The ABCs of Divine Mercy

BY FATHER GEORGE GABET

The first Sunday after Easter has traditionally been known as “Low Sunday” since it follows the highest and greatest of all Sundays, to which all Sundays are “low” in comparison. However, on May 5, the Sunday after Easter of the Jubilee Year 2000, Pope John Paul II declared this Sunday as “Divine Mercy Sunday” and established the Feast of Mercy as requested by Our Lord through St. Faustina. It was on the vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday, April 2, 2005 that now saint John Paul II died.

Nothing changes liturgically, yet we are able to take advantage of the plenary indulgence offered by Holy Mother Church on this day under the usual conditions. It is granted to those who, in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament exposed or in the tabernacle, recite one Our Father and one Apostles Creed adding a devout prayer to the merciful Lord Jesus — such as “Merciful Jesus, I trust in Thee.”

The “usual conditions” for gaining a plenary indulgence, besides doing the prescribed work, are: participating in the sacrament of confession, receiving Holy Communion, saying a prayer for the Pope as well as a detachment from all sins.

In the diary of St. Faustina, Our Lord revealed to her the following: He said, “I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, especially poor sinners on that day the very depths of my tender mercy are open...” (Diary #699). Our Lord also related to her how important it is to take advantage of His Mercy now. He told her, “Souls perish in spite of My bitter Passion. I am giving them the last hope of salvation that is, the Feast of My Mercy. If they will not adore my Mercy they will perish for all eternity... tell souls about this great mercy of Mine, pray for them and inform them about My love.”

Quinn Olinger

Lennon Joseph Moyer is being baptized by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades during the Easter Sunday liturgy at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne. Parents Ryan and Alexis Moyer are with his godfather, Koby Gibson and godmother Mayson Witman. Other babies baptized by bishop at the Mass were Edison Robert Feagler, Elle Mae Feagler and Embri Jean Bradtmiller.
Reconcile with God, resurrect hope in others, pope urges

BY CINDY WOODEN AND JUNNO ARCHO ESTEVES

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Easter is a feast of hope, a celebration of God’s mercy and a call to pray for and assist all who suffer, Pope Francis said before giving his solemn blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city and the world).

“The risen Jesus ‘makes us sharers of his immortal life and enables us to see with his eyes of love and compassion those who hunger and thirst, strangers and prisoners, the marginalized and the outcast, the victims of oppression and violence,’” the pope said March 27 after celebrating Easter morning Mass.

Easter in Rome dawned bright and sunny; in St. Peter’s Square, the steps leading up to the basilica were turned into an abundant garden with thousands of tulips, daffodils and flowering bushes. On Easter morning, the pope does not give a homily. Instead, with hands clasped in prayer and head bowed, he led the tens of thousands of people in the square in silent reflection.

After Mass, before giving his solemn blessing, Pope Francis said Easter should give people the courage to “blaze trails of reconciliation with God and with all our brothers and sisters.” Speaking about Christ’s power over death and sin, the pope prayed that the Lord would touch places in the globe scarred by war, terrorism, poverty and environmental destruction.

“The risen Christ points out paths of hope to beloved Syria, a country torn by a lengthy conflict, with its sad wake of destruction, death, contempt for humanitarian law and the breakdown of civil concord,” the pope said. “To the power of the risen Lord we entrust the talks now in course.”

He prayed that the power of the Resurrection would “overcome hardened hearts and promote a fruitful encounter of peoples and cultures,” particularly in Iraq, Yemen, Libya and the Holy Land.

“May the Lord of life also accompany efforts to attain a definitive solution to the war in Ukraine, inspiring and sustaining initiatives of humanitarian aid, including the liberation of those who are detailed,” he prayed.

On Easter and throughout the Holy Week liturgies that preceded it, Pope Francis showed special concern for the fate of refugees and migrants fleeing violence and poverty and for Christians facing persecution in the Middle East and other parts of the world.

Celebrating the Easter vigil March 26, Pope Francis said Easter is a celebration of hope, one that must begin within the hearts of each Christian.

“Christ wants to come and take us by the hand to bring us out of our anguish,” he said in his homily. “This is the first stone to be moved aside this night: the lack of hope which imprisons us within ourselves. May the Lord free us from this trap, from being Christians without hope, who live as if the Lord were not risen, as if our problems were the center of our lives.”

“This marked the beginning of Peter’s resurrection, the resurrection of his heart. Without giving in to sadness or darkness, he made room for hope: he allowed the light of God to enter into his heart, without smothering it,” the pope said.

Like Peter and the women, he added, Christians cannot discover life by being "berief of hope" and "imprisoned within ourselves" but, instead, must allow Christ to bring life and break open their tombs, sealed by "the stones of our rancor and the boulders of our past."

While problems will always remain, he said, Jesus’ resurrection is a sure foundation of Christian hope and not “mere optimism, nor a psychological attitude or desire to be courageous.” The Holy Spirit “does not remove evil with a magic wand. But he pours into us the vitality of life, which is not the absence of problems, but the certainty of being loved and always forgiven by Christ, who for us has conquered sin, death and fear,” he said.

Christians are called to awaken the same hope in the hearts of others, Pope Francis said. Without such witness the church risks becoming “an international organization full of followers and good rules, yet incapable of offering the hope for which the world longs.”

