

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 90 No. 12

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TODAYSCATHOLICNEWS.org



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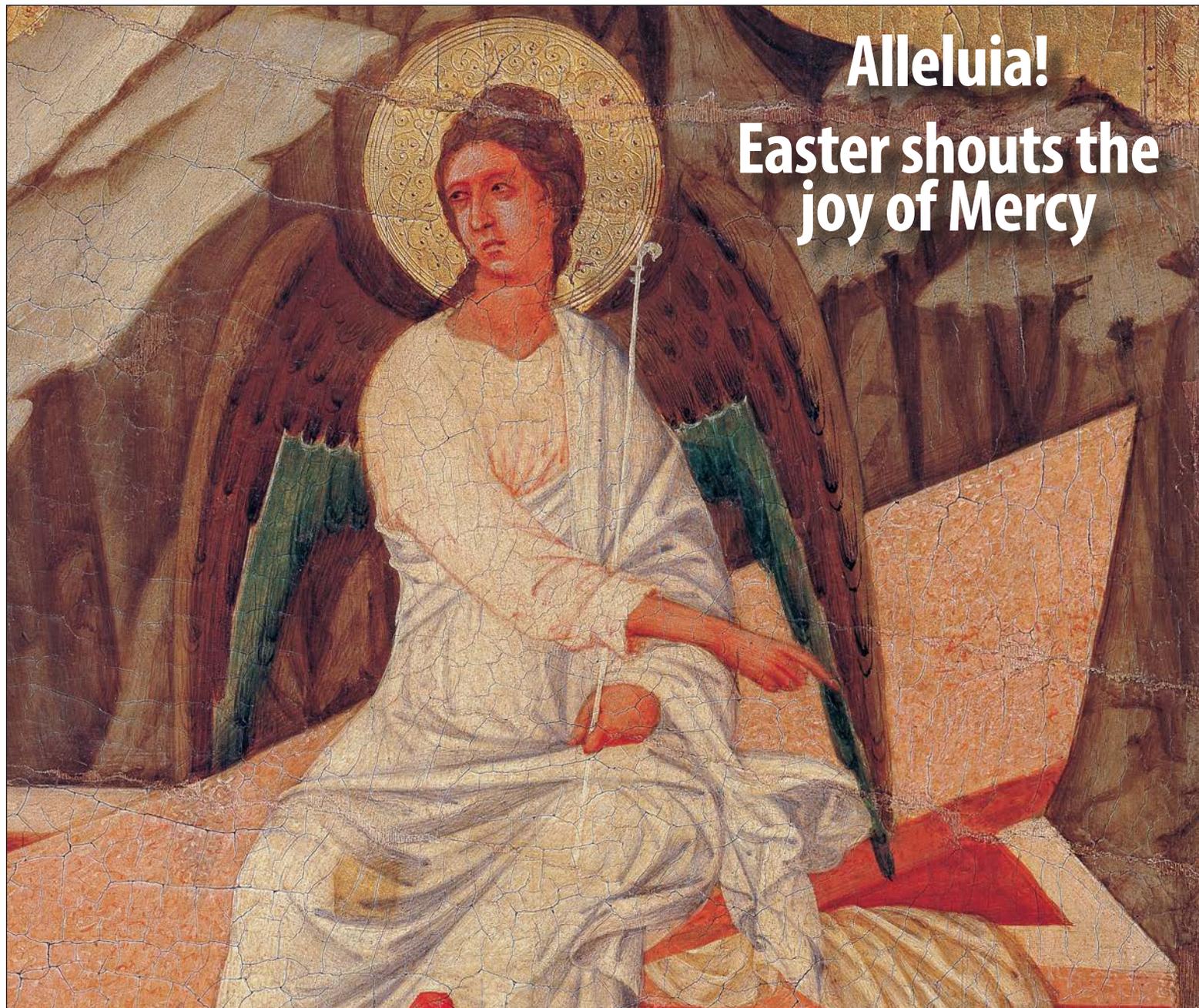
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CNS/Bridgeman Images

An angel points to the empty tomb of Christ in a panel from a 14th-century Italian altar piece. Easter, the chief feast in the liturgical calendars of all Christian churches, commemorates Christ's resurrection from the dead. Easter is March 27 this year.

Pastoral visit to Saint Joseph High School made by bishop

BY DENISE FEDOROW

On Friday, March 18, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades paid a visit to Saint Joseph High School in South Bend to celebrate Mass and visit students and faculty in their classrooms.

The Mass was concelebrated with Father Terry Coonan, chaplain of Saint Joseph High School and pastor at St. John the Baptist, Father Tom Shoemaker, pastor at St. Th rese, Little Flower and Father David Ruppert, pastor at St. Anthony de Padua in South Bend.

Bishop Rhoades greeted the students by saying, "It's great to be back here at St. Joe — I try to plan my annual visit on the Feast of Saint Joseph, but since that's tomorrow, it didn't seem right to make you come to school on Saturday."

During the homily, Bishop Rhoades spoke to the students about the prevalent theme of the day's readings — distress — which he also said is prevalent during Holy Week.

"There may be times in our lives when we experience distress — a dimension of fear — but God is our champion in the midst of distress, especially when you're doing good," he said.

He spoke of feeling the distress of the prophet Jeremiah in the first reading when he cries out 'Lord, why did you call me to do this? People hate me, my friends have left me.' He spoke of the deep distress of Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane and again on the cross.

"But Jesus never succumbed to the temptation

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Bishop Dwenger Key Club students volunteer at Erin's House for Grieving Children.

Living the Year of Mercy

Pray for the Living and the Dead

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www.myyearofmercy.org

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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P.O. Box 11169
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PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Editorial Department

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

FREELANCE WRITERS: Ann Carey,

Michelle Castleman, Bonnie Elbersen,

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

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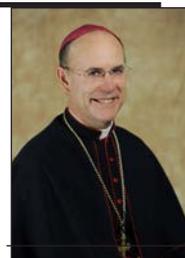
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The celebration of Easter within the Jubilee Year of Mercy



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

What is the connection between Easter, the celebration of Christ's resurrection, and mercy? The revelation of God's mercy and love is found on every page of Sacred Scripture. That revelation reaches its climax in the Paschal Mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. We recognize the suffering and death of Jesus as truly the deepest sign of how much God loves us. We see the merciful heart of God in the pierced heart of His Son. But what about the Resurrection?

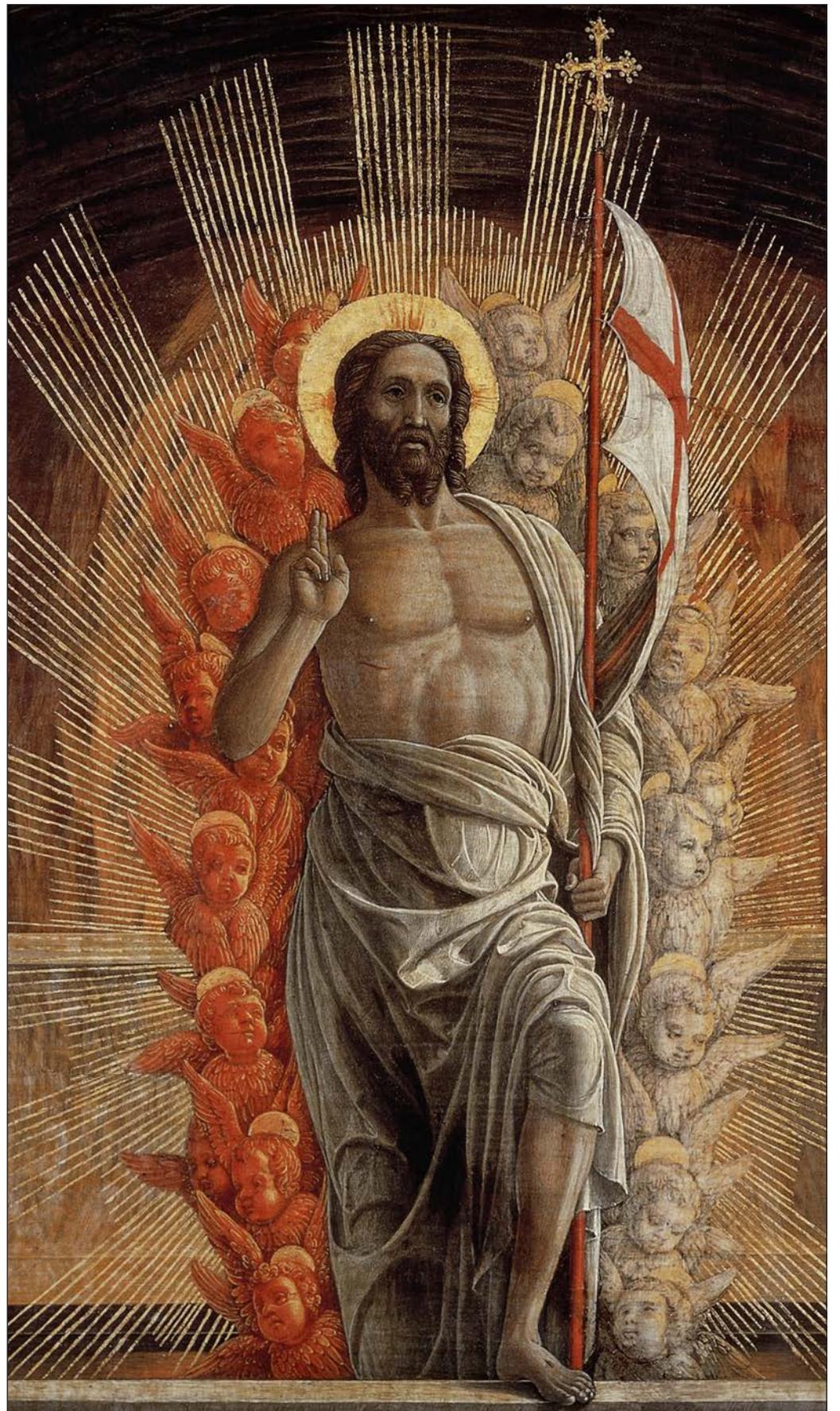
The Resurrection of Jesus reveals to us the triumph of divine mercy. Saint John Paul II wrote the following: "The fact that Christ was raised the third day constitutes the final sign of the messianic mission, a sign that perfects the entire revelation of merciful love in a world that is subject to evil. At the same time it constitutes the sign that foretells 'a new heaven and a new earth', when God 'will wipe away every tear from their eyes, there will be no more death, or mourning, no crying, nor pain, for the former things have passed away' (Revelation 21:4)."

