TODAY’S CATHOLIC

Aid slowly makes its way to thousands of Haitians displaced by hurricane

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Emergency aid slowly began to reach some of the thousands of Haitians displaced by Hurricane Matthew in the country’s picturesque southwest, as reports of casualties slowly trickled in from communities cut off by the storm.

The number of deaths reached 842 on Oct. 7, two days after the storm’s 145-mile-an-hour winds and torrential rains slammed into the country, according to a tally by Reuters based on conversations with local officials.

However, Haiti’s Civil Protection Agency reported that 271 people had died. The agency’s accounting of casualties is lower because of a policy to count only the bodies that emergency workers can actually see.

Reports of damage and casualties in Cuba and other nations affected by the storm were sporadic. Cuba’s easternmost region experienced widespread damage. There were no details on casualties available.

Emergency supplies that had been stored in warehouses before the storm were being distributed to people whose homes were turned into matchsticks by Matthew, said Chris Bessey, Haiti country director for Catholic Relief Services.

People walk past damaged buildings Oct. 9 after Hurricane Matthew swept through Port-a-Piment, Haiti.

Pope announces 17 new cardinals, including three from U.S.

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis will conclude the Year of Mercy by creating 17 new cardinals, including three from the United States: Archbishop Blase J. Cupich of Chicago; Bishop Kevin J. Farrell, prefect of the new Vatican office for laity, family and life; and Archbishop Joseph W. Tobin of Indianapolis.

Announcing the names of the new cardinals Oct. 9, Pope Francis said, “Their coming from 11 nations expresses the universality of the church that proclaims and witnesses the good news of God’s mercy in every corner of the earth.”

The new cardinals — 13 of whom are under the age of 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope, and four over 80 being honored for their “clear Christian witness” — will be inducted into the College of Cardinals Nov. 19, the eve of the close of the Year of Mercy.

The next day, Nov. 20, they will join Pope Francis and other cardinals in celebrating the Feast of Christ the King and closing the Year of Mercy, the pope said.

Shortly after the pope’s announcement, Archbishop Tobin tweeted: “I am shocked beyond words by the decision of the Holy Father. Please pray for me.”

The first of the new cardinals announced by the pope was Archbishop Mario Zenari, who, the pope explained, “will remain apostolic nuncio to the beloved and martyred Syria.”

The last of the cardinals he named was Albanian Father Ernest Simoni, a priest of the Archdiocese of Shkodre-Pult, who will turn 88 Oct. 18. He had previously been named a cardinal in 2014.

CARDINALS, page 3

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CARDINALS, page 3
Red Mass celebrated with focus relevant to elections

BY RACHEL BATDORFF

The Monday, Oct. 3, Red Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, was celebrated with specific reflection on the life and message of St. Thomas More, patron saint of politicians, statesmen and lawyers.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, Mass celebrant, spoke during his homily about St. Thomas More and referenced the nation’s upcoming elections. Also in attendance was special guest Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference.

The Red Mass included readings from Deuteronomy, 2 Corinthians and Matthew, as well as sacred music from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Choir.

During the homily, Bishop Rhoades remarked extensively on the example set by the life of St. Thomas More.

“The first thing I propose from the example of Saint Thomas More is keeping your priorities straight, in proper order,” he said. “This is the order: God first, family and friendship second, profession third.”

The life and martyrdom death of St. Thomas More can only be understood through the priority he gave God. “He put God before Caesar, his conscience before the state, and ethics before politics,” Bishop Rhoades said. Putting his faith first eventually cost him his life. St. Thomas More loved his family deeply, but could not accept their pleas to save his life by signing the Oath of Supremacy and accepting Henry VIII’s claim to be head of the Church of England.

Faith without works is dead, the bishop went on to say. “To be living, faith must not be limited to one hour of church on Sunday. If it is real, it is lived, put into practice, in our whole life, in relation to our family, our work, our politics, our economics.”

The topic of separating one’s faith from one’s actions — specifically politics — was presented as well.

“For a politician to say that he or she is personally opposed to an evil, like abortion or euthanasia or physician-assisted suicide, and then cooperate with the evil with the excuse of not imposing one’s morality on others, is not only a weakness in courage, it is a betrayal of conscience, a denial of truth, and an acquiescence to a false notion of freedom.” Doing so is the exact opposite of what St. Thomas More lived and died for. “One becomes a captive witness to the Gospel,” Bishop Rhoades added. “To be heedless to human dignity is to be headless of God the Creator, no matter how one seeks to justify it.”

St. Thomas More was a servant of the truth and a man of authentic faith and right reason. Faith and reason cannot be separated, Bishop Rhoades said.

“Some worry about the dangers of religion, the danger of bringing faith into politics.” He went on to acknowledge the dangers of religious fanaticism and added that by reason, such faith is a distortion of the true face of God. One must guard against those who make God into their own image and likeness in order to justify hate and violence.

“The true God, known by authentic faith and right reason, has a will that conforms to His being and essence as pure goodness and perfect love,” the bishop pointed out.

Bishop Rhoades then discussed the state of the situation faced by the United States and other Western nations: Reason is often truncated, and science and technology are exalted without any moral constraints, he noted.

“When the mind is closed to God, when faith is excluded from public discourse, the existence of objective standards of morality is often denied. God is seen as irrelevant to public life,” he commented. Without God, society becomes disoriented. Society redefines marriage and escapes into self-fulfillment. The true God, known by authentic faith and right reason, has a will that conforms to His being and essence as pure goodness and perfect love,” the bishop pointed out.

Bishop Rhoades referenced Pope Benedict XVI’s statement, “If there is not objective morality, law has the ground taken from under its feet.”

St. Thomas More loved his wife and children with great devotion. He put his prayer life before his work, setting daily hours in his schedule for prayer. He also showed love for the poor. “Blessed with material wealth, he always remained detached from that wealth,” the Bishop remarked of the saint. “He would invite the poor into his home to eat at his table. He set up a special house to care for the aged and infirm in the neighborhood.”

As referenced in Thomas More’s book, Utopia, the bishop quoted: “For if you suffer your people to be ill-educated, and their manners to be corrupted from their infancy, and then punish them for their crimes to which their first education disposed them, what else is to be conclude from this, but that you first make thieves and then punish them.”

The Mass concluded with an invitation to pray and learn from St. Thomas More.

Pope Francis revealed some time ago that he prays to Saint Thomas More every day,” said the bishop. “I invite you to do the same and to learn from him to be servants of the truth, witnesses of the beauty and joy of the Gospel, and to make his priorities your own in this proper order: God first, family, profession.”
moved Pope Francis to tears in 2014 when he spoke about his 30 years in prison or forced labor under Albania’s militant atheistic regime.

Oftained in 1956, he was arrested on Christmas Eve 1963 while celebrating Mass and was sentenced to death by firing squad. He was beaten, placed for three months in solitary confinement, and then tortured because he refused to denounce the church.

He was eventually freed, but later arrested again and sent to a prison camp, where he was forced to work in a mine for 18 years and then 10 more years in sewage canals.

In creating 13 cardinal-electors — those under the age of 80 — Pope Francis will exceed by one the 120 cardinal-elector limit set by Blessed Paul VI. The number of potential electors will return to 120 Nov. 28 when Cardinal Theodore-Adrien Sarr of Dakar, Senegal, celebrates his 80th birthday.

The youngest of the new cardinals — who will be the youngest member of the College of Cardinals — is 49-year-old Archbishop Dieudonne Nzapalainga of Bangui, Central African Republic. When violence broke out in his country, the archbishop along with a Protestant leader and a local imam began working together to build peace and counter efforts to turn the conflict into a religious war. Archbishop Nzapalainga hosted Pope Francis during a visit to Central African Republic in November 2015. Seven of the 11 nations represented by the new cardinals did not have a cardinal at the time of the pope’s announcement: Central African Republic, Bangladesh, Mauritius and Papua New Guinea will now have cardinal-electors.

Malaysia, Lesotho and Albania will be represented in the College of Cardinals, although their cardinals will be too old to vote in a conclave.

Here is the list of new cardinals in the order in which Pope Francis announced them:

— Archbishop Zerian, an Italian who is 70 years old.
— Dieudonne Nzapalainga of Bangui, Central African Republic, 49.
— Archbishop Carlos Osoro Sierra of Madrid, 71.
— Archbishop Sergio da Rocha of Brasilia, Brazil, who will be 87 Oct. 21.
— Archbishop Cupich, 67.
— Archbishop Patrick D’Rozario of Dhaka, Bangladesh, 73.
— Archbishop Josep De Kesel of Malines-Brussels, Belgium, 69.
— Archbishop Maurice Piat of Port-Louis, Mauritius, 75.
— Bishop Farrell, 69.
— Archbishop Carlos Aguiar Retes of Tlalnepantla, Mexico, 66.
— Archbishop Tobin, 64.
— Retired Archbishop Anthony Soter Fernandez of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 84.
— Retired Archbishop Renato CORTI of Novara, Italy, 80.
— Father Simoni, 87.

CRS staff flew into Les Cayes, a city of 71,000 on the southwest coast. Bessey said thousands of people remained in shelters in the city.

“I don’t know if that is decreasing, I imagine that won’t decrease all that quickly because more than 80 percent of the houses were damaged or destroyed,” he said.

Bessey expressed concern for outlying coastal communities on the far end of Haiti’s southern peninsula, which took the brunt of Matthew’s assault and have been cut off from communications.

