

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 90 No. 20

50¢

TODAYSCATHOLICNEWS.org

Redeemer Radio turns 10 years old



Provided by Redeemer Radio

Redeemer Radio was visited by Al Kresta of Kresta-in-the-Afternoon who was covering an event at the University of Notre Dame. Kresta used the studio at the Little Flower Redeemer Radio location for this afternoon broadcast. Later he told his audience how he, "... enjoyed last week in South Bend, Indiana who had an outstanding radio station there. One of our great Catholic media outlets in America."

BY STEPHANIE A. PATKA

For Catholic radio station Redeemer Radio, 2016 is a special year because it marks the 10th anniversary of the audio ministry. Through the work of its dedicated staff, hundreds of volunteers, board members and prayer, Redeemer Radio has been a labor of love to accomplish the mission of nurturing individuals towards greater Catholic discipleship. The leadership of Redeemer Radio seeks to carry out its mission in many ways including proclaiming the truth of the Catholic faith, by providing encouragement on how to live one's life in accordance with the Catholic faith and by supporting the development of individuals as Catholic leaders.

History

Redeemer Radio's origins started with the name Fort Wayne Catholic Radio in December of 2005. Fort Wayne Catholic Radio began buying airtime on Fort Wayne's WLYV AM 1450 and broadcasting Catholic Answers Live as early as December 2005 bringing full-time Catholic radio to Fort Wayne radio airwaves.

It was on January 3, 2006 that the late Bishop John M. D'Arcy blessed the Redeemer Radio studio on Illinois Road. Three days later, on the Feast of Epiphany on January 6th, the station was fully ready for operation.

January 6, 2006 also officially marked the day that the station began its own branding. It was at a meeting of the board of directors and advisors that the name "Redeemer Radio" was unanimously adopted. As a moniker that has served humanity for centuries, it was chosen for the apostolate because of the truth and beauty of its message.

The staff of Redeemer Radio recall the extraordinary blessings which have befallen the apostolate during its time broadcasting the truth and beauty of the Catholic faith. For most of its 10 year history, the station depended on the 1450 AM signal. In February of 2014, the non-profit Redeemer Radio station received the gift of FM in exchange for its AM station when the Adams Group, who had purchased two local commercial stations to comply with FCC ownership rules, offered 106.3 FM for 1450 AM. Remarkably, no cash was exchanged in the transaction between the Adams

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Graduation!

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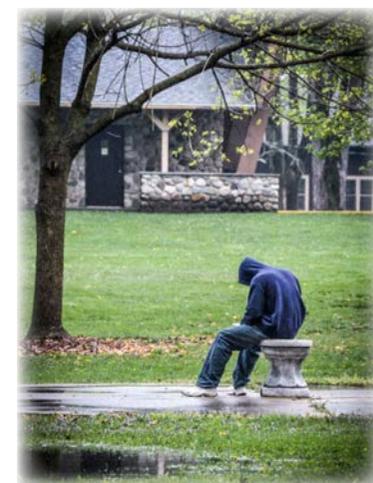
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Living the Year of Mercy

Counsel the Doubtful

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www.myyearofmercy.org

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Communicating to Connect, Evangelizing to Encounter

Why the Catholic Church needs to take communications seriously

BY STEPHANIE A. PATKA

"The Church needs to be present in the world of communications in order to dialogue with people today and help them encounter Christ."
— Pope Francis

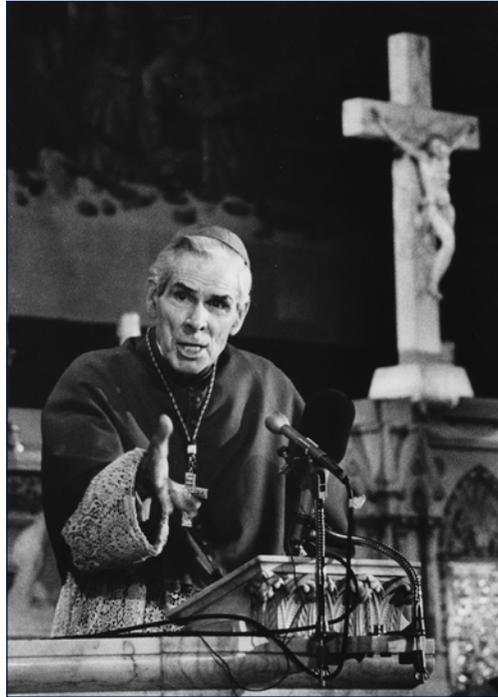
When one considers all things 'Catholic' and then considers all things 'communications,' the two words together don't necessarily seem compatible. Even the name, 'Catholic Communications' exists as a paradox in and of itself. The mission of the Catholic Church has remained the same since the time that the apostles were sent out on the feast of Pentecost to go and evangelize the world. And yet, "modern communications," as we understand it changes and evolves with each passing day.

As a secular society, we have experienced how life has shifted to adjust in this Information Age: a truly transformational time where, through new media and digitalization, an entire universe of knowledge is accessible through a screen that fits in your pocket. The Information Age is shaping generations much like the Industrial Revolution did with manufacturing and changing how humans contributed to the economy. These days, however, we are not just faced with just the innovation of a new assembly line or product — the Information Age brings with it a complete shift in the fundamental way that people communicate and interact with other persons around them; in their families, in their jobs, in their communities, as well as how they interact with the global community of people that are now all connected through the Internet.

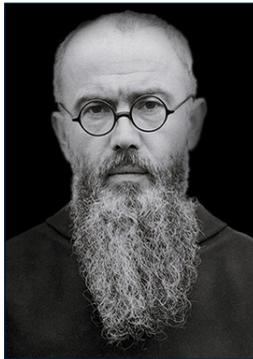
As humankind has adjusted to the rapidly shifting and changing Information Age, new forms of technology are being developed and released into the general public in mass proportions, thereby propelling society into what many entrepreneurs and technology experts are referring to as the Exponential Age — a time when we still have all the components of the Information Age, but we have them at an ever increasing rate. Additionally, this Age is marked with the greater use of communication technology and global innovation for the purpose of marketing and profitability.

Even though communication is so advanced, the novelty has worn off and we now struggle to make sense of it all. The prospect of communicating a 2,000 year old Catholic message in such a noisy secular (and in some places anti-Catholic) world seems daunting. This becomes even more intimidating when one considers that the target audience is distracted and veiled behind their screens. However, the good news is that the Catholic Church has recognized the opportunity to evangelize on what Pope Benedict has called the "digital continent."

Movement was made to address the impact of communications when Pope Paul VI instituted the inaugural World Communications Day in 1967. It was an initiative, proposed by the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council, to draw attention to the fact that modern communication (which during that time included only press, movies, radio and television) had the ability to shape public thought and opinion for the better or for the worse. Pope Paul VI encouraged and affirmed the work of Christian communications professionals asking them to "bear witness in the cause of the 'World,' that in all its temporal expressions must be a faithful echo of the eternal, uncreated Word, the Word of the Father, the Light of intellects,



Fulton Sheen



Maximilian Kolbe



Mother Angelica



the Truth that so ennobles us."

He went on to say that it was equally as important that these efforts not simply be executed by professionals, but supported by parents (the first educators of their children), by teachers, by young people and by public authorities. The pontiff also cautioned that those who would consume the information were to take care to choose their sources of information wisely, holding these communications resources to a higher standard that complies with a sense of morality and the highest values of life.

Throughout her history, the Church has heard inspiring, compelling and strong Catholic voices emerge with the communication technology of the time. In 1922 in Poland, St. Maximilian Kolbe, under duress of tuberculosis, began to publish a monthly review called the *Knights of the Immaculate*. Inspiring vocations to the priesthood, the publication continued its growth, and by 1935, Kolbe and his fellow priests were producing a daily Catholic newspaper, *The Little Daily*, which had a circulation of 137,000 daily and 225,000 on Sundays.

Beginning in 1925, Archbishop Fulton Sheen quickly became famous around the world for his preaching and talks on radio and television including shows called, *The Catholic Hour* and *Life is Worth Living*. He was also a prolific writer, and various pro-

grams of his are still re-aired on EWTN and Relevant Radio. Due to the fact that he was one of the first religious persons to give sermons and religious talks on television, Sheen is considered one of the first tele-evangelists.

After a chance visit in 1978 to a Baptist-run television studio, a contemplative nun named Mother Angelica saw the evangelistic opportunities that modern television could provide. On January 27, 1981, EWTN received an FCC license and became the first Catholic satellite television station in the United States. Today, EWTN has become the largest religious media network in the world, transmitting programming 24 hours a day to more than 230 million homes in 144 countries and territories on more than 4,800 cable systems, wireless cable, low power TV and individual satellite users.

For these three, using the secular communication tools at their disposal was the way that they were able to evangelize. Not only did they change and shape Catholic communications as we know it today, but more importantly, they saved souls in the process. God was able to use their evangelistic work on a national and international stage, and we see this continue in examples like the Twitter updates of Pope Francis today. As faithful Catholics, we too, are called to evangelize. For us, it can be as simple as utilizing the modern resources at hand (or literally in our hands) to share the love of Jesus with those around us and ultimately to help provide opportunities for other people to have an encounter with Jesus. We have no excuse not to participate because we live in the Information/Exponential Age with technology and communication devices so readily available.

On the other hand, this technology brings on an anonymity. This may cause us to shrink back. We can be afraid to be vulnerable by exposing our beliefs. Perhaps we are intimidated by technology we don't understand or are scared of what will happen when we do use our secular technology for a religious or moral purpose.

So, for those who need some inspiration on what to share, there are resources all around you. Powerful Catholic communicators of our modern time include men and women who lean into the beauty of the Holy Spirit and help to tell the Catholic story. To start, watch some Youtube videos of Bishop Robert Barron, follow Matthew Kelly's Dynamic Catholic team on Facebook, listen to Teresa Tomeo interviews on iTunes and immerse yourself into the prolific writings and public talks of Scott Hahn. Personally, I recommend starting on a local level by following the brand new Facebook page for our very own Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

While the Exponential Age of information and technology continues to race forward, unfortunately, the speed of communications and technology within the Catholic Church remain at a steady lingering pace. There is much work to be done, and it's not about taking a selfie with a priest or checking into a parish location. This is about the task of reaching and saving souls. And for those souls who remain hidden behind the screen of a phone or computer, technology integration and innovation is the next frontier for evangelization within the Catholic Church. God-willing, we continue to move forward.

As the director of the office of Communications for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, I humbly ask you to pray for our office as we manage diocesan communications for the sake of evangelizing and leading people to Christ. It's a great time to be Catholic and an even better time to talk about it.

10 YEARS

Continued from Page 1

Group and Redeemer Radio. An FM signal meant new growth opportunities reaching thousands of new northeast Indiana listeners 24 hours a day.

To better reach all the Catholic faithful in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Redeemer Radio wanted to expand into the Michiana area. Four members of the St. Thomas More Foundation had joined the board of Redeemer Radio in 2010 to begin researching the process of acquiring a station in the northwest side of the diocese. During the last week of February 2014, then Board Chair, Michael Landrigan was made aware that the owners of 95.7 FM were offering to sell their station. By the end of March, under Landrigan's leadership, the Board had received pledges for over half the amount required. On May 14, 2014 an agreement to buy 95.7 FM was entered into and in September Redeemer Radio began airing EWTN programming from its studio based at Little Flower parish in South Bend.

Volunteers

Executives and board members at Redeemer Radio credit the extensive number of faithful listeners and volunteers. The support of prayers, time and financial contributions are nothing short of impressive. March 2006 was the date of the inaugural Sharathon, which grew to a twice yearly appeal for listener donations.

Current Board President, Jeremy Reidy shares his gratitude, "I am overwhelmed by the generosity of Redeemer Radio supporters. This Spring Sharathon turned out to be the most successful fundraising event in Redeemer Radio's 10 year history. But even more impressive was the amount of joy emanating from Redeemer Radio listeners, staff, volunteers, and visitors during the three-day celebration."

He continued, "The Redeemer Radio family was having fun — praying, laughing, hugging and smiling, while working hard to raise funds to support our apostolate. The funds raised during Sharathon will allow Redeemer Radio to continue its mission to evangelize the culture. We are grateful for the outpouring of time, talent, and treasure from supporters across the diocese."

Each of Redeemer Radio's stations have two on-air fundraisers a year. Sharathons, in the spring and fall, raise the necessary funds to continue its programming and local outreach. Over the course of six days (3 in Fort Wayne and 3 in South Bend) approximately 400 people, comprising of on-air guests, priests, religious, volunteers, staff and

Redeemer Radio 10 YEARS

prayer warriors converge for the mission of listener-supported Redeemer Radio. Sharathon broadcast hours are filled with area parishes, apostolates, and ministries that discuss how they share the Good News and how they extend the mercy of God to others whom they reach.

Programming

Since the inception of the radio station, Redeemer has aired Catholic Answers Live from EWTN. In the summer of 2014, Redeemer Radio launched their two-hour weekday morning show, titled "Redeemer Mornings," and launched this program on 95.7 FM in greater Michiana in December.

Originally hosted by Deacon Jim Tighe, Redeemer Mornings brings the joy of the faith to listeners with information and tips for living the faith in their daily lives. This week marks the introduction of a new voice on Redeemer Mornings. Deacon Jim Tighe will be passing on the Morning torch to new Redeemer Radio voice, Kyle Heimann. Kyle comes with an extensive background in media, youth ministry and is a Catholic husband and father. Deacon Jim isn't going anywhere, however. He will still be a part of the Redeemer Radio staff in a variety of forms.

Redeemer Radio is thrilled to begin a partnership with Relevant Radio with their national headquarters located in Green Bay, Wisconsin. Since December of 2000, Relevant Radio has been helping people bridge the gap between faith and everyday life through informative, entertaining, and interactive programming twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week. Father Simon Says will be filling the 11 am slot, replacing Women of Grace. While The Drew Mariani Show will be heard at 3 p.m., previously held by EWTN Open Line.

The weekday noon hour will now begin with Readings and Reflections, followed by Take 2 with Jerry and Debbie. The Journey Home, which was previously heard at noon, will now be on Redeemer Radio at 8 p.m.