Pope Francis carries a candle in procession as he arrives to celebrate the Easter Vigil in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican March 26.

CNS photo/Paul Haring
Pope asks Pakistan government to ensure safety of Christians

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis appealed to the government of Pakistan to take steps to ensure the safety of its Christians and other minorities that day after a terrorist bombing killed at least 70 people and injured more than 300 who were spending Easter afternoon in a public park.

In Lahore, Pakistan, the pope said, “Easter was bloomed by a hideous attack, which mas-sacred many innocent people, mostly families belonging to the Christian minority — especially women and children — who were in a public park joyfully celebrating the Easter holiday.”

After reciting the “Regina Coeli” prayer with pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square March 28, the pope condemned the Lahore attack as a “cowardly and senseless crime.” Jamaat-ul-Ahrar, a splinter group of the Taliban, said it carried out the attack and specifically targeted Christians celebrating Easter.

Pope Francis appealed to “the civil authorities and all community leaders in that nation to do everything possible to ensure the security and serenity of the population, particularly the most vulnerable religious minorities.”

“Violence and homicidal hatred lead only to pain and destruction; respect and brotherhood are the only paths that lead to peace,” he said.

Before leading the crowd in reciting the “Hail Mary” for the victims and their families, Pope Francis asked the people in St. Peter’s Square to pray that God “would stop the hand of the violent, who sow terror and death, and that in the world there may reign love, justice and reconcili-ation.”

Before asking people to pray for him, the pope led the crowd in repeating three times, “Christ, my hope, is risen.”

A PRAYER FOR HEALING VICTIMS OF ABUSE

God of endless love, ever caring, ever strong, always present, always just: You gave your only Son to save us by his blood on the cross.

Gentle Jesus, shepherd of peace, join to your own suffering the pain of all who have been hurt in body, mind, and spirit by those who betrayed the trust placed in them.

Hear the cries of our brothers and sisters who have been gravely harmed, and the cries of those who love them. Soothe their restless hearts with hope, steady their shaken spirits with faith. Grant them justice for their cause, enlightened by your truth.

Holy Spirit, comforter of hearts, heal your people’s wounds and transform brokenness into wholeness. Grant us the courage and wisdom, humility and grace, to act with justice. Breathe wisdom into our prayers and labors. Grant that all harmed by abuse may find peace in justice. We ask this through Christ, our Lord. Amen.
Because the awful day, the day of My Justice is near (n.965).

It is through the diary of St. Faustina, which she wrote out of obedience to her superiors and to Christ Himself, that we find the very rich and mystical reality of the soul’s interior relationship with God. In it we find that our Lord wished to communicate to the world the great message of God’s mercy and to reveal the pattern of Christian perfection based on trust in God and in having mercy to our neighbor. How especially fitting during this Jubilee Year of Mercy.

What is the message of Divine Mercy?

This message of mercy is that God loves us, all of us, no matter how great our sins in the past have been. We see His mercy to King David (who committed adultery and murder) Mary Magdalen and the good thief, St. Dismas, to name just a few examples. Our Lord wishes us to recognize that His mercy is greater than our sins so that we call upon Him with trust, receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. The message of mercy can be broken down into three parts that are as simple to remember as A, B, and C.

A — Ask for His mercy. We must first realize that God is merciful! He wishes us to ask for His mercy — upon ourselves, our nation and the whole world!

Today’s Gospel contains the institution of the sacrament of Penance whereby Jesus gave the power to forgive sins to the apostles on that first Easter Sunday. B — Be merciful to others. He wants us to receive His mercy and let it flow through us to others. He wants us to extend love and forgiveness to others just as He does to us. Remember the beatitude. “Blessed are the merciful for they shall obtain mercy.” We set the limits of how much we want God to forgive us by how much we forgive others each day when we say the prayer Jesus Himself taught us: “Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.” We must, therefore, be merciful to others!

C — Confidence and completely trust in God. God wants us to trust in Him, to know and truly believe that He is God. He is in charge and is a loving God who is infinitely merciful. He does care for you! During Holy Week last week, we recalled just how much He cares for you. It is for this reason that on the image of Divine Mercy, Jesus had St. Faustina paint the words “Jesus I trust in Thee.”

So, we enter into that Great Feast of Mercy — Divine Mercy Sunday. We see how appropriate that it is this Sunday — one week after Holy Week with the image of Our Lord’s Passion and Death for love of us still fresh in our minds, so that we would contemplate His great mercy — especially in this Year of Mercy!

In the Gospel, we see that Our Lord instituted the means by which we can receive His mercy — the sacrament of confession. This is a very important Scripture for our Protestant friends who ask us, “Why do you have to confess to a priest? Why not confess directly to God?” In John 20:22, Jesus appeared to the apostles, breathed on them and said, “Receive the Holy Spirit; whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them and whose sins you retain, they are retained.”

Our Lord gave the power to forgive sins to men — to the apostles who became first Christians, priests and bishops. Why would He give that power? It is because He wanted us to use it. The institution of the sacrament of penance shows us the great mercy of our God who wishes us to be at peace and know our sins are forgiven when confessed with a contrite heart. We also see in the Gospel a story of our Lord’s desire that we have faith in Him. As St. Thomas the Apostle puts it in Jesus’ wondrous, He kneels before Him and says “My Lord and My God!” Jesus responded, “Blessed are you Thomas, for you have seen and believed. Blessed are they who have not seen, but still believe!”

