VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis asked Catholic dioceses around the world to set up a permanent memorial of the Year of Mercy by establishing a hospital, home for the aged or school in an underserved area.

Celebrating Divine Mercy Sunday with an evening prayer vigil April 2 and a morning Mass April 3, the pope said the idea came to him during a meeting with a charitable organization and he decided to mention it at the vigil with participants of the European gathering of the World Apostolic Congress of Mercy and followers of the Divine Mercy devotion. “As a reminder, a ‘monument’ let’s say, to this Year of Mercy, how beautiful it would be if in every diocese there were a structural work of mercy: a hospital, a home for the aged or abandoned children, a school where there isn’t one, a home for recovering drug addicts — so many things could be done,” the pope said.

“Let’s think about it and speak with the bishops,” the pope told thousands of people gathered in St. Peter’s Square to pray the Divine Mercy chaplet of St. Faustina Kowalska, and also to remember St. John Paul II, who promoted the devotion and died April 2, 2005.

Reciting the “Regina Coeli” prayer at the end of Mass the next day, Pope Francis said the Divine Mercy Sunday celebration was “like the heart of the Year of Mercy,” and he announced that Catholic parishes throughout Europe would be asked to take up a special collection April 24 as a sign of closeness and solidarity with people suffering because of the...
Rejoicing in dishonor and sufferings

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY
BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

In the Easter season, the liturgy presents continuous readings from the Acts of the Apostles. It is good every year that we hear about the life of the first Christians and the early Church. It is a vibrant Church. We hear about the courage of the apostles as they evangelized and about their willingness to suffer for the sake of the Gospel. We also learn about their joy, a joy that endured even in the face of persecution.

The early Church, as we read in Acts, was filled with missionary dynamism. It remains a paradigm for the life and mission of the Church today. The apostles and early disciples of Christ are models for us of how the Risen Lord acts in and through His people today and of how we are called to respond to the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

One of the remarkable things we find in reading about the early Church is that dishonor, persecution and suffering did not deter first Christians in their mission. In fact, we read something that is quite astounding. They rejoiced in these sufferings! In the first reading from Acts this coming Sunday, we will hear about the apostles being arrested and brought before the Sanhedrin. They were brought in because they had not obeyed the previous order to stop teaching in the name of Christ. The apostles were ordered again to stop speaking in the name of Jesus. When they left the Sanhedrin, Saint Luke tells us they rejoiced that they had been found worthy to suffer dishonor for the sake of the name.

This rejoicing at dishonor seems rather strange. When we are dishonored or shamed because of our faith, we naturally want to defend ourselves or fight back. Who likes to be dishonored? Why would the apostles rejoice at dishonor? It is because by dishonor that they were identified with Jesus, who suffered the greatest dishonor in His Passion and Death. The apostles’ dedication to Jesus was stronger than their desire for human honor or the popular antiquity to shame. Pain and dishonor, therefore, would not deter them from their mission.

Reading about the persecution of the early Church, we are reminded that Jesus had taught about persecution as a cause for rejoicing. Clearly, the early Christians took this teaching to heart. In the eighth and last Beatitude, Jesus said: Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Then He added: Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven (Matthew 5: 10-11).

Experiencing some sort of persecution is a real challenge for Christians today. We think about and pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ in countries where ISIS seeks to destroy them and Christianity. We think of the Christians in Lahore, Pakistan, celebrating Easter Sunday two weeks ago in a park. They were attacked by terrorists. We are living in a new age of Christian persecution.

Though we do not face this kind of danger in our country, we might experience insults and dishonor for the sake of the Gospel. For living and proclaiming our Catholic faith, especially those aspects of the face that are not popular. The Lord calls us to rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Rather than react with anger to insults and dishonor, Jesus, the apostles, and the early Christians teach us to respond with love. They teach us also to rejoice.

The apostles rejoiced in being found worthy to suffer for the sake of Jesus and the spread of His Church. This was the work of God’s grace in them. It was the work of the Holy Spirit in them. They were not able to rejoice in suffering until they had received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. Saint Peter tells us that when we suffer insult and humiliation because of our love for Jesus, then the Holy Spirit will be with us in His glory. Do not be surprised, beloved, that a trial by fire is occurring in your midst. It is a test for you, but it should not catch you off guard. Rejoice, instead, in the measure that you share Christ’s sufferings. When His glory is revealed, you will rejoice exultantly. Happy are you when you are insulted, for the sake of Christ, for then God’s Spirit in its glory has come to rest on you (1 Peter 4: 12-14).

Saint Paul is a great example in this regard. He endured so many trials and sufferings as an apostle. He endured them willingly and joyfully, because He was motivated by a tremendous love for Christ and zeal for the salvation of others. His words to Timothy are also an exhortation to us: The Spirit God has given us is no cowardly spirit… With the strength which comes from God, bear your share of the hardship which the Gospel entails… Bear hardship along with me as a good soldier of Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 1: 7-8; 2: 3).

I think we are only able to rejoice in suffering by the grace of the Holy Spirit who is the Spirit of joy. Joy is one of the twelve fruits of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the Comforter who comforts us in all our afflictions. It is by the Holy Spirit that we are able to desire to be united with Jesus in His sufferings.