Another local favorite is Dr. Matthew Bunson with a weekly feature called "Faithworks." Airing on Saturdays and Sundays at 10 a.m. and 6 p.m., Faithworks is Redeemer Radio's

original, locally produced program that showcases prominent Catholic authors and leaders from across the world and the dedicated and talented people right here in the local diocesan Catholic community. Among Bunson's guests have been George Weigel, Mike Aquilina, Cardinal John Foley and Cardinal Telesphore Toppo.

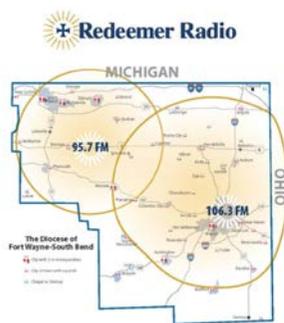
The strength of programming on Redeemer Radio is that it contains the best of Catholic radio programming from across the country and also gives visibility to local catholic ministries and broadcasts live during important diocesan events. Redeemer Radio is present at historic events like the installation of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as the 9th bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The station also airs live coverage of priest ordinations and local Catholic high school sports teams.

New executive director, Cindy Black is excited about the future of the 10 year old radio station, "Our Redeemer Radio staff and volunteers gather daily to pray. We ask the Holy Spirit to help us in our mission as instruments heeding Pope Francis' words: "It is urgently necessary to find new forms and new ways to ensure that God's grace may touch the heart of every man

and every woman and lead them to Him." Our listeners will notice some changes to our programming this week in response to that call," she remarked. Black is confident that Redeemer Radio will continue its work to strengthen

those already living the Catholic faith, but, she added, "we also need to reach beyond to those who do not yet know Christ and the power of His love."

Black continued, "One of my favorite things about Redeemer Radio is how many people are engaged in the mission. In addition to our professional, dedicated staff there are thousands of people who support us with their time, talent and treasure. We have engineers, voice talents, office help, committee members, a mail crew, people praying... all making it a family of faith and joy." Black encourages the community to get involved in the ever growing and flourishing mission of the radio station. She invites, "If you would like to join the Redeemer family, set up a time to visit either station and we'd be happy to help discern how to use your gifts."



Public Schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

- Sunday, May 22, 11:30 a.m. — Mass with Confirmation of Adults, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Monday, May 23, 10 a.m. — Meeting of Bishop's Cabinet, Archbishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne
- Tuesday, May 24, 7 p.m. — Baccalaureate Mass for Saint Joseph High School, Basilica of the Sacred Heart, Notre Dame
- Wednesday, May 25, 5:30 p.m. — Baccalaureate Mass for Bishop Dwenger High School, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, May 26, 7 p.m. — Baccalaureate Mass for Marian High School, Saint Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
- Friday, May 27, 10 a.m. — Baccalaureate Mass for Bishop Luers High School, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Tuesday, May 31, 5 p.m. — Mass with Perpetual Vows of Franciscan Friars Minor, Saint Andrew Church, Fort Wayne
- Friday, June 3, 3 p.m. — Graduation Mass for Northeast Indiana Home School Educated Students, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Saturday, June 4, 11 a.m. — Mass with Ordination of Priests, Saint Matthew Cathedral, South Bend



Priest assignments

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following assignments of priests, effective June 14, 2016:

Reverend Terry Fisher from Pastor, Saint Joseph Parish, Mishawaka, to Pastor, Saint Matthew Cathedral Parish, South Bend.

Reverend Bob Lengerich from Pastor, Saint Dominic Parish, Bremen, to Pastor, Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish, Decatur.

Reverend Monsignor Michael Heintz from Pastor, Saint Matthew Cathedral Parish, South Bend, to Faculty, Mount Saint Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Reverend Jacob Meyer from Parochial Vicar, Saint Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, to Pastor, Saint Monica Parish, Mishawaka.

Reverend Richard Hire from Pastor, Saint Martin de Porres Parish, Syracuse, to retirement.

Reverend Andrew Nazareth from Pastor, Saint Joseph Parish, Garrett to Pastor, Saint Martin de Porres Parish, Syracuse.

Reverend Eloy Jimenez from Parochial Vicar, Saint Michael Parish, Plymouth, to Parochial Vicar, Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Goshen.

Reverend Monsignor Bruce Piechocki from Pastor, Saint Monica Parish, Mishawaka to Pastor, Saint Aloysius Parish, Yoder.

Reverend Fernando Jimenez from Parochial Vicar, Saint John the Evangelist Parish, Goshen, to Pastor Saint Dominic Parish, Bremen.

Reverend James A. Shafer from Pastor, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, to Pastor, Saint Joseph Parish, Garrett.

Reverend Jan Klimczyk to Chaplain, Saint Anne Communities, Victory Noll, Huntington.

Reverend David Voors from Pastor, Saint Mary of the Assumption Parish, Decatur, to Pastor, Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne.

Reverend Christopher Lapp from Parochial Vicar, Saint Matthew Cathedral Parish, South Bend, to Pastor, Saint Joseph Parish, Mishawaka.

The following assignment will be effective July 1, 2016:
Reverend Royce Gregeron to Parochial Vicar, Saint Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne and part time chaplain Priest Chaplain for Catholic students at IPFW, Fort Wayne.

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Provincial meeting gathers bishops of Indiana



Photo courtesy of The Message, Diocese of Evansville

Indiana bishops gathered for this photo following Mass in the chapel of the Diocese of Evansville's Sarto Retreat Center, in Evansville, during their Spring Provincial Meeting on May 11. They include Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort-Wayne South Bend, left, Bishop Charles C. Thompson of the Diocese of Evansville, Bishop-Emeritus Gerald A. Gettelfinger of the Diocese of Evansville, Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin of Indianapolis, Bishop-Emeritus William L. Higi of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana, Bishop Timothy L. Doherty of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana and Bishop Donald J. Hying of the Diocese of Gary.

The Communications team is hiring

When you join the Office of Communications team, you will find an atmosphere of engagement and motivation. Through this collaborative spirit of team work, we help advance the mission of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and the Catholic Church throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Our jobs are more than just reporting on Catholic news, designing a poster or posting a picture on social media. Our job is to tell the Catholic story — your story. It is through this story telling that we desire to inspire and encourage the Catholic faithful to live their lives to the fullest, as God intended them.

Join our team

To apply, please send cover letter and resume to Secretariat Director of Communications, Stephanie Patka, spatka@diocesefwsb.org.

Full job descriptions are available at www.diocesefwsb.org/team.

Available positions are:

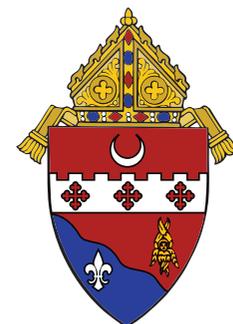
Publications Manager
Communications/Brand Specialist
Social Media Specialist

Are you ready?

We are looking for people with passion and an innovative spirit. The landscape of communication changes rapidly, and we embrace this change with a high energy environment and respond with continual problem-solving and a creative approach.

By utilizing all the media platforms and resources at our disposal, we seek to reach the largest audience possible, to be good stewards of the messages entrusted to our care and to be faithful servants in diocesan evangelization efforts. This means that we need experts in specialized fields of communication that not only are high performers in their individual craft, but are tenacious in building up other team members in the production of our work.

As deeply as we desire to help people in the diocese encounter Jesus through the work of our department, we want each person on our team to grow professionally, personally and spiritually. Working for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is an opportunity to make a difference that matters.



U.S. Supreme Court sends Zubik case back to lower courts

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court May 16 sent the *Zubik v. Burwell* case, which challenges the Affordable Care Act's contraceptive requirement for employers, back to the lower courts. The justices' unanimous decision, explained in a nine-page order, was based on the information that both sides submitted a week after oral arguments were heard in the case about how and if contraceptive insurance coverage could be obtained by employees through their insurance companies without directly involving religious employers who object to this coverage. The court made clear that it is not expressing an opinion on the merits of the cases that are challenging aspects of the federal government's health legislation and it also was not ruling on the issue of a potential violation of religious freedom. Because of the "gravity of the dispute and the substantial clarification and refinement in the positions of the parties," the court stated that religious employers and the government should be "afforded an opportunity to arrive at an approach going forward that accommodates petitioners' religious exercise while at the same time ensuring that women covered by petitioners' health plans receive full and equal health coverage, including contraceptive coverage."

Obama directive on transgender access 'deeply disturbing'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Obama administration's May 13 directive on transgender access to bathrooms "that treats 'a student's gender identity as the student's sex' is deeply disturbing," said the chairmen of two U.S. Catholic bishops' committees. "The guidance fails to address a number of important concerns and contradicts a basic understanding of human formation so well expressed by Pope Francis: that 'the young need to be helped to accept their own body as it was created,'" the two bishops said in a statement May 16. The statement was issued by Bishop Richard J. Malone of Buffalo, New York, who is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, and Archbishop George J. Lucas of Omaha, Nebraska, who is chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Catholic Education. The directive, or guidance, was issued by the U.S. Department of Justice and the U.S. Department of Education. The departments said it applies to all public schools and colleges and universities that

received federal funding. It "summarizes a school's Title IX obligations regarding transgender students," they said, and also explains how the Education and Justice departments will "evaluate a school's compliance with these obligations."

Armenians say 'whole population' set to welcome Pope Francis in June

YEREVAN, Armenia (CNS) — Many Armenians say Pope Francis will be widely welcomed when he visits the country in June, thanks in part to a remark he made about genocide more than a year ago. In separate interviews, people of the landlocked, mountainous country in Eurasia said many Armenians view the pontiff favorably as well for his moral stance on pressing world issues and for his elevation of an Armenian monk to the rank of Doctor of the Church. "It is an invitation from everybody," said Mekhitarist Father Serop Tchamourlian, when asked about Pope Francis' upcoming visit. Father Serop projected that "the whole population" would come out to greet the pope during his trip here. The Vatican has said the June 24-26 trip is in response

to an invitation from the patriarch of the Armenian Apostolic Church, Catholicos Karekin II, and from Armenia's government. Father Serop and others in the Armenian capital, Yerevan, told Catholic News Service that they felt the pope's use of the term genocide in referring to their history was a boost to long-term disputes with neighboring Turkey, over what they said had been a concentrated attempt to wipe out Armenians from territories under Ottoman control in 1915-1918.

Notre Dame graduates encouraged to rely on faith to change world

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At the University of Notre Dame's May 14 baccalaureate Mass, Washington Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl encouraged graduates to rely on their faith as they work to build a better world. "Your generation faces great challenges to the whole idea we are all part of God's plan ... and called to make this world a better place," Cardinal Wuerl said. "Remember, you do have the power in the Spirit to change the world," he said, recalling Jesus' words, "Behold, I make all things new." "You can make all things new, walking with the Lord and

each other," said the cardinal, who was the main celebrant and homilist at the Mass, which was celebrated at the Joyce Athletic Center. The Washington Archdiocese released a text of his homily, and graduation events also were livestreamed on the Web. The cardinal, who was unable to attend the university's commencement the next day, received an honorary doctorate at the end of Mass. The citation for the cardinal's honorary doctor of laws degree praised him as "a good and faithful servant of the people of God" and "a persevering and courageous leader of the Catholic Church in the United States."

Holy Spirit helps people live as brothers, sisters, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The gift of the Holy Spirit gives Christians the grace they need to conduct themselves as children of God and brothers and sisters to each other, Pope Francis said on Pentecost. Through the death and resurrection of Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit, Christians are freed from "the condition of being orphans into which we had fallen" because of sin, the pope said May 15 during Pentecost Mass in St. Peter's Basilica. "We were made to be God's children," he said. "It is in our DNA." "Strengthening our relationship of belonging to the Lord Jesus, the Spirit enables us to enter into a new experience of fraternity," Pope Francis said.

Parishioners dig in

BY MARK WEBER

It was appropriate that on the feast day of St. Isidore the Farmer, 55 parishioners of St. John the Baptist parish in Fort Wayne showed up on a chilly day in jeans, jackets and boots to plant flowers on the parish grounds.

The idea took root several weeks ago when pastor Andrew Budzinski suggested the Adopt-A-Plot concept. Simply stated, he asked that individuals and families stake out one or more of 60 ten foot sections of ground on the perimeter of the church, rectory and school, then plant flowers on "planting day" and maintain that patch for the summer. Of the 60 sections, 55 were claimed and on May 15th, in spite of unfavorable weather, many, including whole families, showed up to prep and plant and enjoy cookies, cake and hot dogs.

The diggers moved a mountain of mulch and planted pink geraniums, yellow and orange marigolds, purple ageratum, anemone, asters, azaleas, daisies, five colors of impatiens, hosta, zinnias and more.

Next comes weeding, watering and watching the colors spring forth.



Photos by Mark Weber

Margurite Fowerbaugh, Colleen Corona, Steve Corona, Carol Cislo and Art Cislo mulched and planted flowers on the south side of St. John the Baptist Church.



Father Andrew Budzinski, who saw his idea blossom, supplied encouragement, cookies and hot dogs.

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Living the Year of Mercy

Counsel the Doubtful

Office of Family Life:

Counsel is part of the daily practice

If counseling the doubtful includes helping couples to grow in their relationships, then the Office of Family Life (led by a married couple — Fred and Lisa Everett) does this in a variety of ways.

First of all, helping engaged couples to understand the true meaning of marriage as well as the challenges that married love faces in our society today is a fundamental task of the office. Fred and Lisa and their marriage prep teams present Conferences for the Engaged in both English and Spanish that not only explain the Christian vision of marriage, but also give a good deal of practical advice on how to live it out — especially on building good communication and strong partnerships in their marriages.

Natural family planning is another area. Lisa coordinates our diocesan NFP program and teaches dozens of couples each year. Couples are sometimes doubtful if NFP will really work well for them or whether the periodic abstinence required when trying to avoid a pregnancy is worth the effort. Lisa is able to share with couples both the studies that show that the natural methods of family planning are just as effective as the



Pill as well as the importance of faith in showing our trust in God in doing things His way — even when we don't fully understand why.