The Father shows mercy to us in the Resurrection of His Son since we are given the promise of a share in His Resurrection. The Resurrection can be considered an act of mercy because it is an act of love. It shows us that the love of God is more powerful than death, just as the crucifixion shows that the love of God is more powerful than sin. The death and resurrection of Jesus gives us access to eternal life in heaven.

It is significant that in the Risen Lord's first appearance to the apostles on the first Easter night, He gave them the authority to forgive sins in His name. He breathed the Holy Spirit on them and said: "Whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven. Whose sins you hold bound, they are held bound." Jesus gave the apostles and their successors the power to forgive sins — the greatest mercy! We will hear this Gospel on the Second Sunday of Easter, appropriately called *Divine Mercy Sunday*. Through His death and resurrection, God's love and mercy triumphed over sin and death. Thankfully, that love and mercy is communicated to us in the sacraments, including the great sacrament of mercy instituted that first Easter night.

Easter is a feast of hope. It reminds us that our sins and failings and regrets do not have the last word. There is always the possibility of a new beginning, thanks to God's mercy. Sin does not have the last word. Death does not have the last word. Love and mercy have the last word. What is broken can be repaired. Christ always can restore our hope, if we only let Him. If we believe in God's love, we must believe in His mercy. As Saint John Paul II once said: "mercy is love's second name."

It is good to remember that the Risen Body of Jesus still bears the five wounds of His crucifixion. Why did God not just take them away? I think it is because God wants us to remember the depths of His mercy. The



CNS/Bridgeman Images

The Risen Christ is depicted in the painting "Resurrection" by 15th-century Italian master Andrea Mantegna. Easter, the chief feast in the liturgical calendars of all Christian churches, commemorates Christ's resurrection from the dead. Easter is March 27 this year.

wounds remain as healing mercy for us.

The whole Paschal Mystery is a mystery of mercy, including the Resurrection. Just as we solemnly celebrate Christmas for eight days (the Octave of Christmas) so we also solemnly celebrate Easter for eight days (the Octave of Easter). I will be celebrating many Confirmation Masses during the Easter Octave. It is a special time to celebrate the coming of the Holy Spirit upon so many of our young people.

I pray you all have a very happy and blessed Easter Sunday and Octave of Easter in this Jubilee Year of Mercy. In the Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 118) on Easter Sunday, we will sing of God's mercy as we pray:

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, for His mercy endures forever.

Let the house of Israel say, His mercy endures forever.

Palm Sunday demonstrates Mercy



Photos by Derby Photography

Branches held high as the faithful process to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.



Bishop and two seminarians reflect on the good thief and bad thief that were crucified with Jesus. Jesus showed mercy to the good thief when he repented.



A young boy holds his palm shaped into a cross during the Gospel reading before the procession for the celebration of the Palm Sunday Mass.



Public Schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

- Monday, March 28, 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, March 30, Noon — Light of Christ Award and Luncheon, Saint Mary Mother of God Parish, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, March 30, 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Saint John the Baptist Church, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, March 31, 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Saint Joseph Church, Mishawaka
- Friday, April 1, 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Queen of Peace Church, Mishawaka
- Saturday, April 2, 2 p.m. — Priesthood Ordination Mass, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades sprinkles holy water on the palm branches as he walks through the faithful in attendance for the Palm Sunday liturgy.



Nearly 200 members of the Ignited youth retreat attended Mass for a finale to the retreat and a beginning of Holy Week.

BY STEPHANIE A. PATKA

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades presided over Palm Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on March 20. The entire Cathedral was packed with the Catholic faithful including nearly 200 high school students who attended the Ignited Retreat.

Mass began outside with a reading of the Gospel by Deacon Bob Garrow, who will be professing his vows as a priest this May. The faithful held their palm branches high as Bishop Rhoades walked through the crowd to bless them. The procession

walked the city block around the south end of the Cathedral and into the church. The line was so long that by the time those in the front made it through the Holy Doors, others were just beginning their journey.

The theme of the Jubilee Year of Mercy was visible throughout the Mass and in Bishop Rhoades' homily. He began, "I don't think we see that mercy any more clearly than in the face of Jesus covered in blood, with the crown of thorns on His head, and eyes filled with pain, the pain of His love, His love for His friends who had abandoned Him, His love for Peter

who denied even knowing Him, His love for his mother who was there in unspeakable sorrow, His love even for His enemies, those who scourged Him and jeered at Him and insulted Him. The face of mercy. The face of God."

The celebration of Palm Sunday begins the celebration of our Lord's Paschal Mystery, the mystery of His passion, death, and resurrection which is the high point of the whole liturgical year. Bishop stated, "The Paschal Mystery is the culmination of Jesus' mission, the culmination of His revelation of God's mercy."

Bishop Rhoades reflected in his

homily, "I don't think there are any more powerful words of mercy and forgiveness in history than the words Jesus said in prayer while hanging on the cross in excruciating pain: 'Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.' We should remember those words when we are hurt and offended by others and try to practice the spiritual works of mercy of forgiving offenses and bearing wrongs patiently. Maybe it will be a little easier to forgive others if we think about Jesus' words of forgiveness of his enemies while suffering their insults and tortures."

Bishop Rhoades extended an invitation to the faithful, "My

brothers and sisters, as we begin Holy Week, let us enter deeply into the drama of the Paschal Mystery, the most radical revelation of God's mercy, the revelation that God's love is more powerful than sin and death. Let us imitate the humility of the good thief by recognizing our sins and ask Jesus to lead us also into His kingdom. May our hearts be moved as we meditate on the Lord's Passion. I encourage everyone to attend Mass on Holy Thursday, the service on Good Friday, and the Masses of the Easter Vigil or Easter Sunday. Let us make this week truly holy by our more fervent prayers and penance."

Ignited with the fire of God's love



Photos by Derby Photography

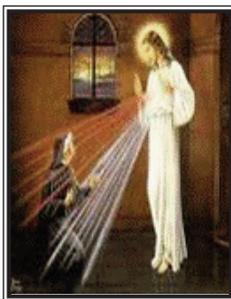
Students from various parishes pose for a photo with Catholic musician A-LOB and his band. Nearly 200 students throughout the diocese came for the annual diocesan youth rally and retreat.



Caleb Kruse, a seminarian from St. Vincent de Paul in Fort Wayne, leads prayer during a small group discussion on the Ignited retreat weekend.

Divine Mercy Sunday

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish
414 Madison Street • Decatur, Indiana



April 3, 2016
Come join us!

All are invited!
3-4 pm HOLY HOUR
Eucharistic Exposition
• Confessions
• Divine Mercy Chaplet
• Rosary - Benediction

4:00 p.m. Sunday Mass



With the Eucharist being the center of the retreat, adoration was celebrated throughout the entire weekend.

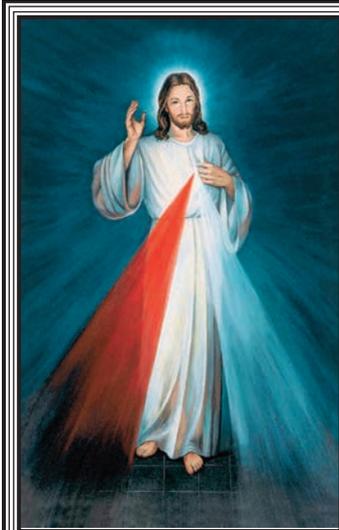
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Join Us!
NOVENA
Divine Mercy Chaplet
Good Friday, March 25
to Saturday, April 2
3 PM
in St. Jude Church
FORT WAYNE
Starts Good Friday, March 25

16th Worldwide Mercy Sunday

April 3, 2016

Divine Mercy Sunday Devotion
3:00 PM
Exposition & Benediction
of the Blessed Sacrament 1:00 - 3:00 PM
• **Presider: Father Jake Runyon**
St. Jude Church,
Randallia Drive at East State Blvd., Fort Wayne
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Living the Year of Mercy

Pray for the Living and the Dead

Children learn prayer through grief



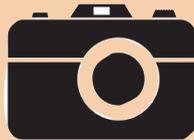
Provided by Debbie Meyer

Bishop Dwenger Key Club volunteers act as "house-parents" serving pizza, birthday cake, and milk to kids and families of Erin's House for Grieving Children as part of their service to others. Erin's House provides grief counseling specifically to children who have suffered a loss.

Year of Mercy day 110

"Mercy: the ultimate and supreme act by which God comes to meet us."