I don’t think it’s possible to share in Good Friday if we don’t have faith in what happened on Easter Sunday. We can rejoice in sharing Jesus’ suffering because we know we will come to share in His glorification. The apostles and so many saints did not reject the cross of Jesus; they embraced it. They even rejoiced to share in the cross because it united them to Jesus. It was a way to give praise and glory to God and to share in Christ’s sufferings for the salvation of the world. The joy of suffering is always sustained by the virtue of hope. It is the hope we have of sharing in Jesus’ glory and joy that makes our present sorrows bearable. As Saint Paul wrote: I consider the sufferings of the present to be as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed in us (Romans 8: 18).

You can depend on this: If we have died with Him we shall also live with Him, if we hold out to the end, we shall also reign with Him (2 Timothy 2: 11-12). Throughout this Easter season, as we continue to read about the life of the apostles and early Christians from the Acts of the Apostles, it is good to meditate on their zeal, their suffering, and their joy. We know it is not easy to walk in Jesus’ footsteps when it is the Way of the Cross. But we walk in faith and with hope in the Resurrection. Suffering can even become a joy when accepted with the love provided us by the Holy Spirit, love for Christ and for others and their salvation.
Father Tom O’Connor Light of Christ Award presented to Megan Ryan

FORT WAYNE — St. Mary Mother of God Parish and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend announced that Megan Ryan, special education teacher at Bishop Luers High School, is the 2016 winner of the Father Tom O’Connor Light of Christ Award.

Father William Kummer, Vicar Forane and pastor of St. Joseph-Hessen Cassell, presented the 2016 Father Tom O’Connor Light of Christ Award to Megan Ryan in the absence of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on Wednesday, March 30, during a ceremony and luncheon at St. Mary Mother of God Church.

This is the tenth and final year of this award, created by the parish at the suggestion of the late Bishop John M. D’Arcy in memory of Father Tom O’Connor. Father O’Connor, pastor of St. Mary’s from 1970 until his death on St. Patrick’s Day, 2004, was well-known in the community for his untiring work in justice and peace and for his advocacy on behalf of the disadvantaged. The Father Tom O’Connor award is designed to encourage, in Bishop D’Arcy’s words, “the next generation of Father Toms.”

Father Tom was instrumental in the creation of the St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen that has operated non-stop since opening on January 22, 1975, the Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinics, St. Mary’s Thanksgiving Day dinner for the community and an annual Christmas box distribution that helps more than 1,000 families each year.

He was also part of the steering committee that created the Vincent House/Vincent Village Transitional Housing. He helped to develop the East Side, West Side program that received a National Council of Churches 50th Anniversary Ecumenical and Interfaith Service Award, and he created the Bells of St. Mary’s, a multi-faceted charitable endeavor that helps to provide elementary and high school scholarships to young people in the heart of the city.

Father Tom was himself the recipient of many accolades and awards, including the prestigious Lumin Christi Award from the national Catholic Extension Society.

Megan Ryan was nominated by Luers Assistant Principal, Jim Huth, and was selected for her outstanding work in education both inside and outside the classroom walls. Her work with Sodalitas, a service mission effort at Bishop Luers, engages almost 600 young people in work that helps to instill in them a desire to serve the community and each other not just today, but also as they move into adulthood.

She has been actively involved in Teach on the Beach, Ghana, an alternative approach to education in Africa, and has helped to create an aviary at the Southwest Conservation Club in an attempt to foster honey bee colonies, which are declining worldwide. Her company, Southwest Honey, channels the money it raises through honey production into building more hives to support more bee colonies and to create educational programs for young people to help them understand the importance of these important pollinators.

Call to Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty Holy Hours

- St. Joseph Church, 1300 N. Main St., Bluffton: Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty takes place at 5 p.m. and ends with Mass at 7 p.m.
- St. Charles Borromeo Church, 4916 Trier Rd, Fort Wayne: A holy hour all Fridays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the chapel.
- Queen of Peace Church, Mishawaka: Adoration and Exposition every Saturday prior to Mass at 5:30 p.m.
- St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Decatur: Eucharistic Exposition on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 4:30-6 p.m. and on Thursday from 9-10 a.m. and 4:30-8 p.m.
- Our Lady of Good Hope Church, 7215 Saint Joe Rd., Fort Wayne: A holy hour for religious liberty beginning with a rosary at 9:30 a.m. every Tuesday.

Your Holy Hour not listed here? Send details to editor@diocesefwsb.org to be included.

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.

April is CHILD ABUSE Awareness and Protection Month

“We pledge most solemnly to one another and to you, God’s people; that we will work to our utmost for the protection of children and youth. We pledge that we will devote to this goal the resources and personnel necessary to accomplish it.”

— Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People: Statement of Episcopal Commitment, USCCB, June 2002

Children’s Safe Environment training messages

BY MARY JANE DOERR

Many people know of the required training that adults are expected to complete prior to working with youth. However, many may not realize that students throughout the diocese are given training as well. A list of those training resources can be found at www.diocesefwsb.org/Youth-Protection.

Here are some of the main messages that children learn through the program:

Abuse is never a child’s fault, a point that children need to hear over and over again. Offenders try hard to make children feel complicit in the abuse or to blame them for the abuse. Children learn that is never true! The blame always belongs to the adult who is taking advantage of a child’s trust and vulnerabilities.

God loves children forever and wants them to live holy and happy lives. If a child has been abused, that child learns they are still innocent and loved by God and their families. The shame of child sexual abuse needs to be put where it belongs: on the abuser.

Abuse that has happened should be reported. Children learn to tell a parent or another trusted adult if someone is hurting them and to keep telling until they are heard.