Pastoral counseling for married couples and training mentor couples is an area that Fred oversees. All couples face difficulties at times and need to be able to recognize them as opportunities to grow in their relationship as a couple as well as their rela-

tionship with God. Often times, couples doubt whether to overcome their challenges. Having someone to talk to in order to learn some new skills, get new insights or be encouraged by a mentor couple who is willing to share their own difficulties and successes can make a great difference.

For more information, go to www.diocesefwsb.org/Family.

A tremendous gift



What a tremendous gift it is from the Divine Mercy when you find someone who really listens to you, who lets you pour out your heart and share your troubles and miseries, and who then takes your whole situation in prayer to the Lord before presuming to dole out advice to you. Plenty of people are quick to give out advice. How many people do you know who really listen to you and to the Holy Spirit before they speak? Are you one of them?



MARY GLOWASKI, LSW, MA
Secretariat for Evangelization and
Victim Assistance Coordinator

To Counsel the Doubtful

"And as for you, speak the things which are fitting for sound doctrine...."

In all things show yourselves to be an example of good deeds, with purity in doctrine, dignified, sound in speech which is beyond reproach." — Titus 2:1, 7-8

Doubt is an important part of the human condition. It can lead us to be seekers in our world and of our faith. Doubt can lead us to struggle in our relationships

and especially in our relationship with God. Sometimes borne of true seeking, doubt can also be the result of betrayal or simply a desire to understand things we are not ready to see, or God doesn't intend for us to see.

We are all called to confront serious moments of doubt and painful uncertainty. As people of faith, we are also called to offer counsel when someone comes to us with questions, when they are seeking truth in their lives.

As a spiritual work of mercy to *Offer Counsel to the Doubtful* is not simply offering guidance

or advice but is rooted in the responsibility we all have to help one another make decisions for our lives that lead us to greater holiness and most importantly to greater relationship with Jesus Christ.

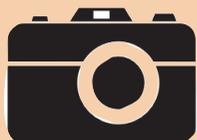
Requiring humility and prudence, the act of offering counsel is an act we must take very seriously. The goal of any counsel we offer must be rooted in our desire to help those who come to us to make decisions to follow Jesus Christ, to seek what is right and holy and to choose all that God has waiting for us.

During this special Year of Mercy, we are challenged to embrace our doubts and questions as an opportunity to know God better, to experience His love for us in profound and exciting new ways. It is also an opportunity to grow in humility and to be more intentional in the counsel we offer and as the Apostle Paul reminds us all, not simply with our words — but by witness.

Year of Mercy day 166

"God wants to forgive, but he won't be able to if you have a closed heart and His mercy can't get in."
— Pope Francis

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



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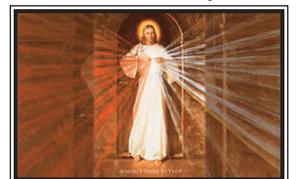


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Lukenbill to speak on elder law

DONALDSON — May is National Elder Law Month. The Center at Donaldson will present a discussion of elder law topics with Adam Lukenbill, attorney at law on Tuesday, May 24, at 5:30 p.m. in the Kasper Room at the Catherine Kasper Home, 9601 Union Rd., Donaldson.

Lukenbill will speak on a variety of subjects important to seniors and their families and caregivers regarding their legal rights. Topics addressed will include advance directives, power of attorney, living will, guardianship, estate planning and the Medicaid application process.

Lukenbill specializes in elder law, including estate planning, estate and trust administration, asset protection, long-term nursing home planning, and the protection of beneficiaries with special needs. He also serves on the board of directors of Ancilla College, is vice president of both the Marshall County Council on Aging and the Marshall County Bar Association and is a member of the National Academy of Elder Law. He is a partner at Lukenbill & Lukenbill, LLP in Plymouth.

For more information, call Crystal Bower, Social Services Coordinator, at 574-935-1795.

Catholic Youth Summer Camp planned

HOWE — Students entering the fourth, fifth and sixth grade this fall may attend a Catholic Youth Summer Camp Sunday, June 26 through Friday, July 1 at Camp Lutherwald in Howe.

For details visit www.stjude-parish.net or contact fisherofmendjt@msn.com or 574-291-3381.

Morning of reflection planned for youth

FORT WAYNE — All youth (and parents) are invited to a Morning of Reflection on Saturday May 21 from 9 a.m. to noon at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Hall sponsored by the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocesan Committee on Scouting. Learn about Father Michael McGivney — the priest who began the Knights of Columbus and who is on his way to become a saint. Cost is \$4 to cover the cost of the patch the youth can earn. Pre-register by May 18 with Theresa Dirig at tscoutlady@yahoo.com to ensure enough patches and refreshments.

Three Saint Joseph students awarded \$20,000 scholarships

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph High School students Abigail Niezgodski, Eric Liu, and Mary Madden have been awarded \$20,000 scholarships through

AROUND THE DIOCESE

'Run for the Fallen' gets rousing flag salute by students



Provided by St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel School

St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel students were cheering and supporting the troops and runners who passed by the school Friday, May 13, in honor and remembrance of veterans during "Run for the Fallen." Over 50,000 participants and over 200,000 miles have been collectively run in remembrance of those heroes, organized in over 26 states. The students prayed, recited a poem and cheered them on.

the H&R Block Budget Challenge — a free, interactive, real-life simulation personal financial education program that rewards students for mastering real-world budgeting and personal finance decision-making.

Now in its second year, the H&R Block Budget Challenge works by replicating an adult's financial life, requiring students to pay virtual bills, save for retirement and repay student loans, all from the safety of a classroom. Students from across the nation who participate in this virtual program are also competing for \$3 million in college scholarships and classroom grants.

"There were over 18,000 students across the country that participated in the H&R Block Budget Challenge simulation, and our students at SJHS took this challenge seriously. To place in the top 22 spots and get the scholarship took a lot of careful researching, analyzing, and budgeting. Eric Liu, Mary Madden, and Abby Niezgodski used all of these skills and have proven they have what it takes to be successful in the world of personal finance. I am so happy for them and very proud of them!," said Business Education Chair Yvonne Rex.

Saint Mary's College receives bequest of more than \$6 Million

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary's College announces a gift of more than \$6 million from the trust of Mary Lee Sheftic '58. It is one of the largest bequests in the history of the College. Sheftic's gift will endow a scholarship in her name and provide resources for the renovation and expansion of the Angela Athletic & Wellness Complex. College leaders honored Sheftic and recognized her gift at a private reception held at an earlier date.

"We are blessed by the generosity of our alumna Mary Lee Sheftic. I wish that I had known her and had the opportunity to thank her personally for such a transformational gift," said President Carol Ann Mooney '72. The president noted that the endowed scholarship will allow women to benefit from the education that helped form Sheftic into the empowered woman she became.



MARY LEE SHEFTIC

Sheftic, who passed away in Boswell, PA in May 2015 at age 78, graduated from Saint Mary's College in 1958 with a major in commerce and a minor in speech and drama. She appeared in several productions as a student, including A Midsummer Night's Dream, The Bear, and starred in The Long Christmas Dinner. After graduation, she went on to receive a master's degree from Penn State University. She taught school in Virginia for several years before working as the vice president of the Peoples Bank and Trust. She also served on the First Commonwealth Financial Corp. Board of Directors.



Book donation assists Catholic schools

Dear Sister Michaeleen, CSC
Thank you for honoring the memory of your late brother, Robert Frieders, with your generous donation of thousands of books for children in our Catholic schools. With this gift, thousands of children will be inspired by his love of science and his fun loving creativity to become the next generation of scientists who care for the beautiful creation that God has given to us.

Carl Loesch
Secretary for Catholic Education

Concert supports St. Joseph School



GARRETT — St. Joseph distinguished alumnus and national recording artist, Todd Allen Herendeen presented a benefit concert in a tribute to legendary rock and country greats. His performance included Johnny Cash, Chuck Berry, and Elvis Presley. The event raised over \$3,500 dollars for St. Joseph's Carpenters With Wings School Tuition Assistance Fund.

Musician Fred Rothert changing lifestyle and location

BY GARY HUHN

FORT WAYNE — Most people in the Fort Wayne and northeastern Indiana portion of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese are familiar with the name, Fred Rothert. His musicianship and musical talents are the stuff that easily bring the word “legend” to mind.

Fred Rothert recently left his hometown of Fort Wayne and moved southwest to Arizona where it is assumed that he will continue to entertain people using his God-given musical abilities — whether in a religious venue or in various clubs as he did in the Fort Wayne area. Some people have used the word “retired” for his move, but actual retirement doesn't seem to fit his persona.

Rothert has been leading the congregations of both St. Mary Mother of God Parish and the 5 p.m. Mass on Sunday at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for well over 30 years. He began playing at the Cathedral in August 1980 and at St. Mary's in 1983. He did so continuously at both parishes until April 24 of this year.

Rothert is a native of Fort Wayne, having grown up in the area around Pontiac Street, and attended Weisser Park School. He graduated from South Side High School in 1965. Following high school, Fred was honored with an appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. He completed one year there before transferring to Heidelberg College in Tiffin, Ohio

and graduated in 1969.

Upon returning to Fort Wayne from Heidelberg, Rothert began performing at various venues in the Fort Wayne area including performing country music at The Picker, a very popular country music spot on Northrop Avenue, from 1974 to 1977. His next stop was at VaChon's in downtown Fort Wayne on Pearl Street where he played for about two years with a variety of partners including Arvel Bird, another well known area musician. After VaChon's closed, Rothert and his wife, Bonnie, moved to Nashville, Tennessee. After a few months there, they returned to Fort Wayne and he began performing at Mothers (now Columbia Street



Fred Rothert receives a copy of St. Mary's Hymnal, signed by the choir members, and presented by Michelle Colchin.

Scott Zehr



Francie Hogan

Fred Rothert, right, and Ted Brown at the retirement luncheon held at St. Mary, Mother of God Parish.

West).

As the story goes, Rothert was performing at Mothers in the late 1970s and while there was approached by Mickey McCardle of Cathedral parish who asked about playing for the 5 p.m. Sunday Mass on a regular basis. While playing guitar for one of those Cathedral Masses, the late Father Tom O'Connor from St. Mary's was in attendance and asked Fred if he was interested in playing regularly at one of the Masses at St. Mary's. Thus began Fred's association with both parishes situated three blocks from each other.

While playing guitar and cantoring at St. Mary's, some of the parish's young people began coming up to sing along with him. This quickly led to the choir members joining in the singing and this also resulted in

Rothert being named the choir director and conducting rehearsals as well as playing for the Mass. Additionally, this found Rothert being involved in helping plan the liturgies at St. Mary's.

After a short time at St. Mary's, the late Jimmy Benson came on board and at Father Tom's request, a bass and drums were added to the musical mix for liturgies. The current drummer, Ted Brown, has been playing for the Sunday Mass since that time. Ted joined the group just a few months before the fire that destroyed the Church in 1993.

After the fire, the St. Mary's congregation met at St. Paul's Catholic Church and the musicians collaborated with the Hispanic musicians there with some interesting results. After five years at St. Paul's — “in the wilderness” according to Father Tom — parishioners were able to return to a new church at Lafayette and Jefferson Streets.

Following that move, Rothert was inspired to write a setting of ‘The Gloria’ for the Dedication Mass. The congregation continues to sing that Gloria to this day. It is very uplifting and anticipated by the congregation which finds participation easy.

Over the years, the St. Mary's choir has grown and changed many times due to members passing or moving from Fort Wayne. Several members have been in the choir since 1983. One of the more memorable events for the choir was a performance with members of the Fort Wayne Philharmonic with proceeds going to one of the local food

banks. The choir also sang at the Cathedral for Bishop D'Arcy's installation and, sadly, returned to the Cathedral for the Funeral Mass for Father Tom O'Connor in 2004.

During all those years, Rothert continued to play music at many night spots in the northeastern Indiana area. The first several years found Fred and his group concentrating on Country music, while the last 10 years or so had rock 'n roll at their core with Freddie and the Hot Rods. In addition, Fred was fond of entertaining at the annual Johnny Appleseed Festival in September — something he did nearly every year.

Rothert continued his education and in 1988 got his teaching license and taught English at Leo Jr./Sr. High School. Fred retired from teaching in 2012.

On Rothert's last Sunday playing at St. Mary's, a luncheon was held following Mass and many people got a chance to let him know how much St. Mary's appreciated his efforts. For that celebration the choir at St. Mary's secretly prepared a couple of songs in his honor with new words written to old songs: the first was, “The Ballad of Freddie Rothert” and the second was entitled, “Stay, Fred.”

Gary Huhn is a member of the choir for St. Mary, Mother of God Parish, Fort Wayne.

Sisters of the Sacred Heart celebrate jubilees

FRANKFORT, ILLINOIS — Five Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart will celebrate jubilees as consecrated women religious on June 11. One was born in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and several of them have ministered in the Diocese.

60th Jubilee

Sister Judith A.

Davies was born in Fort Wayne, IN. During her years of ministry, she ministered as a teacher and principal in Catholic schools in Illinois.

Presently she is the Delegate for Religious and the Chancellor of the Joliet Diocese. Sister currently resides in Joliet, IL.



SISTER JUDITH A. DAVIES, OSF

Bend, she taught at St. Charles Borromeo School, Fort Wayne, from 1973-1977 and at St. Mary School, Avilla, from 1983-2009. Sister currently resides in Morris, IL.

Sister Dominic

Dybel was born in East Chicago, IN. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, she taught at St. Joseph School, Garrett, from 1977-1978 and at St. Charles Borromeo School, Fort Wayne, from 1978-1980. Sister currently resides in Joliet, IL.



SISTER M. DEBRAH FUNFSINN, OSF



SISTER DOMINIC DYBEL, OSF

Borromeo School, Fort Wayne, from 1977-1978, and at St. Mary School, Avilla, from 1978-1985 where she was principal/teacher. Sister currently resides in Joliet, IL.

Sister Mary Paul

Shisler was born in Chicago, IL. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, she taught at St. Joseph School, Garrett, from 1970-1971. Sister currently resides in Mundelein, IL.



