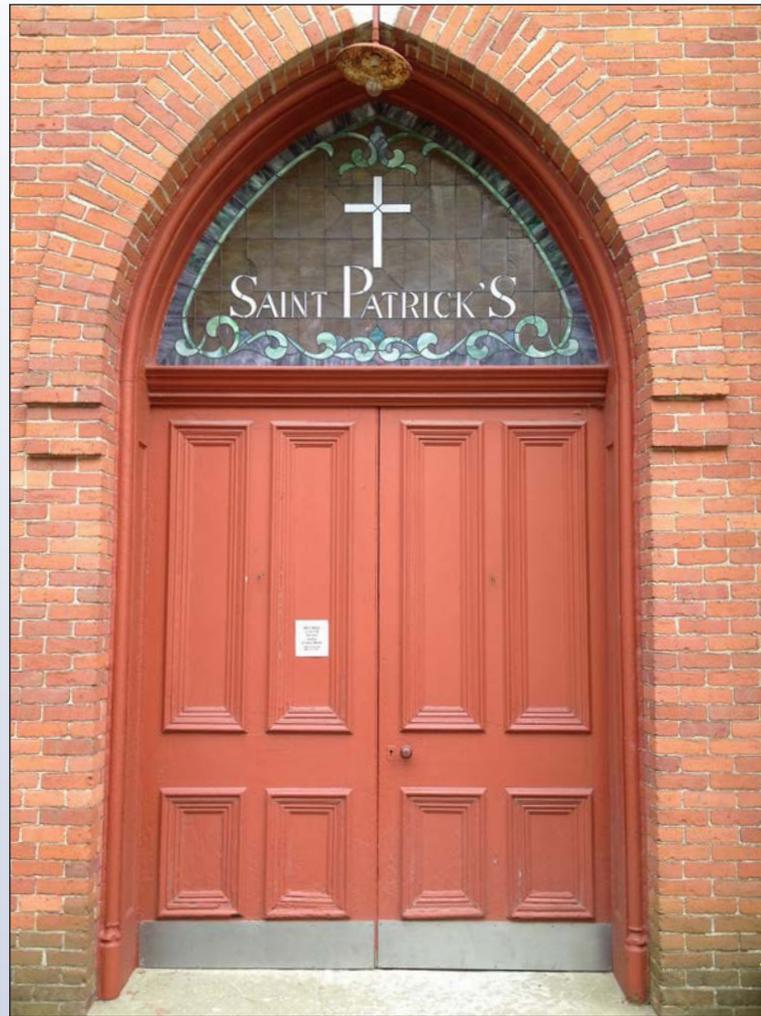
LAGRO — There have been many “Friends of St. Patrick” in Lagro, going back to the French missionaries who first brought the faith to the Wabash valley in the early 19th century, but it was the Irish who literally “dug in” and built the Wabash and Erie Canal and the first church dedicated to St. Patrick. Some canal workers remained in the area, became parishioners, and watched Bishop John Henry Luers lay the cornerstone for the present church on June 15, 1870 and Bishop Joseph Dwenger dedicate the church on St. Patrick’s Day three years later.

The canal waters nourished commerce in Lagro but steam from the Wabash railroad brought about the first signs of business decline.

Now liturgically classified as an oratory (an inactive parish) the church itself, on a quiet street, locked most of the year, remains a silent sentinel of hand-crafted treasures; oak pews, a black walnut Communion rail and a walnut stairway carved by the pioneer parishioners with imported statues and stained glass, all guarded by walls of brick baked in Huntington and delivered on canal boats.

The Friends of St. Patrick became an organized group in 2000 and has never had more than 12 members at any time. Being a Catholic is not a requirement for membership since some members serve from a historical perspective.