— SAFE, page 4
SAFE
Continued from Page 3
believed. One study shows that children tell of their abuse an average of nine times before someone believes them. Parents can help children learn whom they can trust by pointing out the adults who can be trusted. Parents can also teach children the correct names of private body parts. This simple step gives children the vocabulary to tell others what happened to them.
You can recognize abuse when it happens. Children learn to trust that feeling that says something isn’t right and to tell a parent or other trusted adult when something happens that makes them feel uneasy. Children learn to question if someone is telling them to do what the child doesn’t like but says it is because he loves the child. Children learn to tell parents or trusted adult if another person makes them sad or confused or tries to get them to break rules. This can stop the process of grooming by which an abuser lures a child toward danger. A child who questions another’s inappropriate behavior can send a message to the offender that this child is not an easy target, but one that will tell what is being done to him/her.
There are ways to spot a grooming process. Offenders are willing to spend a great deal of time grooming the family, the child and even the community so they may be seen as a trusted family friend. Children learn that anyone who lets children break rules, gives them alcohol or shows them pornography needs to be reported to parents and other trusted adults. Children learn not to keep secrets from parents. They learn that they should tell parents when someone gives them special gifts or is always touching them or tickling them and says not to tell. Parents or other trusted adults will talk about this subject. Children often try to protect their parents from bad news, so they need to learn they can tell them their parents anything. This lesson is conveyed when parents stay involved in their children’s activities and talk with them about what is happening in their lives. This is how children learn what can be shared with parents. The more effective safety environment programs include parents in the learning process. This gives the child a clear signal that this subject is not off limits but instead is something to be talked about with family members.
Boundaries exist. Learning about personal boundaries can protect children and their knowing boundaries reinforces the teaching to listen to one’s instincts. Children who listen to the voice that says, “This doesn’t feel right,” can protect themselves.
Children can stand up for themselves. Children need to be respectful and obey, at the same time need to know there are times when it is okay to say no to an adult. Children learn when it is appropriate for them to say, “No, stop doing that.” For example, they hear they can say no to someone who makes them uncomfortable, shows them pornography, or offers them alcohol.
There are ways to explain inappropriate behavior. Children learn how to describe what’s happening when someone is doing something that just seems a little weird even though it may not seem wrong. The ability to articulate what has happened to a child enables a child to more easily confide in a parent or other trusted adult. This can alert the adult to a potentially dangerous situation so it can be avoided. This is ultimately the goal of safe environment education.
Mary Jane Deen is the Associate Director, Secretariat for Child and Youth Protection, USCCB. Reprinted with permission

2016 National Marian Conference
University of Notre Dame
May 20, 21, and 22

Al Kresta is a broadcast journalist and author. He is president and CEO of Ave Maria Radio and host of Kresta in the Afternoon. Al draws from his unique faith background as a former evangelical pastor to create what is arguably the most fascinating and informative talk radio program on the air today. His profound conversion story is told in his best-selling book Surprised by the Truth.

Fr. Willy Raymond, C.S.C., is president of Holy Cross Ministries and continues the international outreach work of his founder, Fr. Patrick Peyton, in promoting the family rosary. The family that prays together stays together. He is also involved in the production of dramas and documentaries for broadcast on television, in theaters, and on the internet. In 2007, Fr. Willy coordinated the Rosary Rally in Pasadena, CA, that drew over fifty thousand people.

Tatiana Cameron (Tajci) is a singer/songwriter and inspirational performing artist. She was born to a poor family in communist Croatia, and at age nineteen she became a pop superstar in Europe. In 2006, Tajci had a top five song in the U.S. In 2007, she began touring the U.S. and Canada. Tajci has performed in more than one thousand concerts. Tatiana will intersperse her conversion story with her singing at the conference.

Bobby Williams is the founder and director of the Women’s Care Center Foundation. From its modest beginning in St. Joseph County, the Women’s Care Center is now the largest Catholic-based pregnancy resource center in the United States with twenty-four locations in eight different states. Bobby will speak about how his pilgrimage to Medjugorje inspired him to sell his successful business and work full time to protect unborn babies.

Dr. Ray Gaurendi is the father of ten children, clinical psychologist, author, professional speaker, and national radio and television host. His radio show, The Doctor In Js, is heard on over one hundred forty stations and his TV show, Living Right With Doctor Ray, is broadcast in one hundred forty countries. His talks are very entertaining, full of humorous stories about family life and his path of conversion.

Fr. Tom Shomerak is a practicing dentist for two years after his graduation from Indiana School of Dentistry. He then felt the call to the priesthood and entered the seminary at Brighton, Massachusetts. He was ordained in 1990 and has served at several parishes in the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese. Presently, he is the pastor at St. Therese Little Flower Parish in South Bend. Father will speak about the Battle of Lepanto and the importance of the Fatima message in our times.

Fr. Bill Zimmer is a special assignment bilingual priest in the Archdiocese of Chicago. After graduation from Marquette University he worked for ten years in the business world. He then entered the seminary at Mundelein and was ordained to the priesthood in 1993. Father will tell the story of the dramatic change in his life and priestly ministry that resulted from his experience in Medjugorje.

The Beautiful National Pilgrim Statue of Our Lady of Fatima will be on display at the conference. The statue was blessed by Pope Paul VI in 1967 and has been shown in hundreds of parishes throughout the United States under the sponsorship of the Blue Army. Bill Sockley will accompany the statue and speak about its history and the importance of the Fatima message in our time.

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“could help, without further delay, promote peace and respect for the law in that harshly tried land."

Celebrating the Divine Mercy Sunday Mass the next morning, Pope Francis said the Gospel story of God’s mercy “remains an open book” to which people can add good news by being heralds of the Gospel and engaging in works of mercy, “which are the hallmarks of the Christian life.”