SISTER KAREN MARIE LANIGAN, OSF



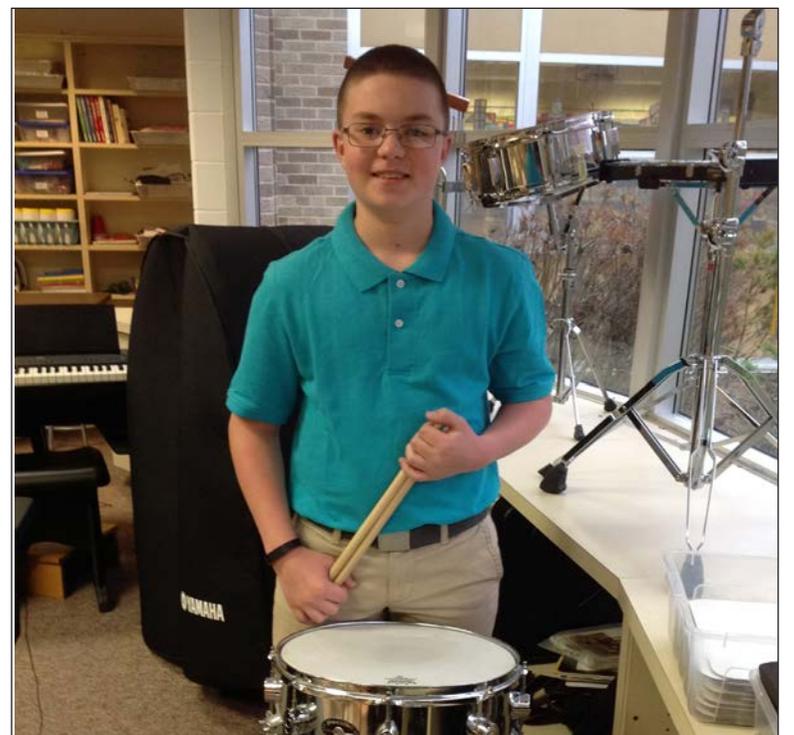
SISTER MARY PAUL SHISLER, OSF

50th Jubilees

Sister M. Debrah Funfsinn was born in Spring Valley, IL. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South

Sister Karen Marie Lanigan was born in Alexandria, MN. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, she taught at St. Charles

Drum Corps bound for Lucas Stadium



Provided by St. Mary School

Jacob Grimm, a seventh-grade student at St. Mary School in Avilla, has been chosen to participate in the Drum Corps International InPact Band at Lucas Stadium in August. He will be part of a 500 member performance composed of students from around the state of Indiana.

GRADUATION!



Lillie Castleman earns valedictorian honor

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

MONROEVILLE — During her four years at Heritage High School, Lillian Jane Castleman, of rural Monroeville, has earned the title of Valedictorian for the Heritage High School Class of 2016.

While at Heritage, Castleman accumulated an 11.90/12.0 grade point average and was involved in Student Council, the year book staff, National Honor Society and Tech Fest. The senior was also a member of the varsity volleyball team where she earned Scholar Athlete of the Week honors and was an Academic All-State selection. Playing volleyball continues to be one of Castleman's favorite things to do along with spending time with her family and friends.

A life-long member of St. Louis Besancon parish, Castleman is a member of the high school youth group and attended St. Louis Academy. She feels receiving a Catholic education from pre-school through eighth grade has helped her



LILLIE CASTLEMAN

become the person she is today. It has opened her eyes to see the good in all people as she entered high school where a whole new crowd provided endless oppor-

tunities to put her faith in action and spread the word of God.

Besides babysitting and tutoring, Castleman's first job during high school was at Mike's Car Wash. She is currently employed by LEARN Resource Center.

"Balancing school and a job has taught me how to manage my time more effectively and how to set priorities," she explains.

Castleman plans to attend Ball State University this fall where she will major in elementary/special education. Her favorite memories from high school include all the happy times with her closest friends.

Grace Everett earns valedictorian slot for Bishop Luers High School

BY JODI MARLIN

FORT WAYNE — Grace Elizabeth Everett of Fort Wayne has earned the rank of valedictorian for the Bishop Luers class of 2016.

Everett felt that having the opportunity to pray every day, go to reconciliation weekly and attend the all-school Mass monthly allowed her to develop a close relationship with the Lord.

"I am also very grateful for my theology teachers, who have imparted their knowledge of the Catholic Church to me so that I may properly defend my Catholic faith and continue to live a faith-filled life in the future," she said.

She appreciated that her teachers not only taught the course curriculums, but were models of service and compassion to her and her fellow students.

She expressed gratitude for the sacrifices of her parents, which enabled her to attend a Catholic school: that education armed her with the knowledge of the teachings of the Catholic Church so that she can properly defend the Faith.

During the summer of her sophomore year, Everett traveled to France with a group of Bishop Luers students. The students found themselves in Paris on Bastille Day, which they celebrated under the Eiffel Tower with locals. During her senior basketball season, Bishop Luers



GRACE EVERETT

beat Concordia for the first time in six years, and beat Bishop Dwenger by one point. While on a mission trip to Haiti, also during her high school career, she was able to

go to a market, purchase goats and deliver them to a family in the village where the students were working.

Everett was a captain of the varsity basketball team and a member of the varsity golf team at Bishop Luers. Her other memberships include National Honor Society, World Culture Club, Peer Ministry, Academic Super Bowl, Key Club, Knights for Life, Student Ambassadors and Peer Tutoring. She is an assistant basketball coach for the sixth-grade Bishop Luers junior basketball team, and volunteers with Seton Miracle Miles and the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish festival.

She works as a server with Orchid Events and Catering, and also as a part-time nanny-time during the summer.

"Working and being involved in so many extracurricular activities has taught me to budget my time, but more importantly, I find that exposure to the different activities has allowed me to grow culturally and spiritually, and gain a deeper understanding

of my fellow students and those around me," she said.

In her free time Everett enjoys boating and being on the water. She is very active and loves to watch and play sports. She also enjoys reading a good book, and watching movies.

Her immediate plans are to attend The Ohio State University business school after graduation and major in accounting, with a possible minor in finance. She is considering a postgraduate law degree.

North Side High School names valedictorian Cassidy Merkle

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — North Side High School valedictorian Cassidy Merkle has held several leadership positions, including president of the National Honor Society and vice-president of Student Council, stage manager of the dance show and captain of the academic team. She has also been active with Construction, Kids Surviving Cancer, St. Mary's Church canned food drive, a community Halloween party, PTSA and the prom committee. Those experiences will likely stand her in good stead as she pursues an anthropology major at IPFW in Fort Wayne.

A parishioner of St. John the Baptist, New Haven, she values her religious education, saying, "I found it very enlightening and a way to make sure that I not only grew academically, but also ... in my faith." Even at a public high school, organizations like FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) and teacher-led open prayer groups allowed students to practice their faith, she notes.

In her free time, Cassidy enjoys reading, painting and drawing. A treasured memory of her high school experience was the opportunity to visit Washington D.C. for a We the People national competition. And she will recall fondly the life-long friends she has made over shared student lunches.



CASSIDY MERKLE

Bishop Luers High School

"We are the light of the World!"

Congratulations to the Class of 2016

"Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven"



Once a Knight, Always a Knight!

Saint John the Baptist New Haven
Proudly recognizes the scholastic achievements of
Cassidy Merkle
2016 VALEDICTORIAN
North Side High School
Father Bill Sullivan
speaks for the entire parish as he says
"What a great accomplishment, Cassidy!"



St. Anthony Catholic Church
in Angola
thanks the Lord for
all our graduates.

May God bless you
now and in your future!

Saint Louis Besancon Parish
proudly recognizes the scholastic achievements of
Lillian Castleman
2016 Valedictorian
HERITAGE HIGH SCHOOL
Father Ben Muhlenkamp
speaks for the entire parish family as he says
"Way to go, Lillie"



Justin Dippold earns salutatorian rank

BY TRISH LINNER

FORT WAYNE — Justin Michael Dippold has earned the rank of salutatorian for Bishop Luers High School class of 2016.

Dippold is a parishioner of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and attended St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School from pre-k through eighth grade.

"I will always be grateful for my parents' sacrifice and desire for me and my siblings to attend a Catholic school. I will always appreciate the endless opportunities Bishop Luers High School and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School have provided me," said Dippold.

"When I reminisce, I understand how God works through people in these special Catholic school walls of brick and mortar," he explains.

Dippold will graduate with a GPA of 4.463 and credits Bishop Luers for his success. "I am very grateful to attend Bishop Luers and the teachers I had there. Mrs. Brodmerkel and Ms. Karst are two of the most caring teachers, and I will never forget what they taught me in and out of their respective classrooms."

Dippold not only takes his academic challenges seriously, but also excelled in his extracurricular activities as well.

He served as Math Academic Super Bowl captain, Sodalitas leader, member of the Future Business Leaders of America,



JUSTIN DIPPOLD

and Franciscan Brother's Discernment Group and a volunteer at St. Mary's Soup Kitchen.

In addition, he played basketball and football. "I will always remember playing football with my brother, Luke, who is a year older than me and what fun it was to compete together on the gridiron," Dippold said.

In addition to his busy school schedule and outside activities, Dippold also had a part-time job that served his community.

"I worked as a Don Ayers Little League umpire. Working as an umpire helped me learn how to manage time. I would work from 5-10:30 p.m. and if I did not use my time wisely I would have to stay up until 1 or 2 a.m. My homework was never done poorly due to lack of time. I would stay up if I had to because every piece of work I turned in I wanted to be my best."

An avid sports lover, Dippold also recalls many Sunday afternoons watching his beloved football, usually while studying. He also enjoys watching the World Series of Poker and claims "he can beat almost anyone in Madden."

Dippold will major in Finance and Sports Management at Hillsdale College in the fall where

Geimer named salutatorian for Bluffton high

BY ALLISON CIRAULO

BLUFFTON — Kathryn Geimer has been named salutatorian of the class of 2016 at Bluffton High School.

A resident of Bluffton and parishioner at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Geimer was involved in many extracurricular and service activities over the last four years.

"My high school experience involved participation in volunteering from the beginning," she says. Geimer served as president of Student Council, National Honor Society, and the Students Making a Difference Club, and her other extracurriculars included marching band, basketball and ballet.

Her favorite high school memories are of Bluffton's annual fundraisers for Riley Hospital for Children. She co-chaired the fundraiser during her sophomore and junior years and was the head chair her senior year.

"Through these positions, I was able to experience the value of giving of oneself for others. I met many of the children to whom the funds we raised were given. I saw Jesus in the compassionate work and selfless charity of my classmates and community and in the joy on the faces of the children our work helped to save. It just doesn't get any bet-



KATHRYN GEIMER

ter than that," Geimer said.

Though Geimer did not attend a Catholic high school she values the formation she received through her CCD classes, which she feels

gave her the solid foundation of a Catholic worldview. She is thankful for the friendships she developed with her CCD classmates and the camaraderie of fellow Catholics.

In addition to her academic and extracurricular pursuits, Geimer worked as a "sandwich artist" at Subway.

"Balancing work, extracurricular activities, and classes has taught me better time management and the value of hard work," Geimer says. "It has required me to push my limits and become a better, more engaged student."

Geimer's hobbies include dancing ballet and playing percussion. She enjoys staying active by running and riding her bike. Reading is also one of her passions, "especially classic novels."

Geimer will be attending Indiana University where her intended major is neuroscience.

Margaret O'Brien named valedictorian for Saint Joseph

BY MOLLY GETTINGER

GRANGER — Margaret Sarah O'Brien, valedictorian of Saint Joseph High School, will be attending the University of Notre Dame this fall. Margaret looks forward to studying

Aerospace Engineering.

Margaret's activities in high school have been vast and varied. From quiz bowl and mathletes, playing clarinet at Mass and participating in La Sociedad Honoraria Hispánica, an underlying aspect of all Margaret's activities has been her faith.

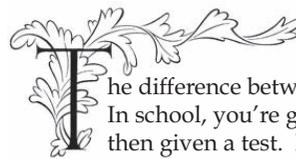
Margaret shares that her Catholic education has invited her to explore her faith in ways that otherwise would not be accessible. She has drawn closer to God, which, in turn, invites her to foster a more selfless relationship with others.

Margaret shares that "My high school experience has enabled me to put my faith in action and has made me more selfless by asking me to do service."

In her free time, Margaret enjoys puzzles, cooking and baking with friends and going on bike rides.



MARGARET O'BRIEN



he difference between school and life? In school, you're given a lesson and then given a test. In life, you're given a test that teaches you a lesson. . .

-Tom Bodett

Elias Gonzalez

Congratulations Elias, on your graduation from Marian High School and your acceptance at Indiana University. You are a blessing and I am so very proud of you. Love you!

Gram Duke

Saint Pius X Parish congratulates

Margaret O'Brien
2016 Valedictorian, Saint Joseph High School

Clare Firth
2016 Salutatorian, Saint Joseph High School

and all of this year's Saint Pius X high school graduates!

Entrust your works to the LORD, and your plans will succeed.
- Proverbs 16:3

WHEN LEARNING IS LIFE CHANGING

Saint Mary's College celebrates its 169th Commencement. Congratulations to all our 2016 graduates!

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 2016 Co-Valedictorian
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Jessica Bush

**Congratulations Jessica on your
 Master of Sacred Music degree
 from Notre Dame.
 May God bless you always.**

Love...Mom and Dad



*Proudly and prayerfully recognizes
 our 2016 Queen of Angels Eighth Grade Class!
 We share your Joy*

MISHAWAKA CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Is pleased to recognize
CHRISTIAN DENNIS
 and
ERICA GERSTBAUER
 2016 Co-Valedictorians
 MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL
*And distinguished alumni of
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 GRADUATES**



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Clare Firth named Saint Joseph salutatorian

BY DENISE FEDOROW

MISHAWAKA — Clare Evelyn Firth, whose hometown is Mishawaka, is Saint Joseph High School's Class of 2016 salutatorian. With a grade point average of 4.64, the senior plans to attend the University of Notre Dame to study Math, Philosophy or Economics.

Along with maintaining her second in class ranking, Firth also worked at the Lab for Economic Opportunity (LEO) at Notre Dame—a job that she stated “sparked my interest in economics and economic research.”