Recently, “The Friends” was named as a beneficiary in the will of a non-Catholic who left a significant amount of money to the three churches of Lagro — St. Patrick’s, the United Methodist and the Community Church of Lagro (formerly Presbyterian). Proof that “The Friends” is a working group was a 10-year project, now completed, that called for



Francie Hogan

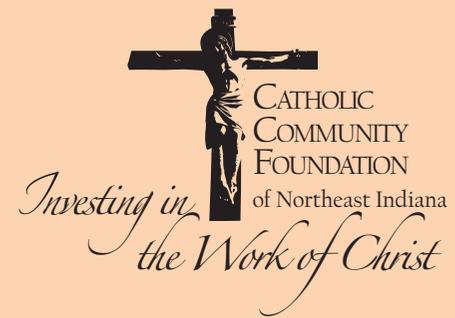
**St. Patrick Oratory is located in Lagro. Monthly Mass is held during spring, summer and fall on the first Sunday of the month.**



sustained fundraising and restoration of the church’s 1800 Erben organ. Upcoming activities include a community band

concert on March 20 celebrating St. Patrick’s Day, church tours during Lagro Good Old Days the last weekend in June, and the enormously popular Brat/Fish Fry in September.

Monthly Mass is held during spring, summer and fall on the first Sunday of the month. Father Sextus Don, pastor of St. Bernard Parish, Wabash, offers Mass at 12:30 p.m. Historic St. Patrick Church is on the National Registry of Historic Places.



### What is the Catholic Community Foundation?

The Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana consists of 137 endowments collectively invested to fund the various ministries and services of the Church throughout the diocese. The ultimate purpose of these endowments is not simply to build financial stability, but rather to fund the mission that has been entrusted by Jesus Christ.

Here are some important facts about the Catholic Community Foundation:

- Established in 1994 by then Bishop John M. D’Arcy
- A 501(c) (3) tax-exempt entity
- Contributions are deductible under Section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code
- Only the fund earnings are disbursed and used exclusively for donor intentions
- Endowment funds are invested following Church teachings as given by the U.S. bishops in their document “Socially Responsible Investment Guidelines”
- A minimum amount of \$5,000 can start a new endowment

Endowments in Wabash County are:

- **St. Bernard Annuity Endowment Fund** — This fund is a charitable gift annuity created for the use and benefit of St. Bernard Parish and School.
- **St. Bernard Endowment Fund** — This endowment provides support to the general operating fund of the parish and/or support of St. Bernard School.
- **St. Bernard Sagstetter Memorial Fund** — Proceeds from this fund are designated for purchasing educational materials for St. Bernard School.

#### Making a gift to the Catholic Community Foundation

There are many ways to give to one of these endowments, other than cash. In some instances, a donor is able to give even more than expected by simply using a planned gift option to create or build an endowment. For example, leaving a gift in a will (bequest) can be an advantage to a parish, school or charity and provide tax advantages. Those interested are encouraged to talk to their financial advisor to determine what would be best.

*For more information on the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana, how to create a new endowment, or about giving to an existing endowment, contact the Office of Stewardship and Development in South Bend at 574-258-6571 or in Fort Wayne at 260-969-9148 or by email at [plannedgiving@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:plannedgiving@diocesefwsb.org). There is also additional information, including frequently asked questions, at [www.diocesefwsb.org/Catholic-Community-Foundation](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/Catholic-Community-Foundation).*

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## Today's Catholic spotlights In MY diocese

In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, we are all unique. From the urban cities to the rural farms, we each have a different Catholic story to tell. And yet — we are all One Diocese — One Catholic Church. “In MY diocese” is a monthly section of *Today's Catholic* that will feature parishes and the Catholic community within a particular county. See when your county will be featured and how you can be involved at [www.todayscatholicnews.org/advertising](http://www.todayscatholicnews.org/advertising).

## What you need to know about hospice

Between 40 percent and 50 percent of dying Americans are cared for by hospice during their last days on earth. Over the years I have referred many of my patients to hospice care and almost uniformly the family and patient experience has been very favorable. The timing of the referral and how one first introduces the patient and loved ones to the concept is of utmost importance. There needs to be an honest but loving conversation with the patient and family about their progressive illness, as we guide them to embrace a strategy of acceptance and preparation for death.

Progressive cancer that is no longer responding to treatment is the reason most people would think of hospice but there is a multitude of appropriate reasons for referral. For example, end stage heart disease is a common reason for my referrals but other reasons include end stage lung or liver disease or advanced dementia to name a few.