So during this Feast of Mercy in the Jubilee Year of Mercy, let us ask for God’s mercy — for ourselves, our parish, our friends and our nation. Secondly, let us be merciful to others by living the beatitudes. Finally, let us have confidence, completely believing and trusting in Our Lord. Let us say always those words He wants to hear, “Jesus I trust in Thee!”

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Mother Angelica, founder of EWTN, dies after long illness

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (CNS) —
Mother Angelica, who founded the Eternal Word Television Network and turned it into one of the world’s largest religious media operations, died March 27 at age 92. Feisty and outspoken, she was a major controversial figure in the U.S. church in the closing decades of the 20th century. At the same time, the international scope of EWTN’s media operations gave her a ready calling card at the Vatican.

She built the venture into a network that transmits programs 24 hours a day to more than 230 million homes in 144 countries via cable and other technologies. It broadcasts in English and several other languages. Mother Angelica had been ill for years. She was operated on Dec. 24, 2001, in a Birmingham hospital to remove a blood clot in her brain after she suffered her second major stroke. It left her with partial paralysis and a speech impediment.

Last November, she was placed on a feeding tube as she continued to battle lingering effects of the strokes. Mother Angelica died at her order’s Our Lady of Angels Monastery in Hanceville, where she “was surrounded by the prayers and love of her spiritual daughters, sons and dear friends,” said a statement from the Poor Clares. A morning funeral Mass is to be celebrated April 1 in the upper church by bishops and clergy from around the world. Father Joseph Mary Wolfe, a Franciscan Missionary of the Eternal Word, was the homilist. Following her funeral, Mother Angelica’s body is to be interred in the shrine’s Crypt Chapel.

“This is a sorrow-filled day for the entire EWTN family. Mother has always, and will always, personify EWTN, the network which she founded,” said Michael P. Warsaw, chairman and CEO, said in a statement. “In the face of sickness and long-suffering trials, Mother’s example of joy and prayerful perseverance exemplified the Franciscan spirit she held so dear. We thank God for Mother Angelica and for the gift of her extraordinary life,” he said. “Her accomplishments and legacies in evangelization throughout the world are nothing short of miraculous and can only be attributed to divine providence and her unwavering faithfulness to Our Lord.”

In 2009, Pope Benedict XVI awarded the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross to Mother Angelica and Deacon Bill Stettemeier, then-chairman of EWTN’s board of governors, for distinguished service to the church. The cross, whose name is Latin for “for the church and the pope,” is the highest papal honor that can be conferred on laypeople and clergy.
TODAY’S CATHOLIC
April 3, 2016

Two Ordained Holy Cross Priests

NOTRE DAME — With abundant joy and thanksgiving, the United States Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross announces the Ordination of two new priests on Saturday, April 2, at 2 p.m. at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend will confer the Sacrament of Holy Orders on Rev. Mr. Matthew Earle Hovde, CSC, and Rev. Mr. Dennis Anthony Strach II, CSC.

On Aug. 29, 2015, Deacons Hovde and Strach professed perpetual vows of poverty, chastity and obedience and committed themselves to the common life and apostolic work of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

REV. MR. MATTHEW EARLE HOVDE, CSC, is the youngest of three children of Robert and Cynthia Hovde of Miami, Fla. He entered formation with the Congregation in 2007 and professed First Vows on July 28, 2012. Matthew earned his M.Div. from the University of Notre Dame in 2015.

As he prepares for Ordination day, Matthew reflects on the charism of Holy Cross and how his understanding of it has changed, as well as his hopes for life in Holy Cross.

“I see being an ‘educator in the faith’ as central to Holy Cross. Throughout my time in formation, seeing Holy Cross in university work, parish life, serving the homeless, and many other apostolic works have all formed how I understand our community. They all seem to revolve around this notion of being educators in the faith. Wherever we serve, and in whatever capacity we work, we are — at heart — evangelists. We are here to spread the message of Christ. But our work is not primarily one of instructing people on the information of the Gospel; instead, we try to bring it to life within them. We form the entire person into faithful disciples of Jesus, and educate the mind and heart of those we serve so that they can grow in holiness.

I hope to continue to grow in my love of Jesus Christ. Uniting myself to His Cross and being a herald of His Resurrection is the joy of my life. I hope that I can continue to live out the beautiful mystery of our vows with joy and zeal. I hope that I continue to minister alongside my brothers faithfully. I hope that one day when my ministry on this earth has ended, there are more Holy Cross Religious than when I entered, spreading the Gospel and building up God’s people in holiness.”

Father Matthew’s first Mass as a priest will be at 11:45 a.m. on April 3, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

REV. MR. DENNIS ANTHONY STRACH II, CSC, is the only son of Dennis and Carla Strach of Rochester Hills, Mich. Presently serving his diaconate at St. Ignatius Martyr Catholic Church in Austin, Texas, Dennis sums up his Ordination to the priesthood this way:

“The whole thing is pretty surreal, but I’m excited. While I’ve been preparing for this moment for the past six years in a very intentional way, I’ve really been preparing for it in small ways throughout my entire life. There have been so many people along the way — my parents, friends, teachers at my Catholic grade school and high school, professors in college, parishioners back at home — who have inspired me and challenged me to do God’s will and to use my gifts to serve others. I’m happy to have found a vocation that makes use all of my talents, that provides me with a deep sense of joy and fulfillment, and a vocation that continually calls me to be better than I am — that is, to live as God has created me.