This well-rounded student is also a fitness instructor at a local Barre studio.

She participated in a number of academic competitions with team members including: Euro Challenge, where students learn about the European Union and the Euro; Econ challenge, where teams demonstrate their knowledge on a variety of economic topics and the Fed Challenge, where teams research and make a presentation on economic &



CLARE FIRTH

financial conditions and are quizzed by a panel of people from the Federal Reserve.

Clare also participated in Quiz Bowl and was a member of the National Honor Society.

When not busy with school and work activities, Firth enjoys reading, traveling and spending time with her family. One of the highlights of her time at Saint Joseph High School was going to New York for the Euro Challenge, but she stated that “the things I will remember the most are the everyday moments with friends and teachers.”

Clare stated that the education she received in Catholic schools promoted life values she considers important. “At its best, a Catholic education promotes compassion, commitment to justice and the pursuit of truth.”

Marian salutatorian Katherine Rice

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

BRISTOL — Katherine Audrey Rice, Marian High School salutatorian, believes that having thirteen years of a Catholic education has formed her into the person she is today allowing her to “integrate” her faith into all subjects areas at school.

“I have formed amazing friendships and had the opportunity to practice and grow in my faith alongside my peers. Through a Catholic education, I feel incredibly prepared to go into college and the real world, not only academically, but also spiritually.”

During the past four years Katherine has been constantly busy not only with her academics, but several extra-curricular activities as well.

“I was in the spring musical all four years of high school and in the fall play for two. I was also part of the Liturgical Choir and was a part of the handbell choir at my parish, St. Thomas the Apostle, in addition to singing at Sunday evening Mass there,” she said noting that she always enjoyed being involved in the theatre, especially the musi-



KATHERINE RICE

cal at school. She says she also “thoroughly enjoyed drawing and photography classes.”

Katherine also was part of the golf team her junior and senior

years and was a member of the Campus Ministry, Right to Life club, Young Vincentians and Latin Club. The Right To Life club experience gave her much insight.

“One of the most impacting experiences for me has been being a part of the Right to Life club at school and having the opportunity to attend the March for Life in Washington, D.C. It affirmed and strengthened my pro-life values and inspired me to speak out for what I believe in,” said Katherine.

As a part of her advanced research class Katherine also completed microbiology research at the University of Notre Dame her junior and senior year.

The Marian High School Salutatorian will study biology/pre-med at the University of Michigan this fall.

Salutatorian of Bishop Dwenger is Daniel Ostrowski

BY JENNIFER MILLER

FORT WAYNE

— As he looks forward to attending Purdue University to study computer science, Daniel Ostrowski is grateful for his high school, Bishop Dwenger. Originally from Auburn, Ostrowski is this year's salutatorian. He has found that “a Catholic education provides students with a reference point that they can use to critically evaluate the world around them.”

Also “encouraged to do more service to others” at Bishop Dwenger, Ostrowski was involved with Speech team, Apologetics club, and Latin club at school. In the community, he was also involved with DeKalb County's Special Olympics bowling practices, the Sibshops program at Lutheran Children's hospital (workshops for children who have a special-needs sibling), and his parish's annual Vacation Bible School program.

His most treasured memories of high school are the time spent with friends, winter formal, and being on homecoming court.



DANIEL OSTROWSKI

CONGRATULATIONS

Katie Geimer



2016

**Salutatorian
 Bluffton**

**High School
 We are proud
 of all of our
 graduates**

**from
 Saint Joseph
 Parish
 Bluffton**

Abbey Kagel



Dear Abbey,
 Congratulations! We are so proud of you!
 Good luck at the University of Saint Francis.
Love, Grandpa and Grandma

Bishop Dwenger valedictorian Elizabeth Otto

BY BONNIE ELBERSON



ELIZABETH OTTO

of the speech team with her prize-winning prose and original oratory. She was also a member and officer of the National Honors Society. In her

spare time, she enjoys reading, hiking, Greek mythology and "everything Star Trek."

Elizabeth feels the value of a Catholic education lies in the opportunity for deep discussion of morality and the Catholic faith in a setting that teaches students mature listening and speaking skills.

"It's beautiful that I've been able to deepen my relationship with God with my friends at my side, especially in the discussion-based theology classes I've had within the last year," she notes.

She will remember fondly her years at Bishop Dwenger, her friends, her teachers and the experiences that have made all the hard work well worth the effort.

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School valedictorian Elizabeth Otto believes that the school's encouragement of service has allowed her to discern a future career in the medical field, which is devoted to serving others.

And she has her educational path well defined. "At the University of Akron I will be part of a six-year BS/MD program that will allow me to earn my bachelor's degree of science in two years and then proceed on to medical school for four years at the Northeast Ohio Medical University. This program guarantees me a slot in medical school as a high schooler," she explains.

Elizabeth is accustomed to tough competition, first as a member and captain of the English academic team which won accolades at the state level, then as pianist for the school's show choirs and for individual vocalists who took competitive honors, and more, as a member

Daniel Noble named salutatorian for Clay High School

BY MOLLY GETTINGER



DANIEL NOBLE

SOUTH BEND — Daniel Noble, salutatorian, of Clay High School, has been a South Bend native his entire life. Graduating with a GPA of 3.998, he will be attending Earlham College in the fall to study physics and possibly music.

Incredibly active in his school and in his community, his Catholic faith is the heart of his life. He participated in Christ the King's religious education program, allowing himself to

learn and be challenged in his faith. Daniel puts this faith in action through his many service opportunities, including participating in the

largest canned food drive the Michiana area has had in the past four years, organized by Clay High School. He also participates in blood drives and both Thanksgiving and Christmas food deliveries.

Daniel enjoys running cross country, participating in Marching and Jazz Bands, participating in theatre, and being a member of the school Quiz Bowl team, which won the state championship. In his free time, he enjoys playing music, relaxing while playing video games, and cheering on the Detroit Tigers.

Daniel shares that "Clay has offered me many opportunities to put my Catholic faith into action by helping others in our school and our community as a whole through the corporal works of mercy."

Huntington North announces valedictorian Mackenzie Faurote

BY BONNIE ELBERSON



MACKENZIE FAUROTE

HUNTINGTON — Ranked first in her class of 380 seniors with a grade point average of 11.58/12.00, Mackenzie A. Faurote has been named the 2016 valedictorian of Huntington North High School. Over her four years there, Mackenzie was a four-year member of Class Council, involved with Freshman Mentoring, Huntington Youth Leadership Academy and was a Hoosier Girls State Delegate. She also served as a volunteer at the Dan Quayle Vice-Presidential Learning Center and Parkview Huntington Hospital. Mackenzie was named the IndyStar Indiana Female Bowler of the Year after being a four-year member of the varsity bowling team. She placed sixth individually in 2016 when her team won the state championship. The Vikings were also

state runner ups in 2014.

A member of Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, Mackenzie feels her faith has given her the strength and motivation to put her best foot forward each and every

day in the pursuit of success. When asked about her best memories over the last four years, Mackenzie detailed, "I will treasure the close relationships I have formed with peers and teachers that have ultimately impacted my life throughout high school." Mackenzie will be attending college in Pennsylvania this fall at Gettysburg College. She is undecided on her major.

Marian co-valedictorian Erica Gerstbauer

BY BONNIE ELBERSON



ERICA GERSTBAUER

group, National Honors Society and serving as a Eucharistic minister. Her additional interests include reading and art. And she cherishes the time spent with friends.

Erica also values the presence of the school chapel and the opportunity it affords for daily prayer. "There is nothing better for our spiritual health than to take the time to be with God, and my lifetime of Catholic education has provided me with that opportunity," she adds.

Erica plans to attend the University of Notre Dame and whatever career path she chooses will be well grounded in the faith she treasures.

MISHAWAKA — Erica Gerstbauer, co-valedictorian this year at Marian High School, speaks highly of her Catholic education. "To me, the most valuable aspect of a Catholic education is how it is a daily reminder of how God works in our lives," she says. And she feels Marian High School has provided a good environment for developing her faith through its "ever-present community of believers."

The service opportunities have been numerous, as well, and Erica has been an active member of Young Vencentians Club and Knights for Life.

Extra-curricular activities have included tennis, quiz bowl, Latin Club, piano lessons, Youth Leadership Program, Antioch youth

Saint Anthony de Padua School
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**Extends Congratulations and Best Wishes to
OUR EIGHTH GRADE GRADUATES**

*Actions speak louder than words;
let your words teach and your actions speak.*
-Saint Anthony de Padua

Congratulations Alex Steffen

You are a blessing in our lives... and we are so proud of you!

On your graduation from Bishop Luers High School and your acceptance into the Engineering Program at Purdue University

Mom, Dad and Nick

in Fort Wayne
recognizes
Elizabeth Otto
VALEDICTORIAN
at Bishop Dwenger High School
and an alumna of Saint Vincent School
Congratulations on your accomplishments!

Congratulations Colin Burns!

**BDHS
Class of 2016**

**Goodbye, Dwenger.
Hello, Purdue!**

We are so proud of you, your hard work, and determination! May God bless you on your journey!

We love you, Mom & Dad Molly, Erynn, and Clara

Christian Dennis co-valedictorian of Marian

BY ALLISON CIRAULO

MISHAWAKA — Christian Dennis ranks as co-valedictorian of Marian High School's class of 2016. A resident of Mishawaka, Dennis attends St. Monica Parish where he sings in the choir.

In addition to his academic pursuits at Marian, Dennis was heavily involved in the activities of the Vincentians, a community service organization, and received a number of awards for his involvement. He was a four-year member of the Latin Club, a two-year member of the National Honor Society, and he sang in the Marian Liturgical Choir and the Choral Ensemble.

Dennis' impressive athletic career included four years of Marian football and three years of track and field. Leading both teams as captain during his senior year, Dennis was also a regional qualifier for shot put and was named to the All Diocese Team in track and field. In football, he won Ironman Awards, Channel 46 Player of the Week, Academic All State, All Diocese Team, and All NIC First Team, and he was honored to be named a Moose Krause Scholar Athlete.

Dennis is employed as a D.J.'s assistant by "In Tune D.J.," a job



CHRISTIAN DENNIS

that he says has required that he manage his time well, juggling his studies with sports, service, and extracurriculars. He also enjoys watching movies, playing chess, biking,

fishing, reading, listening to music and singing in his parish choir.

The valedictorian says of the Catholic education he received at Marian, "I firmly believe that faith-centered learning is paramount to success." That faith was put into action through Dennis' participation in extracurriculars, particularly those that involved service. "I have enjoyed the many hours I have spent as a volunteer serving God by helping people in a variety of ways," he says.

In addition to taking the field on Friday nights during football season, Dennis says the memories he'll treasure most from high school are those of the community that surrounded him during his years at Marian.

Dennis plans to attend the University of Notre Dame this fall, where he will pursue a major in aeronautical engineering.

Co-valedictorian Marian High School: Theresa Elizabeth Rice

BY JENNIFER MILLER

SOUTH BEND — With a simple smile and peace filled presence, Theresa Elizabeth Rice is a joy to know. She is one of three valedictorians at Marian High School this year. A native of South Bend, she is the daughter of Dr. John and Nancy Rice and fifth of six children. She will attend the University of Notre Dame next year, majoring in Liberal Studies, the fifth of her family to attend the school.

Her voice is equally grace-filled as she cantors for St. Matthew Cathedral Parish. Since eighth grade, she has served her parish in this capacity, starting first in the children's choir in fifth grade. In high school, she has sung in the liturgical choir for the past four years and hopes to continue this ministry at Notre Dame in the Folk Choir next year.

"It has always been a comfortable community for me, especially during Mass," Rice explained



THERESA RICE

of her time with the liturgical choir.

She hopes to become an English high school teacher, which would combine her beloved hobby of reading with

a popular job and pastime of babysitting. "I loved my English classes and was often caught reading during Math," Rice laughed. Her favorite author is G.K. Chesterton. Her parents give each child a book on St. Nicholas Day and one year she received a set of two of his short stories. Rice wasn't a fan at first but picked up the stories 6 months later and was hooked. She read any others by Chesterton that she could find. "Orthodoxy" is still her favorite one though.

Rice especially appreciated her Catholic school education. She said, "Apart from the obvious graces of having the Blessed

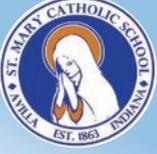
Sacrament present in the school, a Catholic education offers knowledge within a larger context. As Catholics, we are called to see every action in light of our faith, which allows for a much deeper view of most subjects. I know that for me, personally, examining the diverse subjects in light of Catholic doctrine or my own faith has both strengthened that faith and heightened the value of that education."

She participated in numerous, varied activities at Marian, such as Latin Club, swimming and Campus Ministry. She also worked in the summertime as a lifeguard at Morris Park Country Club. Through all the school and volunteer work though, Rice found that "ultimately, the most common way that I put my faith into action was through daily visits to the chapel, where the presence of Christ in the Eucharist has nourished my faith and my capacity for charity." Both St. Therese and St. Anthony are her two favorite saints.

Saint Mary of the Assumption School, Avilla congratulates our distinguished alumni

Daniel Ostrowski

2016 Salutatorian Bishop Dwenger High School
Our best wishes are with you in the future!



Congratulations Katherine Rice
2016 SALUTATORIAN OF MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL




God bless you, watch over you and guide you as you pursue your passion for science at the University of Michigan!

We love you!

Mom, Dad, Joseph, Mary, Stephen, Gregory and Andrew

GO BLUE!



The parish family of SS Peter and Paul sends prayerful best wishes to

Mackenzie Faurote
2016 VALEDICTORIAN
Huntington North High School

Gabriel Jones
Saint Joseph High School Class of 2016

Congratulations on your high school graduation, Gabe! Your family and friends are proud of the young man you have become. Best wishes as you commence the next phase at Butler University.

Lovingly,
Mom and Dad, Kate and the Butiste Family




Congratulations to our Graduates



Dear Graduates,
Your academic achievement, your spirit, and your loyalty makes your parents and all of our parishioners proud; and we send you forth with our prayerful best wishes!