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Parishioner paints paschal candle

BY MARK WEBER

Art is his name and art is his game. Arthur Cislo, longtime member of St. John the Baptist parish in Fort Wayne and master of all media in the art world, got a huge surprise at St. John’s 4:30 p.m. Mass on the first Saturday in Lent when the pastor, Father Andrew Budzinski, pointed to a five foot candle in the hands of seminarian David Huneck and said to the congregation, “Here’s our paschal candle. It’s going to be decorated by Art Cislo, our artist in residence. Please come up here, Art, and get the candle.”

Later in a planning session in Cislo’s studio, Art, Father Andrew and David Huneck discussed appropriate and required symbols for a paschal candle. Cislo, who had worked in clay, paper, wood, glass, canvas and metal, finally would work in wax.

Once he began, Art became totally absorbed in the job and worked virtually full time for three weeks. After sketching the layout with a china marker, he gouged the lines in the candle with carving tools and added colors with acrylic paint.

At the very top of the candle is the Jesus of Divine Mercy image, then by turning the candle, a chalice is seen with symbols of the Trinity. In heaven’s descent, we see red rays depicting Christ’s blood flow into the chalice. Further down is the image of the crucified Lord with the Alpha and Omega signs on either side: “I am the beginning and the ending,” says the Lord.

At the foot of the cross is a skull from which crawls a serpent with its head crushed by the heel of the Virgin who is standing with St. John the Apostle on Christ’s right side. On the left is a centurion with a spear.

A dividing band of gold lettering appears next, spelling 2016 Anno Domini and below it are images of mercy depicted in the Gospels: first is Jesus washing Peter’s feet showing His disciples that service and mercy are paths that they too must follow.

This is followed by an image from the parable of the prodigal son where the father is holding, not scolding the son, portraying more mercy and forgiveness.

The next scene shows Jesus meeting the Samaritan woman at the well. Each figure has an aura (halo). Jesus’ aura shows blue “living water” which He will give to become a spring of water welling us to eternal life. The Samaritan woman’s aura is empty except for the heads of her six “non-husbands.” Gradually Jesus’ aura overtakes that of the woman, refreshing it; just as He does for all of us.

The final image is of the raising of Lazarus; the ultimate in mercy and power of the Lord.

At the very bottom, etched around the candle is a small fish and a decoration of crosses and colored pearl shapes. The fish image is used as a symbol of Christ and also as a symbol of Baptism. The five Greek letters forming the word “fish” are the initial letters of the five words: “Jesus Christ God’s Son Savior.” And just as the fish cannot live except in water, the true Christian cannot live except through the waters of Baptism. The pearl shapes refer to Jesus’ parable of the Pearl of Great Price.

The paschal candle is blessed and used for the first time during the Vigil of Easter and burns at Masses throughout the 50 days of the Easter celebration, as well as at all baptismal and funeral liturgies for the next year. Required symbols are the cross, the Greek letters alpha and omega, the current year, representing the presence of God and five grains of incense embedded, representing the five wounds of Christ, the three nails that pierced His hands and feet, the spear thrust into His side and the thorns that crowned His head.

An exhibit of Art Cislo’s, “Expressions of the Heart of Man” will be on display at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art, April 16 to July 10, 2016.

The Samaritan woman at the well is depicted in the enlargement, at right, of the paschal candle painted by Art Cislo. Image descriptions based on notes by Art Cislo.
Living the Year of Mercy
Give drink to the thirsty

Bracelets to bounty

Grace Steffan, Catherine Terrell and Gia Virgilio stand near one of their posters advertising their fund-raising for the Thirst Project, an organization whose mission is to "build a socially-conscious generation of young people who end the global water crisis," according to its website. The Thirst Project is committed to funding and building clean water projects in the countries of Swaziland, India, Uganda, Ethiopia, El Salvador, Kenya and Colombia. The girls came up with the idea of selling rubber bracelets with "The Thirst Project" printed on them for $2 each. The girls advertised the Thirst Project with posters, often hung up over water fountains at the school. They sold the bracelets during school lunch periods, in the school office, during parent-teacher conferences and at volleyball games. The three girls' initial goal was to raise $1,000, but Gia, Catherine and Grace have surpassed that goal by raising nearly $1,300 to date.

Year of Mercy day 124
“Mercy will always be greater than any sin, and no one can place limits on the love of God who is ever ready to forgive.”
— Pope Francis

Luke Mascal, a Bishop Dwenger High School sophomore, helps set up distribution of water for Catholics on a Mission Homeless Outreach in Fort Wayne.

St. Joseph School’s lunch supervisor, Judy Werkheiser, gives a drink of water to Lennon Hoeffel. Judy has been in this ministry at the Garrett school for 17 years and says she does this ministry because she loves children.

The group Building Inclusive Parishes, shown at the ZEAL Conference last October at Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, works to build inclusive parishes for those with disabilities. Jesus said, “Come to Me all who thirst.”
Students hosting 5k to help Haiti orphans

FORT WAYNE — Students from the University of Saint Francis will hold a 5k run/walk and silent auction on Sunday, April 17, at 1 p.m. in the Hutzell Center on the USF campus, 2701 Spring Street, to raise funds to support orphaned children in Haiti. The Formula for Life 5k is open to all levels of runners and walkers and families are welcome. All proceeds from the event will be donated to Our Lady of Perpetual Help Orphanage in Haiti.