I am most excited to preside at the Eucharist. It will be such an incredible experience to offer up to God the gifts, prayers, and concerns of my brothers and sisters, and to act in the person of Christ, mediating God’s love and mercy to those I encounter through this Sacrament. It’s an awesome responsibility and an indescribable grace.”

Father Dennis will celebrate his first Mass as a priest at 10 a.m. on April 3, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HOLY CROSS, visit www.holycrossusa.org.

Congratulations

REV. MR. MATTHEW EARLE HOVDE, CSC
REV. MR. DENNIS ANTHONY STRACH II, CSC

ON THE OCCASION OF THEIR ORDINATION TO THE PRIESTHOOD.
May Mary, Our Lady of Sorrows, patroness of the Congregation of Holy Cross, keep you close and help you continue to grow in faith, hope, and love.

Sincerely,
The University of Notre Dame
Her students, faculty, staff, trustees, and the Holy Cross community at Notre Dame
FBLA team state leadership conference announces winners

SOUTH BEND — Eighteen students on the Saint Joseph High School Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) team took first place in either a team or individual event for the State Leadership Conference. Garrett Loitz finished his term as the Indiana FBLA president and was awarded the Indiana FBLA Scholarship for $1,000.

First place winners are:
Emily Anderson — business ethics and entrepreneurship, team; Stephen Benchik — computer game and simulation programming and emerging business issues, team; Matthew Brach — business calculations emerging business issues, team, economics marketing, individual and marketing, team; Scott Coyne — help desk, performance, help desk, objective test, and mobile application development; Ashley Decker — global business, individual; Kelly Decker — business plan entrepreneurship, team; Colleen Dosch — marketing, team; Stephen Grisoli — banking and financial, team; Cole Kasnía — business financial plan, team; Brian Lenyo — business financial plan, team; Betty Lin — client service; Garret Loitz — impromptu speaking, personal finance, and Who’s Who in FBLA; Colin Mackey — digital video production, team, management information systems, individual, and management information systems, team; Mitch Murphy — banking and financial, team; Rachel Murphy — banking and financial, individual; Danny O’Neil — digital video production, team and management information systems, team; Taylor Rock — business law, business ethics, team, entrepreneurship, team, entrepreneurship, individual, and sales presentation; Kristian Rangel — business financial plan, team, management information systems, individual, and management information systems, team; and Who’s Who in FBLA.

Kneipp-Sylvan Springs on the road to landmark status

ROME CITY — Indiana Landmarks has awarded a grant to Our Lady, Mother of Mercy Center and Sylvan Cellars to begin their application to the National Registry of Historic Places. This grant is the first step in the district above its religious association, the Kneipp Springs Historic District is continuing to apply to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph High School faculty, staff, and students participated in the opening of Holy Doors from the high school to the Basilica of the Sacred Heart to obtain a plenary indulgence. Members of Saint Joseph High School gathered after school and walked from the high school to prayerfully pass through the Holy Doors of Mercy at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame, having the opportunity for confession, prayed for the pope and his intentions and attended Mass. Afterwards, the group met for a simple meal of soup, salad, and bread together.

“I hope that participants are able to reflect on the great mercy, the great love of God for us,” said Tami Goy, Director of Campus Ministry. "I read there would be a plenary indulgence, under the normal conditions, associated with a pilgrimage and knew this would be a great teaching moment for our community.”

MISHAWAKA — Saint Joseph Health System (SJHS) is announcing the formal retirement of its President and CEO, Al Gutierrez, effective December 31, 2016. Gutierrez’s retirement follows five years of achievement and steadfast commitment to SJHS’s mission — leaving the organization strong and well-positioned for the future as a result of his leadership. As the coming months unfold, Trinity Health will work with Gutierrez to determine the system-level projects he can support after he retires, to continue to utilize Gutierrez’s many gifts.

“My time at Saint Joseph Health System has been very rewarding, having been able to play a role in fostering the growth and continued successes of this strong, faith-based organization,” said Al Gutierrez, President and CEO of Saint Joseph Health System. “We have worked hard to establish an incredible team of committed professionals and top-of-the-line resources and protocols to ensure we are doing every-thing possible to provide the best care to the communities we serve. I will retire later this year with the excitement and anticipation of watching this organization thrive and excel in the years to come.”

Since joining SJHS in 2010, Gutierrez has proven an exemplary leader, innovator and strategist for the organization and the people it serves. In fact, SJHS received national recognition as a top system several times under Gutierrez’s tenure. Gutierrez established a strong regional brand in SJHS and built an engaged, high-performance team to serve the community better.

Gutierrez has also served as a pioneer in establishing education sites to build enrollment for health insurance exchanges in Indiana, engineering master affiliation agreements with St. Vincent’s in Indianapolis for maternal/child service enhancements and with Loyola Medical Center for stroke care.