— Pope Francis



More photos showing works of mercy can be found at MyYearofMercy.org

Music leads others deep into prayer



Provided by Jenny Andorfer

The Bishop Luers Minstrels attended church at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Danville, IL on a Sunday morning following a competition in Danville the night before. The choir sang in the loft of St. Paul's during Mass and received the following message: "I just heard your students at St. Paul in Danville and wanted to say thank you, for sharing your gift with us. I was sitting under the balcony, and when I was approaching the altar for communion, the sound got bigger and warmer, and I actually smiled from joy. Later after returning to my seat, I saw at least two other people who, like me, were dabbing their eyes. These were not sad tears, but tears from being moved by the music. I want you to know that you scored a prize higher than any trophy today. You inspired the souls of strangers about to begin their Lenten journeys and reminded me of the joy of music. Thank you and God bless you all."

Now and at the hour of our death



Joe Romie

On the feast of All Souls, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated a noon Mass in the Resurrection Mausoleum Chapel of the Catholic Cemetery of Fort Wayne in 2015.



Joe Romie

The faithful pray before the Eucharist for the living and the dead at the Perpetual Adoration Chapel at St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne.

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Divine Mercy Novena offers nine days of prayer, starts Good Friday

The Divine Mercy novena is prayed between Good Friday and the Sunday of Divine Mercy, which is the Sunday following Easter. Those praying the novena are to pray for the special intentions of each day followed by the Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

St. Faustina wrote that Jesus told her, "On each day of the novena you will bring to My heart a different group of souls and you will immerse them in this ocean of My mercy ... On each day you will beg My Father, on the strength of My passion, for the graces for these souls."

(Diary of Faustina, 1209)

Special intentions for souls during the Divine Mercy Novena:

- Day 1 (Good Friday) — All mankind, especially sinners
- Day 2 (Holy Saturday) — The souls of priests and religious
- Day 3 (Easter Sunday) — All devout and faithful souls
- Day 4 (Easter Monday) — Those who do not believe in Jesus and those who do not yet know Him
- Day 5 (Easter Tuesday) — The souls of separated brethren
- Day 6 (Easter Wednesday) — The meek and humble souls and the souls of children
- Day 7 (Easter Thursday) — The souls who especially venerate and glorify Jesus' mercy
- Day 8 (Easter Friday) — The souls who are detained in purgatory
- Day 9 (Easter Saturday) — The souls who have become lukewarm.



For a list of these prayers in its entirety, please visit www.ewtn.com/devotionals/mercy/novena.htm or visit the nearest Catholic bookstore to purchase the Divine Mercy Novena prayers.

The Sunday of Divine Mercy is a new feast that was instituted on May 5, 2000 by Pope John Paul II. A Polish nun, Sister Faustina Kowalska, now a saint, heard Jesus telling her, "Say always the Chaplet I have taught you. He (she) who says it, shall experience My Mercy, during his (her) life, and mostly at the hour of his (her) death."

How to pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet:

You may begin with the optional opening prayers:
You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy

opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.

(Repeat three times) *O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fountain of Mercy for us, I trust in You!*

Using rosary beads, begin with the Sign of the Cross. Pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary and The Apostles Creed.

On each of the five decades (Our Father bead of the rosary) pray:

Eternal Father, I offer you the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord, Jesus Christ, in atonement for our sins and those of the whole world.

On each of the 10 Hail Mary beads, pray:

For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

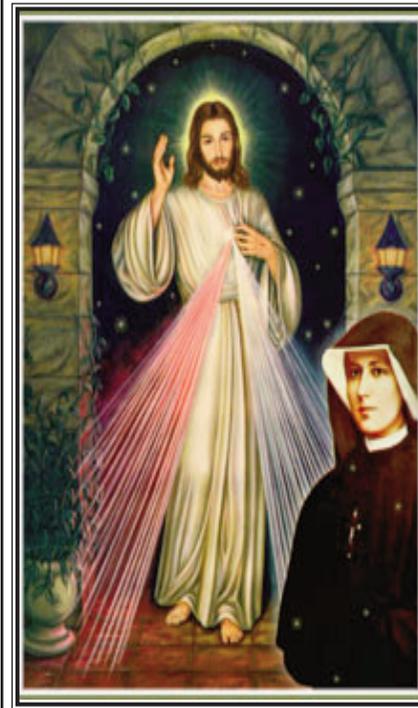
For the concluding prayer, repeat 3 times:

Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.

You may also add this optional closing prayer:

Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments we might not despair nor become despondent, but with great confidence submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy itself.

Celebrate the Hour of Mercy!



MERCY SUNDAY

April 3, 2016

St Anthony de Padua Catholic Church
 2120 E. Jefferson Blvd.,
 South Bend 46617
CLOSING MASS
 for
DIVINE MERCY NOVENA

Confessions:

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Eucharistic Adoration:

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

The Chaplet of Divine Mercy

2:30 - 3:00 p.m.

Novena Closing Mass:

3:00 p.m.

Everyone Welcome . . . Bienvenidos A Todas

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 (M.300)

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6 - 8 am

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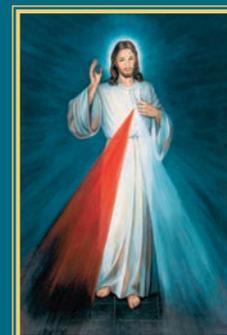
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Divine Mercy Chaplet and Novena begins Good Friday, March 25 and ends Saturday, April 2, 2016

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Institute for Church Life offers films

NOTRE DAME — The movie “Full of Grace” including a forum with the producers will be Tuesday, April 5, from 7-9 p.m. in the Carey Auditorium, Hesburgh Library.

A lecture on interpreting Marian allusions in film will be presented by Michael Duricy, S.T.L., from the International Marian Research Institute, University of Dayton, on Tuesday, April 19, from 7-9 p.m. in the Carey Auditorium, Hesburgh Library. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please contact Danielle Peters at Danielle.M.Peters.80@nd.edu or 574-631-2894. Sponsored by the Institute for Church Life.

A Tale of Two Synods: What's become of Catholic Marriage, and what to do about it

NOTRE DAME — A lecture by Kent Lasnoski, Ph.D., assistant professor of theology, Wyoming Catholic College will be Tuesday April 12, from 7-8 p.m. in the Carey Auditorium, Hesburgh Library. The lecture is free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy.

New series launched by Renewal Ministries

SOUTH BEND — The As by a New Pentecost series, developed by Renewal Ministries, is a 7 week DVD series that will include discussion, sharing and prayer. The series will offer a fuller understanding and experience of baptismal life in the Spirit and

AROUND THE DIOCESE

‘Joyful Noise’ show choir competes at Luers invitational



Provided by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School

The middle school show choir “Joyful Noise” competed at the Bishop Luers Midwest Show Choir Invitational held at Bishop Luers High School on March 11. The “Joyful Noise” show choir is made up of 19 girls from eight different Catholic middle schools, including St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, Most Precious Blood, St. Joseph Hessen Cassel, St. Therese, St. Charles Borromeo, St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla, and St. Jude. “Joyful Noise” also competed at show choir competitions at DeKalb and Homestead High Schools this winter and is directed by Sonia Salas and choreographed by Mackenzie Bowen.

encourages steps for realizing or deepening a vital relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Join others at St. Jude Parish, South Bend, on Wednesday, March 30, from 7-8:30 p.m.

Bishop Emeritus Sam Jacobs from Thibodaux, Louisiana, will be visiting St. Jude Parish May 16-18, to speak about the Holy Spirit and the New Evangelization.

To register for the series, call the parish office at 574-291-0570 or contact Dave and Jan Torma at 574-291-3381.

Annual prayer dinner planned

SOUTH BEND — St. Joseph County Right to Life will host a prayer dinner on Tuesday, April 12, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the Kroc Center, 900 W. Western Ave. Doors open at 6 p.m. Clergy and religious are admitted free; a \$20 donation is asked of other guests.

Mike Spencer of Life Training Institute will address the emotional issue of abortion with a compassionate heart that is sensitive to women and men who have experienced abortion. He will speak to the Church's role in facilitating healing and forgiveness. Call 574-232-LIFE or go to www.prolifemichiana.org/prayerdinner for reservations by April 1.

Abortion facility closes its doors

SOUTH BEND — The Women's Pavilion, according to Pro-Choice South Bend, closed its doors permanently at 7 p.m. March 18. This closure comes in wake of the loss of clinic license by the Indiana Department of Health in June of 2015 and a cessation of its abortion practice in November of 2015 due to numerous code violations.

Traditional blessings rich in symbolism

BY STEPHANIE A. PATKA

This summer, youth and young adults from across the diocese will be immersed into Polish culture as they travel to World Youth Day with Pope Francis. Some of Poland's culture and tradition is celebrated here in the United States. One of the best examples is Swieconka (pronounced sh-vee-en-soon-kah). This tradition, also celebrated by many people of Slovak, Lithuanian and Ukrainian heritage, is known as the Polish Blessing of the Baskets and takes place on Holy Saturday.

Families prepare beautiful baskets containing a small sampling of the foods in their Easter feast and are brought to church to be blessed. Poles take special pride in preparing a colorful and decorative basket that is traditionally lined with a white linen or lace napkin and ornamented with sprigs of boxwood, pussy willow branches and ribbons woven throughout the handle.

The Blessing of the Baskets is a cheerful occasion that rejoices in anticipation of the Resurrection, celebrates the new life in the season of spring as well as acts as a public demonstration of thanksgiving for the gifts that God has bestowed to His faithful.

Poswiecenie Pokarmow – The Blessing of Food

The prayer of the blessing contains three parts that address the contents of each basket: the meats, eggs, cakes and breads. The items included in the basket are very significant. Each has a particular meaning or symbolism to the celebration of Easter and act of thanksgiving to God.

After the blessing, the priest will sprinkle each basket with Holy Water, with some using the traditional straw brush. There are variations in the way that the baskets are blessed — in

some parishes, baskets are lined up on long tables, others will have a procession to the altar.

