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.

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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.
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 for us. In Jesus, we find the source of spiritual life for all who are in darkness and dead in sin.

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 mankind against 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 gift of new life, reconciliation with God, redemption, liberation from sin, and the promise of the resurrection, all fruits of Christ’s sacrifice. We believe that grace 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 is 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. Jesus loved to share His Father’s love for His people and told us: “He to whom the Son grants forgiveness of sins.” The 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 at 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 declaring 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 time ago, he shared with me his concerns with honoring the Vice-President. I believe it is wrong for Notre Dame to honor anyone “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. Not only is this position required by authentic teaching in the Church, but also by 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 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 our diocese through prayer and 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 about who should 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. The authentic meaning of marriage. I disagree with the just treatment of immigrants, and care for the elderly. I also question the propriety of honoring a public official who was a major spokesman for the redefinition of marriage. 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 also 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 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 “a sort of inferiority complex which leads to a failure to argue or defend the Church’s teaching.” Pope Francis also stated: “No shouting or arguing. Only prayerful witness to the love and mercy of God.”

According to the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church, 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 in a way that emphasized the importance of silence: “Silence is an essential part of the procession as we unite our voices with those who have been 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 said. “We were honestly expecting 500 to 800 people.” We were honestly expecting 500 to 800 people.”

“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 on foot were there to make sure it didn’t impede traffic or prevent cars from entering or leaving the facility.

“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.”

“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.”

“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.”
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 confessors 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, 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 confessors 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 penalty 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.
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 having a back-up doctor available in hospitals for follow-up care.”

Supported by the ICC, House Bill 1537, 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 captured 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. Garlin G接到 approved by the Senate and signed into law March 20, 2016. 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 IDA funds to purchase a vehicle when used as transportation to adult or secondary educational opportunities. Tebbe said, ‘The IDA will allow participants to use 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.”

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

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Father Derrick Sneyd, Pastor and Celebrant

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Auschwitz sets tour dates for World Youth Day pilgrims**

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.

**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, has been forwarded to the Vatican. Cardinal Agostino Vallini, papal vicar for Rome, formally closed the canonical 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 1977. Pope John Paul II 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 Days celebrations. Cardinal Pironio was a close friend of Pope Francis during his time as Jesuit provincial of Argentina. In a 2008 interview, then-Jesuit Jorge Mario Bergoglio recalled Cardinal Pironio’s humility in the face of persecution and calumny, even before his death to bone cancer in 1998.

**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 26-9. 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 took a call from the Australian Space Education Specialist — they were the first students in Vermont and 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 Nin o-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 the work for us, it is also an ‘alleluia,’ a ‘finally,’ Mary’s question — ‘How can this be?’”

**Relief Services’ representative in Ethiopia**

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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.

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 DeBartolo 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 sonoritas, at the conclusion of the service suggests the earthquake described in the Passion narratives. The single candle left burning is 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 Family Professor of Law, who joined John M. Finnis, Biolchini Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, at the University of Notre Dame, will be appointed as the first U.S. member to the Pontifical Academy for Life.

Snead 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, 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.”

Though his work, he was actively involved in protecting small-scale farmers by advocating for stronger enforcement of antitrust regulations.

The prize was posthumously awarded to (Maryknoll Father) Miguel D’Escoto, president of the 65th 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. The 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.

Register online at stjosephparish.org or the parish office at 574-234-3154. Contact Janel Charleston at janel.l.charleston@gmail.com or Erin Seeley at eseeley@stjosephparish.org 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 7-12 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 art skills through the program “Art in the Morning,” from July 5 through July 22 from 9-12 at the Mimi and Ian Rolland Art and Visual Communication Center

The cost is $25 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 handwork 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 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 theory of a sacramental 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.”

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 Weinert; third-place anatomy and physiology — Ryan McArdisle, Nick Thelen; first-place bridge building — Max DiFilippo, Patrick Morr; second-place cell biology — Sam Fair, Ryan McArdisle; 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 environmental 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 Weinert; 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.

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 McArdisle, Megan Brelage, Ben Howe, Kyle Weinert and Adam Morr.

Provided by Cheryl DiFilippo
Via Dolorosa helps remind participants and attendees of God’s great mercy.

Photos provided by Marilyn Karpinski

March 20, 2016
TODAY’S CATHOLIC

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. Vía Crucis por familia comenzará 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 Vía Crucis viviente se llevará 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 ½ 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.

St. Joseph, LaGrange
The Via Dolorosa will take place outside (weather permitting) on Good Friday at noon. El Vía Crucis-Viernes Santo es en español a las 12 p.m. del mediodía.

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 Via 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.

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

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.

Photos provided by Marilyn Karpinski

Via Dolorosa

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, recuerdame cuando entre 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.

continued from Page 1
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,” said Father Curry. “Once a month, the households would gather at St. Robert and participate in a Sunday Mass.”

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.
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 preschool 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 RCLA 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.

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.

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

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. There is also additional information, including frequently asked questions, at www.diocesefwsb.org/Catholic-Community-Foundation.
What you need to know about hospice

THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

By DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

Dr. David Kaminskas is a board-certified cardiologist and member of the Saint Joseph Medical Group in Maryville, Ill.

We need each other

By MELISSA WHEELER

Melissa Wheeler is the diocesan director for Catholic Relief Services.

God satisfies our need for true life

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MGR. OWEN C. 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 outcast. Everything leads to the fulfillment of reconciling sinners with God. Thus, everything occurs on the way to Jerusalem, where Jesus visits once, and on this one visit Jesus is sacrificed on Calvary and then rises again.

Thus, if 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 is the only Son of God who prefigured 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 or a figure of prophecy in the Old Testament? 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 some insights into what had happened on the first Good Friday. A collective reading, 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?

Palm Sunday: 504-9a Ps 69b-10, 21-22, 31-33 Mt 26:14-25

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

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


March 20, 2016
The poor widow: Christian steward

The short story of the widow’s offering 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 money changers. 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 people think and do. The money changers were on God the Father is observing. We can even go so far as to say that His position was 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 more freely 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 treasure horn would funnel coins into the large treasure 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 the shofar 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 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 teaching is following Jesus’s example of self-surrender and giving God all he 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 sense of abatement 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. 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, 12505 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, with Down Syndrome and their families. A reception will follow immediately. RSVP preferred, but not mandatory, to jborek@divinemercyfortworth.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 8-12 $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 citruzyc@comcast.net 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.

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 ignit-edretreat.com. Contact Andrew Ouellotte at aouellotte@diocesefwsb.org for information.

WORSHIP + SERVICE + EDUCATION - IN THE HEART OF SOUTH BEND

Administrative Assistant

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 for a complete position description. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. Qualified candidates should email a cover letter, résumé, and references to Sean Kennedy at skennedy@stjoeparish.com.

REST IN PEACE

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
Susan Wieland, St. John the Baptist
Sister Dolores M Jehl, SSND, 95, St. Peter
John R. Melvin, 81, St. Vincent de Paul

Parishes should submit obituaries to mweber@diocesefwsb.org

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The key to respect is to forgive

The Lord is merciful and the Church welcomes them

A blossom 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.

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.

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.

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.

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 discovered 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 one 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 St. Vincent de Paul Society

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