Gutierrez has been in the health care industry for more than 40 years and, during that time, has been a leader on health care diversity. In 2012, Modern Healthcare named Gutierrez as one of the nation’s Top 25 Minority Executives. Gutierrez also received the Trinity Health Father Basil Antoine Moreau CEO Diversity and Inclusion Champion Award, and continues to remain active in the Latino community, participating in the Advisory Board of the Institute for Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame.

Gutierrez also serves on the finance council for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. SJHS plans to ensure a smooth transition during this leadership change. Abe Marcus, chairman of the SJHS board, will lead the search committee to find the best candidates for this role. The executive search is anticipated to be completed by December. It will involve a multi-stakeholder search, including physicians and others. The first candidates considered will be internal colleagues. Gutierrez will support the search, while continuing to lead the regional ministry’s pursuit of its People-Centered 2020 strategic plan.

“Locating SJHS’ next President and CEO is an undertaking that the organization will move forward with in a very deliberate manner — to ensure we are able to identify the right candidate who will be able to continue SJHS’ mission — and continue to provide the best care possible to those in our community,” said Abe Marcus, chairman of the SJHS board. “Al will be a tough act to follow — but this community deserves the best — so we plan to work hard to find the best leader for our organization.”

For information, contact Kathy Mutka at 312-218-5654 or kmutka@pathfind.com.

Lecture to examine ideas of Levinas

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis Department of Philosophy and Theology presents a special lecture event on Wednesday, April 6, at 7 p.m. in the Brookside Ballroom on the USF campus, 2701 Spring Street. The event is titled “Emmanuel Levinas on Ethics as First Philosophy,” will be delivered by USF Assistant Professor of Philosophy Dr. Vincent Wargo.

Emmanuel Levinas was one of the most influential Continental philosophers of the last century. A student of Husserl and Heidegger, he questioned the ontological suppositions of their thought. He argued that philosophical thought must begin with the experience of responsibility for the other.

For information, contact Angie Springer, 260-339-8066.

Plenary indulgence sought by pilgrimage

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph High School faculty, staff, and students participated in a pilgrimage from the high school to the Basilica of the Sacred Heart to obtain a plenary indulgence. Members of Saint Joseph High School gathered after school and walked from the high school to prayerfully pass through the Holy Doors of Mercy at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame, having the opportunity for confession, prayed for the pope and his intentions and attended Mass. Afterwards, the group met for a simple meal of soup, salad, and bread together.
Chrism Mass, Triduum and the Glory of Easter

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades washes the feet of seminarians, religious sisters and various members of the laity during the Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord’s Supper at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.

Father Andrew Budzinski washes the foot of a parishioner during Holy Thursday Mass at St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort Wayne.

A parishioner prays in front of the empty tabernacle following the Good Friday liturgy at St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne.

After renewing their priestly promises and concelebrating the Chrism Mass, the priests of the greater Fort Wayne area process out of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

Representatives from the greater South Bend area present Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades with the Oils of the Sick, and Oil of the Catechumens during the Chrism Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.

James Fangor, parishioner of St. Peter, during the Good Friday liturgy.

Father Andrew Budzinski washes the foot of a parishioner during Holy Thursday Mass at St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort Wayne.

Tess Steffen

A parishioner prays in front of the empty tabernacle following the Good Friday liturgy at St. John the Baptist.
Glory of Easter

Father Tyrell Alles dips the paschal candle into the font during the blessing of the baptismal water at the Easter Vigil at St. Peter Parish in Fort Wayne.

The liturgical procession approaches the baptismal font at the conclusion of Easter Sunday Mass with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne.

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
www.stjudefw.org/adoration

All are invited!
3-4 pm HOLY HOUR
Eucharistic Exposition
• Confessions
• Divine Mercy Chaplet
• Rosary - Benediction
4:00 p.m. Sunday Mass

SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2016
2:00 - 2:45 pm
Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament
Divine Mercy Chaplet and Reconciliation
3:00 pm: Holy Mass
Many Priests to help with your needs
Immaculate Conception Church,
500 East Seventh Street, Auburn
Father Derrick Sneyd, Pastor and Celebrant
Hors d’oeuvres and desserts provided afterward by the parish.
Religious items for sale.

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

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

24th Anniversary of Divine Mercy at our parish
Divine Mercy celebration for the whole world.

April 3, 2016
Come join us!
Comfort the shipwrecked
TITANIC PRIEST: A MODEL OF MERCY

TERESA A. THOMAS

Father Thomas Byles was 42 when he boarded the Titanic with his second-class ticket and portable altar stone. He had made arrangements with Captain Edward Smith to secure space on the ocean liner to celebrate Mass. Even on vacation a priest is never off duty, he knew, but the Catholic convert would have it no other way.

He saw his faith as “a wonderfully great gift,” he once wrote to his brother, William, “a truly marvelous gift, a gift that is together supernatural support…”

It was William who had prompted Father Byles’ cross-Atlantic trip, asking his oldest brother to come to New York to celebrate his wedding Mass.

The British priest had served a decade of priestly ministry and was well loved by his small rural parish, St. Helen’s, where folks helped pay for his Titanic ticket. It cost 10 pounds.

He boarded on Wednesday, April 10, 1912 – three days after Easter Sunday – sized up the titanic ship, then wrote to his parish housekeeper while the Titanic was anchored at Cherbourg, France: “Everything so far has gone very well, except that I have somehow managed to lose my umbrella.” He wondered when he would next be able to celebrate Mass and promised to write again as soon as he arrived in New York.