Father Kummer and the parish family

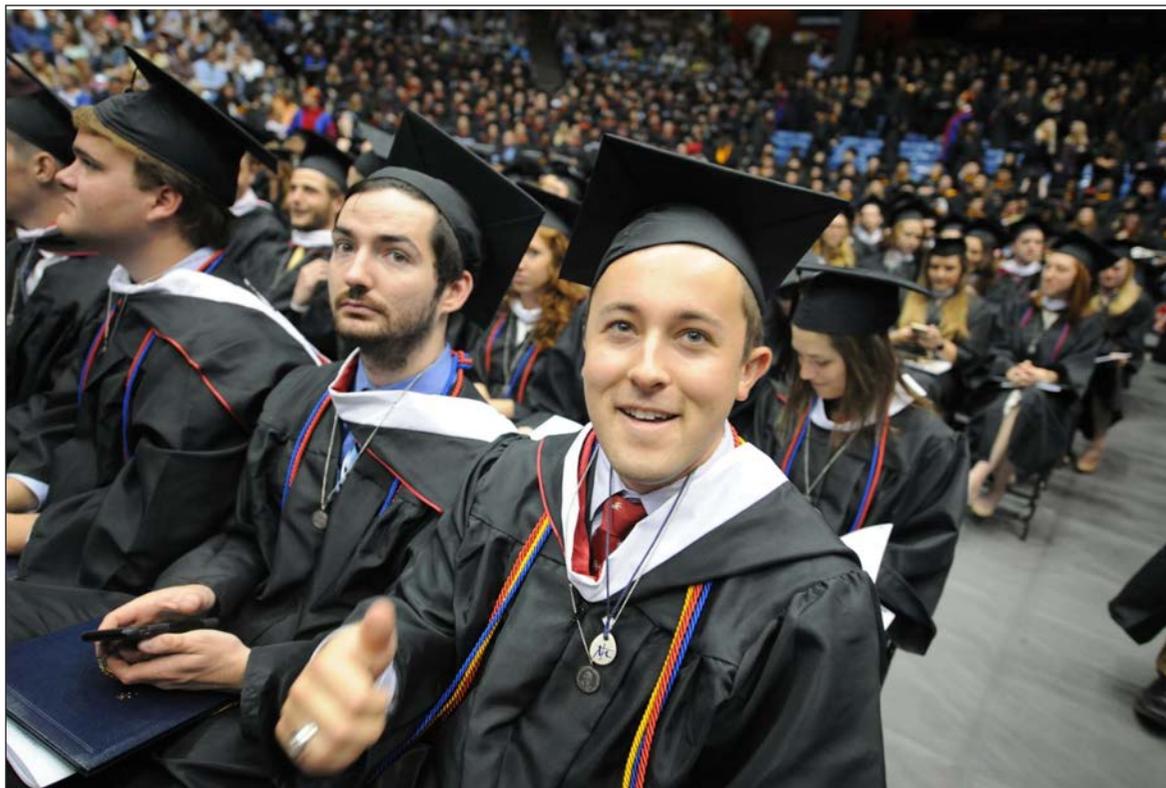
Ethan Brown
Bishop Luers High School Class of 2016

Way to go Ethan!
So excited for everything your future holds.
BoilerUp!
Hammer Down!
Love You,
Dad, Mom, Maddy and Noah




Congratulations on Top 10, Ethan. We are so proud of you.
Love,
Grandma and Grandpa Merkel





CNS photo/Larry Burgess, University of Dayton

Dominic Sanfilippo, giving thumbs up, is seen May 8 during graduation at the University of Dayton in Ohio. One of 12 students who graduated with a human rights degree, Sanfilippo said the degree equips him for the world ahead.

Human rights degree equips students for world ahead, graduate says

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Dominic Sanfilippo, one of 12 students who graduated with a degree in human rights May 8 at the University of Dayton in Ohio, said he has grown accustomed to explaining his major to people over the years.

He's often been asked: "What do you plan to do with that?"

Or he has picked up the unspoken question from "the uncle who says, 'Oh that's nice'" when Sanfilippo says what he's studying.

He understands the reaction, pointing out: "Business majors do business and engineering majors do engineering." But even if there are not specific human rights jobs available, he said the degree equips graduates to navigate careers they choose where they can apply learned skills of critical thinking, compassion and advocacy.

Sanfilippo, who spoke to Catholic News Service May 3, less than a week before graduation, said when he was looking at colleges four years ago, Dayton's human rights program appealed to him. The new graduate, who is from Chicago, also majored in philosophy.

The University of Dayton, a Marianist university, started the nation's first undergraduate human rights studies program through the Department of Political Science in 1998 and then 10 years later it became one of the first universities to offer bachelors' degrees in human rights studies. Since then, more than 100 students at Dayton

have graduated with human rights degrees and have pursued careers as human rights advocates and academics or work in legal, governmental and non-profit groups.

Other colleges offering human rights degrees include Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Bard College and Columbia University in New York, and Trinity College in Connecticut. Other Catholic colleges with human rights programs include Boston College and Georgetown University.

The University of San Francisco is one of the few colleges in the country offering a master's degree in human rights and the law schools at several Catholic and private colleges have a human rights focus including the University of Notre Dame and Fordham University.

Mark Ensalaco, an associate professor of political science at the University of Dayton, who helped get the human rights studies started on campus and was its first director, sees tangible results from the program, which added a human rights center in 2013 that focuses on raising awareness about issues such as human trafficking.

The university's human rights center has had a "unique mission" from the get-go, Ensalaco said, pointing out that it was not just going to be another center that provided an occasional film series, but one truly involved in advocacy work such as its recent efforts to eradicate slave labor in Brazil for products sold in the U.S.

So when people ask what does one do with human rights stud-

ies, it turns out there are some tangible answers.

And for the next year, Sanfilippo already has plans that more or less coincide with his degree. He expects to spend a year in a newly launching Marianist service program based in Dayton called PULSE where he will live in a community, akin to a Catholic Worker House with other participants doing essentially volunteer work across the city.

Sanfilippo will be spending his time at Chaminade Julianne Catholic High School in Dayton, a Marianist-run school, where he plans to mentor students on social justice issues and help with community outreach.

"They're essentially creating a job for me since it's the first year of the program," he said.

Sanfilippo notes that he is at a unique time in his life and that during the upcoming year he will figure out if he will go on to graduate school, political work or something else.

"I'm excited about it," he said, about the service year. He also admits that it took him awhile to get to this spot because a few years ago he wouldn't have imagined not looking for a great job or applying for a fellowship.

Now he says he's lucky to have the chance to share his work and faith with others.

"It makes all the sense in the world," he added, noting that the unknown future path after next year doesn't overwhelm him.

Then adding something not every college graduate could, he said: "I've become more comfortable with ambiguity."



**BISHOP DWENGER
HIGH SCHOOL**

Congratulations to the Class of 2016!

*It has been an
honor and a privilege.
God's blessings to you!*

Once a Saint, Always a Saint!



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CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

is pleased to recognize

**Grace Everett - 2016 Valedictorian
and
Justin Dippold - 2016 Salutatorian**

BISHOP LUERS HIGH SCHOOL

and

Abigail Lee and Leah Schroeder

who were among the Top Ten graduates of
BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL

*All distinguished alumni of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton School
Congratulations on your accomplishments!*

Saint Thomas the Apostle School

*Extends Congratulations and
Prayerful Best Wishes to a distinguished Alumna*

**KATHERINE RICE
2016 Salutatorian
MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL**

*Best wishes as you pursue Pre-Med
at the University of Michigan!*

Parents vs. iPhone: A problem of liturgy?

A 13-year-old boy, Peter, was anxious, even compulsive, melting down whenever his parents asked something of him, especially to get off his iPhone or iPad and re-engage in the human race — specifically, his family life. I know this is not extremely uncommon. I was working primarily with the mother, who was having difficulty engaging her husband. He seemed too busy, and she hesitated to bother him. Having low expectations of men is a chronic problem in my pastoral counseling practice, especially around family and spiritual life. Men live up to high expectations at work, but not at home. While the wife believed that leaving him alone was loving, generous and kind, it was actually the opposite — it was not working for his good, for love, and it was not helping him get to heaven. Low expectations do not help a man become the best version of himself. He needs a challenge; he needs to be needed. But he also needs to know what to do without being nagged.

The Abba Prayer for Men at AbbaChallenge.com answers this in an outline form. In the prayer I suggest that the summit of being a man is spiritual fatherhood lived out in chivalry as priest, prophet and king. I would like to focus on our priestly role through which we link the human and the divine. What does this mean? For one thing, when we love our friend, spouse, or kids — working for their good — we connect or link them to God, because God is love.

Priests enact liturgy

As priests, all baptized men are called to enact liturgy, though certain Church liturgies such as the Mass are reserved for the ordained priesthood. Liturgy is the means through which God forms his people into His children, His disciples. Liturgy is built into creation, the story of which ends in a liturgical event, the Sabbath rest. Fathers, before they worshipped the golden calf in the desert (Ex. 32), were the priests who led their families spiritually. So what is the liturgy of the baptized priest? I think liturgy is a ritual and/or routine that communicates love. If you are married and/or have kids, you are the priest in the domestic church!

Everyday liturgy

We are perpetually engaged in liturgy — aka — service or work: we have morning and bedtime routines, customary hellos and goodbyes, birthday celebrations, anniversaries, etc. Not all rituals and routines communicate love, however. So if we have problems in our relationships, as with Peter, we need to evaluate and reform our liturgies so our love is better experienced by our kids and spouses. Dr. Greg Popcak, in an excellent book, *When Divorce is Not an Option*, cites over 60 years of research and hundreds of studies showing that rituals of connection increase satisfaction in life and relationships and significantly decrease depression, substance abuse, promiscuity, and behavioral problems. The liturgy of the domestic church is



DAVE McCLOW

THE ULTIMATE CHALLENGE

powerful formation.

Popcak indicates four areas for rituals and routines that promote connection: pray, work, play and talk time. There should be a daily 5-to-10-minute version and a longer weekend version.

Pray: Shockingly, only 17 percent of Catholic couples actually pray together, according to a recent CARA study. If you are married, pray with your wife. If you need help getting started, keep it simple, picking a few intentions and saying an Our Father, a Hail Mary, and a Glory Be. Add more as your comfort level increases. Pray with your children. Fathers praying with and for their kids are immensely powerful. Do it. Certainly go to Mass every week and to confession with your family each month.

Work: These are not chores you do separately, but things you do together, such as preparing meals, setting the table, or cleaning rooms together with your wife and/or kids.

Play: Try playing cards, taking a walk, reading aloud together, or wrestling with the kids. Family game night or date night with the wife are weekly versions.

McCLOW, page 17

A tip of the hat to former seminarians

Soon after my grandson turned 11, I said to him, “Well, in three years you can move away from home.” He looked at me. “That’s what I did,” I said.

He turned to his mom. “Really?” he asked since he knew his grandfather can be one who stretches the truth. “Really,” she said. “A boarding school,” I said.

I suppose that period of my life was on my mind because recently I’d had lunch with three high school classmates, a bit of a mini-reunion, with one-third of our 12-member graduating class attending.

In the fall of 1966, we were the first group in my region to enter the seminary after the Second Vatican Council and, like the Church in general, we had little idea of what lay ahead. It wasn’t surprising that it hit our student body a bit more strongly than most other Catholic schools. Ours was a minor seminary, from freshmen in high school through sophomores in college.

It was a boarding school system that traced its roots back to the Middle Ages and the Council of Trent and a system that ran smack into Vatican II and the 1960s. Or perhaps better put, Vatican II and the 1960s ran smack into it and change was inevitable.

These days it’s hard to imagine a group of 14-year-old boys eager to live a secluded and rigid life as we did. It’s hard to imagine parents thinking it’s a good idea. It’s hard to imagine a dio-



BILL DODDS

YOUR FAMILY

cese that could afford the cost.

The truth is it wasn’t very practical when it came to the final numbers. Early in our first year one of our teachers (all of whom were priests, all referred to as “profs”) told us that statistically one in 10 of the 35 original class members would go on for 12 years and get ordained.

He was right. Three were ordained. Years later, one died of a heart attack, one left and got married, and one became the U.S. provincial of a missionary order. And of the other class of 1970 graduates (by then our numbers had dwindled from 35 to a dozen), three became lawyers, two social workers, one a nurse, one a phone company employee, one a teacher and one a writer.

It was the same prof who told those 14-year-olds that some of us didn’t have a vocation to the priesthood but we did have a vocation to be in the seminary for a while. Much to my surprise, that would include me. Marriage was my vocation and what a blessing it was.

Around this time of year,

FAMILY, page 17

Guidance ... a promise fulfilled



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Trinity Sunday John 16:12-15

The Church celebrates Trinity Sunday this weekend, and it uses the celebration to teach us about the Holy Trinity, the mystery of three Persons in the one God.

For its first reading, the Church offers us a passage from the Book of Proverbs. Proverbs is one of a series of books in the Old Testament, the series being called the Wisdom Literature. The purpose behind the writing of all these books was to reassure pious Jews that their belief in the one God of Israel, a divinity of mercy and eternal faithfulness, was not in the least con-

trary to sound human reasoning.

This reading reveals the essential link between God and the quality of wisdom. Wisdom is of God. “The Lord begot me,” Wisdom declares in the reading. “From of old,” it continues to say, “I was poured out upon the earth.”

In other words, God gives us wisdom, another gift of divine mercy and love. Without this wisdom, we cannot fully understand reality.

The Epistle to the Romans furnishes the second reading. As so often appears in the writings of the Apostle Paul, the realities of Jesus, and of life in Jesus, are majestically presented. Through the Lord Jesus, and through the sacrifice accomplished by Jesus in the Incarnation and in the Redemption, humans are at peace with God.

God’s love comes to us through the Holy Spirit. This statement affirms the Spirit’s divine identity. Love is dynamic. It is not a commodity. Love is something essential to the lover. It is not incidental.

St. John’s Gospel provides the last reading. As is typical of all the parts of the Fourth Gospel, the reading literally glows with eloquence and grace.

This passage is a direct quotation from Jesus. In it the Lord powerfully reassures the Apostles that the Holy Spirit will come to strengthen and empower them. “He will guide you with all truth,” the Lord tells the Twelve.