“Time is of the essence and we want to keep going,” Bessey told Catholic News Service from Port-au-Prince, Haiti’s capital. In a telegram to Haitian Cardinal Chibly Langlois of Les Cayes, president of the Haitian bishops’ conference, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, Vatican secretary of state, said Pope Francis wanted the people of Haiti to know how sad he was to hear of the death and destruction brought by Hurricane Matthew.

Pope Francis offered condolences to “all those who lost a loved one” and assured the injured and all those who have lost their homes and belongings” that he was close to them through prayer. “Welcoming and encouraging solidarity in facing the country’s latest trial, the Holy Father entrusts all Haitians to the maternal protection of Our Lady of Perpetual Help,” said the telegram, released Oct. 7 by the Vatican.

The U.S. bishops’ overseas relief and development agency planned to send additional staff and vehicles into the region. Among the areas CRS was attempting to reach was Jeremie, a town northwest of Les Cayes. Initial reports said that little was left standing after the storm passed.

Meanwhile, CRS on Oct. 7 committed $5 million as an initial contribution to help Haiti and other Caribbean nations to recover from the storm, the strongest to hit the region in a decade.

Haiti in particular has once again been struck by tragedy,” Cindy Wooden in Rome.

Sean Callahan, chief operating officer of CRS, said in a statement announcing the aid package. “This commitment shows that we will continue to stand with its people, offering our hand in friendship to help and support them in this time of dire need.”

Bessey said food, water and hygiene and kitchen kits stored in a warehouse in Les Cayes were undamaged when Matthew’s fierce winds tore part of a roof off the facility. Workers planned to complete repairs Oct. 7 so that the facility could be fully operational again, he said.

Contributing to this report was Cindy Wooden in Rome.

Call to prayer for life, marriage and religious liberty Holy Hours

• St. Joseph Church, 1300 N. Main St., Bluffton: Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty takes place at 5 p.m. and ends with Mass at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday monthly.
• St. Charles Borromeo Church, 4916 Trier Rd, Fort Wayne: A Holy Hour all Fridays from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the chapel.
• Queen of Peace Church, Mishawaka: Adoration and Exposition every Saturday prior to Mass at 5:30 p.m.
• St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Decatur: Eucharistic exposition on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 4:30-6 p.m. and on Thursday from 9-11 a.m. and 4:30-6 p.m.
• Our Lady of Good Hope Church, 7215 Saint Joe Rd., Fort Wayne: A holy hour for religious liberty beginning with a rosary at 9:30 a.m. every Tuesday.

How to help:
Your donation will go directly to help families in Haiti and other affected countries receive immediate relief.

Visit CRS.org
A new class is ‘Made for Greatness’

Everyone in attendance at the diocesan “Made for Greatness” confirmation rally — 787 kids and 156 chaperones — sit silently during Eucharistic Adoration.

Right to Life dinner celebrates 45 years of standing for life

BY ANTONIO MARCHI

Forty-five years ago, 11 individuals gathered around a kitchen table in anticipation of the Supreme Court ruling that would legalize abortion. Fueled by humble passion and a desire to defend innocent human life, they began St. Joseph County Right to Life. As one of the oldest pro-life groups in the nation, SJCRTL has flourished into a community of nearly 7,500 strong, 850 of whom gathered together for the 25th Annual Right to Life Dinner in South Bend on Oct. 6.

Those in attendance reflected upon both the grave losses and pivotal victories experienced alongside one another. Although nothing but the Blood of Christ can heal the wounds left from 35,000 innocent human lives lost to abortion in St. Joseph County, the faithfulness of the pro-life community in standing up for truth and cooperating with the Lord’s will has worked miracles.

As Bishop Kevin Rhoades proclaimed in his acceptance of the Pillar of Life Award at the dinner, it is because of this faithfulness that the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is now without an active abortion clinic in any of its 14 counties. With this award, SJCRTL recognized Bishop Rhoades’ critical role in building a culture of life, thanked him for his pro-life leadership, and affirmed his strong willingness to speak truth in charity regardless of the circumstances.

In addition, Governor Mike Pence was also recognized for his service to the pro-life cause with the Annette M. Macknick Courage Award, completely independent of his affiliation with any particular political party or individuals. Pence’s resolve in enforcing pro-life policy as sitting Governor of Indiana has been critical in closing three abortion clinics in the state and revoking the medical license of a former abortionist who is now serving a 21-month prison sentence.

Pence’s support of those at the Right to Life dinner is a testament to the fact that that culture is here. It is now up to the community to ignite and spread the passion, and call to be intimately known and loved by God.

As with all gifts received through the Lord’s grace, the gift of life begs to be returned back unto its Creator as a humble self-offering. Jessen was well aware of this, as she readily began, “My name is Gianna Jessen, and I have been given the gift of cerebral palsy,” a gift of life that was intended to be cut short by saline abortion.

In spite of her mother’s choice to abort her at a Planned Parenthood, Jessen fought through hours of being burned by saline solution in utero, finally overcoming it and entering the world. Although she was told she would never walk, she ran two marathons with cerebral palsy. Although her birth mother never intended for her to speak, Jessen became a voice for the voiceless, making of herself a true gift to this world.

This voice struck a chord in the hearts of all who attended the event, countless of whom followed her lead in making a gift of self by offering support to SJCRTL’s continued mission to reach out, educate, advocate and pray for life. This support will be especially directed toward a three-part comprehensive media campaign strategy and a variety of programming which seeks to keep abortion out of St. Joseph County and cultivate pro-life leaders in the community.

Forty-five years ago, the founding members of SJCRTL envisioned a culture of life. The support of those at the Right to Life dinner is a testament to the fact that that culture is here. It is now up to the community to ignite and spread the passion, continuing to work toward a day when all human life will be recognized as a beloved gift.

Gianna Jessen, an abortion survivor, addressed attendees of the 25th annual dinner in South Bend.
The Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese was presented with an award for its system-wide accreditation at the fall conference of AdvancED, held in Indianapolis a few weeks ago. AdvancED is the accreditation organization that includes the North Central Association on Accreditation and School Improvement. Superintendent of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Marsha Jordan accepted the award on behalf of the Catholic Schools of the diocese.

In 2009 all schools in the diocese went through individual accreditation. Jordan explained that this entailed a lot of effort and expense on the part of each school. So in 2012, the diocese decided to join a consortium of the other four dioceses in Indiana. The Indiana Catholic Schools Consortium meets quarterly to support and collaborate with each other and assist with going through the accreditation process.

Members of the consortium decided to seek accreditation as school systems rather than individually.

Jordan said accreditation through AdvancED includes National Catholic Standards and benchmarks. Unlike a state accreditation, for instance, in addition to governing structures and educational standards, AdvancED also looks at Catholic standards.

In order to do the system-wide accreditation, each school had to conduct a self-assessment and send a survey to parents and teachers. The data collected gave a pretty good picture of the diocese, according to Jordan. A team of 10 administrators was formed that worked together to compile all the data needed for the accreditation process. In April, AdvancED sent seven reviewers from around the country and a few from different Indiana dioceses to be a part of the external review team. They arrived on a Sunday night, and on Monday were presented with evidence collected from all over the diocese. They then interviewed over 230 people, including Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, parents, teachers and students. On Tuesday they split up and visited eight elementary schools and two high schools.

Wednesday, they delivered the preliminary report.

The reviewers focused on the impact of teaching and learning, the capacity of leadership and use of resources. The report showed areas where the schools had ‘powerful practices’ — one of which was a ‘clearly defined and established grading and report criteria utilized at all grade levels and schools,’ and three others noted the strength of Catholic identity and focus within diocesan schools consistent with the rich traditions of the Catholic faith — opportunities for improvement and improvement priorities. Improvement priorities are areas that need to be improved within two years.

Jordan said one of the benefits of the system-wide accreditation was that it unified all 42 schools so everyone was working on the same path. Even though they are still autonomous, they are working together for a common goal and standard and are learning from one another through the process.

The diocese received notice of the accreditation in June, and Jordan presented the certificates to the principals at the first principals’ meeting. Then, just a few weeks ago, she received notice to attend the conference to receive an award for the system-wide accreditation.

“It’s not as common to do it this way,” she said. “They were impressed with how we pulled together all the data for the large number of schools. It was an incredible amount of work from mid-February to mid-April,” she said, noting that information had to be verified with artifacts and documentation from each school.

Despite the work, Jordan said it was well worth it, and our schools feel it was worth it. It was a very affirming process for everyone.

Accreditation raises the bar and holds schools to a higher standard. It’s also a continuous process.

“We have to keep striving to keep our levels of academics and Catholic standards high and make sure we’re engaging our students in a way that they’re prepared for the 21st Century, but also to be future leaders in the Church,” she said.

The system-wide accreditation is also a cost savings for schools. Before, the entire cost of accreditation fell on each school. That cost could be up to $1,000. This year, knowing the number of external review team members it would have to have, the diocese came up with a ‘ball park figure’ and divided it by 42 schools — so each school paid $150.”

It will be necessary to go through the process of accreditation again in five years; in the meantime, schools will go through internal reviews to maintain focus on continuous improvement and remain ready for the next accreditation visit.

“It’s great to have people from other dioceses around the country — New York, Atlanta, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Louisiana, Ohio and other Indiana dioceses — take a look at you and say, ‘Wow, you’re doing great things here — I’m taking this back to my diocese,’” she said.

Provided by the Catholic Schools Office

Superintendent Marsha Jordan accepts the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Catholic Schools’ system-wide accreditation award in Indianapolis last month, on behalf of all the schools in the diocese.