Before a referral to Hospice Care is made your doctor needs to be of the opinion that you have a terminal illness and have six months or less to live. The goal of treatment is no longer to cure the disease but to control symptoms and provide comfort to patient and loved ones. A hospice doctor is usually in charge but if you have a close relationship with your doctor he can agree to participate in your care. Specially trained nurses will visit you at home and make sure if you have pain that it is adequately controlled. Nurse assistants and home health care aides can help you with your personal care and activities of daily living. Hospice

provides some of the needed help but they do not provide daily care and family and friends remain primarily responsible for your day-to-day care. Social workers can help you and your family take advantage of community resources and also provide emotional support. Bereavement counselors can help the family better deal with their loss and the family continues to have their support for one year after the loss of their loved one. The hospice team includes a chaplain and spiritual counselors if needed.

A common misconception is that once you accept hospice treatment you can't return to the hospital. This is not true. If your symptoms are not adequately controlled, you and your hospice team can decide to go back to the hospital for a few days.

If your loved ones can no longer care for you at home, many hospice programs have an inpatient facility where you can be admitted and receive 24-hour care until the Lord takes you. You also can receive hospice care in a nursing home setting. A hospice service I recently learned about is Respite care. If, for example, the spouse is providing most of the care and needs a break, inpatient care at a Medicare-approved facility for up to five days to obtain needed and deserved rest can be arranged.

Medicare, Medicaid and most insurance companies cover hospice. Studies have proven that hospice care saves health insurance companies money. A huge portion of our health-care dollars is spent in the last six months of life. Some patients never become accepting of their fate and continue the process of

## THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

frequent emergency room visits and admissions to the hospital, which not only drive up costs but cause emotional stress for the patient and their loved ones.

Deciding to go with hospice care does not mean you are giving up hope. Your goals can still include having good days and maybe even checking something off your bucket list. It can provide the time needed to heal some relationships with family and friends. Most importantly it can help provide a loving environment to receive the sacraments such as the Anointing of the Sick, Confession and Holy Communion as we prepare for death.

There are many appropriate scriptures that come to mind but one that always has provided comfort is John 14:1-4: "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Have faith in God and faith in Me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places; otherwise, how could I have told you that I was going to prepare a place for you? I am indeed going to prepare a place for you, and then I shall come back to take you with me, that where I am you also may be. You know the way that leads where I go."

**Dr. David Kaminkas** is a board certified cardiologist and member of The Jerome Lejeune Guild of Northeast Indiana.

## We need each other

Each year when we give alms in our CRS (Catholic Relief Services) Rice Bowl, we help people all over the world to realize their potential and live in dignity. Did you know that we also help our local brothers and sisters with these funds? Twenty-five percent of CRS Rice Bowl contributions stay in our diocese to fund hunger relief programs. To realize the benefits gained through such disbursement, let's take a look at an organization in the Archdiocese of Louisville.

Centro Latino is a Catholic Charities supported organization that works with the Latino community in the Archdiocese of Louisville. Centro Latino distributes food and clothing, and provides educational opportunities. One of the hallmarks of this organization is a recognition of the importance and value of community and stability. As the virtue of solidarity shapes for us, we are all members of one human family. Jesus has taught us to love our neighbors. Our neighbors can live next-door or across the world. Even though our fellow human beings may be different from us, we are all equal in dignity. Centro Latino shows this by offering monthly meetings for women to get together and share fellowship.

The support from these groups has done and continues to do great things. A young woman named Katalina has attended these gatherings for three years. With the support of the group, she has learned English which has helped her better acclimate to her local community. Inspired by the group, she now volunteers for Centro Latino in the food distribution center and in local parishes with

## CATHOLIC RELIEF

MELISSA WHEELER

other women's groups.

The mission of Centro Latino is an example of the solidarity we are all called to uphold. During Pope Francis's visit to Brazil in July, 2013 for World Youth Day, the Holy Father called all of us to solidarity. He said, "The culture of selfishness and individualism that often prevails in our society is not what builds up and leads to a more habitable world: it is the culture of solidarity that does so, seeing others not as rivals or statistics, but brothers and sisters." This mission of equality can appear to be counter-cultural and in many ways it is. We can see the culture of "me first" and a culture of competition as our goal in life. This pursuit of being the best one can be does not need to exclude others. We are all in this together.

One of the most important aspects of solidarity is to respectfully and fully listen to what others have to say. We cannot truly be in communion with others if we do not know them and their needs and concerns. Challenge yourself this week to improve your listening skills to be able to grow in honest relationship with others. How can you hear the voice of the poor more clearly?