So, the reading establishes the place of the Apostles in the unfolding of salvation. It testifies to the esteem in which the Church holds the Apostles, and their successors, today.

The reading also reveals the Trinity, albeit obliquely. The Holy Spirit will convey to the Apostles God’s truth. As with love, truth is not a commodity. It is an awareness of what actually is. Only the wisest, namely God, possesses this unobstructed view of what actually is.

Finally, the reading reveals the place of the Lord Jesus. The Holy Spirit of God will give glory to God in the bestowal of divine wisdom upon the Apostles. Jesus

foretold the coming of the Spirit. God sends the Spirit. Guided and strengthened by the Spirit, the Apostles continue Christ’s works of salvation.

The Father sent Jesus. Jesus sends the Spirit. The Father, Son and Spirit are one.

Reflection

The Church teaches that the Holy Trinity is one of the greatest revelations of God. As such, the Church presents this teaching in its pronouncements and in prayer, and on this great feast. The Church will never compromise the teaching. It is at the root of Catholic belief.

From the moment that Catholic parents teach toddlers the sign of the cross, through extensive studies at the highest levels of institutional education, Catholics hear of the Trinity, and they know that it is basic to the Catholic Tradition.

Even so, even for those who believe, it can be quite dry, an academic statement of a reality that has little relevance.

To the contrary, it is relevant to everything we are and to everything that we do. It explains creation. It explains salvation. It explains God. It even explains who and what we are, and what is our purpose in life.

God is love. God is all-wise. God is with us. We belong to God.

READINGS

Sunday: Prv 8:22-31 Ps 8:4-9 Rom 5:1-5 Jn 16:12-15

Monday: 1 Pt 1:3-9 Ps 111:1-2, 5-6, 9, 10c Mk 10:17-27

Tuesday: 1 Pt 1:10-16 Ps 98:1-4 Mk 10:28-31

Wednesday: 1 Pt 1:18-25 Ps 147:12-15, 19-20 Mk 10:32-45

Thursday: 1 Pt 2:2-5, 9-12 Ps 100:2-5 Mk 10:46-52

Friday: 1 Pt 4:7-13 Ps 96:10-13 Mk 11:11-26

Saturday: Jude 17, 20b-25 Ps 63:2-6 Mk 11:27-33

Embryos and the “14-Day Rule”

Arguments in favor of research on human embryos typically play off our unfamiliarity with the way that we ourselves once appeared and existed as embryos. Humans in their tiniest stages are indeed unfamiliar to us, and they hardly look anything like “one of us.” Yet the undeniable conclusion, that every one of us was once an embryo, remains an indisputable scientific dogma, causing a “fingernails on the chalkboard” phenomenon for researchers every time they choose to experiment on embryos or destroy them for research.

To enable scientists to get beyond the knowledge that they’re experimenting on or destroying fellow humans, clever stratagems and justifications have had to be devised. Among the more successful of these approaches has been the well-known “14-day rule.” This rule, as noted in a recent article in the journal *Nature*, represents

“a legal and regulatory line in the sand that has for decades limited in vitro human-embryo research to the period before the ‘primitive streak’ appears. This is a faint band of cells marking the beginning of an embryo’s head-to-tail axis... The formation of the primitive streak is significant because it represents the earliest point at which an embryo’s biological individuation is assured. Before this point, embryos can split in two or fuse together. So some people reason that at this stage a morally significant individual comes into being.”

Most people have an instinctive moral awareness when they reflect on the reality that adults come from embryos. A particular conclusion organically follows, namely, that any decision to interrupt an embryo’s growth and development involves a willingness to destroy a prospective infant, child, teenager and adult. Even the natural potential for the splitting and fusing of embryos does not substantively alter the fact that adults arise

from embryonic origins when traced back far enough along their particular developmental trajectories. If anything, the possibility that an early embryo might divide and make twins means that a decision to destroy such an embryo might involve “double” the evil, since two future adults are being exploited and exterminated rather than just one.

It is also worth emphasizing that the 14-day rule, despite protestations to the contrary, has not actually restricted real-world human embryo research to any appreciable degree, because scientists have lacked the ability, until quite recently, to culture human embryos in the lab for any length of time beyond about a week. In fact, it was only in 2016 that several new studies figured out how to grow human embryos beyond what the 14-day rule might forbid. The rule, thus, was an agreed-upon convention of no practical significance for any researchers who may have been carrying out experiments on embryonic humans in recent decades. Considering the fact that the rule may now actually begin to hamper what some of them are interested in doing, they are pushing, unsurprisingly, to “revisit” and “recalibrate” the rule.

Historically speaking, the 14-day rule arose largely as a mechanism for justifying what had previously been considered immoral, even unthinkable, research. The rule enabled serious human rights violations to proceed apace under the pretext of providing restrictions and regulatory limitations. By feigning that the 14 day-rule was somehow an ethical tenet grounded in biological facts, promoters of the rule devised a clever way of offering lip service to the moral status of the human embryo. They implied that one could show respect for the human embryo through the establishment of such a rule, even though the rule objectively demonstrated no more respect for vulnerable humanity than German researchers during the war would have,



FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

had they declared a “14-year rule”, namely, that only concentration camp inmates below the age of fourteen would be experimented upon. Whether 14-days or 14-years, such rules at root constitute mere contrivances to justify unethical science. As bioethicist Daniel Callahan observed back in 1995: “I have always felt a nagging uneasiness at trying to rationalize the killing of something for which I claim to have a ‘profound respect.’ What in the world can that kind of respect mean? An odd form of esteem — at once high-minded and altogether lethal.”

Hence, the broader strategic goal of conventions like the 14 day-rule has been not to identify or set in place any objective moral lines, nor to acknowledge authentic moral concerns, but to circumnavigate those very concerns by means of the convention, and achieve particular pragmatic outcomes, most notably: the continued expansion of the research, the minimization of “public outcry and backlash,” the continued availability of research funding, and the avoidance of legally restrictive embryo-protective measures that might be debated by justly-concerned legislatures. The ultimate goal of a convention like the 14-day rule has been to establish the idea, erroneous at its core, that prior to a certain arbitrarily-determined time point, developing human beings can be deemed sufficiently different from us that an “us and them” chasm can be used to justify their violent exploitation.

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

more powerful coming from dad. When dad knew what to do, he started with ping-pong and added other activities where they could talk more. In two weeks Peter was a different kid — not perfect, but much more open and following his parents’ requests. If you find yourself saying this is typical teenage behavior, you have ineffective liturgies in place. The right liturgies communicate the love you actually intend. This is the message our culture — and your kids and wife — are aching to hear and experience.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for May 22, 2016
Romans 5:1-5; John 16:12-15

Following is a word search based on the second reading and the Gospel reading for the feast of the Most Holy Trinity. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

- | | | |
|-------------|------------|------------|
| JUSTIFIED | PEACE | GAINED |
| ACCESS | GRACE | BOAST |
| HOPE | GLORY | PRODUCES |
| ENDURANCE | CHARACTER | DISAPPOINT |
| LOVE | POURED OUT | HEARTS |
| HOLY SPIRIT | TRUTH | GUIDE YOU |
| SPEAK | MINE | DECLARE |

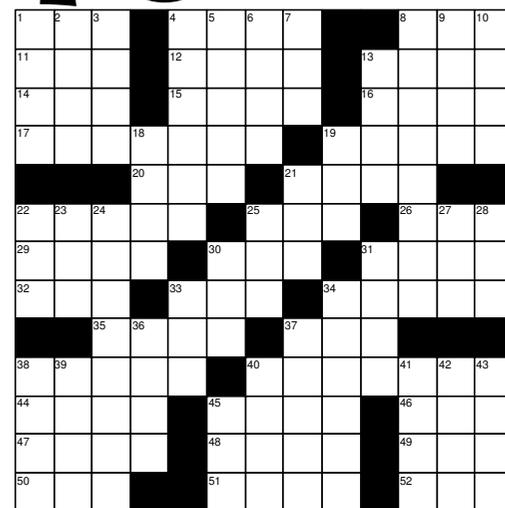
GRACE AND TRUTH

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

May 22 and 29 2016



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Based on these Scripture readings: Prv 8:22-31; Rom 5:1-5; Jn 16: 12-15 and Gn 14: 18-20; 1Cor 11:23-26; Lk 9: 11b-17

ACROSS

- 1 Wing
- 4 Eye infection
- 8 Before (prefix)
- 11 Corn center
- 12 Experts
- 13 Vault
- 14 First woman
- 15 Monks follow one
- 16 “Plum ___”
- 17 Disappointment
- 19 Offers
- 20 Female sheep
- 21 It does not disappoint
- 22 Inner flower leaf
- 25 East of Eden
- 26 Cardinal’s color

29 “Mister” (German)

- 30 No room here
- 31 Listen to God
- 32 “Prodigies of long ___”
- 33 Foot extension
- 34 Tightly woven thread of cotton
- 35 S. American country
- 37 Recess time
- 38 “The ___ of God”
- 40 Eyes
- 44 “Woman, behold ___ son”
- 45 Floating ice
- 46 River (Spanish)
- 47 Jogs

- 48 We will, on last day
- 49 Not subtract
- 50 Abnormal
- 51 Meal scraps
- 52 God set the ___ its limit

DOWN

- 1 Flying heroes
- 2 God poured into our hearts
- 3 A wager (2 wds)
- 4 Urban growth
- 5 Ceasefire
- 6 Not whites
- 7 Vane direction
- 8 Book of wisdom
- 9 God delighted in the human one
- 10 Inflated selves
- 13 Radar echo
- 18 “But you cannot ___ it now”
- 19 The wisdom of ___
- 21 Term of affection
- 22 Letter in Cyrillic alphabet
- 23 Brain scan
- 24 Put out an idea
- 25 Compass point
- 27 Snake-like fish
- 28 Easter coloring
- 30 Promissory note
- 31 Pig noise
- 33 Strive
- 34 Jumps toward
- 36 Sins
- 37 Wisdom said: “at ___ before the earth”
- 38 Rotating mechanism
- 39 Noisy
- 40 River barrier
- 41 Times
- 42 Travel by horse
- 43 Fizzy
- 45 Slang for “Brother”

Answer Key can be found on page 19

FAMILY

Continued from Page 16

many dioceses and religious orders will be celebrating ordinations to the priesthood. These days the path to holy orders remains one less traveled, but now it’s also one less medieval.

Among those who walked that seminary trail for a time, some truly are dedicated laymen who serve the church and society in many, many ways over many, many years. God bless those new priests and God bless all of their former classmates.

McCLOW

Continued from Page 16

Talk: Family meals are a starting point. You can ask what was the high point and low point of everyone’s day. Driving with teens can help them open up. For more suggestions, get the book.

Let’s acknowledge our current liturgies and pick one area to work on to more fully live out our baptized priesthood.

What happened to Peter? I worked with both parents and told them they needed to reform their liturgy with their son. I also stressed that it would be

Sports

THREE COUGARS NAMED TO ALL-CROSSROADS LEAGUE IN SOFTBALL University of Saint Francis junior Kelsey Richard and freshman Breanna Pryor have been named to the 2016 All-Crossroads League Team. This is the second consecutive season Richard, from Bishop Luers High School, has been selected first team and the first season for Pryor.

ICCL baseball season champ crowned

BY MATT SOBIERALSKI

SOUTH BEND/MISHAWAKA — The ICCL regular season came to a close this past week with games that were played across South Bend at Kennedy, Boland, and Chet Waggoner Little League parks respectively. A tight finish was in store as the top four teams were only separated by a single game going into the final games of the season. St. Matthew/St. Jude, Mishawaka Catholic, Corpus Christi, and Christ the King were vying for the top spot. The weather did not cooperate making it difficult for some teams to play but due to great grounds crews and the help of many volunteers, teams were able to get onto the fields to play their final games of the season.

In action at Chet Waggoner Little League, the upstart Cougars from Corpus Christi used a brilliant pitching performance by Ayden Clark to keep pace with St. Matthew/St. Jude at the top of the division. Clark threw a complete game 2-hitter while a team effort with the bats led to an 8-0 victory over the Holy Family Trojans.

Meanwhile at Boland Park, the Holy Cross Crusaders played a big game and got clutch hitting to upset the Saints of Mishawaka

Catholic. The pitching of Frank Pennino and Matt Eck kept the Saints hitters guessing, while the Crusaders used the fantastic hitting of Malcolm Anderson and Quinn Coleman to push past the Saints. Anderson and Coleman each had two hits for the Crusaders in the 7-5 win.

In a make-up game on a cold Friday night at Chet Waggoner, Matt Jacobs at Corpus Christi kept the ball rolling with a close 3-2 win over Holy Cross. Jacobs pitched a great game as he went the distance for the Cougars, only allowing two runs.

In the final week of the season, Christ the King looked to make a late push for the top spot. They started the week by defeating Holy Family at Boland Park with a score of 6-3. They carried their momentum into their final game of the regular season against the Corpus Christi Cougars. The Cougars jumped out to a sixth inning lead of 10-5 and the Christ the King Kings looked like they would lose the game. However, the Kings would put on their rally caps for the bottom of

the sixth where they scored six runs to complete an improbable comeback win over the Cougars, 11-10.

The ICCL regular season is complete and the champions came from St. Matthew/St. Jude who finished the regular season with a 5-1 record. Mishawaka Catholic finished right behind them with a 4-2-1 record, while Corpus Christi finished 5-3-1 and Christ the King 4-3-1. These teams will be competing in the ICCL tournament and all have a shot at the tournament crown.

Tournament games will be played at Kennedy Park and Chet Waggoner Little League. The first game of the tournament sees the Saints of Mishawaka Catholic taking on the Kings of Christ the King, who will look to keep their momentum they gained from the final week. The second game will see Corpus Christi take on the Crusaders from Holy Cross. St. Matthew/St. Jude and Holy Family received first round byes for the tournament. They will take on winners from the first round later in the week.