All-School Mass voices raised

A student choir performs for the annual All-Schools Mass in South Bend on Monday, Oct. 10. The Mass took place at Purcell Pavilion on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, and was celebrated for Catholic school students from the South Bend half of the diocese. The Fort Wayne-area Mass takes place on Oct. 27.

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New York cardinal announces new compensation program for abuse survivors

NEW YORK (CNS) — The Archdiocese of New York has initiated a voluntary Independent Reconciliation and Compensation Program to provide restorative justice and serve as a “tangible sign of the church’s outreach and reparation” by providing compensation to victims of sexual abuse as minors by clergy of the archdiocese. The program was announced at a morning news conference Oct. 6 featuring Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan and other speakers who will administer the program. It will be headed by nationally recognized mediator Kenneth Feinberg and will have an oversight committee, whose members include former New York City Police Commissioner Raymond W. Kelly. “It is unique in that we’re asking an outside, independent, acclaimed source to do it,” the cardinal said in response to a question about other dioceses that have instituted similar methods to compensate victims of abuse. Cardinal Dolan explained that the Diocese of Albany had initiated a voluntary compensation program a decade ago, and that the Archdiocese of Albany had then expanded upon it.

Polish church vows to continue push for stricter abortion controls

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Poland’s Catholic Church has reiterated support for stricter pro-life controls, after parliamentarians voted down a law that would have sent aborting mothers to jail. “Human life has such great value. It shouldn’t be the object of political bargains,” said Archbishop Henryk Hoser of Warsaw-Praga, chairman of the Polish bishops’ bioethics committee. “This draft bill may have needed some corrections, but it was prepared solidly enough. Its rejection leaves us in the same situation as before,” he said. The church leader’s comments were prepared in anticipation as the visitors sat staring down at a pew that is theirs before his appointment as pastor of Milwaukee also had done so ago, and that the Archdiocese of Albany had initiated a voluntary reconciliation and compensation program to promote healing and provide a “tangible sign of the church’s outreach and reparation.”

Catholics called to be active in the public square, live faith fearlessly

PHOENIX (CNS) — Followers of Christ “do not walk into the voting booth by themselves, but do it in Him and with Him,” Bishop Thomas Olmsted told those at a Mass celebrated before a legislative seminar on “Catholics in the Public Square.” Bishop Olmsted preached about the centrality of belief in the resurrection of Christ, a belief he said “has to be defended through history,” including today. This reminder of the power of the resurrection and Jesus’ promise to be with His believers until the end of time should bolster our faith “no matter what may discourage us in being good citizens,” the bishop told the congregation at St. Mary’s Basilica. Following the Mass, more than 300 packed a hall inside the Diocesan Pastoral Center for the seminar held in that we’re asking an outside, independent, acclaimed source to do it.”

Entire parish, not just a committee, must offer hospitality, says speaker

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — You had to laugh. In a workshop on parish hospitality during the annual conference of the International Catholic Stewardship Council held Oct. 2-5 in New Orleans, Christine Heusinger, associate director of stewardship for the Archdiocese of Atlanta, put up a cartoon on the big screen. The 1988 cartoon by Steve Phelps is timeless. Standing in the middle aisle of the church are “The Martins,” staring down at a pew that is occupied. The problem is, for all intents and purposes, that pew was “The Martins’ pew.” The cartoon tells the story: “The whole church watched with nervous anticipation as the visitors sat for high-energy talks that encouraged attendees to get informed, speak out and live their faith boldly in the public square. Many of those gathered were parish representatives on hand to get copies of the fourth edition of Bishop Olmsted’s “Catholics in the Public Square” booklet. The booklet examines the intersection of faith and civic duty and calls on the faithful to form their conscience “in accord with the voice of God” and “to defend the dignity of every human person.”
Living the Year of Mercy
Bury the Dead

BY MIKE NELSON

At the conclusion of a weekday morning Mass in a suburban Los Angeles parish some years ago, our pastor informed those in attendance that a funeral Mass was upcoming in a few minutes. He asked the assembly if they wouldn’t mind staying for the funeral.

“I don’t think the deceased had a large family or that many friends who will be attending,” the pastor said.

He was right. There was exactly one person in attendance, an older gentleman. The deceased was his uncle. A single person attending a loved one’s funeral. How sad is that?

Fortunately, many of the weekday Mass-goers stayed, and afterward offered their condolences to the deceased’s nephew who, sad as he was at losing his uncle, smiled gratefully.

In the Order of Christian Funerals (No. 4), we are told that the “church ministers to the sorrowing and consoles them in the funeral rites with the comforting word of God and the sacrament of the Eucharist.” This suggests that “ministering” and “consoiling” is everyone’s duty, certainly in the case of caring for those who have lost loved ones.

“The bodies of the dead must be treated with respect and charity, in faith and hope of the resurrection,” says the Catechism of the Catholic Church in No. 2300. “The burial of the dead … honors the children of God, who are temples of the Holy Spirit.” This does not require us to wield shovels, or carve headstones, or lower caskets into the earth (though some are called to do exactly that). Rather, it requires us to be present to those who have died and to those who mourn.

As the prayer of final commendation at the funeral Mass says: “May our farewell … ease our sadness and strengthen our hope. One day we shall joyfully greet him/her again when the love of Christ, which conquers all things, destroys death itself.”

Mike Nelson is former editor of The Tidings, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles.

A Christian duty to comfort those who mourn

BY MIKE NELSON

Burial in a Catholic cemetery, which is blessed and dedicated according to Catholic tradition, is an option that can be enjoyed by both clergy and laypeople. Burial rites including the vigil, liturgy and committal each have distinct purposes in the journey to healing and wholeness, according to the Catholic Cemetery Association Inc. of Fort Wayne, and are celebrated in their fullness at Catholic cemeteries.

The act of Christian burial means presence, our presence, to those who have died and to those who mourn. Burial in a Catholic cemetery, which is blessed and dedicated according to Catholic tradition, is an option that can be enjoyed by both clergy and laypeople. Burial rites including the vigil, liturgy and committal each have distinct purposes in the journey to healing and wholeness, according to the Catholic Cemetery Association Inc. of Fort Wayne, and are celebrated in their fullness at Catholic cemeteries.

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Provided by Catholic Cemetery Association Inc.

Year of Mercy

BY MIKE NELSON

Bury the Dead

BY MIKE NELSON

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Prayer for the Faithful Departed

Eternal rest, grant unto them, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon them.
May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

I prefer to fall into the hand of the Lord, whose mercy is very great, than into the hands of men. — 1 Chr. 21:13

Provided by Catholic Cemetery Association Inc.
Papal nuncio visits Our Lady of Hungary School

SOUTH BEND — Archbishop Michael Blume, papal nuncio to the Vatican in Uganda, made a pastoral visit to Our Lady of Hungary School, South Bend, on Sept. 29. The archbishop is an alumnus of Our Lady of Hungary School. He shared stories and pictures of the Pope’s recent visit to Uganda with students and staff.

‘Footsteps of Our Faith’ mission announced

FORT WAYNE — Queen of Angels Parish and Father David Mary Enge, who founded and is superior of the Franciscan Brothers Minor Community, will facilitate a parish mission “Footsteps of Our Faith” on Sunday through Tuesday, Nov. 27-29, at 7 p.m. For information, contact the parish office at 260-482-9411.

USF announces Philosophy/Theology lecture events

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis Department of Philosophy and Theology announces its lineup of speakers for its 2016-17 Lecture Series.

Oct. 26 — “Catholic Political Responsibilities” by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, North Campus Auditorium, 7 p.m.

Nov. 13 — “Taking the Temple to the Streets? Byzantine Practices in (the) Contemporary Occupy Movement” by Dr. Justin Tse, Brookside Ballroom, 3 p.m.

Dec. 11 — “Incarnate Wisdom Scripture” by Sister Felicity Dorsett, North Campus Auditorium, 3 p.m.

Jan. 25 — “ISIS and the Crusades: On the Uses and Abuses of History” by Dr. Adam DeVille, Brookside Ballroom, 7 p.m.

Feb. 15 — “Polkas and Masses” by Dr. Lance Richey, Brookside Ballroom, 7 p.m.

March 5 — “Christianity, History and the Common Good” by Dr. John Bequette, Brookside Ballroom, 3 p.m.

April 8 — “Toward a Philosophical Theory of Practice” by Dr. Vincent Wargo, Brookside Ballroom, 7 p.m.

For more information, visit philosophy.sf.edu.

Pets blessed for feast day of St. Francis

FORT WAYNE — On Tuesday, Oct. 4, over 50 animals outside St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School’s main entrance waited patiently to receive an animal blessing.

Oct. 4 was the Feast Day of St. Francis of Assisi, who is recognized by Catholics as the patron saint of animals, merchants, and ecology. It is for this reason that St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic School offers students and their family the opportunity to bring their pet to school on this day every year to receive a blessing.

“St. Francis taught that all of God’s creation is a gift and we should give thanks to God,” said officiant Deacon Jim Kitchens. “So on this day, we say thank you to God by blessing the animals.”

For some St. Elizabeth students and faculty members, this blessing has become an annual tradition with their pet.

“I really like the blessing because I feel that God has put our pets here on this earth to help us find joy and happiness in times of great need either when sad, lonely or happy,” said first grade teacher, Mrs. Julie Peters who brought her 3-year old Newfoundland, Simon. “St. Francis taught us this and what a great way to celebrate his feast day.”

Memorial Mass for children lost to miscarriage, stillbirth and infant death

SOUTH BEND — October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness month, and St. Matthew Cathedral invites all families who have suffered the loss of a child to miscarriage, stillbirth or shortly following birth to a special Memorial Mass for their children on Saturday, Oct. 15 at 4:30 p.m.