**Melissa Wheeler** is the diocesan director for Catholic Relief Services.

## God satisfies our need for true life



### THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Palm Sunday Lk 22:14-23:56

We are beginning Holy Week with the Palm Sunday liturgies, coming to the fulfillment of the Lenten season and drawing us face to face to the ultimate reality of salvation, that Jesus, the Son of God, died to reconcile us with the Father and then forever opened for us the gates to heaven by the Resurrection.

Palm Sunday of course recalls the triumphant entry of Jesus into Jerusalem, for the Evangelist Luke the utter apex of the entire ministry of the Lord.

In general, Luke's Gospel sees Jesus as the embodiment of God's mercy, literally God in

human flesh, the son of Mary, a woman, not an angel or a goddess. Jesus seeks out the wayward and the despondent. Everything leads to the fulfillment of reconciling sinners with God. Thus, everything occurs on the way to Jerusalem, which Jesus visits once, and on this one visit Jesus is sacrificed on Calvary and then rises again.

For Catholics, the depth of meaning of this event is brilliantly conveyed in the majesty and drama of the liturgy.

As the palms are blessed, and then ideally all in the congregation process, the Church offers us a reading from Luke. This reading recalls the plans for the arrival of Jesus as well as the arrival itself.

An element of inevitability, of Providence, surrounds the event. Jesus tells Pharisees who object to it all that even if the disciples were silent, the very stones would shout the good news of salvation in Christ.

Later, in the first reading, the Church presents the third of the four "Songs of the Suffering

Servant" from the third section of Isaiah. Scholars debate the identity of this servant. Was he a prophet? The author? A collective symbol for the people of Israel? In any case, Christians have always seen in these songs the image of the innocent, constantly loyal servant of God, the Lord Jesus.

The Epistle to the Philippians. Scholars think that the reading is an ancient Christian hymn, used in early liturgies. Its eloquence magnificently reveals intense faith.

As the last reading, the Church dramatically offers a reading of Luke's Passion Narrative. To enhance the occasion, the congregation most often becomes involved.

Each Gospel contains a highly detailed and lengthy account of the trial and execution of Jesus. Each has its own perspective, as each evangelist was an individual person who had his own insights into what happened on the first Good Friday.

By contrast, people usually are obtuse and often devious, even vicious. Still, the love of God will

not be thwarted. Salvation will come, because it is God's will that salvation will come.

### Reflection

No biblical reading is as powerful and overwhelming as are the four Passion Narratives in the successive Gospels. Luke's Passion Narrative is no exception.

The crown of the Palm Sunday Liturgy of the Word is the moving, solemn proclamation of the Passion of Jesus as understood by St. Luke. At the blessing of the palms, the Church prepares us, again employing Luke's Gospel, for this proclamation.

Recalling the entry into Jerusalem by Jesus, the Church presents the Lord as resolute. Salvation was God's will, the product of God's love for us. Some people cooperated. Some did not, burdened by ignorance or pride.

The readings from Third-Isaiah and Philippians focus our minds upon Jesus. He is Lord!

Finally, magnificently, the Passion Narrative tells us of the

depth of the Lord's giving of self. This is the message: God loves us with a perfect, uncompromising, unending love. Sin flaws us. It can doom us. We need God.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Is 50:4-7 Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 Phil 2:6-11 Lk 22:14 — 23:56

**Monday:** Is 42:1-7 Ps 27:1-3, 13-14 Jn 12:1-11

**Tuesday:** Is 49:1-6 Ps 71:1-4a, 5ab-6b, 15, 17 Jn 13:21-33, 36-38

**Wednesday:** Is 50:4-9a Ps 69:8-10, 21-22, 31, 33-34 Mt 26:14-25

**Thursday:** Is 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9 Ps 89:21-22, 25, 27 Rv 1:5-8 Lk 4:16-21

**Friday:** Is 52:13 — 53:12 Ps 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-17, 25 Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9 Jn 18:1 — 19:42

**Saturday:** 1) Gn 1:1 — 2:2 Ps 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12-14, 24, 35 2) Gn 22:1-18 Ps 16:5, 8-11 3) Ex 14:15 — 15:1 Ex 15:1-6, 17-18 4) Is 54:5-14 Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-12, 13 5) Is 55:1-11 Is 12:2-3, 4-6 6) Bar 3:9-15, 32 — 4:4 Ps 19:8-117 Ez 36:16-17a, 18-28 Ps 42:3, 5; 43:3, 4 8) Rom 6:3-11 Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 9) Lk 24:1-12