In his colloquial column, the priest with the gentle, scholarly manner – glasses, a soft nose and firm jawline – became a familiar sight throughout the week.

Father Byles spent most of Saturday, travel day four, hearing confessions. On the fifth day he celebrated Mass in the second-class lounge and again in the third-class space – it was Divine Mercy Sunday. He preached about the prospect of “spiritual shipwreck,” urging the Catholics to seek a spiritual lifeboat in the form of prayer and the sacraments.

At 11:40 that night Father Byles was on the deck clutching his breviary and praying Night Prayer when the Titanic struck the iceberg.

He packed a lifetime of priestly ministry into the next three hours, performing the most intense mix of corporal and spiritual works of mercy he had ever done – a model for all in this Year of Mercy.

Once he recognized the gravity of the situation, he headed down to the storeroom to help third-class women and children onto the deck and into the lifeboats. “Be calm, my good people,” he was heard saying.

Father Byles met the haunting sights, sounds and smells with an otherworldly peace. “A few around us became very excited,” the report states.

CAPECCHI, page 11

What does the Resurrection of the Lord mean?

Andrew 17:15-18

Mr. OWEN F. CAMPION

The local church celebrates the Ascension this weekend, a practice well established in the early Church.

The Ascension of Christ is the end of Christian history, the beginning of a new age, a divine power and a joyous event.

Christ inaugurates the divine power with a divine joy.

What does the Resurrection of the Lord mean? It is a gift to be surrounded by people with the same beliefs, this world can be so cold and so secular.

Remember to be kind. Oh, the Lord’s mission of redemption.

This weekend’s reading describes a time not very long after the Lord’s Ascension, or did not the Lord’s miracles, or preaching. Vitality important is the fact that all these are as associated with Jesus were continued by the Apostles in the context of the infant Church.

The message is that always God reveals. God always teaches us.

St. John’s Gospel provides the last reading. It is a very familiar resuscitation narrative, the story of the reluctance of the Apostle Thomas to accept that Jesus truly had risen. It is after having been crucified, and then of the great faith of Thomas.

The Apostles assure Thomas. He is unconvinced. Then, dramatically Jesus appears. He invites Thomas to believe. In awe, and the uttermost faith, Thomas declares that Jesus not only is teacher and Redeemer, but indeed that Jesus is God.

The Lord then confers upon the Apostles that most divine of powers, the power to judge what is sinful and to forgive sin. It is a divine power, since sin affronts God. Thus, only God can forgive sin. Jesus forgave, being the Son of God. He transmits this power to the Apostles, men who will form the Church and entrust this power to the Church for all the generations to come.

Reflection

Two points in the readings support the theme of divine authority and power.

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THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

2nd Sunday of Easter

John 20:19-31

Last week, with great joy, the Church celebrated Easter. This week, the Church begins to tell us what the Resurrection of the Lord means to us here and now. It is about God’s loving mercy. We celebrate the Sunday of Divine Mercy in the Year of Mercy.

This weekend’s first reading comes from the Acts of the Apostles, as is the case in almost every Mass of this season. Important to understanding Christianity, and the Church itself, is realizing that Acts continues St. Luke’s Gospel. This fact is not that apparent since

The link shows that the redemption secured by Jesus did not end with the Lord’s Ascension, nor did the Lord’s miracles, nor preaching. Vitality important is the fact that all these are as associated with Jesus were continued by the Apostles in the context of the infant Church.

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Easter is not a question mark

Excavating my desk recently, I found the program notes from a Tallis Scholars concert my wife and I had attended a few months ago. The Tallis Scholars are a marvelous a capella ensemble, but most of their music that night was rather too minimalist for my tastes. In any event, the author of the program notes described Arvo Pärt’s Am I the vine, and its “qualities of stasis and timelessness,” as reminiscent of what “former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams has described as ‘silently waiting on the truth,’ pure sitting and breathing in the presence of the question mark.” Which put me in mind of an old joke that used to circulate in the editorial offices of First Things, Harvard University’s cr...
Today’s Catholic presents the All-Diocese Team highlighting athletes from Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. These student-athletes are recognized in character, sportsmanship, leadership, athletics and Catholic values. The athletes are selected by their coaches.

### Saint Joseph

**Boys’ basketball**
- Dominick Ferro, grade 12, guard, Corpus Christi
- Samuel Quinn, grade 12, guard, St. Pius X

**Girls’ basketball**
- Nicole Konieczny, grade 11, guard, Christ the King
- Daly Sullivan, grade 11, guard, St. Anthony

**Boys’ swimming**
- Luke Barrett, grade 11, 200 medley relay, 200 free relay, St. Joseph, South Bend
- Tim Greci, grade 12, 200 medley relay, 200 free relay, homeschool
- John Harmon, grade 12, 200 medley relay, 200 free relay, St. Joseph, South Bend
- Peter Jachim, grade 11, 200 medley relay, 200 free relay, St. Joseph, South Bend
- Cole Short, grade 11, 200 medley relay, 200 free relay, St. Joseph, South Bend

**Girls’ swimming**
- Ashley Jenkins, grade 10, 200 medley relay, St. Anthony de Padua
- Lydia Schaeffer, grade 10, 200 medley relay, Christ the King
- Lexi Spaulding, grade 11, 200 medley relay, LaSalle Academy