Prayer for the Blessing of the Breads and Baked Goods: The blessing calls Jesus the Bread of Life who died and rose for the life of the world. The prayer asks Him to bless the bread and holiday baked goods in memory of the bread offered at the Priest's hands which becomes His body.

Prayer for the Blessing of the Meats and Sausages: This blessing asks Jesus, as the Lamb of God, to bless the meats and sausages, in memory of the Paschal Lamb, as He gave to the Apostles at the Last Supper.

Prayer for the Blessing of the Easter Eggs (Pisanki): This blessing addresses Christ, our Life and Resurrection and asks Him to bless the eggs, which are a sign of new life. The prayer also asks Jesus to remember our family, those close to us, as well as guests, especially those who wait in the hope of being with Him.



Decorative wooden eggs are displayed during Easter.



At right, the foods blessed in the basket have special meaning. For example, eggs symbolize new life, bread reminds us of Jesus, the Bread of Life and sausage is a reminder of God's abundance and generosity.

Stephanie Patka

Celebrating well:

Lamb cake bakers take tradition to new level

BY JENNIFER MILLER

For the past hundred years, the St. Adalbert's Sisters' Auxiliary has baked beautiful, handmade lamb cakes for Easter. For the past fifteen years, they hosted a bake sale to financially support their beloved Felician Sisters. From butter molds and mini bunny cakes to chili and a full Polish lunch, every dish and dessert is homemade by a loving volunteer. Saturday, March 19, they had a line out the door starting at 7:30 a.m.

What is traditionally an Easter treat in Polish communities, the lamb cake is actually one of a few Easter symbols. Butter molds, of baby lambs or bunnies in modern times, also are popular. Connecting their family's table of the domestic church with that of the parish's altar of the Church, these lamb symbols were meant to subtly remind the faithful of what they just celebrated that Easter morning at Mass, the resurrection of Jesus, the Lamb of God.

"We were more of ham people, or sausage, rather than lamb, for the main meat of Easter dinner," Sister Anthony explained, "so many of our traditions centered around the lamb décor, remembering Jesus."

Keeping and carrying on the Polish traditions is truly an act of love. President of the Sisters' Auxiliary, Elaine Sizemore personally bakes all of the cakes in her double ovens at her



home, eight at a time, four in each oven. Her family, mother Theresa Zakowski and sisters, Diane and Linda, as well as long time volunteer Judy Plonski, organizes and energetically volunteers time and experience to this incredible undertaking. In fact it is Zakowski's cake recipe

that is used for the base of the lamb cake. It is an old fashioned pound cake, made from scratch, baked in a two-piece mold. Sizemore and her young niece mix and pour the batter into the face side of the lamb mold and it rises while baking into the rump of the 'animal.' Each is then



Photos provided by

Shown here is a butter mold in the shape of a lamb. This is a Polish tradition that helps serve as a functional reminder at Easter dinner and as a spiritual reminder that Jesus is the Lamb of God.

At left, Felician Sister Anthony helps out the St. Adalbert's Sisters' Auxiliary frosting lamb cakes, which are made from a secret recipe.

wrapped in plastic, numbered, and packed in plastic bins, until they are carried to the cafeteria and parish hall of St. Adalbert's for frosting and decorating.

Once there, groups of the Sisters' Auxiliary come together for multiple evenings to complete the lamb cakes, box them and prepare for the sold out bake sale. Using Elaine's personal frosting recipe that she developed from pastry school when she was fourteen, they cover the lamb cakes with beautiful pure white 'furry' coats. With a frosting tip and bag, they expertly and quickly frost each cake, attach to a base and decorate them. Raisins become the eyes and nose, a red hot candy is the mouth, green colored shredded coconut is the

grass on which the lamb sits and colored jellybeans dot the grass like colored Easter eggs. Finally a red ribbon is tied around the neck and a flag, of the Risen Christ, is attached in the rump. Traditionally Polish or Vatican flags were associated with the lamb cakes, but the sisters have always chosen the American flag to proudly wave on their lamb cakes. For a mere fifteen dollars, these homemade gems are a steal. Smaller bunny cakes are \$4.50. This year they are only selling pre-orders. One year they made over 120 lamb cakes, with pre- and day of orders. This year they are creating seventy cakes for the bake sale.

Butter molds are the other "lamb" specialty that the Sisters' Auxiliary offers. Both small and large sizes, in lamb or bunny shapes, are another unique tradition that can serve functionally and practically for the Easter dinner, as well as religiously as a reminder of the sacrifice of the mass just celebrated. They are decorated with cloves for the eyes, a red ribbon around the neck and green coconut 'grass' and jellybeans. Handmade in molds and frozen, they are a delightful and beautiful addition to one's table.

One group of frosting volunteers, Sizemore, Joanne Eby and Barb Ginter, have gathered for years. They also enjoy the many social activities that the Sisters' Auxiliary offers, especially the creative and popular bus trips. They all joined, following their mothers' example, as active members of St. Adalbert's Parish and graduates of St. Adalbert's School.

The Sisters' Auxiliary is looking forward to the Easter season and welcomes any new, interested members. Contact President, Elaine Sizemore for more information.

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Spring Sports

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

With a mild winter all but behind them, the Fort Wayne area Catholic high schools are heating up for their 2016 spring season. Both Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Luers are hopeful to be battling for league titles in the Summit Athletic Conference (SAC), as well as, contending for deep runs in the post season on the courts, fields, links and track.

BISHOP DWENGER

Baseball

In his third season as the varsity coach for Bishop Dwenger, Jason Garrett returns 24 players to the baseball field for 2016 which includes nine lettermen- seven seniors, one junior and one sophomore. This year's squad boasts a long list of accolades, veteran leadership and deep experience with eight seniors signed to continue their careers at the collegiate level. Sophomore Grant Richardson is also committed to play after high school for Indiana University. The squad has a goal to break school history and win both SAC and Sectional titles for the third consecutive year. The Saints also strive to compete in the IHSAA state finals behind their strong pitching, offense and team chemistry. Highlights in the schedule include a double header against South Bend St. Joseph at Notre Dame Stadium on May 14.

Softball

Upper classmen Kristina Burkhardt, Stephanie Hanic, Karsyn Kitchen and Taya Andrews will serve as the 2016 captains for the Bishop Dwenger softball team. Senior standout and University of North Carolina recruit, Burkhardt leads the Saints' attack for this year's campaign and is a possible candidate for the 2016 Miss Softball title. Coach Beth Peters previews, "Our major strength would be our work ethic and attitude. Every player in our program worked diligently in the off-season to bring her game to a new level. They have also set the standard for what Bishop Dwenger softball stands for: playing as a team, not for individual stats, as well as complete positivity and support of each other. These intangible strengths



will carry this amazing young team." The Saints were the 2015 SAC champs and logged an impressive 20-7 finish a year ago with losses coming only to state ranked foes.

Girls' Track

In his rookie season as head girls' track coach, Thomas Crum is excited to build on a 2015 group that may be fairly young, but qualified several relays with young legs at the regional competition last season. "Based on their performance in practices, I am expecting good things when it comes to meet settings," predicted Crum, who also coaches cross-country for the Knights. Along with senior sprinter Rachel Gibson and a solid distance core of Alex Ebetino, Abby Brelage and Megan Brelage, they recently wrapped up their indoor season and will kick off the outdoor meets April 13.

Boys' Track

A very familiar face on the track, Herb Widner is back for his 40th season as head coach at Bishop Dwenger. The Saints return two 2015 state finalists in Jake Hursh (800) and Vince Schipper (pole vault) along with Mike Hake, Nolan Till, David Tippmann, Aric Campbell, Alex Barton and Reyer Howe, several of whom were regional qualifiers. Widner and his unit hope to stay healthy this season, have fun and be competitive.

Golf

The Saints have four of five starters back from last year's stellar team: Patrick Allgeier, Callahan Elzey, Kyle Miller and James Wagner. Coach Dave Scudder predicts the fifth spot will be filled by Luke Miller, Tyler Fink, Logan Ryan, Jacob Scroggham or Isaac Landstoffer. In 2015, Bishop Dwenger won the SAC conference championship for the eighth time in ten years. They also claimed the regional championship for the first time in Bishop Dwenger school history and finished an impressive fourth in the state tournament. "We are looking to improve our position this year at the state tournament. It should be a great year," Scudder summarized.

Tennis

Athletic director, John Bennett reports that Aubrey Lohser has been named the new ten-

nis coach at Bishop Dwenger. The Lady Saints will swing into action against Concordia on March 24 and face a challenging line up this season. 2016 play will continue through April and May and culminate with the post season starting with Sectionals the week of May 18.

Lacrosse

The 2016 captains for the Bishop Dwenger lacrosse club will be Ian Stroud, Will Salzer, Joe Steigmeyer, Nick Maguire and Braxton Patton. The Saints return a good portion of the team from last years' Indiana Club champs including a deep mid-field led by Stroud and Maquire and strong defense spearheaded by goalie, Steibmeyer and lethal long poles, Salzer and Ingle. The club has notable newcomers in the 6'5" Ingle and East coast native Aaron Davis. Like many years, the schedule highlights include intense match ups with Snider, Homestead and Avon.

Rugby

Both the boys' and girls' rugby club rosters are shaping up nicely. With over 50 players, the boys will have three full sides of varsity, junior varsity and developmental. The girls' club of 30 will field one competitive varsity side. The boys' club is led by captains Jacob Tomlinson and Landon Campbell and a talented group of seniors. The girls' club is coming back from a third place finish in the north division. Seniors Karena Parish, Aubrey Motherwell, Sam Sliger and Gina Obergfell are all returning starters and have the experience the Saints need for a strong season. Junior center Emily Tippmann who led the team in points last season is also back along with sophomore Danielle Burns whose toughness in the pack was hard to match.