## A sordid anniversary, to be remembered

On September 24, 1949, Georgii Karpov, chairman of the agency that provided “liaison” to the Russian Orthodox Church for the NKVD, the Soviet secret police, wrote Josef Stalin and his chief henchmen a confidential letter reeking with self-congratulation. The “government’s instruction on the liquidation of ... the Greek Catholic Church (in Ukraine),” Karpov crowed, “has been carried out.” The “Uniate Church” that “was subordinated to the Roman pope was liquidated by August of this year through its reunion with the Russian Orthodox Church.”

The crucial moment in this calculated aggression, in which Russian Orthodoxy acted as a front for the brutal assault on a sister Church by an atheistic regime, came 70 years ago, on March 8-10, 1946, in Lviv, the principal city of western Ukraine. There, after more than a year of secret police coercion, a non-canonical “council” (or “Sobor”) of Ukrainian Greek Catholic clergy “voted” (without discussion and by a “spontaneous” show of hands) to abrogate the 1596 Union of Brest that had brought their Church into full communion with Rome. Not a single Ukrainian Greek Catholic bishop was present; all were under arrest or en route to the Gulag.

In the years between this notorious “Lviv Sobor” and Karpov’s letter, the Soviet authorities completed the task of “liquidating” the institutions of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, destroying those of its churches, seminaries and monasteries that were not “reunited” with Russian Orthodoxy. By the early 1950s, Ukrainian Greek Catholics were the largest underground religious community in the world, living an entirely clandestine existence. And they survived as such, through extraordinary acts of courage and fidelity,

until their Church re-emerged publicly in 1989.

The “Lviv Sobor” was not an ecclesial act; it was a farce state-managed by the Soviet authorities, who saw in Ukraine’s Greek Catholics a major obstacle to implementing two communist policies: state-sponsored atheism and the Russification of Ukraine. Throughout the first decades of the 20th century, under the leadership of an extraordinary archbishop, the Venerable Andrey Sheptytsky, the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church had been the engine, and later the safe-deposit box, of Ukrainian culture, identity, and aspiration. Stalin was having none of this: Ukrainian national aspirations (like other such ambitions in the multinational prison of the USSR) would be ground into dust, and one step toward accomplishing that was the eradication of the Greek Catholic Church. So as World War II was winding down, the Stalinist regime began a campaign of calumny — nicely described by historian Bohdan Bociurkiw as a “falsification industry” — that painted Ukraine’s Greek Catholics as treasonous “bandits” and “criminals” who had worked hand-in-glove with the “German-fascist occupiers,” and who were sabotaging “the socialist transformation in western Ukraine.”

The vilification of the Greek Catholic Church and the “Lviv Sobor” were integral parts of the Soviet attempt to eviscerate Ukrainian nationalism. And if “reuniting” Ukrainian Greek Catholics with Russian Orthodoxy helped strengthen the Soviet regime’s control over the Russian Church, so that it became an even more pliable instrument of Soviet power, so much the better. There were ironies in the fire here: in its efforts to liquidate the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church and accelerate the Russification of Ukraine,



GEORGE WEIGEL

### THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

the Stalinists were mimicking the 18th-century behavior of the czarist regime the Bolshevik revolution had displaced. In both instances, though, the Russian Orthodox tendency to act as chaplain to the regime, whatever its nature or character, was on display.

Why is this anniversary worth noting?

First, Catholics throughout the world have a fraternal obligation to honor the memory of the many Greek Catholic martyrs who refused to accept the “Lviv Sobor,” who stayed faithful to Rome, and who consequently paid the ultimate price.

Second, remembering the “falsification industry” of the past should make us more alert to the lies of the present, which are omnipresent in the Russian propaganda campaign against Ukraine’s efforts to build a future of democracy, prosperity, and freedom.