The CYO soccer 'buzz' at St. Joseph School

BY RON BUSCH

FORT WAYNE — There's a "buzz" in the halls of St. Joseph Catholic School this May. It's not just the "buzz" of bees attending to the spring flowers. The "buzz" is talk about the boys fifth and sixth-grade soccer team. The team has 6 wins, 0 losses and 1 tie for their regular season. This is their first season in CYO play and the tie occurred in their very first game, against the St. Charles fifth-grade team. On Friday, May 13, St. Joseph continued their winning ways in the end of season CYO tournament with a 2-1 victory over St. Jude. Ernesto Juarez and Diego Velasquez scored goals in that game for the young Panther squad.

Head coach Giovanni Suarez spoke about the team's success. He is very enthused about just a few important things regarding his team's successful season. The team has an important pre-game prayer before each game.

They don't pray to win, but rather pray in thanks that each team member has their own personal "gift." Each member of the team contributes in their own way. Success is each team member using that individual "gift" towards a common goal in the team's play. The coach insists that the team remains humble in victory. Suarez stresses that "God allows us to use our gifts and do well. Winning is only by the grace of God." Coach Suarez wants this theme to be what each team member takes away with them at the end of this season, win or lose. Success is measured in a team's prayerful attitude using their God-given gifts, not a win-loss record.

The teamwork theme is shared within the coaching staff as well. Assistants include Nick Solyom, a former grade school

player from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. Solyom volunteers at St. Joseph, mentioning that he holds the school "close to my heart." Jim Hensel assists as well, especially sharing his organizational "gifts" in helping to coordinate the team effort.

The team now has its sights set on the next tournament game, and perhaps a run at the CYO championship for their age group. Maybe the "buzz" at St. Joseph School will include a tournament victory this week, but success will only be measured by each team member making use of an individual "gift" they have been given for the good of the team — on the field, in the classroom, or in their future lives. That's what this soccer season is all about.



Movie explores double meaning of 'Race'



CNS photo/Focus Features

Olympic track and field legend Jesse Owens (Stephan James) is the center of this entertaining film, chronicling Owens' journey to the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin. He won four gold medals and, as an African American, single-handedly dealt a devastating blow to Nazism and its belief in Aryan supremacy. Owens is discovered by his university coach (Jason Sudeikis), who recognizes his natural talent and proposes to train him for the 1936 Games. A U.S. boycott of the Olympics is narrowly averted when wicked Nazi propagandist Joseph Goebbels (Barnaby Metschurat) agrees to allow Jewish and black athletes to compete. As his fame grows, so does the pressure on Owens to be a role model for African Americans. He also pines for his fiancée (Shanice Banton) back home, caring for their baby daughter. Director Stephen Hopkins deftly explores the double meaning of the film's title, chronicling Owens' personal struggle against racism and bigotry while celebrating his astounding athletic achievements. What emerges is a valuable history lesson for adolescents as well as their parents, and an inspiring portrait of personal courage, determination, friendship and tolerance. Adult themes, an out-of-wedlock pregnancy, and occasional crude and profane language. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.



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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.

Fun Fest planned

Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Parish, 1515 Barthold St., will have a Fun Fest, Saturday, June 4, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Games for all ages, food, Bingo, silent auction, books, kid train, bounce house and more. Beer tent, dinner and music in the evening. Raffle tickets available with hourly winners.

Sack lunch ministry in need

Fort Wayne — The Franciscan Center Sack Lunch Program is in need of donations and volunteers. Donations of brown paper bags, sandwich ziplock bags, napkins, potato chips, pretzels, fruit snacks, and granola bars are needed. A continuing need is for route drivers who deliver sack lunches to the poor in our community on Saturday mornings. Opportunities for once per month or once every other month are available. Monetary gifts are also welcome. Contact Sony Laisure at 260-744-3977 or contact@thefranciscancenter.org for details.

Knights of Columbus plan Lourdes Ball
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 553 will hold the Lourdes Ball on Saturday, May 21, at 553 E. Washington St. The 51st annual Lourdes Ball begins with a ceremony and presentation at 6 p.m., followed by dinner and dancing. Guest speaker is Danielle Peters, Ph.D., a Schoenstatt Sister of Mary and research associate at Notre Dame's Institute for Church Life. Proceeds will send pilgrims to Lourdes. Tickets are \$40 per person with RSVP to pocman5000@aol.com.

Germanfest to begin at St. Peter
Fort Wayne — Germanfest will begin with Mass Sunday, June 5, at St. Peter Church, 518 E.

DeWald St., at 11 a.m. Celebrant Father Charles Herman will be joined by the Fort Wayne Mannerchor and Dammenchor who will provide music for the liturgy. Following Mass a German dinner will be served in the Pavilion. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$5 for children.

Polish dinner to help fund World Youth Day pilgrims

Angola — To immerse themselves in the Polish culture,

and to raise funds for travel, members of St. Anthony Youth Ministry will have a Polish dinner consisting of kielbasa, kapusta (sweet and sour cabbage), stuffed cabbage, pierogi and mashed potatoes. The dinner will begin at 6 p.m., Saturday, June 4, in the St. Anthony Parish Hall, 700 W. Maumee St. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased by calling Laurie at 260-665-2259, or Marilyn Karpinski 260-667-8829.

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Louise Ann Lynch Quirk, 87, St. Mary Mother of God

Marvin J. Keever, 76, Saint Anne Chapel

Granger

Leo Kiemnec, Jr. 101, St. Pius X

New Haven

Eugene C. Fox, St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame

Rev. Maurice E. Amen, CSC, 82, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

Madonna A. Lawless Fisher, 92, Our Lady of Loretto

Huntington

Sister Margaret Urhausen, OLVM, 95, Victory Noll

Mishawaka

Kelly Jo Czarnecki, 52, St. Monica

George B. McNeely, III, 76, St. Joseph

New Carlise

Klaara R. Wozniak, 64, St. Stanislaus Kostka

Plymouth

Gordon C. Taidlet, 83, St. Michael

South Bend

Bernadine V. Nowicki, 88, Corpus Christi

Alice M. Tomczak, 87, Holy Family

Theresa B. Howard, 89, St. Casimir

William R. Shouffer, St. Therese, Little Flower

Mary Craft Nellans, 80, Holy Family

Ted W. Carlson, Jr., 80, St. Joseph

Virginia Nix, 95, St. Matthew Cathedral

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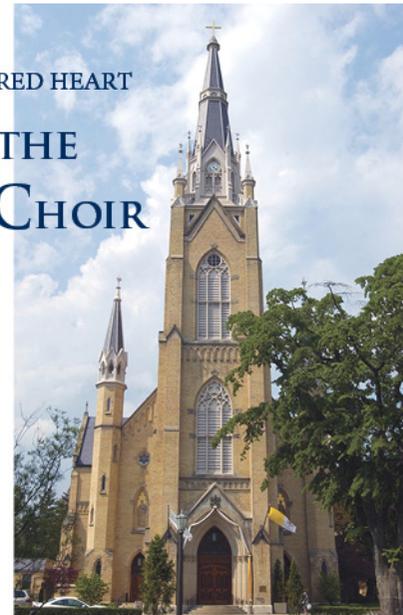


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The CrossWord
May 22 and 29, 2016



Seminarians to be ordained to diaconate

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate the Mass of Ordination of Dennis Di Benedetto and Eric Burgener at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 21, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne.

BY STEPHANIE A. PATKA



Eric Burgener

Eric Burgener

It was a normal week during the schedule of St. Charles Borromeo Catholic School and the students filed into the church for Mass. Looking out at the rows of students kneeling during the conse-

cration, one would notice that it was completely silent for all present. All, except for one sixth grade boy who heard a distinct voice inside his heart that said, "Be my priest." That boy was Eric Burgener.

For him, the voice wasn't accompanied loudly by an opening up of the heavens or angels singing. "It was quiet and felt right, and immediately in my heart, I said yes," Burgener remembers. He went up for communion and upon coming back to the pew found that tears of joy filled his eyes as he knelt down to pray. "At that age, being cool was everything, so I quickly wiped the tears away from my eyes, and afterwards, I quickly pushed the thought of joining the priesthood out of my mind."

Burgener graduated from Bishop Dwenger and went off to Indiana University in Bloomington. It was during that time when Burgener noticed that his life felt like there was something missing. "I really did live the life that the world offers in college and it left me totally empty — I knew that there was something wrong," Burgener recalls. "There were things happening in my life and I just didn't know what to do."

A turnkey moment in coming back to his vocation was a day when Burgener went into St. Paul's Church in Bloomington. He was sitting in front of the tabernacle praying about all the things going on in his life when he again, distinctly felt that nudge, "be my priest." "I remember that my response was, 'but God, don't you see all that is wrong with me and what I'm doing with my life?'" Burgener smiled, "But God's response to me was, 'yes, but it will be okay, I want you to be my priest.'"

From that time, Burgener began participating in the sacraments regularly and seeking out spiritual direction with the

Dominican priests who ran the parish in Bloomington. Graduating with a degree in geography and a minor in history, Burgener enrolled into the seminary at Mount St. Mary's and says that one of the best surprises that he has learned in seminary is how real friendships can be when they are ordered towards God. "It's hard to be vulnerable to other people because in the world, most of the time being vulnerable means getting burned. But here, it's the opposite, because we enter into that suffering with each other."

Despite both being places of higher education, Burgener reflected on how different his life is now at seminary than in college. "It's different than college, but in a positive way. In college, I would consider myself happy, but it was a rollercoaster happy that came and went depending on the activities that I was involved in, or who I was hanging out with. But in seminary, I have found a huge devotion to spending time in adoration, which is for me a perpetual happiness. It is a wholeness that doesn't leave you; it's sustaining and I am more fulfilled than I ever have been in my life."

Burgener's road to discerning a vocation to the priesthood has been anything but simple, but, using an analogy, he is grateful for the challenges that he has had to face in the process. "This life we have is like a mountain. We are supposed to keep going up, but instead of walking up the path, I started going downward," Burgener explained. "And like the momentum that happens when you start quickly down a path on a mountain side, the momentum can carry you down so fast that you can fall and hurt yourself." He continued the analogy, "But God puts help for us along our journey up the mountain: Spiritual direction can help keep you on the right path, Confession helps heal that twisted ankle and the Eucharist is an adrenaline shot straight to the heart. The beauty of the work of a priest is that while he is walking up the mountain, he can help people along the way, truly walking with people during the hard times in their life. If you've ever hiked before, you know the path is always rough and difficult, but as soon as you get to the top, you forget about how hard it was to get there because the view is so incredible. That's heaven, and as a priest, I want to help as many people get there as possible."

Burgener will be ordained a deacon on Saturday, May 21st at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception at 11 a.m.

BY JODI MARLIN



Dennis Di Benedetto

Dennis Di Benedetto

Sometimes the route of discernment to the priesthood isn't a four-lane highway, but rather a meandering rural road. Such was the experience of Dennis Di Benedetto.

Born to

Michael and Nancy Di Benedetto, Dennis and his older sister, Anne-Marie, grew up in Medford, N.J., in a family of practicing Catholics. Their mother, a former Baptist, had converted to Catholicism, and read the Bible to her family. His father's mother attended daily Mass and practiced a prayerful devotion to St. Jude.

Di Benedetto began to consider a vocation to religious life during high school, participating in both his parish and the diocesan youth group. He was still thinking along those lines upon entering Mount St. Mary University in 2002. After graduating in 2006 with a degree in philosophy, he became a postulant with Mother Angelica's Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Way in Birmingham, Ala.

"There, I received very good formation — I feel as though I really learned how to pray, and I developed a love for the Eucharist," he said. After two years, however, he declined to profess temporary vows within the community. He moved back home with a feeling of disconnectedness.

Soon afterward, Di Benedetto met the acquaintance of Fr. David Mary Engo, who became his spiritual director.

"He got me back on track and praying the liturgy of the Hours again. With his help I resumed discerning, and entered the Oratory of St. Phillip Neri in Pittsburgh in 2010."

As an Oratory novice, Di Benedetto returned to Mount St. Mary's — this time to study at the seminary. At the end of three years his studies were com-

plete; but he once again discerned out of making a permanent commitment to his religious community.

"In my prayer life at seminary I felt God calling me to the diocesan priesthood. That had never really been my focus before," he recalled. Additionally, a number of acquaintances and friends had moved to the Midwest and become active in leadership, ministry and religious life in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. In 2012, he traveled to visit of one them.

"From my first visit to this diocese, I felt an overwhelming sense of peace and of being at home. During the whole drive back I couldn't shake that thought. It became the first thing I thought of in the morning and the last thing I thought of before going to bed."

In 2013, shortly after approaching Director of Vocations Monsignor Bernard Galic to begin the process, Bishop Rhoades accepted Di Benedetto as a seminarian of the diocese. He has continued his studies and served at the parish of St. Vincent de Paul in Fort Wayne for the last three years. "I'm really grateful to Bishop Rhoades for accepting me, for agreeing to have a seminarian," he said.

He's also conscious of being ordained to the transitional diaconate during the Year of Mercy.

"I'm very aware of my unworthiness to be ordained. I keep falling back on that mercy. I'm so glad I don't have to dwell on whether I'm worthy, or whether I'm qualified. I know God will lead, and He will make me qualified."

Di Benedetto ministers for the first time as a deacon at the 11 a.m. Mass at St. Vincent de Paul on Sunday, May 22. A reception in his honor will follow in the church's gathering space. He will remain in Fort Wayne for the summer and attend World Youth Day with the diocese before returning east for his final year of seminary.

"I'm not nervous now, but I think I will be one or two days before. I hope the people of the diocese will pray for me. I'm so thankful for the welcome I've received in Indiana ... It's that Hoosier hospitality. I've always felt comfortable here."

Congratulations



Dennis Di Benedetto

Another parish son who has made us proud and for whom we wish a Diaconate filled with much joy and peace.

Best wishes also to Eric Burgener as he joins you on your upcoming Diaconate Ordination.

FATHER DANIEL SCHEIDT

FATHER JONATHAN NORTON

FATHER POLYCARP FERNANDO

AND THE ENTIRE

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL FORT WAYNE FAMILY

"Just so, the Son of Man did not come to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many."

MT 20:28

*God's Blessings upon Eric Burgener,
Bishop Dwenger Alum '07,
as you enter the Order of the Diaconate
through the Sacrament of Holy Orders!*



Once a Saint, Always a Saint!