You need not be a member of St. Matthew Cathedral to attend. Your loss may have occurred very early in pregnancy, later in pregnancy, shortly before birth or after birth. Your loss may be recent, last year or even decades ago. All are welcome.

Holy Door pilgrimage

SOUTH BEND — Members of the Saint Joseph High School family recently made a pilgrimage to the Holy Doors at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at Notre Dame. This special journey allowed for prayerful reflection and the opportunity to get a plenary indulgence. Participants walked in the rain from the high school, prayerfully passed through the Holy Doors of Mercy, had the chance to celebrate Confession, prayed for the Pope and his intentions and attended Mass. Afterwards, the group returned to the school for a meal together.

Rockers for a cause

The Daughters of Isabella de Paul Circle in Elkhart held its fourth Rock-a-thon on Sept. 11. Ten members of the circle “rocked” in the St. Vincent de Paul Church lobby for a total of 10 hours. Members, relatives and friends sponsored the “rockers,” while generous parishioners dropped donations into a collection box beside them. The funds will be used to assist parishioners and neighbors in need, as well as support various charities and causes. From left, circle members Elaine Weingart and Sharon Cobb rock, while St. Vincent parishioner Jackie Foy drops off her donation.
Mary imitated God through service, Pope says

ROME, Italy (CNA/EWTN) — During a special Jubilee weekend dedicated to Mary, Pope Francis said Mary was not only Christ’s mother, but also his obedient disciple and a model of concrete service to others.

“Throughout her life, Mary did everything that the Church is asked to do in perennial memory of Christ,” the Pope said Oct. 8.

With her faith, “we learn to open our hearts to obey God; in her self-denial, we see the importance of tending to the needs of others; in her tears, we find the strength to console those experiencing pain. In each of these moments, Mary “expresses the wealth of divine mercy that reaches out to all in their daily need,” the Pope said.

Pope Francis spoke to thousands of pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square to celebrate a special Oct. 7-9 Marian Jubilee, which is part of the Pope’s larger Jubilee of Mercy.

The Marian Jubilee opened Oct. 7 with Mass in the Roman Basilica of Saint Mary Major. The Mass was followed by the recitation of the rosary in Saint Peter’s Square and the Prayer to the Queen of the Holy Rosary of Pompeii.

Adoration and confessions were then available until midnight in the parishes of Santa Maria in Vallicella, also called “Chiesa Nuova,” and San Salvatore in Lauro.

Jubilee activities continued Saturday morning with a pilgrimage to the Holy Doors of the four Major Basilicas in Rome: St. Mary Major, St. Paul Outside the Walls, St. John Lateran and St. Peter’s.

Groups of various Marian delegations from national communities and shrines then participated in a special procession to St. Peter’s Square, where Pope Francis led pilgrims in prayer for the Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary before delivering his address.

In his speech, the Pope noted how from the earliest centuries of the Church Mary has been invoked as the “Mother of Mercy,” explaining that the prayer of the rosary in many ways is “a synthesis of the history of God’s mercy, which becomes a history of salvation for all who let themselves be shaped by grace.”

By reflecting on the important moments in Jesus’ life, we see how His mercy is shown to everyone from all walks and stages of life, he said, adding that Mary always accompanies us on this journey, pointing us in the direction of her Son, “who radiates the very mercy of the Father.”

Mary guides us toward the path we are called to take “in order to be true disciples of Jesus,” he said, adding that in praying the rosary, we feel her closeness in every mystery and contemplate her role as “the first disciple of her Son, for she does the Father’s will.

Francis stressed that Mary can help teach us what it means to be a disciple of Christ, because while she was “eternally chosen to be His Mother,” she also learned how to be His disciple.

“She first act was to listen to God,” he said, noting how she then obeyed the angel’s message and followed Jesus closely, “listening to every word that issued from His lips” and keeping them in her heart.

However, the Pope stressed, “it’s not enough simply to listen.” While this is the first step, it must be followed by concrete action.

“The disciple truly puts his life at the service of the Gospel,” he said, and, recalling Mary’s own actions, pointed to how after the Annunciation, Mary immediately went to her cousin Elizabeth to help her during her pregnancy.

Not only did she then give birth to the Son of God, but she also showed her concern for the young spouses in Cana by intervening for them. When Jesus was crucified on Golgotha, Mary “did not flee pain but stood beneath the cross of Jesus and, by His will, became the Mother of the Church.”

After Jesus rose from the dead, she then “encouraged the apostles assembled in the garden room as they awaited the Holy Spirit, who would make them fearless heralds of the Gospel,” Pope Francis said.

Francis closed his homily invoking Mary’s intercession, praying that she would be “protection, help and blessing for us all the days of our life.”
Fatima: Our Lady and the children

In 1917, Catholic faithful the world over will observe the 100th anniversary of the appearance of the Virgin Mary to three children in Portugal. With this issue, Today’s Catholic inaugurates coverage of the observance of the anniversary in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and beyond.

BY SARAH DUSTMAN

The Fatima apparitions began with three appearances from the Angel of Peace, followed by six appearances from Our Lady of Fatima. The angel appeared to 9-year-old Lucia dos Santos and her 6- and 8-year-old cousins, Francisco and Jacinta Marto, during the spring, summer, and fall of 1916. During each apparition, the angel taught them various prayers and told them to offer their prayers and sacrifices to God as a petition for sinners.

After the third apparition of the angel, Our Lady appeared to the children on May 13, 1917. On this day, the children were tending their sheep at the Cova de Iria when a bright light shone in the sky. After another flash, Our Lady, dressed in white, appeared and told the children that she was from heaven. She asked them to come to the same place, during the same hour, on the 15th of the month for the next six consecutive months. During her sixth appearance, she asked the children to pray the rosary daily for peace in the world and for an end to the war that was raging.

Lucía Santos (left) with her cousins Jacinta and Francisco Marto, 1917.

Fifty people joined the children during the second apparition and prayed the rosary with them. The bright light appeared again that day, and Our Lady repeated her instruction to come to the same place at the same hour on the 15th days, as well as continuing to pray the rosary daily. Lucia asked if the children would go to heaven, and Our Lady told Lucia that she would; but that she would first remain in the world in order to establish within it a devotion to the Immaculate Heart. Our Lady explained that she would promise salvation and God’s love to those who embraced her heart. At her third apparition, Our Lady again told Lucia to continue praying the rosary daily. She also said that she would reveal who she was during the sixth apparition and perform a miracle for all to see and believe. She gave the children the Fatima prayer to recite after the end of each decade of the rosary.

Although authorities prevented the children from going to the fourth apparition, due to the large crowd that gathered with them, Our Lady appeared to the children on the 19th of that month. She instructed them to return to the same place on the 13th of the following month and to continue to pray the rosary daily, as well as continue to offer prayers and sacrifices for sinners.

Around 30,000 people accompanied the children for the fifth appearance and prayed the Rosary together. When Our Lady appeared, she reminded the children to continue to pray the rosary for the end of the war. She also said that the sorrowful Lady, the Lady of Mount Carmel and St. Joseph with the child Jesus would come to bless the world during her next appearance.

For the sixth apparition, on Oct. 13th, 70,000 people surrounded the children as they prayed in a heavy rain. After appearing, Our Lady revealed that she is the Lady of the Rosary. She desired a chapel to be built at the cove in her honor and for people to continue praying the rosary. She also said that the war would finish soon. After speaking, Our Lady opened her hands and launched a ray of light at the sun. The rain stopped and the sun shone brightly.

The sun then turned and projected colored bands of light that covered the sky, the trees and the crowd. After this, the sun returned to normal for a few moments and then repeated the bands of light. The group fell to their knees, begging for mercy, while the children saw a lady dressed in white with a blue cope (mantle) as well as St. Joseph with the Child Jesus. Then they saw the Lord stand with Our Lady of Sorrows as He blessed the world. The Lady of Mount Carmel followed, finishing the miracle with the sun.

Francisco died on April 4, 1919, and Jacinta on Feb. 20, 1920. Prior to her death, she revealed a number of previously unknown statements made to her by Our Lady about, among other things, the sacrament of marriage and of the priesthood. Pope John Paul II credited his survival after being shot in 1981 to the intervention of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and consecrated the world to her on Oct. 2, 2000.

Bishop Rhoades invites faithful of diocese on Carmelite-Fatima pilgrimage July 7-16, 2017

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will lead a pilgrimage for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend from July 7-16, 2017 to Spain and Portugal. While it is significant that the group will be in Fatima on July 13, the 100th anniversary of one of the Marian apparitions to the children in Fatima, the trip provides a broader perspective for the 150 pilgrims who will be attending.

Pilgrims will begin in Avila, Spain, which is the birthplace of St. Teresa of Jesus. St. Teresa was a Carmelite nun who founded the St. Joseph Monastery and is known as a reformer of the Carmelites with St. John of the Cross. Pilgrims will travel to Segovia and see the tomb of St. John of the Cross on July 10.

The pilgrims continue their journey to Alba de Tormes, and after a celebration of the Mass at the church, they will travel to Coimbra to visit the Carmelite-Fatima pilgrimage July 7-16, 2017. Pilgrims will visit the Carmelite-Fatima pilgrimage July 7-16, 2017.
Fatima 2017
Come with nothing more than a child-like faith...

Join us on pilgrimage Summer of 2017
diocesefwsb.org/fatima
St. Joseph Parish, Garrett, fostering a passion for Christ

BY DENISE FEDOROW

St. Joseph Parish in Garrett has a lot to offer parishioners, and one is a parish school that’s been given a four-star rating from the state.