BISHOP LUERS

Tennis

The Knights return two all-conference players in Katie Klinger and Kayla Knapke. Joined by six more players who saw varsity action in 2015 and a promising new group of freshman, Bishop Luers is predicted to have a very deep, competitive squad in the running for the upper part of the SAC conference. The Knights will have a similar schedule from a year ago with a mix of dual matches and invitationals and as always, have a goal to win the SAC. In his

seventh outing with the tennis program, Jerry Rahrig details, "I'm looking forward to starting challenge matches to see who will establish themselves." Following his only season without a daughter on the roster, Rahrig is excited at the resurgence of the sport in the Fort Wayne area and to coach his youngest, Caroline, this year.

Softball

Athletic director Rick Brown reports that the Bishop Luers roster lists six seniors for the 2016 spring season. The Knights will begin play against Central Noble on March 23 on their home field located at St. Joseph Hessen Cassel. They have a full schedule, which will culminate with the post-season IHSAA tournament beginning May 23-25.

Track

In his rookie season with the Knights, Coach Jordan Miller welcomes back familiar faces in senior captain Takyra Merritt, Madison Busch, Katie Prendergast, Matt Paris and Alex Maldeney. Miller details, "The senior leadership is going to be pivotal for the 2016 Knights' season as the team's roster is full of raw talent and youth." The Knights are looking to use their youth to build on the 2015 season which saw the boys finish sixth in the conference meet and the girls fifth. Feeling blessed with the opportunity to coach at Bishop Luers, Miller concludes, "It is an honor to bring my experience and energy to Bishop Luers this season. One of the team's biggest strengths will lie with the youth of this team. If the underclassmen are able to take the constructive criticism and guidance of this senior class, we are going to have a lot of fun this season."

Lacrosse

Alumnus and Indiana Tech player Brian Nichter will take the reins for the Bishop Luers lacrosse program this spring. After a rough season a year ago, the Knights are setting lofty goals while laying a foundation to make them competitive for the long term. Completely different from 2015, the roster lists just 18 players but has a good core of talented players led by No. 2 senior captain Noah Meiser. Nichter explains, "Our defense

will be our strongest most complete aspect of our team. Garreth Brouwer (LSM) and Sean Brouwer (goalie) will lead the way along with very reliable defensive players like Patrick Wyss, Jeremy Fagg and Alex Steffen. Another huge plus for the Knights is that they will be allowed to use the football field and the practice field at the school for their home matches and practices."



Golf

In his ninth season as head coach, Tom O'Brien and the Bishop Luers linksters have high hopes of building on a winning record (10-3) a year ago. 26 hopefuls are trying out this season to make this happen and all-SAC selection Ben Reuille and juniors Will Pape, Max Pyle and Andrew Albertson are back to lead the way. O'Brien also welcomes newcomer Carston Fritz to the group. The sophomore played baseball as a freshman for the Knights. O'Brien explains, "Fritz spent a tremendous amount of time working on his golf game over the summer months." Bishop Luers must fill the shoes of Caleb Kroft and SAC tournament champion, Conner Nix, who were lost to graduation.

Baseball

For nearly three decades, Gary Rogers has been at the helm of the Bishop Luers baseball program. This season his roster lists five Knights who have signed to continue playing at the next level: Logan Gallaway and Noah Hoeffel (Kankakee Community College), Nick Carroll (Spring Arbor University), Brandon Diss (Bethel College) and Luke Lashure (Indiana Tech). Offensively, Tyler Prince (first base) will lead the veteran group who went 17-10 a year ago. Carroll, Hoeffel, Tony Bottone and Gallaway are back on the mound as is junior Dustin Notter who went 4-0 in 2015 as a sophomore. Gallaway and Lashure will anchor the middle infield at short and second. Mick Palmer will play third/DH. Blane Cook will take over the catcher position while Diss, Bottone, Noah Hoeffel and Nick Carroll will roam the outfield for the Knights.

Saint Joseph High School plans big for spring sports season

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND — The sun is shining, birds are singing, and the spring sports season has arrived for the Saint Joseph High School Indians.

Boys' golf

"We have a strong group of returning players this season and hope to be in the mix to compete for a conference and sectional championship and hopefully win a few of our tournaments along the way," boys' golf coach Bret Bajdek predicted for the season. The team's strength is the experience leading the tribe.

"We have three seniors: Tate Heintzleman-Dee (2015 regional qualifier), Will DeTrempe, and Kyle Killilea who have been competing since they were freshman. Add to that sophomore Michael Anthony who was a varsity player as well last year, and we have a very strong core. It is a good group of golfers and they

get along well which makes the season enjoyable," noted Bajdek.

Finishing the season strong has always been a challenge for the team so Bajdek hopes the team can complete the season with a strong finish in tournaments. Improvement is the goal for the golf season. "If we can have a strong start at the Kaeppler, roll through a grinding NIC schedule, and be ready come playoff time, then this team has a good chance to compete in both the NIC and the sectional," said Bajdek.

Girls' tennis

"Our expectations are high this season. Last year we lost in the Semi state round to the team that won State (Carmel). We ended the season ranked No. 4. We graduated one senior from our line up, and we have some



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freshmen and reserves from last year that can very capably fill that vacated spot," noted Bill

Mountford, girls tennis coach.

Mountford said one of the team's strength is having one of the best players in the state in sophomore Maddie Yergler. "We are truly blessed with great depth. The starting line up in high school tennis is seven players, and we really have ten very solid tennis players. Our junior varsity team has to be one of the very best in the state, and would defeat a large number of varsity teams out there," noted Mountford.

He feels the team needs to be adaptive to the varying conditions of outdoor play in northern Indiana in springtime.

"We will be doing all that we can to improve every day. Our goal is to work hard, improve every day and have some fun out there," said Mountford.

Softball

"This season is hard to predict due to the fact that we are so young — 19 out of 26 players in the program are freshmen or sophomores. However, we do have some good talent in every class," said coach Earl Keith about his predictions for the season.

Keith feels the team's strength is the leadership of senior captain Alyssa Gutierrez, a three-time all conference and two-time all state player. She leads by tremendous example with her awesome work ethic and class.

According to Keith, gaining experience by playing together and learning to trust and respect one another is the main focus to improve and mesh into a successful season.

"Goals for the season are to improve into a strong 'team' by mid season. Our lofty goals for success are to finish strong in our conference (top 3), and to win our sectional tournament to

validate our improvement," said Keith.

Girls' lacrosse

"This is our first season not combined with Marian High School. We had a strong turn out and will have a full bench to allow fresh legs for the starting line up. I believe we will have a great season, with a challenging schedule of seventeen games in a two-month span. We have several student athletes that have the potential to collect individual regional and state level awards. The season promises to offer great opportunities for learning and growth. We will grow mentally and physically together and unite to create a strong foundation for the future of Saint Joseph Girls' Lacrosse," said girls lacrosse coach Katie Neeser.

The team has worked hard the last several months and will need to continue to work on offense and taking initiative with the ball.

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Marian spring sports preview

BY TRISH LINNER

The spring season of sports is upon us and with unseasonably warm weather, most teams are getting a jump on outside practices. Coaches and players are gearing up to put that practice to good use and are looking forward to winning seasons ahead.

Girls' Track

Dave Walsh returns for his fifth season as head coach of girls' track. "The team is off to a good start," said Walsh. "We have a talented group of athletes who have begun to train for the upcoming season. The team displays the talent and has the work ethic to be successful."

The team returns many veterans in key roles. Seniors Dinuka Cooray and Mallory Spiess return as veteran hurdlers. Seniors Tori Micola and Abbey Kaser, along with sophomore Grace Dennis are returning veterans in the shot and discus. Junior Mary Costello is a veteran hurdler who focuses on the 300m hurdles. Costello has also shifted from high jump to pole vault and is making excellent progress in that demanding event. Other returning juniors include Claire Fewell, and junior Maddie McTigue who was the most valuable runner in cross country last fall. Also returning are sophomores Emma Kearns, Hannah Majewski, and Hannah Stein. All three were on the regional qualifying 4x800m relay team last year. The team is also fortunate to have many new freshmen who have the ability to add to the team's success.

Walsh is confident in the strong nucleus of returning veterans and talented group of new athletes to compete well in the NIC conference and hopefully into the state tournament.

Girls' Lacrosse

Coach Kent Smith will lead the first year of girls' lacrosse at Marian. "In the past we were combined with Saint Joseph as one team. We are fortunate to have several returning players from that squad," said coach Smith. "I believe the senior leadership and the strength of the underclassman will provide a strong balanced team."

Senior night will feature a match between Marian and Saint Joseph. "It will be a tough game and bittersweet rivalry for the girls that played together with Saint Joseph for several years," noted coach Smith.

Practices are going well so far and with the good weather the team is trying to get some outdoor time on their field. Coach Smith is confident in his new team. "We have a very strong defense and I am looking forward to seeing how these girls gel as a team," Smith said.

Girls' Tennis

Coach Dan Tryniecki begins his tenure as the girls' tennis coach this season.

"I enjoy the team spirit and positive atmosphere. I am optimistic about our team even though we are young with only two returning letter winners," said coach Tryniecki.

Anna Garatoni and Gina Tordi are players to watch this season and coach Tryniecki expects them to contribute to the team's success. Five players will move up to the varsity team this season and practices are well under way. The NIC will provide tough conference play for the young team but the girls are ready and excited to start playing.

Boys' Golf

Coach Michael Davidson begins his first season as head coach of the boys' golf team. The team reached the regionals last season with one player going to the state finals and Davidson is confident they will once again be competitive in the challenging NIC conference.