And third, because there will be no progress on the path opened by Pope Francis in his February meeting with Russian Orthodox Patriarch Kirill unless the Church Kirill leads acknowledges its sordid role in the “Lviv Sobor” of 1946, thereby taking an important step in liberating itself from the evangelically stifling embrace of Russian state power.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for March 20, 2016

Luke 23:1-49

Following is a word search based on the reading of the Passion for Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

A KING	HEROD	SIGN
ENEMIES	FLOGGED	CRUCIFY HIM
RELEASE	THE CROSS	CARRY IT
THE SKULL	FORGIVE	CRIMINALS
REMEMBER ME	NOON	TEMPLE
FATHER	SPIRIT	CENTURION
JOSEPH	LINEN	ROCK-HEWN

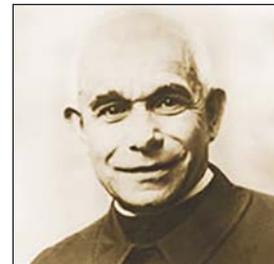
### PASSION EXCERPT

C R U C I F Y H I M O M  
E R O C K H E W N J F E  
N V E I L E S A E L E R  
T O M M W L K N O I T E  
U J O S E P H G E N I L  
R E T N A M G I V E R L  
I N I N A E B S I N I U  
O E Y U D T H E G H P K  
N M R O T H E C R O S S  
O I R E H T A F O M D E  
H E A K I N G J F E E H  
H S C R I M I N A L S T

### Saint of the Week

#### Luigi Orione

The founder of The Little Work of Divine Providence, which encompasses two active and two contemplative religious orders for men and women as well as a lay movement, was born in Italy’s Piedmont. After early sojourns with Franciscans and Salesians, he entered the seminary of the Diocese of Tortona and was ordained in 1895. Always devoted to the care of others, especially the poor and sick, Don Orione established schools and learning centers, worker hostels, hospitals, and homes for the elderly, disabled, sick and blind.



## The poor widow — Christian steward

The short story of the widow’s mite is not a parable but a real-life occurrence, recorded in the Gospels of St. Mark and St. Luke. Jesus recently entered Jerusalem and had, once again, cleansed the temple of the moneychangers. He is now sitting opposite the temple treasury. “Opposite” or “across from” the treasury describes a position other than the donor’s place. He is watching what people contribute to the temple, and from this vantage point, we can appreciate that Jesus is observing what God the Father is observing. We can even go so far as to say that His position would be one of judgment.

He watched “how the crowd put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums.” (Mk 12:41). And then, a widow “put in two small coins worth a few cents.” (Mk 12:42). Calling His disciples over He

explained that the rich gave merely from their abundance, in other words they will not miss what they have given. Their gifts will not change their lifestyle, diets, spending habits. In fact, nothing in their lives will be affected by their giving of “large sums.”

The temple treasury was constructed with a series of 13 horns, situated in the “Court of the Women.” A treasury horn would funnel coins into the large treasury box. It is said that some would blow a horn to draw the attention of others as they gave. This is why Jesus previously warned: “When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you.” (Mt 6:2). Coins tossed into a horn, landing in a box of coins would cause noise and a lot of coins would be even louder and noticed by others. A most generous donor noticed by others, no doubt, could cause one



HARRY VERHILEY

### A WAY OF LIFE

to be proud of one’s own generosity. Perhaps the rich might even think that God considers their donation to be generous, since, of course, they gave “large sums.” And in comparing their offerings to others, they might even conclude some evidence about their own self worth. But then, the poor widow tossed in two small coins — and no one noticed, except for Jesus.

The widow’s offering became the point of the story. Jesus’ instruction is not based on what others see and think, or even

what the donor thinks about himself, but rather, on God’s viewpoint. Our giving is a matter associated with our relationship with God. Even the impact of the gift is not as important; keep in mind that the funds collected were used for the refurbishment of the temple that would be destroyed in less than 40 years. This teaching is given as the last instruction before Jesus warns of the end times and the destruction of that temple.

This poor widow is following Jesus’s example of self-surrender and giving God all she had because she wanted to draw closer to God. Could it be that she had heard Jesus say something about taking up her cross and following, or about losing her life in order to gain it. Regardless, she understood sacrifice. Jesus notes: “All the others contributed out of their

surplus but out of her poverty she has given up everything she had, her whole livelihood.” (Mk 12:44). The contrast between the rich donors and the widow is immense.

The widow is a radical example of a Christian steward, because at the core of Christian stewardship there is a radical sense of abandonment to God’s will. This is a matter of detachment from those things that we think are more important than our relationship with God. Stewardship is a way of life in which we ask ourselves, “what is God asking to do through me?” The widow believed that God was asking her to give all that she had, and she acted according to her belief.