The parish has about 300 registered households and a St. Martin de Porres Center that includes a soup kitchen that serves carryout dinners every Monday and Thursday from 4-6 p.m. The center is open Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to noon and Thursdays from 4-6 p.m.

St. Joseph’s has a children’s and adult music ministry, homebound ministry and many of the ministries that most parishes have, as well as opportunities for liturgical involvement in the roles of altar server, lector and Eucharistic minister.

History of the church

According to a historical account of the town of Garrett, Rev. August Young was the first priest in Garrett. He first held Mass in a tent in 1872, and within a year built the first church. Around 1888, Rev. Young commissioned the building of a two-story schoolroom. In 1892, the church was enlarged, and in 1897, Rev. Young purchased eight acres of land for Calvary Cemetery.

In 1929, a new church and rectory were built in Italian Renaissance style with buff brick and terra cotta. Father Young was also credited with building Sacred Heart Hospital a block away from the church. In 2000, the church underwent a renovation project that included a new altar and windows.

St. Joseph School

St. Joseph School offers preschool for 3- and 4-year-olds and kindergarten through seventh grade. The Four-Star School is led by Principal Kristine Call.

The school has an active Home and School Association that sponsors activities to support it. This month, HASA sponsored a pumpkin festival with games, prizes, lunch and fellowship. It also sponsors a chili cook-off and a merchant’s Bingo.

St. Joseph students are encouraged to reach out to the community. In October they carried out a collection for babies; usually, in November, they do a food collection for the needy and then a December collection of hats and mittens for the needy, among other things. They also jump rope for the Heart Association and they make lunches for the homeless.

Older students assist younger students in the Mass Buddies Program and Reading Buddies Program.

Students at St. Joseph are well rounded, because the school also offers art, science, recreation and athletics. It holds an art fair and a science fair. The school also offers Catholic Youth Organization volleyball for girls in grades five and six in August-October, girls’ and boy’s basketball from November-January for grades five-seven and girl’s softball for grades five-seven. It offers chess and checkers tournaments, bowling, swimming and fieldtrips. School readers even get to celebrate with the Tin Cap — the mascot of the Fort Wayne Tin Caps minor league team.

Father Jim Shafer was installed as pastor of St. Joseph in July, and said it was like coming full circle. He was born at Sacred Heart Hospital, one block from the church and the parish where he grew up and attended school.

He attended Our Lady of the Lakes Seminary in Syracuse to finish high school and start college. The death of his mother while he was in seminary shook him up to the point that it led him away from his vocation, but unable to ignore his calling, he re-entered the seminary several years later.

Father Shafer cited St. John Paul II as a big influence in his priesthood. He reportedly embraces a saying that the former pope used to give seminarists and priests: ‘Love for Jesus and His Church must be the passion of your life.’ It’s the saying he posted on both sides of the door he uses to come and go between the church and rectory.

St. Joseph Church currently offers preschool through seventh grade.

St. Joseph Church

300 W. Houston St., Garrett
260-357-3122

Mass times are:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 8:30 a.m.
Thursday at 6 p.m.

Weekend Masses are:
Saturday vigil at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 8 and 10:30 a.m.

The school is located at 301 W. Houston St., and the phone number is 260-357-5137.

In MY diocese

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St. Michael the Archangel gives much, enjoys renovation

BY DEB WAGNER

St. Michael the Archangel Church, in the small farming community of Waterloo, was established in 1880 by German-American immigrants. The parish was originally comprised of 14 families. There are currently 400 families and 925 members in the parish. Still small by many standards, St. Michael’s is very proud that there have been 17 baptisms and two weddings in the 2015-16 year, with another wedding planned for the end of October.

The parish might be small in numbers, but its demographics make it unique. Parishioners come from not only Waterloo, but also from the surrounding towns of Auburn, Angola and Hamilton — as well as the state of Ohio. Because the parish pulls from so many school systems, for example, church activities are often scheduled on Sundays.

In 2010, St. Michael’s underwent a major church renovation. The renovation was done by Daprato Rigali Studios from Chicago, Ill., one of the most highly regarded church renovation companies in the world. The renovation was done from floor to ceiling, including the wiring, baptismal font and pews.

There is something for all ages and areas of interest in this loving, caring faith community. The real blessing, though, is that most of the group members are serving others while enriching their own spiritual life.

The quilting group started in 1995 and is composed of five women comprised the core of the group. They make quilts for all of the parish’s babies who receive baptism, lap robes for area hospitals, for area homeless shelters such as Shelter Ministries in Auburn. They are supported by the Rosary Society.

The Rosary Society also conducts bake sales, sponsors a Giving Tree at Christmas, raises money to send some of the parish’s supplies for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. In October, they collect gently used coats and cleaning supplies for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. In October, they collect gently used coats and cleaning supplies for the Retired Senior Volunteer Program. In October, they are collecting socks for the Share the Warmth program, which gives the socks to seniors in nursing homes. They also volunteer with Warm a Heart, donating food and prepared dishes to share with the less fortunate in Waterloo. Coming up in November, the Rosary Society will again sponsor Feather Bingo, where a quilt is raffled off and the proceeds are shared with area charities. The Rosary Society also conducts bake sales, sponsors a Giving Tree at Christmas, raises money to send some of the parish’s on a theme given to them.

There are currently 62 students, from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade, and 32 students in grades nine through 12, enrolled in religion education classes. The parish’s LifeTeen Program will set up the Stations of the Cross for All Saints Day in November. Separate from the LifeTeen Program, 50 students from grades six through 12 are the parish’s youth group. Father David Carkenord is the pastoral shepherd of this committed flock. At 80 years old, Father Carkenord is the oldest priest in active ministry in the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese. He has been a priest for 54 years, and pastor at St. Michael the Archangel since September 1989. Recently, St. Anthony of Padua in neighboring Angola teamed up with St. Michael the Archangel to host an Older American’s Day. The event, which was spearheaded by Father Carkenord, drew a total of 100 people from 10 different parishes for the celebration. Bobbie Charleswood, director of religious education for St. Michael the Archangel, said of Father Carkenord, “His homilies are never read, but always spoken from the heart. He is very much loved.”

St. Michael Church
1098 County Road 39, Waterloo
260-837-7115

Mass times are:
Sunday at 8 and 10:30 a.m.
Saturday at 6 p.m.
Holy Day at 8 a.m.
Vigil — 7 p.m.
Weekdays at 8 a.m.
Immaculate Conception parish welcomes new pastor

BY DENISE FEDOROW

Immaculate Conception Church in Auburn just welcomed a new pastor, Father Tim Wrozek, who assumed his duties at the parish Oct. 3.

Father Wrozek said he’s been warmly welcomed at his new parish. “I’m excited about the people’s response to me — it’s been over the top,” he said.

There are approximately 335 registered households in the parish, according to Lisa Hess, administrative assistant, and there are some pretty active ministries within the parish.

Religious education for adults, with coffee and doughnuts, is offered each Sunday after the 8 a.m. Mass. The rosary is prayed after each weekday Mass. The parish has a Knights of Columbus group, for men aged 18 and older, which meets monthly on the first Tuesday. The Ladies Guild is similar to an altar/rosary society group and is for women aged 18 and older; it meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month. On Oct. 15, the guild hosted a bake sale for seminarians.

Immaculate Conception has a ‘Couples with Kids’ group for married couples with children. They meet once a month for family activities or faith discussions. Recent activities include a marshmallow roast, hayride and outdoor movie nights. The group even has its own Facebook page — Couples-with-Kids-at-ICC.

The parish offers a middle school youth group called Edge that meets Sunday evenings and a high school youth group called Kids-at-ICC.

Parish history

The first Mass offered in Auburn took place on August 5, 1871, at the Engelbert Ashley home with seven families present. Recognizing the need for a church, a committee was formed. They bought land, made plans and on Oct. 18, 1874, the church on the corner of Fourth Street and Railroad Street (now Indiana Avenue) was dedicated. In 1912 it was enlarged, and the building continued to serve the local Catholic community until 1958.

Groundbreaking for a new church, parish hall and school on East Seventh Street took place on Aug. 4, 1957. The new church was dedicated on Sept. 21, 1958. A convent for the school sisters and a new rectory/church office were also built. The school closed for a time during the 1970s. Over the years the convent was torn down and a new priest’s residence built on that site. The former rectory is utilized as a church office, religious education classrooms and parish meeting space, and contains the Adoration Chapel.

Immaculate Conception Church

500 E. 7th St., Auburn
260-925-3930
www.iccauburn.com

Mass times are:

- Weekdays — Mondays at 6:30 pm, Tues., Wed., Thurs. and Sat. at 8 a.m. and Friday at 12:05 p.m.
- Weekend Masses are: Saturday vigil at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 8 and 10:30 am.

What is the Catholic Community Foundation?

The Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana consists of 137 endowments collectively invested to fund the various ministries and services of the Church throughout the diocese. The ultimate purpose of these endowments is not simply to build financial stability, but rather to fund the mission that has been entrusted by Jesus Christ.

The endowments invested within the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana for parishes, schools and/or ministries in DeKalb County are as follows:

- Margaret L. Waring Endowment Fund benefiting St. Joseph School, Garrett
- St. Joseph School Tuition Assistance Fund
- St. Martin de Tours House Endowment, to provide clothes and food to the poor through a ministry of St. Joseph Parish, Garrett

For more information on the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana, how to create a new endowment, or about giving to an existing endowment, contact the Office of Stewardship and Development in South Bend at 574-258-6571 or in Fort Wayne at 260-969-9148 or by email at plannedgiving@diocesefwsb.org. There is also additional information, including frequently asked questions, at www.diocesefwsb.org/Catholic-Community-Foundation.