The fee to participate in the 5k is $15 and K105 will provide music and broadcast live. K105 will offer a special prize packet just for Formula for Life participants. On Saturday, April 16, participants are invited to a special pasta dinner from 5 to 7 p.m., where they can pick up their prize packet in advance and get a sneak peek at the silent auction items. The dinner is included in the $15 registration fee. Register at runreg.com or email Amy Obringer at aobringer@sf.edu for a registration form.

Formula for Life was created by USF graduate Cortney Shepard after a mission trip to the Dominican Republic in 2007 where she encountered newborns and infants in dire need of nutrition. Deeply moved by the experience, she began raising funds to send infant formula to Haiti, where even more children were in need. Her work gained momentum on the campus and evolved into a university-wide campaign named Formula for Life.

For more information about Formula for Life, visit F4L.sf.edu and like Formula for Life on Facebook.

USF Offering Summer Theology Institute

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis is offering a Summer Theology Institute called, “Beauty Will Save the World!” for high school students, June 12-17, 2016 on the USF campus, 2701 Spring Street.

The institute seeks to broaden and enrich the theological understanding of how beauty reveals God in our world in five ways; in the beauty of the earth God created for humanity; in the beauty of the arts, including icons; in the beauty of divine worship, including liturgical chants; in the beauty of the body and human sexuality that God created; and in the beauty of religious and lay vocations and service to the poor and suffering.

The Summer Theology Institute is made possible through a Lilly Endowment Religion Scholarships for High School youth grant. The Summer Institute fee is $360 and includes room and board, instruction, supplies and transportation. Applications are available with applications required.

Registration and scholarship applications are available online at philosophy.sf.edu/summer-institute. For more information about the Summer Theology Institute, contact Dr. Adam DeVeille at adeville@sf.edu.

Catholic Charities to unveil mobile unit

SOUTH BEND — Catholic Charities will unveil in South Bend its first-ever mobile unit to serve the needs of the poor in rural areas Monday, April 11, at 11 a.m. at the Catholic Charities office parking lot, 1817 Miami St.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will bless the new mobile unit. Liz Flaherty, spokesperson for Catholic Charities, will also be on hand to introduce the new service to the public.

The goals of the mobile unit are: 1) attend to the needs of the target population where they live, work, and go to school; 2) conduct rolling research, learning the specific needs of the target population and developing effective strategies to address those concerns; 3) establish collaborative relationships with other agencies, bringing in partners who can address needs that don’t fall within the scope of the mission; 4) expand the organization’s reach in a cost-effective way; 5) nurture strategic partnerships with parish communities, expanding awareness of the agency’s mission and increasing engagement opportunities with parish members.

Sisters to host ‘Grieving Gracefully … Into a Future Full of Hope’

SOUTH BEND — The Sisters of Providence Connie Kramer will be facilitating the upcoming retreat “Grieving Gracefully … Into a Future Full of Hope.”

Sister Kramer, who has served for 22 years and will continue as the head coach of varsity football and the director of operations for the school, Ravotto brings exceptional experience, leadership and a deep commitment to the mission of Marian High School. He has been a public servant for 24 years as a member of the Mishawaka police department, serving as assistant chief since 2006.

He also has 12 years of extensive coaching experience at the elementary and junior high school levels in football, basketball and baseball. He has coached youth football for the Mishawaka parks department, the Inter-City Public League (ICCL) and East End Little League.

He and his wife, Colleen, are both Marian alumni and active members of St. Joseph Parish in Mishawaka.

They have six children, four of whom are Marian graduates and in college. The fifth will graduate from Marian in May 2016 and the sixth will graduate in 2019.

Ravotto commented, “I am happy to continue my service of helping and leading others in accordance with the mission and vision of Marian High School. I am looking forward to working with the student athletes, staff, and parents to build on the strong foundation and the many successes that Marian has achieved.”

Mark Kirzeder, who led the search committee added, “Marian was greatly blessed to have many qualified applicants for athletic director and I am deeply grateful for those who applied for the position. I am excited that Mr. Ravotto has accepted the offer to become Marian’s next athletic director because he possesses the leadership qualities, strong connection to the Marian and Mishawaka communities, family values and strong Catholic identity that I believe are vital to the continued success of Marian’s rich athletic history and tradition. I look forward to working closely with Mr. Ravotto in his new role and I invite the entire Marian family to welcome him as well.”

Holy Thursday food drive in Angola

The Lady of the Lakes Council of the Knights of Columbus, together with the parish of St. Anthony of Padua in Angola, held an offertory food drive on Holy Thursday this year. The Knights invited parishioners to bring non-perishable foods or cash donations to the Mass on Holy Thursday. During the offertory procession, the Knights led the congregation forward to the altar with their donations. This was in fulfillment of the desire expressed in Paschal Solemnities (1988 par. 52, “Gifts for the poor, especially those collected during Lent as the fruit of penance, may be presented in the offertory procession, while the people sing a hymn.” Over 910 pounds of food were collected. The Knights distributed it to the United Methodist Church Food Pantry and the Project Help Food Pantry, both of Angola.

Persons of all faith traditions are invited to attend the upcoming one-day retreat, scheduled for 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Saturday, April 23, in the Providence Hall Community Room.

Sister Kramer, who ministers as a professionally certified group counselor/facilitator, grief specialist and spiritual director, said it is difficult to grieve well in today’s society because we receive 25,000 messages by the time we are 15 years old that sadness is bad.

“The process of grieving is quicker if you participate in some group activity with other persons who are going through the same process,” she said. “That is why this retreat is so important.”