The team will be led by seniors Augie Hartnagel, Cameron Trippel, Gus Horvath, Zach Stopczynski, Justin Himelick, Christian Verstraete and Nick Rothbauer. "Our seniors will provide leadership as well as a competitive atmosphere among the players," said coach Davidson. A solid junior class will also be vying for varsity playing time.

"We aim to represent Marian High School with class and dignity out on the golf course while working together towards our goal of winning a championship," coach Davidson concluded.

Boys' Rugby

Coach Larry Daher is looking forward to a strong season for the Rugby team. "We are returning 17 seniors and 12 starters this year with a great deal of experience and athleticism," said coach Daher. Last season the team had a positive record and they would like to improve on that with even more wins this year. Players PJ Ernst, Dominic Matthys, Michael Nolan and Evan Ridenour are all expected to lead the team and contribute to their success. "Our goal is to play for the state championship and should be able to do so if the kids work hard and play as a team," said coach Daher.

Boys' Lacrosse

Coach Shawn Bays will lead the boys' lacrosse team this season. He comes to Marian after coaching for five years at the travel and middle school level. His last season as the head coach at St. Anthony saw his team go 10-1 and win both the ICCL and NILA championships.

"We have 14 returning lettermen with 8 new players that will add to our midfield and attack lines. They will play a key role on the team," said coach Bays. "The majority of our roster have now played for 4-6 years either on travel teams or grade school programs like the ICCL. That is a big difference."

Saint Joseph and Penn will be highlights of the season because of their rich history, size and dedication but schools like Chatard, Guerin Catholic and Snider will also test the team's abilities. "I want our players to compete every day and want to grow as a player to the next level. I want players who play with their heart and will be willing to leave it all on the field," coach Bays concluded.

Boys' Baseball

Coach Joe Turnock returns for his fourth season as head varsity coach. He is looking forward to the new season with some new competition. "The NIC conference

has expanded this year so we will be seeing some new teams on our schedule this season. We expect the NIC to be a very competitive conference," said coach Turnock.

The team has nine varsity players returning from last year's 15-11 squad and coach Turnock has high expectations. Leading the team will be pitcher senior Nate Thomas, second baseman senior Kyle Hall and shortstop junior Riley Tirota. Senior Gavin Verslype will anchor the corner outfield with senior Joe Ravotto anchoring the infield. Coach Turnock also expects juniors Alex Zarazee, Bryce Tomasi and Alex Crum to contribute significantly to the team. Six new players will join the varsity squad this season.

With the weather cooperating, the team has been able to get outdoors early, which coach Turnock believes is a big positive for the team. "The players are excited and ready to go," he concluded.

Boys' Track

Coach Santiago J. Bosque or coach Boz as he is known, returns for his third year leading the track team. "Our goal is to win some meets, and improve our speed and strength. We have had limited success, but we are looking to improve with experience and hard work," said coach Boz.

The team is led by senior captains Alex Mroz, Jacob Imus and Christian Dennis. Seniors Nick Pingel, Dominic Rulli, Collin Martin, Paul Dieringer, Collin Linner and newcomer Paul Burmeister will also provide leadership and success. Other team members are juniors and a large contingency of sophomores. Freshman James Song will also join the varsity squad.

"While track is somewhat of an individual sport, it takes the effort of the whole for the team to have success. With the help of assistant coaches Rob Carrasco and Russ Morris, all of our athletes should see improvement in themselves," said coach Boz.

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Father Bill Sullivan
frsullivan@live.com

or mail to:

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
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What's in His name?

Have you ever had a moment in time when something just clicks, things fall into place in a deeper way, and your understanding takes a huge leap forward? I had such a moment years ago in the Atlanta airport, where something I had known in my head went deep into my heart. I witnessed a young Hasidic Jewish boy running gleefully around his father. Hasidic Jews are not hard to pick out in a crowd—the men dress in black attire, including a hat, and their sidelocks are long curls.

This young boy of four or five was circling his father, as happy as he could be, saying, “Abba, Abba, Abba!” It clicked. This is the name Jesus revealed to us regarding his Father. Only twice did God reveal his name: once to Moses, “I am who I am,” and again through Jesus, “Abba.” I had known the word’s translation for years — Papa or Daddy — but it was only hearing it “live” in the airport when it stirred my heart and made me smile. I can still feel it reverberate through me. It was said with such ease, abandon, and delight. I thought, “That’s right! That’s how He wants us to talk to Him!”

Both in Jesus’ day and today, “Abba” has been a controversial name for God. When Jesus heals a man on the Sabbath, provoking the religious leaders to persecute him (Jn. 5:16), we notice in the next verses that they “tried all the more to kill Him, because He not only broke the Sabbath but *He also called God His own father, making Himself equal to God*” (Jn 5:18). According to Scott Hahn, even today Muslims are terribly insulted by how we Catholics and

Christians call God “Father.”

Back to the more pleasant side... I have prepared seventh- and eighth-graders for Confirmation for over 15 years. My wife and I have not been able to have children, so you can bet when two kids from different years spontaneously blurted out, “You would make a good dad,” I remembered it, sometimes with tears! There is something profound in being affirmed as a father. Being a spiritual father is something for which all men, even childless men, are designed. Our Abba is just as delighted and pleased when we “hallow” His name as the little boy did in the airport.

For this reason, I wrote the “Abba Prayer for Men,” opening with “Abba (Papa, Daddy, Dad), make me know my true identity as Your beloved son....” Many men (and women) have an identity problem when it comes to God. They see him as a master to be obeyed or, according to one of my clients, as a “drill sergeant.” St. John Paul II called this perspective a “servile fear of the Lord.” St. John would say these men live in fear of punishment and judgment (1 Jn. 4). They are exhausted, believing they are only as good as their last performance.

Wounded through words, violence, or neglect, they don’t feel loved. But the name “Abba” reveals something very different. The very name is life and love ... fathers beget life through love! God gives Himself totally to His Son and totally to us: “Everything I have is yours,” as He tells the older brother in the prodigal son story. At Jesus’ baptism, He hears those words every boy and every man longs to hear



DAVE McCLOW

THE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE

from his father, “You are My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.” And at our baptism, Abba gives us His very life, His love — in fact He deifies us — makes us gods. Most of us were baptized as babies, so we had no great accomplishments, no big bank accounts. We were nothing but eating, sleeping, and pooping bundles. Yet Abba delighted in us — because we breathed, not because we did anything. We must drink deeply of this endless, enduring love so we can, as fertile spiritual fathers, radiate God’s Fatherhood to everyone — the challenge of the great commission.

If we are wounded, we must purify our hearts and memories of our negative experiences with our parents (CCC 2779). Here is a little test: start calling God “Abba,” “Papa,” “Dad,” or “Daddy.” If you find this difficult, then a wound needs healing. If this healing requires you to forgive someone, especially in this year of Mercy, know that forgiveness does not mean you must forget the trespass or run in slow motion in love toward the person. It simply means giving up the right to collect a debt or seek revenge. And forgiveness is impossible without God’s help.

McCLOW, page 14

Rising with Christ in a broken world

In my daily work at Catholic Relief Services, I routinely encounter suffering: the crisis of 60 million displaced people around the world, a number larger than those displaced in World War II; at least 50 million children not in school; human trafficking; slave labor; impending food shortage for a large number of Ethiopians; or the dry corridor in Central America with unpredictable bursts of torrential rain that eliminate growing seasons and sometimes wipe out complete plantings.

I generally plow on.

But one day, two emails made me stop. The first described the death of 21-year-old Elias, a volunteer at a Catholic organization in Aleppo, Syria; he was cut down by a bomb. The second email was from a longtime friend who expressed her deep sadness over her son’s divorce. For this lady, marriage is sacred: a lifelong commitment to which she and her husband devoted themselves. As if this heartbreak needed an external marker, she also sustained a broken elbow, which made impossible her playing the piano for the enjoyment of the elderly in a facility.

I was overwhelmed with the degree of brokenness in our world: broken marriages, broken vows, broken bones, broken families, broken livelihoods, broken governments, broken societies, broken earth, broken spirits.

I imagine the apostles must have felt pretty broken in their world on the Friday and Saturday after Jesus’ death. Thoroughly confused and defeat-



CAROLYN WOO

OUR GLOBAL FAMILY

ed, they must have wondered how the victory that was playing out so spectacularly before the cheering mob just a few days before turned into the hideous drama of the Crucifixion.

Now what were they supposed to believe in? Did they feel betrayed by their master? Whom could they count on? How were they to return to a world in which they witnessed people breaking people? How could they love as Jesus asked them to? What could they do? They burrowed deep in hiding. Total darkness.

Then Jesus rose from the dead. In a way, you can say that nothing changed. The Romans were still there; the Pharisees did not change their minds about Him; and as we now know too well, death, oppression and destruction continued. Jesus performed no miracles to change the circumstances of His world and our world.

Jesus’ rising only changed people, his apostles and each of us who professes His resurrection to life that could not be defeated by death, nor chained by fear, hatred and suffering.

WOO, page 14

The early community of the Church detailed in Acts



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Easter John 20:1-9

The Church celebrates the Easter Vigil late in the evening on Holy Saturday. These readings are for Easter Sunday itself.

For its first reading on this extraordinary feast of Christian faith, the Church presents us with a passage from the Acts of the Apostles. Acts is in effect a continuation of St. Luke’s Gospel. Scholars say that this Gospel and Acts were the work of the same author. Beginning with the Ascension, Acts reports what life was like for the infant community of Christians in Jerusalem, and then it recalls the

initial spread of Christianity.

Important in the early chapters of Acts is a series of sermons delivered by Peter. Always Peter spoke for the community and especially for the surviving Apostles. In this reading, Peter briefly gives a synopsis of the life of Jesus. Sent by God, Jesus was crucified, the victim of human scheming. He rose after death. He commissioned the Apostles to continue the work of reconciling God and humanity. The Apostles learned from Jesus.