Pat Schlosser, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades dedicated the FFG area on Dec. 8, 2012. Over the years, parishioners at Immaculate Conception Church have shown dedication, commitment to their faith and foresight to plan for future generations.

Looking ahead

Father Wrozek said although he missed the people he’d grown to love at his last parish, he’s excited to be at Immaculate Conception because of the people he’s already met. “And the things I’ve heard they’re doing in this parish: The staff is so pro-active in doing things for the community and for the body of Christ here at ICC!” Father Wrozek laughed, saying he’s already learning to use the abbreviated name “ICC.”

However, he has no immediate plans for change. “My plan is I’m going to listen a lot: to see what the people want from me and see what needs I can fill. I want to find out where the people are and what they want,” he said.

“My job is to bring together, not tear apart,” he said. “I’m enjoying them, and I hope they’re enjoying me!”

An all-tile mosaic depicting the Immaculate Conception used to be at the outdoor entrance to the church, so “she has weathered rain, snow and hail” according to Lisa Hess, parish administrative assistant. The church has an outdoor entrance to the church, so “she has weathered rain, snow and hail,” she said. The church is located about a mile and a half away.
God’s guidance, protection are realized through man

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

29th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 18:1-8

The Book of Exodus is the source of this weekend’s first reading. As might be assumed from the book’s name, Exodus is a chronicle of the Hebrews’ escape from Egypt, where they were slaves, and their passage to the land God promised them.

Along the route of this passage, across the sterile and unforgiving Sinai Peninsula, they encountered many problems. Many of these problems arose simply because of the terrain. Then, as now, water was in short supply. They ran short of food. Without any sense of where they were going, they wandered.

Moses did not fight. Rather, he extended his arms over the battle, as if to bring down upon the Hebrew warriors the strengthening presence of God. When he lowered his hand, the Hebrews fell back.

Although merely a human being, Moses was God’s instrument. If Moses relented in obeying God, everything was upset. God has the powers, but often it unfolds through human instruments.

For its second reading on this weekend, the Church again turns to the Second Epistle to Timothy. Its message is that Timothy converted to Christianity, a disciple of Paul and ordained a bishop by Paul, must be faithful to the Gospel despite all odds, whatever the cost.

In this reading, Paul stresses the fact that he is the spokesman for the Lord. He is an apostle. He has the credentials to speak for God, but he also is completely committed to speaking for God. Saint Luke’s Gospel provides the last reading. This lesson refers to a judge who is anything but honorable. The Gospel says that the judge respects neither the law of God nor human law.

The judge was human. Applying justice in a real sense, he, too, was God’s instrument. By dishonesty and by disdain for anyone, this judge distorted the process. The widow had to hound him.

Widows were the most vulnerable in Jewish society of the first century A.D. They had no means of support, unless perhaps their children helped them. The Hebrew tradition required special attention to the needs of the poor and the weak. Obviating at risk, and probably poor, sacred tradition required the judge to consider her case promptly and to rule justly.

He indeed ruled, but only to her demands.

By contrast, no one needs to hound God. God is the source of justice and mercy. “He speedily” will act, justly and with compassion.

God is true and constant, quick to see our needs.

We are not all judges, but each of us is bound by God’s love. Let us be judges and try to act, justly and with compassion.

Reflection

Perhaps the greatest wound that original sin afflicted on human nature was crippling us so that we think that we are much more in command of situations surounding us than we actually are.

At best, this sense leaves us with a foolishly assumed that we do not need God. It tricks us into thinking that the only realities are in what we can see, hear, or imagine. In the light of the eternal, we misperceive life. We fail to see the bigger picture. We exaggerate ourselves. So we must cope with bad circumstances, as the widow before the judge coped; as the Hebrews coped with Amalek.

The lesson of these readings is that God will guide us and protect us. He sent Moses, Paul, and Timothy to guide and protect. All of us are shareholders of corporations and partakers of these profits through our pension plans and personal investments. Over this period, through whatever mechanisms and whichever collective bodies, society has privileged the providers of capital over the providers of labor.

Many of us may legitimately feel that we were not at the table where such decisions were made, but nevertheless we are complicit as beneficiaries of these gains.

Our un unevenness reflects our moral values which, when examined under the light of Catholic social teaching, should invite action and advocacy for greater mutuality.

Barbara, I encountered a confounding problem and decided to call Brandon Vogt, who is not only the excellent content director at Word on Fire, but also a trained engineer and tech whiz. After trying in vain to talk me through the problem, Brandon said, “Look, let me just take over your screen.” And with that, he pressed some buttons in Atlanta, where he was attending a conference, and then commenced to move my cursor around the screen, click on all the right settings and resolve the difficulty.

Indeed, we believe that our prayer can prompt the saints to act on our behalf, effecting real change in the world.

Stark statistics and hopeful responses

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

Mary, the Queen of Heaven, hears that prayer and engages us. Every time we call upon one of the saints, we are convinced that he or she takes in what we say and, in point of fact, respond to us with information or inspiration. Indeed, we believe that our prayer can prompt the saints to act on our behalf; effecting real change in the world. I realize how counter-intuitive this can all seem to moderns. In our more “realistic” moments, we feel that the dead are just gone, that they can’t possibly hear us. Or maybe we think that, if they still exist, they are far away, infinitely removed from the things of this world. And how, we wonder, could the Blessed Mother possibly “hear” every single Hail Mary that goes up to her every day from across the globe? Isn’t all of this just wishful thinking, so much pre-scientific mumbo-jumbo?

Well, remember Brandon’s words, “Ah,” I said, “wouldn’t that be a little reflection on prayer and our technology. Each second our technology is a little reflection on prayer and our technology.

We send and receive an unfathomable amount of data through our cables and satellites yet they handle it. The relatively small number of interceptions we pray each day pales in comparison.” “Ah,” I said, “wouldn’t that make for an interesting column!”

So at Brandon’s prompting, here is this unevenness reflects our moral values which, when examined under the light of Catholic social teaching, should invite action and advocacy for greater mutuality.

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BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

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Well, remember Brandon’s words, “Ah,” I said, “wouldn’t that be a little reflection on prayer and our technology. Each second our technology is a little reflection on prayer and our technology.

We send and receive an unfathomable amount of data through our cables and satellites yet they handle it. The relatively small number of interceptions we pray each day pales in comparison.” “Ah,” I said, “wouldn’t that make for an interesting column!”

So at Brandon’s prompting, here is this unevenness reflects our moral values which, when examined under the light of Catholic social teaching, should invite action and advocacy for greater mutuality.

Barbara, I encountered a confounding problem and decided to call Brandon Vogt, who is not only the excellent content director at Word on Fire, but also a trained engineer and tech whiz. After trying in vain to talk me through the problem, Brandon said, “Look, let me just take over your screen.” And with that, he pressed some buttons in Atlanta, where he was attending a conference, and then commenced to move my cursor around the screen, click on all the right settings and resolve the difficulty.

Indeed, we believe that our prayer can prompt the saints to act on our behalf, effecting real change in the world.

Stark statistics and hopeful responses

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

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The Vatican, China and evangelical prudence

R ecent remarks by the Vatican’s Secretary of State, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, have fueled speculation about a possible exchange of diplomatic representation between the Holy See and the People’s Republic of China. Unfortunately, the cardinal’s remarks did not address any of the serious questions that have been raised about the evangelical and canonical dimension of such an agreement at this moment in history. Those questions involve the nature of the PRC regime, the doctrine and canon law of the Church, the impact of such an agreement on Vatican diplomacy in promoting human rights and the 21st-century mission of the Church.

1. Rather than liberalizing, the communist regime of President Xi Jinping is relentlessly turning the screws on human rights activists, Christian dissidents and anyone else imagined to be a threat to regime stability. Some of repulsive tactics employed in this campaign of repression were described last month in a powerful article in First Things.

2. For decades, the sticking point in negotiations between the Vatican and the PRC has involved the appointment of bishops. The communists insist that the government play a role in this process. Yet Canon 377, par. 5, in the 1983 Code of Canon Law, following the lead of the Second Vatican Council’s Decree on the Sacred Office of Bishops in the Church, states that “in the future, no rights and privileges of election, nomination, presentation, or designation of bishops are granted to civil authorities.” It took over a century of defection, Vatican diplomacy, disentangling the appointment of bishops from various political impositions, to make that canon possible, and the 21st-century Church now has the capacity to choose its leadership by its own criteria. Why should that great accomplishment — arguably the most notable in the modern history of Vatican diplomacy — be compromised, Vatican II undermined, and Church law de facto suspended, to mollycoddle totalitarianism determined to make the Catholic Church a branch of the Chinese communist state?

3. The throw-weight of the Holy See, the papacy and the Catholic Church in 21st-century world affairs reflects the perception that the Church has become the world’s preeminent institutional defender of basic human rights — and thus the greatest bulwark, among the great world religions, to the freedom project around the globe. Yet a diplomatic deal between the Holy See and the People’s Republic of China would require severing Vatican diplomatic relations with the republic of China, where, on Taiwan, a robust democracy — the first in millennia of Chinese history — has been developed. What would throw the democratic Taiwanese over the side for the sake of a deal with communist Beijing say about the Catholic Church’s commitment to human rights and democracy? Would such a deal do to the moral standing of the Holy See in a world (if not in Italian fantasy) the only standing, and the only leverage, the Holy See has?