### Marian

**Boys’ basketball**
- Jacob Whitfield, grade 12, guard, St. Joseph, Mishawaka
- Jair Rodgers, grade 12, Christian Center

**Girls’ basketball**
- Savannalouise Dennig, grade 12, guard, St. Joseph, South Bend
- Meghan Urbanski, grade 10, guard, St. Matthew Cathedral

**Boys’ swimming**
- Cody Mowers, grade 9, 400 freestyle relay, St. Matthew Cathedral
- Filip Kosel, grade 9, 400 freestyle relay, Queen of Peace

**Wrestlers**
- Patrick Ernst, grade 12, 220 lbs., St. Thomas
- Sam Pierce, grade 12, 400 freestyle relay, Queen of Peace

### Bishop Luers

**Girls’ basketball**
- Kayla Knapke, grade 12, guard, St. Joseph, Hessen-Cassel
- Emma Wolfe, grade 12, guard, St. Jude

**Boys’ basketball**
- Blane Cook, grade 11, forward, St. Joseph
- Alex Neher, grade 11, guard, St. John the Baptist

**Wrestling**
- Chandler Woener, grade 10, 132 lbs.
- Ben Frecker, grade 9, 106 lbs., St. Joseph, Hessen-Cassel

**Boys’ swimming**
- Ben Fink, grade 10, 100 Butterfly, St. Charles Borromeo

**All Diocese Team**

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Girls’ swimming

Carly Grabner grade 12, 100 freestyle, St. John the Baptist
Abby Grabner grade 9, 200 IM, St. John the Baptist
Olivia Koob grade 11, 50 freestyle, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Wrestling

Andy Bruns grade 12, 126 lbs., St. Jude
David Obergfell grade 12, 145 lbs., St. Jude
Louis Garrett grade 12, 152 lbs., Our Lady of Good Hope

Bishop Dwenger Girls’ basketball

Madison Ream grade 12, forward, St. Charles
Rose Tippmann grade 12, forward, St. Charles

Swim and dive

Kristi McDonald grade 12, St. Vincent de Paul
Claire Reeves grade 10, St. Jude

Saint Joseph High School announces new girls’ basketball coach

SOUTH BEND – Saint Joseph High School announces Sydney Smallbone as the new girls’ varsity head basketball coach. “Sydney brings abundant passion, energy, intensity, and basketball knowledge to Saint Joseph High School as our next girls’ basketball coach. She has tremendous pride in SJHS, she cares deeply about the total development of the student-athletes, and she will serve as a great role model for them,” said Debbie Brown, incoming athletic director at Saint Joseph High School.

Boys’ basketball

Sam Royal grade 12, St. Vincent de Paul
David O’Daniel grade 12, St. Vincent de Paul
Campbell Donovan grade 11, St. Charles

Chris DeWald grade 11, St. Vincent de Paul
David Kelty grade 12, St. Jude
Caitlyn McTague grade 12, diving, St. Charles

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John Bosco Jam:
Catholic priests challenge seminarians in John Bosco Jam basketball game

SOUTH BEND — Following the success of the Cupertino Classic in Fort Wayne, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is hosting the inaugural John Bosco Jam. A basketball game between teams of priests and Holy Cross seminarians on Friday, April 15th at 6:30 p.m. at Saint Joseph High School, 453 N. Notre Dame Ave. Admission to the game is free and doors will open at 5:30 p.m. Donations will be collected for Catholic Relief Services to help Christians in the Middle East. Official John Bosco Jam T-shirts will be available for purchase for $10.

The event is named after St. John Bosco, who was an Italian priest from the 1800’s. Bosco used his talent in sports to draw young people together through fun activities and then present the Gospel of Jesus in an accessible way. Organizers promote the event as a modern day example of doing the same thing.

“Priests from around the Diocese, the Congregation of the Holy Cross and other Catholic orders will be challenging the Holy Cross seminarians as a way to grow our sense of Catholic community in the South Bend area,” noted Father Andrew Curry, team captain. Curry notes that this event is for all ages and is a fun way to bring people together. “Besides, high school and college students, this event is also a great way for parents and grandparents to bring their children to an event to see priests and seminarians in a way they don’t usually see them,” Curry stated. Organizers expect a crowd of several hundred people to attend.

The roster for the Priest Team includes: Team Captain Father Andrew Curry, North Manchester; Father Mark Gunter, Fort Wayne; Father Terry Coonan, South Bend; Father Nathan Soberalski, Fort Wayne; Father Michael Magree, SJ (Notre Dame); Dame), Father Jason Freiburger, Father Nathan O’Holloran, SJ, Notre Dame; Father Michael Magree, SJ (Notre Dame); Father Jason Freiburger, Elkhart and Father Matt Soberalski, Fort Wayne.

The John Bosco Jam will pit priests against seminarians in a rousing game of basketball that promotes vocations and raises funds for charity.
WHAT’S HAPPENING?  

Marrian conference dates set  
Notre Dame — The 2016 National Marian Conference will be held at the University of Notre Dame’s Joyce Center on the weekend of May 20-22. The conference begins on Friday evening at 7 p.m. and ends on Sunday at 1:30 p.m. following Mass. Speakers include Al Kresta, Dr. Ray Gaurendi, Father Willy Raymond, Father Tom Shoemaker and singer Tatiana Cameron. For information contact Queen of Peace Ministries at 574-288-8777 or visit www.QueenofPeaceMinistries.com.