Harry Verhiley is the diocesan Secretary for Stewardship and Development.

# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

**WHAT'S HAPPENING** carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. View more Catholic events and submit yours at [www.diocesefwsb.org/bulletin](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/bulletin). 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.

**St. Patrick plans fish fry**

Arcola — St. Patrick Parish, 12305 Arcola Rd., will have a drive-through- only fish fry Friday, March 18, from 4:30-7 p.m. Full meal dinner \$9.

**World Down Syndrome Day Mass and reception planned**

South Bend — World Down Syndrome Day Mass will be celebrated March 21, at 6 p.m. in the Chapel of Divine Mercy, 2018 Ironwood Circle, to honor those with Down Syndrome and their families. A reception will follow immediately. RSVP preferred, but not mandatory, to [jborek@divinemeracyforlife.net](mailto:jborek@divinemeracyforlife.net).

**Easter basket blessing**

Fort Wayne — An Easter basket blessing will be Saturday, March 26, at the St. Vincent de Paul Life Center, 1502 E Wallen Rd. at 10 a.m. Food is blessed on Holy Saturday to be eaten after the Saturday Vigil. Contact Marie Andorfer at 260-489-3537 Ext. 3 for information.

**Altar and Rosary Society plans bake sale**

South Bend — St. Hedwig will have a Palm Sunday weekend bake sale in the Hedwig Memorial Center before and after 4 p.m. Mass, Saturday, March 19, after 8 a.m. Mass Sunday, March 20 and before and after 10:30 Mass Sunday, March 20. A variety of pastries will be available. Ham and sausage sandwiches will be available for \$3.

**Day of Reflection**

Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) Wednesday, April 6, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is

“Motivating Markings.” Bring a Bible. The cost of the day is \$20 and includes lunch. Register by April 1 to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

**Holy Name Society fish fry**

New Haven — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday, March 18, from 4-7 p.m. Adults \$8, children 5-12 \$4.50 and children under 5 free.

**Garage sale to support seventh grade**

Fort Wayne — A garage sale is planned for Saturday, March 19, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 10650 Aboite Center Rd. Contact 260-402-1365 or [cstuzzygo@comcast.net](mailto:cstuzzygo@comcast.net) for information.

**Ignited weekend retreat for high school students planned**

Fort Wayne — Ignited, a weekend conference-style retreat for high school students will be March 18-20 at the University of Saint Francis. Students from all across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are invited to a weekend full of prayer, games and great music. This year's theme is 'Burning With the Fire of Mercy' and Catholic artist A-LOB will be coming from California to lead music all weekend. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will join the group for Palm Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. Register at [ignitedretreat.com](http://ignitedretreat.com). Contact Andrew Ouellette at [aouellette@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:aouellette@diocesefwsb.org) for information.

**Palm Sunday Ecumenical Concert**

Rome City — A Palm Sunday Ecumenical Concert will be Sunday, March 20, at St. Gaspar Church, Hwy. 9 North at 6 p.m. Area churches gather for music and worship on Palm Sunday, with fellowship in parish hall afterwards.



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**Fort Wayne**

Rose K. Renninger, 82, St. Vincent de Paul

Wilma A. Rose, St. Jude

Alice P Habig, 85, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Bruce A Belschner, St. Henry

Sister Dolores M Jehl, SSND, 89, St. Peter

John R. Melvin, 81, St. Vincent de Paul

**Monroeville**

Walter J. Gremaux St. Rose of Lima

**New Haven**

Eugene P. Kelsey St. John the Baptist

**Notre Dame**

Barbara Lill Murphy, 91, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

**Kendallville**

Devon J. Ihrle, 90, Immaculate Conception

**Rome City**

Sanna L. Harges, St. Gaspar del Bufalo

**South Bend**

Rosalie M. Kovach St. Patrick

Sallie J. Szymanski, 94, Holy Family

Parishes should submit obituaries to [mweber@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:mweber@diocesefwsb.org)

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Saint Joseph Catholic Church in South Bend is accepting applications for a full-time **Administrative Assistant**. The successful candidate will further the mission of the parish by serving in a ministry of welcome - the first point of reception for all who visit, telephone, or otherwise communicate with the parish. In addition, the position provides clerical support to parish staff and ministry chairs. Duties include: oversight of electronic calendars; database entry; preparation of the weekly bulletin; preparation of correspondence and mailings; management of office supply inventory; and other general office duties as assigned to support the goal of ensuring efficient operation of the parish office.