4. The Vatican too has been healed in recent decades of the longstanding divisions in Chinese Catholicism between regime opponents and regime-friendly clergy and cleric who have sapped the Church’s evangelical energy. Some of those rifts have been healed in recent decades. But a premature Vatican agreement with the Beijing regime would most perilously harden the lines of division for the foreseeable future, and in ways that would further jeopardize the missionary thrust enkindled on the whole Church by Pope Francis’s Evangelii Gaudium. Might not something be learned from the experience of those Chinese “house churches” that are flourishing despite no formal recognition from the Chinese government? How precisely does a nuncio or apostolic delegate, by saying the Catholic Church’s evangelical mission in the PRC? That’s another, and perhaps the most serious, question that has yet to be addressed by Cardinal Parolin and others.

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amounts of information simultaneously to and from numberless locales. How much more powerfully, therefore, can an intelligence at a higher pitch of reality, in a qualitatively different dimension of being. Some receive and transmit information? The faith of the Church is that those who are in the heavenly realm participate more directly in the infinite intelligence of God, that intelligence which embraces all of space and all of time. Can a saint exert a causal influence on the physical dimension? Can they actually do something for us? We mustn’t think of the spiritual as simply “other” than the material, as though the two could never interact. Rather, the spiritual contains the physical in the measure that it subsists at an elevated, more ontologically complete, level of existence. Representing the medieval consensus, Thomas Aquinas said that the soul is in the body “not as contained by it, but as containing it.” Instead of being “a ghost in the machine,” as many modern philosophers speculated, the soul, on Aquinas’s reading, is inclusive of the body. It can move matter, for it has greater than matter. And so the saints, from their heavenly place, can indeed influence, impact, and shape the material world. Perhaps a last point of comparison would be in order. The satellites that facilitate so much of our world’s communication are entirely out of sight. We don’t, in the ordinary sense of the term, interact with them at all as we do with other persons and objects. Yet, from their celestial abode, they massively affect and aid us. In one of the prefaces for saints in the Roman Missal, we find this language: “From their place in heaven, they (the saints) guide us still.” We don’t deal with the denizens of heaven as we deal with those of earth, but yet they listen to us, speak to us, and influence us constantly.

So next time you receive some instruction on your GPS or make a call on your iPhone, think of the communion of saints.

Bishop Robert Barron is an auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles and the founder of the Word on Fire Catholic Ministries.

WOO

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Through shareholder proposals and overall civic participation, we can even the odds a bit by supporting phased increases of the federal minimum wage, upward adjustments of the minimum wage by individual states, and the necessity of paid leaves, rights of part-time workers, profit-sharing and employee stock ownership programs.

In my research, I also followed Catholic Charities and the Catholic Campaign for Human Development as they forged new paths to address these issues in various dioceses. Beyond the highly laudable ministries for assistance to the poor, community development for resources and rights, and worker and entrepreneur training and preparation, both now also provide capital and assistance for incorporation so that refugees and low-income workers can start their own businesses and retain profits from their labor.

Catholic Charities reports that at least 28 agencies, some with funding from CCHD, have created or assisted in creating cafes, worker-owned cooperatives, farm-to-table producers, construction businesses, services for in-home senior care, commercial cleaning, tree and lawn care, green laundering and installation of energy-efficient products. The number of these businesses has grown by $1 million in revenue per year.

There are injustices, but there are also solutions and opportunities. When “Populorum Progressio,” the 1967 encyclical of Pope Paul VI, calls for just development that benefits all, I think the examples noted above must have been part of that vision.

CarolyWoo

is the president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services in the United States.
ICCL ‘game of the year’ thriller

BY JOE KOZINSKI

As the seconds ticked away on Inter-City Catholic League’s drama-filled game of the year, the powerful and undefeated St. Anthony Panthers faced the underdog Blazers of St. Matthew, who had lost the previous week to the scoreboard-watching Holy Cross Crusaders. The fate of three teams rested on the outcome of this one game, which would decide if the ICCL would crown one regular season champion or if the title would be shared.

The Panthers of St. Anthony followed the explicit direction of their coach and gained yardage with authority; the Blazers marched down field, using their demonstrative offensive line to surgically cut the blazer defense little by little. Running backs Luke Thomas, Walter Wesson, Eddie Arevalo and Charlie Peterson then pierced their way into the red zone.

Panther Quarterback Brandon Prokop followed a human wedge to the one-yard line on the 12 play drive, and then, with the certainty of the lead character, Peterson stepped over the goal line for a touchdown. Kicker Peterson then pierced their way to the one-yard line on the 11th play of the drive, and then, with the certainty of the lead character, Peterson stepped over the goal line for a touchdown. Kicker Peterson then pierced their way into the red zone.

The Blazer’s drive would be a short but effective five-play, 40-yard gain, with a会上的 receiver downfield for a 20-yarder. The Panthers went back to their original game plan and moved the ball meticulously. Linebacker Gonzalez made five tackles in a row, the last one stopping the valiant Peterson short of the first down marker and the 20-yard line.

The big three for the Blazers got busy. Runs from Gonzalez and Barkowski and impromptu high jinx from quarterback Martens were no better illustrated, as he picked up a bouncing snap that had gone over his head on the run and somehow found a receiver downhill for a 20-yard pickup. A false start penalty and a wheel route pass to Bartkowski made it fourth down and five at the 10-yard line with 30 seconds left. The fans stood, held their breath and hoped that the next play would favor their team.

The next play was right out of the Burt Reynolds playbook, as Martens ran to his right to find a receiver. What seemed like an eternity changed direction and took off at full sprint, breaking tackles and making it to pay dirt and lofting his team into the unimaginable lead. A toss to Caleb Lusanga made the score 15-8 with 17 ticks left. The Panthers had one last shot. On the kickoff the returner broke through the initial line of defense and then was introduced to Martens as the game’s hero stripped the ball and solidified the victory and the three-way log jam atop the ICCL standings.

“Our coach said before the game that if we played physically and played hard we would have a chance to win,” expressed Martens after the game. “The touchdown was by far the greatest feeling I have ever had playing football in the ICCL.”

Bryce Martens is a special kid: he’s smart, he’s competitive and he’s a leader,” remarked Ben Demokos, Blazer coach. “Our super-secret play was hiking the football over his head (it happened three times), and he made plays on pure instinct.”

It’s a tough loss for our kids and should be a learning experience going into the post-season. The busted plays of St. Matt’s really killed us,” remarked Panther Coach Jason Martens after the game. “Our coach said before the game that if we played physically and played hard we would have a chance to win,” expressed Martens after the game. “The touchdown was by far the greatest feeling I have ever had playing football in the ICCL.”

CYO volleyball players and coaches from St. Therese, right, and St. Charles show good sportsmanship by exchanging “low fives” under the net after their match on Sunday afternoon, Oct. 9, in the Hession Center of St. Charles Borromeo. St. Charles defeated St. Therese 25-18, 25-19 in this last match of the regular season.

Northeast Regional Soccer Challenge champs

In the bottom row, left to right, are: Blake Oberg (age 12 boys), Christine Reeves (age 9 girls) and Sam Letcher (age 10 boys). Middle row: Dayor Wilamaa (age 9 boys), Ben Walczak (age 11 boys), Jared Reeves (age 13 boys) and Annabelle Curlyo (age 14 girls). Top row: Tony Letcher (Council 8617 soccer chairman), PGK Ryan Grill (Council 5521 soccer chairman) and SK Brad Soule (district deputy 11).

MISHAWAKA — The Knights of Columbus councils South Bend 5521 and Mishawaka 8617, jointly hosted the Northeast Regional Soccer Challenge Championship Saturday, Oct. 1 at Queen of Peace Fathers’ Field in Mishawaka. The Northeast Regional consisted of Knights of Columbus councils from across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. A total of seven youth won their respective divisions and qualified to compete in the Knights of Columbus State Soccer Challenge Championship, which takes place Oct. 23 in Lebanon.
St. Vincent football back on track

BY RON BUSH

At the Oct. 2 CYO football games, the St. Vincent Panthers and Central Catholic Irish were attempting to notch another win after last week’s 12-7 victory over the Knights. Central Catholic, led by quarterback Brandon Douge, kicked off to begin action in the first quarter. Defense dominated the first quarter, as neither team was able to score or move the ball beyond four downs, until St. Vincent executed a 12-yard running play while facing a 1st and 10 late in the quarter. This was after the Panthers had taken over in a short field situation at the Irish 36-yard line.

After the 0-0 first quarter action, St. Vincent scored first in the second quarter on a 3rd and goal play of 1 and 10. Another pass play on the 2nd and 1 and the Panthers found themselves at 1st and goal, inside the 10-yard line. Again, Luke Woener barreled into the end zone. After another good extra point, Central Catholic was unable to post a score on the board. The final read: St. Vincent 20, Central Catholic 0. This upped St. Vincent’s record to 3-1 as Central Catholic slipped to 1-3. Next week’s Game of the Week will feature St. Vincent against the Knights at 12:30 p.m., and St. Charles will host Central Catholic at 2 p.m.

Later game

The 2 p.m. game saw the St. Charles Cardinals continue to steamroll the competition. This week, they bested the Knights 38 to 7. St. Charles had five scores spread among four Cardinals. Amir Drew, Henry O’Keefe and Devon Tippmann each had one touchdown, while Brenden Lytle rushed for two TDs. Quinn Gillig was back in form, connecting on four of five points after kicks. The Cardinals’ offensive line was led by Matt Jimenez. A bright spot for the Knights occurred when they took the kickoff starting the second half and executed a reverse to Anthony Ventruella, who brought the CYO Knights’ fans to their feet with an 80-yard return for touchdown.