The retreat will be conducted in a group setting, where hope and healing awaits for those willing to share their sacred grief journey with their God and with one another. A primary focus will be on understanding and embracing the process of grief.

Cost to attend is $40, which includes lunch. The registration deadline is April 18. Register online at Events. Sistersof Providence.org or by calling 812-533-2952.

Sports writer needed:

Today’s Catholic is looking for a writer to cover Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) athletic events and report on other related stories and happenings, as a freelance opportunity. Send writing samples and resume to editor@diocesefwdb.org.

New athletic director named at Marian

MISHAWAKA — Principal Mark Kirzeder has announced that Steve Ravotto has been named the new athletic director of Marian High School beginning July 1, 2016. He will replace Mr. Reggie Glon who has served for 22 years and will continue as the head coach of varsity football and the director of operations for the school.

Ravotto brings exceptional experience, leadership and a deep commitment to the mission of Marian High School. He has been a public servant for 24 years as a member of the Mishawaka police department, serving as assistant chief since 2006.

He also has 12 years of extensive coaching experience at the elementary and junior high school levels in football, basketball and baseball. He has coached youth football for the Mishawaka parks department, the Inter-City Public League (ICCL) and East End Little League.

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## Sports Writer Needed:## Today’s Catholic is looking for a writer to cover Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) athletic events and report on other related stories and happenings, as a freelance opportunity. Send writing samples and resume to editor@diocesefwdb.org.
The 2015 Annual Bishop’s Appeal sets a new record

BY STEPHANIE A. PATKA

The 2015 Annual Bishop’s Appeal “WALK BY THE SPIRIT” is another success. Harry Verhiley, Secretariat for Stewardship and Development for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, told Today’s Catholic the goal for the 2014-2015 Appeal was $5,149,745. “Our diocesan families raised $6,721,656 which accounts for 131 percent of the goal.” Verhiley continued, “The Bishop’s Appeal is an important annual fund to help underwrite various ministries throughout our diocese, but also a benefit to our parishes. It is important to remember that a gift to the appeal is applied to your parish goal and 100 percent of the overage is returned to your parish. The 2015 Bishop’s Appeal will return more than $1.5 million to our over-goal parishes, once collected.” Bishop Kevin Rhoades told Today’s Catholic, “The faithful of our diocese are always generous to the Annual Bishop’s Appeal, as well as other parish and diocesan needs. I am grateful to all who gave to the 2015 appeal. The Annual Bishop’s Appeal supports the many ministries, services and programs that proclaim Christ’s love and mercy throughout our diocese. I pray that God will continue to bless the work of our diocese and all the faithful who continue to contribute to this important work.”

All too often, stewardship is presented only with the support of financial funding as a goal. This is too limiting. Stewardship involves a prayerful response of all of us and includes time and talent as well. Stewardship involves a willingness to give from the very core of who we are and what we have from substance rather than abundance.
— Harry Verhiley
A Christian steward – Poor in Spirit

Jesus said, “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven…” (Mt 5:3). It seems, as followers of Jesus, we should ask whether we would be counted as “poor in spirit?”

A stewardship way of life is an interior attitude of being poor in spirit – spiritually detached from our wealth. This does not mean that we do not have anything, but simply that we are unattached to what we do have. We cannot be poor in spirit if we are striving after riches and wealth, but only if our spirits are striving for God. We are poor in spirit if we use our possessions and wealth as means to give God glory - then our spirits are attached to God, not riches. If we are poor in spirit then our hearts should be set on God, who is much more valuable than our riches. We should keep riches in our homes and in our pockets instead of in our hearts.

There is, however, a lot of capacity for self-deception, rationalization and justification about how we are living our lives. Have you ever heard anyone declare that they were greedy? Greed creeps into our lives undetected. Greed is deceptive, easy to rationalize and easy to justify. Seldom do we recognize that we have enough, not to mention too much. We can easily become captive to the insecurity of not having enough. This self-deceptive view of our possessions, regarding what we need, also seems to continue to expand as we go through life. We are always looking for more; yet, we do not need more if we have what we need.

As Christians, we know that God has given us the gift of Himself and He calls us to live our lives corresponding to that relationship, as we make our way home to Him. The first beatitude, like the first commandment, puts God first on that journey home. In our contemporary society there are very few people who form golden calves and then bow before them. However, there are many today who have strange gods. This first commandment is probably violated more than any of us realize. Offenses against God seem to be more prevalent in our modern society because we are always in danger of substituting other things in place of God and devoting our attention to them. Some of these things come with a remote control, or automatic start, form fitting, or with surround sound, made of gold, diamonds, wood, plastic, or computer chips. Some are worn, eaten, played with, driven, flown, sailed or simply plugged in and watched and listened to.

God should have the first place in our hearts; our relationship with Him should influence every decision we make in life — not only our gifts of time, talent and treasure to our parish, but everything we think, say, do, purchase, give away or receive. If we love anything — anything, more than the Lord, it is a false idol. We should have a burning desire to be faithful to God — faithful followers of Christ, and use all that we possess in this life to see our way to Him. A stewardship way of life is only an indication that we are striving for God. It is an attempt to live by God’s grace. To see God above all else, to see other’s needs as more important than our own; this is the approach of a Christian steward.

The way of a Christian steward sounds difficult, if not impossible — doesn’t it? This way of life is impossible if we try to do it on our own. The Christian steward recognizes that we cannot live a stewardship way of life without God’s grace. Only with the help of God can we look beyond our own needs and desires and love God and our neighbor, as we should. Only with God’s help can we become masters of ourselves. If we are good Christian stewards of God’s gifts, we will be using His gifts as He designed.