The Epistle to the Colossians, the second reading, places Christ at God’s right hand. It says that Christians already have “been raised” because they have taken Christ into their hearts. Having given themselves to Jesus, they have died to earthly things and to earthly ideas. In the process, they have been drawn into the eternal life of the Risen Lord.

St. John’s Gospel supplies the last reading. It goes into some detail about the Resurrection and its aftermath. The first figure mentioned in the story is Mary Magdalene. She was a beloved

figure in early Christianity, because she was so intensely a follower of Jesus. Indeed, according to John’s Gospel, she stood beneath the cross of Calvary rather than abandon the dying Lord. It was risky. She might have been construed to be an accomplice in treason against the Roman Empire. Despite this danger — and the Romans were unforgiving — she remained.

She went to the tomb before daybreak. Finding it empty, she hurried to Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved. (Tradition long has assumed this disciple to be John, although this gospel passage never identifies the disciple by name.)

Peter and the disciple then rushed to the tomb themselves. They were overwhelmed. Grasping what exactly had happened at the tomb was not easy. Love and faith made the process easier. The beloved disciple saw that the tomb was empty. He believed that Jesus had risen.

Reflection

The Church excitedly tells us that the Lord lives. He rose from the dead. It is a proclamation of the greatest and central belief of the Church, namely that Jesus, the Son of God, overcame even death.

More than simply affirming once again the Church’s trust in the Resurrection, actual and physical, of Christ, these readings call upon us to respond. Such was the message in Colossians, the second reading. Such is the important lesson in the references to Mary Magdalene, Peter, and the disciple whom Jesus loved. They believed, regardless of the costs, and in spite of the seeming impossibility of rising from the dead.

We too must believe. Such belief is so demanding. First, we must admit our limitations, confronting the fact that sin has weakened and blinded us. Then, we must submit ourselves to God, ready to be healed and strengthened. Hopefully, Lenten

penances these past weeks have helped us in this process.

All this requires following the Lord. How do we know the Lord? Where do we meet the Lord? We hear Jesus in the testimony of Peter and the Apostles. We meet Jesus in the community of faith that they formed in Jerusalem, and then, beyond so long ago, the living, visible Church of God.

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 10:34a, 37-43 Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 Col 3:1-4 Jn 20:1-9
Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33 Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11 Mt 28:8-15
Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41 Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22 Jn 20:11-18
Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10 Ps 105:1-4, 6-9 Lk 24:13-35
Thursday: Acts 3:11-26 Ps 8:2ab, 5-9 Lk 24:35-48
Friday: Acts 4:1-12 Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a Jn 21:1-14
Saturday: Acts 5:12-16 Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 Jn 20:19-31

Catholics and acceptable uses of contraceptives

Contraceptives include drugs and devices like condoms, the Pill, and spermicides. It might come as a surprise to some to learn that the Catholic Church does not always oppose the “use of contraceptives.” A couple of trivial examples can help explain this point. The Church would not oppose the use of a contraceptive spermicidal gel to lubricate the axle of a bicycle tire to improve its rotation, nor would it specifically oppose the use of inflated condoms as party balloons. The particular context is important. More serious examples of acceptable contexts and uses for contraceptives would include using the Pill medically to treat serious gynecological problems, or using the Pill to block the release of an egg from a woman’s ovary in a situation of rape to protect her from becoming pregnant from the attack. Contrary to popular confusion, as we can see, the Church does not always oppose the “use of contraceptives.”

What the Church does always oppose, however, are acts of contraception. An act of contraception is a very particular type of disordered human action that involves the decision freely to engage in marital intercourse, while pursuing countermeasures in anticipation of, contemporaneously with, or after the completion of the sexual act, to try intentionally to block it from achieving its proper finality, namely, the engendering of new human life. These countermeasures can include, to borrow the words of Pope Paul VI, “any action which either before, at the moment of, or after sexual intercourse, is specifically intended to prevent procreation—whether as an end or as a means” (Humanae Vitae, n. 14).

Pope Francis, in a recent interview, pointed out that Pope Paul VI, in a difficult situation in Africa, “permitted nuns to use contraceptives in cases of rape.”

This use of contraceptives by a group of nuns occurred during an exceptional wartime situation in the Belgian Congo. Although no document has ever been found in the Vatican indicating that permission was actually given by the Pope, these women were given the Pill by their physicians because they appeared to be in imminent danger of sexual assault during the uprisings of 1960. The Pill was provided to prevent their ovaries from releasing an egg, so that if they were raped during the chaos, the attacker’s sperm would not be able to fertilize any of their eggs, and a pregnancy would not occur. This “use of contraceptives” would clearly not be an act of contraception, because there would be no consensual sexual act, but only an act of violence and brutality forcibly directed against the women. Hence, this use of contraceptives constituted, in its essence, an act of self-defense, not an act of contraception. A rapist, of course, has absolutely no right to forced sexual intimacy with his victim, nor does he have any right to bring about her impregnation, and the woman has absolutely no moral duty to make her eggs available to an attacker’s sperm. Hence the use of contraceptives in an emergency situation like this would be morally permissible precisely because it would not constitute, morally speaking, an act of contraception, but would rather represent a defensive and self-protective maneuver in a situation of grave and imminent danger.

The use of contraceptives can be morally acceptable in other contexts as well, again, because such uses do not constitute acts of contraception. For example, when a woman has severe menstrual bleeding, or pain from ovarian cysts, the hormonal regimen contained in the Pill may sometimes provide a directly therapeutic medical treatment



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

for the bleeding or the pain. This use of contraceptives is an act of medical therapy to address a pathological situation, not an act of contraception. The secondary effect from the treatment, namely, marital infertility, is only tolerated, and should not be willed, desired, or intended in any way by the couple. It is worth noting that it would not be acceptable to make use of contraceptives like the Pill for these medical cases if other pharmacological agents or treatments were available which would offer the same therapeutic benefits and effects without impeding fertility.

In sum, while the Church has always taught that marital acts of contraception are morally wrong, the use of contraceptives can sometimes be acceptable within certain other contexts outside of consensual conjugal acts. Janet Smith has succinctly summarized the issue this way: “The Church teaches that acts of contraception are always against the plan of God for human sexuality, since God intended that each and every act of spousal intercourse express both the intention to make a complete, unitive gift of one’s self to one’s spouse and the willingness to be a parent with one’s spouse. These meanings of the spousal act are, as Humanae Vitae stated, inseparable.”

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

WOO

Continued from Page 13

Jesus did not seek to settle scores with the Romans, Pilate, Herod, the Pharisees, the fickle mob. He just walked and spent time with His friends, accompanying them into life and love with the promise that He is always with them.

Jesus did not ask us to change the world, but to change our hearts so that we can forgive, serve, heal, bear the world’s insults, lift up those forsaken by others.

At the Easter Vigil, when our tapers receive the light from the paschal candle, be reminded that we are light from the source of

all light, God’s chosen to recover the goodness of what He has made, to be hope, to love the people He entrusts to us, and to rise from the resignation that Pope Francis characterized as one of the devil’s most favorite weapons.

Before I finished this essay, another email stopped me. The subject line read “Deo Gratias” and it was about a Syrian woman captured a year ago by ISIS but now reunited with her husband and three children.

Let us rise with Christ this Easter.

Carolyn Y. Woo is the president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services in the United States.

McCLOW

Continued from Page 13

The Catechism illustrates this with some of the most beautiful and psychologically insightful words: “It is there ... ‘in the depths of the heart,’ that everything is bound and loosed. It is not in our power not to feel or to forget an offense; but the heart that offers itself to the Holy Spirit turns injury into compassion and purifies the memory in transforming the hurt into intercession” (2843).

Dave McCLOW, M.Div. is a counselor with the Pastoral Solutions Institute Tele-Counseling Services. Read more at CatholicExchange.com.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for March 27, 2016

Luke 24:1-12

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Easter Vigil. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

THE STONE	ROLLED AWAY	TOMB
BODY	TWO MEN	FACES
THE DEAD	HE IS NOT HERE	GALILEE
SON OF MAN	RISE	ELEVEN
MARY	MAGDALENE	JOANNA
MOTHER	JAMES	APOSTLES
BELIEVE	PETER	CLOTHS

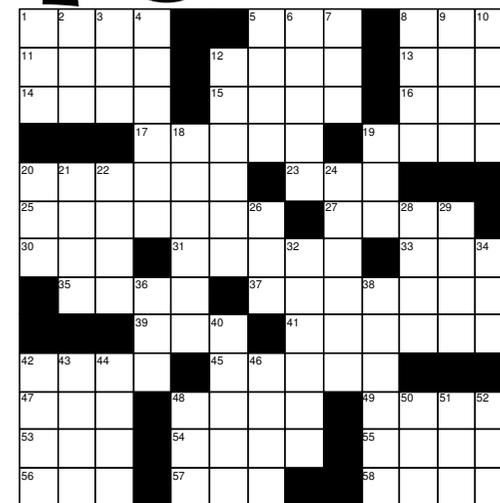
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 E C L O T H S D A E E E
 V G A L I L E E L L M H
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The CrossWord

March 20 and 27, 2016

57 Clock time
 58 Very large book



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Based on these Scripture Readings: Lk 19:28-40; Is 50:4-7; Phil 2:6-11 and Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9

ACROSS

- 1 Lion’s call
- 5 Watch chain
- 8 Peter did to tomb
- 11 European money unit
- 12 Skull
- 13 Kimono sash
- 14 Jesus did for us
- 15 Rule with an ___ rod
- 16 Bath
- 17 Leader in early church
- 19 “___ of the Apostles”
- 20 In a foreign land
- 23 Compass point
- 25 “Equality with God something to be ___”
- 27 Evils