This provided a momentum shift that the Knights sorely needed. A 1-point running play after the kickoff brought the score to 22-7. Undaunted, St. Charles went on to score two more times in the half and Gillig connected on two more points after kicks to bump the score up to 38-7. St. Charles remains undefeated for the season, giving up only one touchdown in four games. The CYO Knights continue to look for their first victory.
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.

Chili supper announced
MONROEVILLE — St. Rose Parish will have a chili supper on Saturday, Oct. 22 at the St. Rose of Lima Catholic School, 401 Monroe St., from 3:30-7:30 p.m. Kids games, bake sale and country store will be offered. Mass will be held in the school chapel at 5 p.m.

Bishop Luers to present 'The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940’
FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Luers drama department will present “The Musical Comedy Murders of 1940,” Oct. 15 and 16 at 7:30 p.m. in the school gymnasium. Tickets are $10. Student identification card must be presented to get ticket at no cost. Call 260-456-1261 for ticket reservations and information.

XLT coming to joint parishes
FORT WAYNE — St. Charles, St. Jude, and St. Louis youth ministries will have an XLT event on Sunday, Oct. 16. XLT is short for “exalt” and it consists of adoration, praise and worship, confession and reflection. Music and adoration starts at 7 p.m. in St. Charles Church. After adoration, a social time for high school students only will be in the gathering space and a social time for young adults only will be in the youth center until 9 p.m. Anyone may attend adoration and benediction from 7-8 p.m. Contact Stacey Huneck at 260-484-7307 for information.

St. Anthony and Knights of Columbus benefit from reverse raffle
ANGOLA — A reverse raffle is planned Oct. 22, at St. Anthony’s former church, 700 W. Maumee St., and will open doors at 6 p.m. A meal by Caruso’s served at 6:30 p.m., drawing starts at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are $50 per person and include meal and drinks. Only 500 tickets will be sold. Contact 260-665-2259 for information or visit www.stanthonyangola.com.

Seasonal cleanup announced
SOUTH BEND — Sacred Heart Cemetery, located at the corner of Pine Rd. and Western Ave., will be conducting the fall cleanup from Oct. 24-29. All summer decorations be removed from graves by this time.

Rest in Peace
Décatur
Martine M. Coyne, 82, St. Mary of the Assumption
Ramona E. Brown, 87, St. Mary of the Assumption
Samuel L. Hirschy, 22, St. Mary of the Assumption
Fort Wayne
Paul K. Shive, 91, St. Mary Mother of God
Virginia M. Braun, 99, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Richard Raymond Kenney, 65, St. Vincent de Paul
Richard Gfell, Jr., 63, St. Charles Borromeo
Joseph Lebrato, 71, St. Jude
Monica C. Reinig, 83, St. Vincent de Paul
Francis B. Roberts, 95, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton
Eileen M. Firestone, 97, Most Precious Blood
John L. Minnick, 97, St. Vincent de Paul
Anna Marie Hooley, 90, St. Jude
Marilyn A. Morthorst, 92, St. Mary Mother of God
Pearl Rose Rickard, 89, St. Jude
Teresa M Skevington, 92, St. Charles Borromeo
Huntington
Addie B. Ness, 82, SS Peter and Paul
Harold D. Learned, 66, SS Peter and Paul
Mishawaka
Viola M. Odieme, 94, St. Joseph
New Haven
Patricia J. Kelker, 92, St. John the Baptist
Francis J. Bowers, 87, St. John the Baptist
South Bend
Anne M. Loebach, 96, Christ the King
Eloise Taberski, 92, St. Stanislaus
Anthony C. Skorupski, 96, St. Adalbert
Patrick Keszel, 57, St. Jude
Doris A. Ladyga, 86, Christ the King
Adeline Warners, 89, St. Therese, Little Flower
John E. Ciesielski, 39, St. Adalbert
Kenneth G. Noble, Jr., 59, Corpus Christi
Wabash
Ruth C. Lawson, 96, St. Bernard
Yoder
Timothy R. Jansens, 51, St. Aloysius
St. Joseph Parishioners make donations
BLUFFTON — Msgr. Pius Ilechuckwu, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Bluffton, expressed gratitude and would like Today’s Catholic readers to know that members of the entire parish collaborated on a recent Baby Bottle fundraising project. New hymnals were also recently purchased with both parish funds and with donations made by some in memory of loved ones.

An Afternoon of Prayerful Remembrance & Intercession
Join us as we acknowledge abortion’s universal impact, seeking forgiveness and healing for our nation, praying for all suffering from the wounds of abortion and spreading God’s message of love and mercy.

1:00 p.m. Testimonies & Intercessory Prayers
2:00 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration
3:00 p.m. Mass

Submit obituaries to mweber@diocesefwsb.org
Out of Africa

BY BARB SIEMINSKI

It was only one and a half weeks, but it turned into a whole new world — a jam-packed lifetime, as it were — for Fort Wayne resident Laura LaMaster, a Test Center coordinator at Bishop Dwenger High School, who traveled to Uganda last summer.

"In the time that I was gone, not only did I spend time with the Ugandans, who taught and inspired me, but I also underwent a deeply spiritual conversion and was touched by God," said LaMaster. "I have always admired Catholic Relief Services, and this Sunday — Mission Sunday — the theme is 'Mercy Changes the World.' Because of this theme, the Church focuses on our brothers and sisters in need around the world. I've been blessed to see first-hand the faith, love and hard work of those in CRS who 'change the world' in our name. I will do my part to encourage us to think globally and to remember that 'Mercy Changes the World.'"

Catholic Relief Services is an outreach organization established by bishops of the United States. The organization is headquartered in Baltimore.

"Bishop Rhoades is on the CRS board of directors, and I share his commitment to helping all of us see ourselves as a part of the big, generous, smart, world-wide Church that is committed to helping our brothers and sisters in need around the world."

LaMaster went to Uganda with five other teachers from around the country who came from CRS Global High Schools. Her trip was possible because Bishop Dwenger is a platinum Global High School, and CRS takes six teachers every other year from its platinum schools to a destination.

At St. Jude Catholic Church, LaMaster is a Eucharistic minister. She and her husband, John, have been members of the parish for 25 years, and it’s where their service-oriented sons Kevin, 17, and David, 15, also attend.

LaMaster taught theology and was a pastoral minister for 17 years at Dwenger. She took a leave of absence from the school and returned to Dwenger six years ago, where she now helps struggling students in the Resource Department. This year, she opened up a Test Center to assist students who had tests to make up after being absent. She also helps students who have special test accommodations, such as needing extra time or a modified test.

"Being of service has always been a part of my life," she said. Also a Bible study leader for women at the Allen County Jail, LaMaster volunteered a year in Texas upon earning her social work degree, through a program designed by the bishops in Texas to keep Catholic schools and social service agencies open. She helped open a maternity home for pregnant girls in crisis.

There was a lot of preparation for the Uganda trip, and the flight was nine hours to Brussels and then nine more to Uganda, Africa.

"CRS Uganda has a staff of 55 dedicated people working on eight different projects," she discovered. "Forty-nine are national staff and six are international staff. They have CRS interventions on problems related to HIV/AIDS, microfinance, water/sanitation, agroenterprise and peace-building. The common language of Uganda is English."

There are three types of CRS projects: relief work that is done in times of emergencies, development projects in which the needs and strengths of communities are studied before creating a plan for long-term solutions, and building peace and justice. The last one could be peace between tribes, countries or religions.

"I saw a reinstituting vanilla project that involves Ben & Jerry’s, farmer co-ops, agriculture specialists, the Ugandan government and so much more," said LaMaster. "I saw an agriculture project to help at-risk young women. I saw a Savings and Internal Lending Community project; here, a community of 30 individuals save and lend to each other. I love that CRS doesn’t just drop American money and the American way of doing things into a community. Instead, these plans are respectful of Ugandans; they hire staff with both the skills/degrees and know the community, and they work in partnership with local Catholic churches and local social service agencies."

"What is amazing about all these projects is the thoughtful plan that uses CRS seed money and planning but that the community then takes over. And imagine my surprise when I met a priest and the bishop in Fort Portal, Uganda, who not only knew where Fort Wayne was, but had also been to Fort Wayne."

Most rural homes were made of mud walls and thatched roofs, or were made of red brick or cement with corrugated iron roofs, she noted. There are public schools but no free schools – if one had money to send a child to school, it was a sign of wealth. All Ugandan women wore modest dresses of colorful fabrics and carried baskets on their heads.

"During Mass, I was overwhelmed by the number of colorful prayers and hymns at Mass that use the word, ‘world.’ Praying ‘Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world’ meant something different, being on the other side of the globe, praying with Catholics in an African school chapel. Praying the divine mercy chaplet, ‘Have mercy on us and on the whole world’ became a powerful prayer of oneness with Ugandans, and really, the whole world."

A woman in the Kinyarwanda Savings Internal Lending Community makes her savings contribution. The two men standing in the background are CRS staff members who have trained the leader of the group.

"Every new community we visited had kids wanting to meet us," said LaMaster, left. "Here, a dear, dear man, CRS staff member Godfrey, tells me that the name of the little girl holding my hand is Hariette."

Photos provided by Laura LaMaster

"All peoples and cultures have the right to receive the message of salvation which is God’s gift to every person."

– Pope Francis

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A PONTIFICAL MISSION SOCIETY IN THE ARCHDIOCESE OF LOS ANGELES

October 16, 2016