Not that we earn our salvation by the use of our gifts, rather we act upon the faith that we have in Jesus Christ until we are face to face with Him and hear, “Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” (Mt 25:34). The kingdom of heaven is of real value, do not be fooled by the false idols. Man is not valued by what he possesses, but as Jesus quotes Deuteronomy, “By every word that comes from the mouth of God” (Mt 4:4) — that is where we find happiness. That which is life giving and life forming, only found in God. What else could we possibly need? Especially since we know that we are poor and reliant on God to lead us home to Him. Then once we are with Him in the fullness of His kingdom, we will possess the only thing that counts – the kingdom promised by Jesus to those who are poor in spirit.
The blessings of being in healthcare

I 1973 I was finishing my junior year in mecha-
nical engineering at Purdue University when, out of the blue, a professor by the name of Frank
Incropera asked me to spend the summer doing a research project involving biomedical engineer-
ing and open heart surgery in canines. Little did I know that this would change my life for-
ever. It was during this summer that I had my epiphany that I did not belong in the engineering
world. I wanted to be a doctor. With a little luck and a lot of
prayers, I was accepted into the 1974 medical school class at The
Ohio State University.

I realized fairly early in my medical career that being a
physician gave me not only tremendous responsibilities but also great opportunities.
Opportunities every day and sometimes every hour to make a
difference. With the gift of grace given to me by our Creator, I have been
thankful for the knowledge and skill I have developed to diag-
ose and treat virtually any illness or disease.

I am a Catholic physician and Saint
Charles Borromeo is my patron saint.
He was a doctor who performed the
processes that cause not only
physical suffering but also emo-
tional distress in my patients.
Even more so, I cherish the sacred
interaction that occurs between a patient and doctor
behind that closed office door.

The stories I have heard have
left readers wondering as does
the source of the second read-
ing. Probably no other book of
Scripture is so loaded with
symbolism, three represented
responses. In ancient Jewish
thought, three represented
God's word. In ancient Jewish
time, three represented
the Godhead.

In the Acts of the Apostles, we
find three readings from the New
Testament that individually are
seen than in the Eucharist.
It is a question put to Peter three,
times, with three affirmative
responses. In ancient Jewish
symbolism, three represented
the complete, final, and
absolutes. To each answer, Jesus
commissioned Peter to love the
Lord Jesus did not end with the
Risen Lord, did not end with the
Ascension. The Risen Lord,
never forget this! I believe this
with all my heart and soul.
The landscape of deliver-
ing medical care is drastically
changing. It is unfortunate that
your family doctor or internist
takes care of you anymore
when you are sick and in the
hospital. Continuity of care has
been trumped by a hospitalist
or physician assistant working a
12 hour shift, doing his or her
best just to get through a long
list of patients to see each day.

This is why the rest of health-
care workers need to step up
and shine as well. On more than a
few occasions, I have been told
by patients that they didn't think
much of the doctor that they had
in the hospital, and the nursing
staff was very loving and
nothing short of incredible.
For the story about a caring respi-
ration therapist and a man in the
middle of the night like an
angel to administer a much
needed breathing treatment to
a man in respiratory distress
to them, his judgment, and
then held his hand until the
crisis was over. A physical ther-
pist who gave a trauma victim
encouragement and hope that
they would someday walk again.

At Lutheran Hospital where
I do most of my inpatient work,
there is a team of very skilled
nurses called the PIC team.
These highly skilled nurses are
usually called when chronically
ill patients run out of peripher-
 al veins to place IV’s. They
find and puncture deep and hidden
veins advancing long tubes into
the central veins near the heart.

I must be guided by the
 guardian angels because they
ever always have a gentle touch, a
smile, and a genuine caring atti-
 tude towards every patient I see
and treat minister to. The medical
teachers, nursing assistants, dieticians,
 kitchen staff, therapists and
even housekeeping in the hospi-
 tal get to the sick and these should not
be missed. It really is the little
things. We are frequently told
from the pulpit on Sunday to
strive to be saints. If you are a
healthcare worker you are prob-
ably given more opportunities
than the great majority of voca-
tions to emulate Jesus and live out
your faith each day at work.

As it says in Romans 12:6-8,
 we have gifts that differ accord-
ing to the favor bestowed on
each of us. One's gift may be prophecies; its use should be in proportion to the power
of the gift of ministry; it should
be used for service. One who is
a teacher should use his gift for
 teaching; one with the power of
exhortation should exhort. He
who gives alms should do so
 généreux; he who rules should
exercise his authority with care;
who performs works of mercy
should do so cheerfully."

We healthcare workers have
been given such a great oppor-
tunity by our vocation. I pray that
I, my physician colleagues, and
all those in the healthcare indus-
ty are up to the challenge.

A lesson in casting our nets to the true destination

A gain this weekend, the Church presents us its first reading for liturgy in Eastertime a passage from

The mere construction of Acts is a lesson. Actually, it is a con-
tinuation of St. Luke’s Gospel. Its underlying lesson is that
the salvation achieved by the Lord Jesus did not end with the
Ascension. The presence of Jesus in the world did not end with
the Ascension. The Risen Lord, ascended into heaven before
the very eyes of the Apostles, absent the dead Judas, lives and
acts through the Christian com-

munity, a community of visible
structure, with specific functions.