30 Malchus lost his

- 31 Metal fasteners
- 33 “Take this and ___”
- 35 Heredity component
- 37 Shout of praise
- 39 Unusual
- 41 Pasch
- 42 When Jesus rose
- 45 Devour (2 wds.)
- 47 Cutting tool
- 48 Speak indistinctly
- 49 Recedes
- 53 Perish
- 54 Petite
- 55 Deal with
- 56 “___ and ye shall receive”

DOWN

- 1 Cardinals’ color
- 2 French “yes”
- 3 “Blessed ___ you”
- 4 Cowboy shows
- 5 Peter tried to hide beside
- 6 Smells
- 7 Benjamin
- 8 Reserve Officers Training Corps.
- 9 Come up against
- 10 Small licorice treats
- 12 “Your life is ___ with Christ”
- 18 “Fallen away” (from church)
- 19 Hand tool
- 20 “Until the end of the ___”
- 21 Boast
- 22 Underdone
- 24 Guinea-___
- 26 Morse code dash
- 28 Penitential season
- 29 Lucid
- 32 Psalms are
- 34 Sticky black substance
- 36 Not (prefix)
- 38 A feature
- 40 Cafes
- 42 Baby’s “Daddy”
- 43 Rotational line
- 44 “On the first day of the ___”
- 46 Relative
- 48 Short-term memory
- 50 Ghost’s greeting
- 51 Heart rate
- 52 Bishop’s area

Answer Key can be found on page 15

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.

Catholic College Fair

Fort Wayne — A Catholic college fair will be Tuesday, April 12, from 6-8 p.m. at the University of Saint Francis North Campus Gymnasium, 2702 Spring St. Catholic College representatives from Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and beyond will be available for prospective college students and parents to learn more about the schools and their programs. Refreshments will be served. No registration required. For information, call 260-399-7700 or visit go.sf.edu/usf-ccn.

Trivia night planned

Fort Wayne — Queen of Angels Parish will have a trivia night on Saturday, April 16, at 7 p.m. for adults 21 and over. Doors open at 6 p.m. A table of 10 is \$100. Babysitting is available. Contact Denny Jamison at 260-418-1139.

The CrossWord

March 6 and 13, 2016



The CrossWord

March 20 and 27, 2016



Catholic Business Network Group

Fort Wayne — The Catholic Business Network Group will meet Friday, April 1, beginning with Mass at 7 a.m. in the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel. Theresa Schortgen, CFPC, CFCS, FertilityCare™ Specialist of Northeast Indiana will be speaking on "The Business of Comprehensive Health Care — A Breakthrough Relief in a Busy World" in the Cathedral Center following Mass. Refreshments provided by Redeemer Radio.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter plans spring weekend

Fort Wayne — The Worldwide Marriage Encounter of Northern Indiana will offer a spring weekend in Fort Wayne April 22-24. The weekend gives married couples the opportunity to discover that their "Good" marriage can be "Great". To apply or for information visit www.wvme-ni.org or call Jen and Dave Krueckeberg at 260-728-9949.

Attention homeschoolers

Fort Wayne — The Northeastern Indiana Catholic Home Educators (NICHE) will have an evening of fun and information at the annual curriculum share planned for Friday, April 15, at 6:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Good Hope Church, 7215 St. Joe Rd. It is an opportunity to view and discuss curriculum materials, ask questions, and meet other homeschooling families. Childcare will not be available. For information contact Jenn MacDonald at 260-485-8828 or jenn@highlanddove.org.

Building Inclusive Parishes to hold meet and greet

Fort Wayne — Building Inclusive Parishes ministry will have a meet and greet on Thursday, April 14, at 7 p.m. at Our Lady of Good Hope, 7215 St. Joe Rd. Meet current members and speak to those who have knowledge in various areas of disabilities/special needs. Snacks will be provided. Visit the website www.buildinginclusiveparishes.weebly.com.

Rummage sale planned

Kendallville — Immaculate Conception Parish, 319 E. Diamond St., will have a rummage sale on Friday, April 1, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, April 2, from 9-11:30 a.m. Bag sales start Friday at 3 p.m.

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.



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Daniel J. Houser, 83, St. Henry

Granger

Edward R. Bauer, 70, St. Pius X

Huntington

Margaret Aufdenkamp, 88, St. Mary

Mishawaka

John P. Basker, 64, Queen of Peace

Sally R. Zirille, 83, St. Monica

Eugene T. Piechocki, 93, St. Bavo

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Pearl K. Jaworski, 99, St. John the Baptist

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Agnes V. Monhaut, 88, Corpus Christi

Jason L. Wilson, 40, Corpus Christi

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Prayer for the Faithful Departed

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord.

And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

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VISIT

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to be disobedient to the Father's will — because of His love for the Father and because of His love for us," Bishop Rhoades said.

He asked the students to consider the distress their patron, St. Joseph, must have been under when Herod ordered all the baby boys under two to be killed and when they fled to Egypt.

Bishop Rhoades shared a story that he said "affected me very deeply," when he read of the recent executions of Sisters of the Missionaries of Charity by members of ISIS. Bishop said he'd met Mother Theresa several times and he felt close ties to the order she founded.

The sisters were operating two homes for the elderly poor in Yemen — one for men and one for women. Their priest reminded them daily of the possibility of martyrdom. Two weeks ago as the five sisters left to work in the homes, they heard yelling behind them — women who worked with the religious were screaming, "Don't kill the sisters!" The sisters split up, two running towards the men's home, two towards the woman's home and the Mother Superior ran back to the chapel to warn the priest. The sisters were concerned for their charges and the priest was concerned for the Blessed Sacrament because he knew that ISIS would likely desecrate the chapel. He consumed all the hosts before they could get there. The four sisters were brutally killed, the Mother Superior hid and was not found and the priest was captured and it's unknown if he's still alive.

"Martyrdom is happening now. The passion of Jesus continues in the Church. It's good for us to think about our faith and are we willing to give of ourselves to love? Jesus is an extreme example — He never deviated," said Bishop Rhoades. "It's so important that you're learning the doctrines of our faith, but the very heart of our faith — more important than anything else — is that God is love. Love is victorious and Mercy prevails. The end of the story is not Good Friday, it's Easter Sunday."

He told the students that one good way to remember that is to carry the Gospels with you and he brought pocket Gospels for all of the students and faculty.

"I want to give one to each of you individually; it's important to me as your shepherd to take the time," he said, telling them he'd do so at the end of Mass.

Awards

Saint Joseph High School Principal Susan Richter told the Bishop that one of their students, John Griffith, composed the prelude and the Responsorial Psalm used at Mass. Students Jeannie and Rosie Freeby presented the Bishop with a spiritual bouquet on behalf of the high school and also a donation of \$250 in Bishop Rhoades' name to Catholic Relief Services in Haiti.

Bishop Rhoades thanked the students, telling them, "Your prayers mean a lot, I need your prayers. And this donation touches my heart, thank you so much."

Principal Richter announced the month's community service award winners — Brianna Hart and Maxwell Otiato. Both students were honored for their service work and leadership skills. A member of the faculty is also given a monthly award, nominated by his or her peers. Laurel O' Shaughnessy was given the award for going above and beyond, for her genuine caring for each student to reach his or her full potential.

"When God calls, she indeed answers," said Richter.

They also recognized the class of 2016 students who have 4.0 or higher grade point average all four years as St. Joe Scholars. Forty-two students were recognized for this achievement. The salutatorian for the class of 2016 is Clare Firth and the valedictorian is Meg O'Brien.

Class Visits

After passing out the pocket Gospels to the students, the Bishop began visiting classrooms and the first was Kathy Kershner's Catholic Social Teaching class.

Bishop Rhoades talked to the students about politics, especially since many of them will be able to vote for the first time in this upcoming presidential election. He said Catholics have a rich tradition and body of teaching about issues such as the dignity of all human life, common distribution of goods, care of the earth and the environment, that wealth is meant to be shared, care of the poor and immigrants and war and peace.

"We are not for unbridled Socialism or unbridled Capitalism," Bishop Rhoades said.

He told the students it's not the role of the Church or of the Bishop to endorse one political party over another or one candidate over another, but they can and do speak on the issues.

"It's important to examine the candidates and their positions on the issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and read how they voted on the issues," he advised.

He said the Church considers some things intrinsic evil — always wrong, everywhere — and among them is abortion, euthanasia and racism.

"For example, it's forbidden for Catholics to vote for a pro-choice candidate if the reason they're voting for them is because they are pro-choice. If you're going to vote for them for other reasons they should be grave issues because human life is of such importance," he explained.

Bishop Rhoades told the students generally speaking, the Democratic Party supports preferential treatment for the poor, fair wages and access to health care, which supports the Catholic principle of Solidarity, while the Republican Party, generally speaking supports the idea that states shouldn't stifle freedoms and is against government intrusion in business, which supports the Catholic principle of Subsidiarity. He said the Church doesn't believe in trickle-down economics.

"As Catholics we uphold both principles. The Church tries to take a balanced approach. I'd love to see someone in the middle, where the Church is," he said.

Bishop Rhoades answered some of the student's questions before moving on to lunch and visiting other classes.



Photos by Kevin Haggengos
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visited several classrooms and had the chance to engage in discussion with students about what it means to be a faithful citizen.

At left, a student prays during the all-school Mass that took place Friday, March 18, at Saint Joseph High School, the day before the feast of St. Joseph.



Denise Fedorow

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades poses for a "fun" photo with the St. Joe Scholars and Community Service Award Winners on March 18, and at Bishop's request, they showed off the pocket Gospels he gave to each of them individually.