Summer camps offered  
South Bend — Saint Joseph High School will offer sports camps, technology camp, art camp and ceramics camp for grade school students this summer. For a complete list of opportunities, cost and online registration visit www.saintjosephhigh.com/camps.

Divine Mercy devotion planned  
Fort Wayne — St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1502 E. Wallen Rd., will gather on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 3, for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament after the 12:45 p.m. Mass. At 5 p.m. Benediction and the Divine Mercy Chaplet will be prayed. The Blessed Sacrament will then be transferred to the chapel until 5:30 p.m.

Baked steak supper and basket auction  
Albion — Blessed Sacrament Parish will hold a baked steak supper and basket auction on Saturday, April 16, at 5 p.m. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for children ages 5-10. Proceeds will benefit high school students attending spiritual retreats and other functions. Call the church at 260-636-2072 for information.

Interpreter to be at Mass  
Fort Wayne — An Interpreter for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing will be present at the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, April 10, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. For information contact Allison at 260-399-1452 or asturm@diocesefwsb.org.

Bishop Dwenger announces musical  
Fort Wayne — Bishop Dwenger High School presents “Children of Eden — The Musical” Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 1 at 2 p.m. An opening night art exhibition and reception begins at 5:30 p.m. Tickets are $6 for students; $8 for general admission and $10 for reserved seating. Call or text Babette Record at (260) 740-9591 to pre-order tickets.

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.

What’s happening?  
Sunday at 12:30 p.m. follow-

TODAY’S CATHOLIC  

Director of Music and Liturgy  
St. John the Baptist Parish in New Haven, Indiana seeks a Director of Music and Liturgy. This person will be a part of a pastoral team and will be responsible for planning liturgies in addition to leading church choirs and cantors. The successful applicant will be a skilled musician (organist and pianist) with experience planning liturgies and leading choirs. A bachelor’s degree in a related field and music competency is required. A full job description is available upon request. If you are interested, please email your cover letter and resume to:

Father Bill Sullivan  
fsullivan@live.com

or mail to:  
St. John the Baptist Catholic Church  
943 Powers St., New Haven, IN 46774  
(Deadline: April 18, 2016)

Play a part in the new evangelization  
Tell the story.  

Are you a dynamic individual who is passionate about the Catholic faith?  
Are you a writer, editor, photojournalist or marketer?  
Full-time positions available.  
Send resume with cover letter and writing samples to spatka@diocesefwsb.org.

Visit www.todayscatholicnews.org for details.

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Feeding with more than loaves and fishes

Working together for hunger relief

FORT WAYNE — The St. Therese Emergency Food Pantry had its beginnings in the early 1950s shortly after a St. Vincent de Paul (SVP) conference was established at the parish in 1949, said Cheryl Mowan, district president of the Society in the Fort Wayne area.

“People used to come to the church office almost daily asking for food,” she continued. Vincentians began stockpiling food items in the office basement and when Mowan began working as the parish secretary in 1982-83, there was a long-running system in place for handout or delivery of food boxes to the needy. “I started giving out food one day a week in 1995, but climbing up and down the steep basement steps carrying heavy boxes while leaving the office unattended got to be a real burden,” she indicated, so she asked her husband, Mike, to help with food distribution.

Parishioners Greg and Sue Rockstroh also began assisting and helped convince the pastor to remodel and dedicate two bays in the parish garage for food storage and emergency distribution. It was decided the food pantry would be open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon. Those using the facility — approximately 40 to 55 individuals/families a week — have to furnish proof they live in either the 46809 or 46819 zip code area. They are restricted to one visit per month, although no one ever is turned away because he or she is not familiar with the rules. “If someone does not live in our area we direct them to a food pantry near their residency the next time,” Cheryl added.

The St. Therese Food Pantry purchases food, juices and household items from Community Harvest Food Bank and receives free government commodities of frozen and canned meats, fish, cheese, canned goods and other supplies. The pantry mostly depends on donations from parishioners and contributing SVP members.

One of the most generous contributors is Nick and Cindy Hogan who monthly donate hundreds of boxes of cereal, box mixes and other food items even though they are members of St. Aloysius Parish in Yoder and not St. Therese parishioners, reported Cheryl. They used to donate exclusively to Community Harvest Food Bank until they heard about the emergency food pantry at St. Therese. “There are many other generous donors and contributing SVP members as well on whom we depend,” said Cheryl. They usually can use whatever people can give including fresh produce of vegetables and fruits.

There also are several parish volunteers who weekly help food pantry visitors select items they need or assist them in getting groceries to their vehicle, which occasionally is just a bicycle, motorized scooter or battery-powered wheelchair. Some also walk to the food pantry from more than a mile away. Volunteers include: the Rockstrohs, Lyle and Dorothy Freimuth, Joan Mitchell, Nellie Schaffer, Katie Stoppenhagen, Larry Colchin, Pete Duran, Terry Lundquist, Mike Mowan and Vince LaBarbera.

BY VINCE LABARBERA

In case of emergency, break out the volunteers

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The St. Therese Food Pantry on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon.

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