Qualified applicants will possess excellent written and interpersonal communication skills, a high degree of computer aptitude, the ability to prioritize tasks and work with frequent interruptions, enjoyment in greeting people, and a proactive desire to contribute to the mission of the parish.

Visit [www.stjoeparish.com](http://www.stjoeparish.com) for a complete position description. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Qualified candidates should email a cover letter, resumé, and references to Sean Kennedy at [skennedy@stjoeparish.com](mailto:skennedy@stjoeparish.com).



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# Living the Year of Mercy

## Bear Wrongs Patiently

The key to respect is to forgive



Provided by Jill Hamblin

The students of St. Joseph School in Garrett believe the key to respect is to forgive one another. Each week students are rewarded by points for an act of kindness they are found doing. The class with the most points combined, will have permission to wear their respect T-shirts for a day. This week all the students were privileged to wear their respect shirts.



Darrel Dodane

Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society in Fort Wayne visit and spend time in prayer with the elderly. This gentleman has been alone for some time and lives on a very limited budget. The St. Vincent de Paul Society offers time, talent and treasure for those who are vulnerable and bear life's difficulties patiently.

## Bearing difficulties patiently

SOUTH BEND — Dan Philpott from the Sant'Egidio Community in South Bend and a Professor of Political Science and Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame, shares, "Our friends at Cardinal Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in South Bend fit the work of mercy, 'bearing wrongs patiently,' quintessentially, though I might revise the description to 'bearing difficulties patiently.' They are not exactly the victims of wrongs, for the staff at Cardinal is kind, dedicated and caring towards them. Still, life for them is difficult."

"I think of our friend Nancy, for instance, who is in Cardinal because she suffered a stroke that leaves her unable to speak and to use her arms dexterously. She has great difficulty communicating even her most basic wants and needs. Though at times she becomes frustrated, she is a remarkable person for how patient she is," says Philpott.

"A member of our community saw her need and created a board for her that contains letters of the alphabet and basic directives such as 'I am thirsty' or 'I need my medicine,'" he notes. "Using the letters, she can spell out her thoughts. With this in hand, we have had great conversations. We have discov-

ered that she has a brilliant and alert mind — and a remarkable past. She has a master's degree in physics and opinions about politics and is full of stories, including ones about the time that she spent in Jamaica and her experience of drag racing."

"Through this conversation, our friendship deepened," Philpott adds. "Friendship with the poor, inspired by the Gospel, is perhaps the essential charism of the Community of Sant'Egidio. We begin with friendship. Any activity or 'program' that we carry out is one that responds to needs that arise from the friendship. Through this friendship, the poor are better to bear suffering patiently."

"And I am better to bear difficulties patiently," Philpott says. "Another friend was Mary, an elderly Polish woman from South Bend. Whenever we encountered her in the halls of Cardinal, she had a smile on her face and she was praying the rosary. I suspect that she prayed the rosary throughout the day. She loved God and loved her Polish heritage. She died on the feast day of St. Casimir, the patron saint of Poland. Whenever I think of Mary, I am encouraged to pray more, just as I imagine that she prays for me even now. She helps me to bear difficulties patiently."

## The Lord is merciful and the Church welcomes them

Abortion leaves a long-suffering impact on its victims. Pam Morton, from St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Angola is an active member of the Right to Life Committee. She also works at the local Compassion Pregnancy Center counseling women who are recovering from a past abortion. In addition, she has traveled to numerous local churches addressing their congregations, sharing her personal story and letting parishioners know the Lord is merciful and the Church welcomes them to avail themselves of the services available to them. She also addressed donors at a local fundraising dinner raising funds to counsel pregnant women to keep their babies.



Representatives from St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Angola assemble for a photo at the 2016 National March for Life in Washington. Pam Morton is at the far right.

## Year of Mercy day 103

"Mercy; our salvation depends on it."

— Pope Francis

More photos showing works of mercy can be found at [MyYearofMercy.org](http://MyYearofMercy.org)



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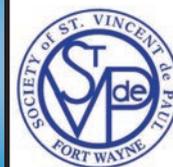


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