This reading reports a conflict
between Sanhedrin, led by the
high priest, and the Apostles.
The Sanhedrin was the official
ruling council of Judaism at the
time of Jesus. Its agenda was pri-
marily religious, but its authority
touched virtually every aspect
of life. Again, and important to
note, Peter is the spokesman for
all the Apostles. He was their
leader.

Ordered to stop preaching
about Jesus, the Apostles boldly
refused to stop. No earthly power
could deflect them in fulfilling
their mission from the Lord.

The book of Revelation is the
source of the second read-
ing. Probably no other book of
the New Testament, and few in
the Old Testament, perennially
leave readers wondering as does
Revelation.

(Revelation is not the more
ancient, nor literally precise,
term. The older, and better, term
is Apocalyptic. Most English-
speaking biblical scholars today
use the term Revelation.

Revelation is clear. Again
and again, it refers to Jesus as
the sinless Lamb of God, the
title used by John the Baptist for
the Lord. It is an overpowering
reference to the fact that Christians
stand with one foot on earth, the
other foot in heaven, for they
stand in and with Christ, Son of
God and son of Mary, a woman.
Jesus lived and died and rose.

A John’s Gospel supplies the
last reading. It is a Resurrection
Narrative, wondrous and con-
soling. Jesus, risen from death,
appears to the Apostles. With-
out luck, they are fishing on the
Sea of Galilee. At dawn, recalling
the time of the Resurrection,
Jesus comes into their midst.

He tells them exactly where
to cast their nets. They obey, and
a huge catch comes.
The Beloved Disciple recognizes Jesus, but
Peter is central to the story. He
rushes to Jesus.

Then, at a meal, Jesus asks
Peter if Peter really loves Jesus. It
is a question put to Peter three,
times, with three affirmative
responses. In ancient Jewish
symbolism, three represented
what was complete, final, and
absolutes. To each answer, Jesus
commissioned Peter to love the
Good Shepherd’s flock. His
commission is exact, final, and
unalterable. It sent Peter to con-
tinue the Lord’s work.

Reflection:

It would be difficult indeed to
find three readings from the New
Testament that individually are
so beautiful, and so expressive,
and that together teach such a
march of salvation.

Setting the stage is the read-
ing from Revelation. Disciples
live with one foot on earth, but
the other foot in heaven, and
nowhere else is this reality better
seen than in the Eucharist.
The very combination of Acts with Luke’s Gospel reminds us
that the salvation accomplished
was that which was complete, final,
and absolute. To each answer, Jesus
commissioned Peter to love the
Good Shepherd’s flock. His
commission is exact, final, and
unalterable. It sent Peter to con-
tinue the Lord’s work.

Readings:

Sunday: Acts 5:27-32; 40b-41 Ps 302,
Monday: Acts 6:8-15 Ps 119:23-24,
26-27, 29-30 Jn 622-29
Tuesdays: Acts 7:51 — 8:1a Ps 31:
3cd-4, 6, 7b, 8a, 17, 21a Jn 630-35
Wednesdays: Acts 8:1b-8 Ps 661-3a,
4-7a Jn 635-40
Thursdays: Acts 8:26-40 Ps 668-9,
16-17, 20 Jn 644-51
Fridays: Acts 9:1-20 Ps 117:1bc Jn
562-59
Saturdays: Acts 9:31-42 Ps 116:12-17
Jn 660-69
WHAT’S HAPPENING

Ancilla College plans golf classic
Donaldson — The Ancilla College golf classic will be Monday, June 13, at Swan Lake Resort. Lunch, 18 holes of golf, and a prime rib dinner are included in player registrations. Individuals are $150 and teams are $600 with sponsorships available. The day also includes raffles, a live auction and event favors. The event raises funds for scholarship and aid to students attending the college. For more information go to Ancilla.edu/golfclassic or contact Emily Hutsell at Emily.hutsell@ancilla.edu.

Card party and salad bar planned
New Carlisle — The Marian and Rosary Sodality of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church will have a card party and deluxe salad bar on Sunday, April 17. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. with a garden party theme. Tickets must be purchased in advance for $5. Call Nancy at 574-289-2986 or the parish office at 574-654-5781 for information. All proceeds benefit the church sacristy needs.

Women’s retreat planned for a day
Elkhart — “The Grace of Yes: Eight Virtues for Generous Living” is a one-day retreat presented by Lisa Hendy, author. On Saturday, April 23, in the Mother Teresa Center of St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1108 S. Main St. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. with talks starting at 9:15 a.m. and ending at 4-4:30 p.m. The cost is $20 and includes light breakfast, lunch, snacks, music and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The retreat is appropriate for women of all ages. Register or get information at www.beitdone.org or by contacting Lori Massa at 574-593-8071 or by email at loriamassa@gmail.com.

Card party planned
South Bend — A card party and salad luncheon will be Sunday, April 10, from 1-3 p.m. at the M.R. Falcon Club, 3212 Keller St. Tickets are $5 at the door. Bring your own cards/dice.

WHAT’S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. View more Catholic events and submit yours at www.diocesefwsb.org/bulletin. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at 260-456-2824 to purchase space.

St. 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)

Director of Music and Liturgy

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.

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E-mail resume: jrunyon@stjudew.org or mail to St. Jude attn: Jacob Runyon

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All Alumni, Parents & Friends of the Dwenger Family are invited to join us for the 21st Annual Saints Open Golf Outing

Friday, June 10, 2016
Cherry Hill Golf Club
12:00 pm registration
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Men, women & mixed teams welcomed
Visit www.bishopdwenger.com/saintsopen for more details and to register for this event. Sponsorship opportunities available.

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