Thanksgiving

As we gather with families and loved ones this Thanksgiving, let us remember Him from whose hands all that we have has come to us, and pray for those who have less.

Loving God,
We turn our hearts to You on this day for giving thanks, mindful of Your many gifts. For each one, we are grateful. For each one, we are blessed.

For each one, we are opened to the abundance of Your love. May this Thanksgiving Day offer a reminder to be generous with others, as You are with us.

We praise You.
We rejoice in You.
We give You thanks.
Amen

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www.myyearofmercy.org

Mass marks close of the Jubilee Year of Mercy

BY MARIAM SCHMITZ

As the closing Mass for the Jubilee Year of Mercy was about to begin at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, on Saturday, Nov. 12, the setting sun shone its light through the ornate stained glass windows and the ultimate symbol of God’s love and mercy — the crucifix — seemed to be highlighted all the more. The choir began to sing the hymn for the Year of Mercy, “Misericordes sicut Pater” or “Merciful, Like the Father,” and the procession began with incense filling the air. A crowd of hundreds joined the choir in praise and thanksgiving.

With the Mass, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend joined dioceses around the world in ending the jubilee year. On Sunday, Nov. 20, the Solemnity of Christ the King and the last Sunday of the liturgical year, Pope Francis will close the Holy Doors of the Basilica of St. Peter in Rome and the Year of Mercy will officially conclude.

In the Gospel reading for the closing Mass, Jesus told a crowd the temple in Jerusalem would be destroyed. Upon hearing these words the crowd was shocked, and Jesus told them to look for three signs indicating the time had come: human disasters, natural disasters and persecution. However, He also told them to endure and persevere through these trials and they would be protected.

In his homily, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades said one need to only study history to see that these things have occurred and continue to occur. The Roman army conquered Jerusalem in 70 A.D. and destroyed
PERSEVERANCE IN MERCY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

The following is the homily of Bishop Rhoades at the Mass concluding the Jubilee Year of Mercy in the diocese on Saturday, November 12th, in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne.

Jesus’ words about the destruction of the temple must have been shocking to the people. The temple had stood as the house of God for 1000 years, since the time of King Solomon, except for the 70 years when it lay in ruins after the Babylonian conquest. The destruction of the temple in Jerusalem would mean the end of Jewish religious life, a life that was centered on the worship of God in that temple.

When Jesus was asked when the temple would be destroyed, He then went on to speak about other things that would happen: human disasters like wars and insurrections as well as natural disasters: earthquakes, famines, and plagues.

We know from history that Jesus’ prophecy about the destruction of the temple was fulfilled in the year 70 AD when the Roman armies conquered Jerusalem and destroyed the temple. History is also replete with the human and natural disasters which Jesus spoke about. We still see these disasters happening today: wars, earthquakes, epidemics, etc.

In the Gospel today, Jesus also prophesies about the persecution of His followers by both religious and civil authorities. All one has to do is read the Acts of the Apostles to see that this indeed happened in the early decades of the Church’s history. Such persecution has occurred throughout history. Even today, one only needs to read the newspapers and read about the persecution of Christians in many parts of the world, including the brutal persecution by ISIS.

Reflecting on this Gospel and Our Lord’s words about the destruction of the temple, about human and natural disasters, and about persecution, what are we to do? Our Lord says: “By your perseverance, you will secure your lives.” Perseverance, endurance, determination: we usually think of these words in the arena of sports or other areas in which we strive for excellence. But we need to think about the need for perseverance, endurance, and determination in our spiritual lives, in our lives as disciples of Jesus.

Faith can be shaken by the things Jesus speaks about in the Gospel today: human and natural disasters and persecution. We can even be tempted by the struggles and difficulties of life to forsake Christ and His Church. The Lord is saying no. He is telling us to persevere with hope because ultimately everything, the world and history and each of our lives are in His hands. No matter what happens in our lives, the Lord is with us with His mercy and love. His mercy and love will never fail. And if we ever doubt this, all we have to do is look at the crucifix. The crucified Jesus shows us that evil is overcome by good and that love is more powerful than sin and hatred. His Resurrection shows that love is even more powerful than death.

The Lord invites us to face the daily events of our lives, including pain and suffering, with trust in His mercy and providential love. Even when bad things happen or things don’t work out the way we wish, we need not fear because God is with us. He is always Emmanuel.

Some people fear the future. That fear can be paralyzing. Because Donald Trump was elected president, some are very afraid about the future and speak of his election as a calamity. If Hillary Clinton had been elected, others would feel the same way. But for us who are disciples of Jesus, the dramas of human history, including political elections, are not the ultimate word. The ultimate word is THE WORD, the Word made flesh who dwells among us. We don’t ignore politics or our responsibilities on earth to build a culture of life and civilization of love and to serve the cause of peace and justice. We pray for our political leaders, including our new president and other elected officials. And in everything, we look to the One who is the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the Lord of history. He is our shepherd and Lord, our hope and our salvation.

As we come to the end of this time of grace, this Jubilee Year of Mercy, I invite you to persevere in mercy. I’ve been edified seeing you and the faithful all over our diocese living Pope Francis’ call to mercy. So many have been bearing witness to God’s mercy by reaching out to the poor and needy through the spiritual and corporal works of mercy.

Thousands have prayed in our two cathedrals and at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart and received the Jubilee indulgence. For this, we give thanks to God, the Father of mercies. The Jubilee pilgrimages are ending but our pilgrimage of faith continues. The motto of the Jubilee Year “Merciful like the Father” should still be the motto of our journey of life. “Be merciful just as your Father is merciful,” Jesus says. This is our program of life and the program of the Church’s life. May we continue to embrace God’s mercy and dedicate ourselves to being merciful with others as the Father has been with us! And may Mary, our mother of mercy, continue to teach and inspire us to be heralds and instruments of mercy in a world so in need of God’s mercy. May we never grow tired of extending mercy! Instead, may we persevere in living the Gospel of mercy, remembering Jesus’ promise: “By your perseverance, you will secure your lives.”
TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Thompson takes pride in ICC's work to aid the poor, vulnerable

BY JOHN SHAUGHNESSY

Editor's note: The following is the third and final article in a series reflecting on the Indiana Catholic Conference, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Indiana, which is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its founding.

Nel Thompson’s face lights up when she tells the story about her parents. “They were up in years, and it was a day where it was 30 below with the wind chill. And there was snow,” she recalls about her mom and dad, Katie and Ed Lamperski. “We called them up to check on them. They were gone. ‘They went to church.’

Thompson shares that story to show the foundation and inspiration for her 42-year — and counting — career of dedication and commitment to the archdiocese and the Church. “My mom was ahead of her time,” says Thompson, the administrative assistant for the Indiana Catholic Conference, the official public policy voice of the Church in Indiana regarding state and national matters. “She was ahead of that saying, ‘What would Jesus do?’ She would always tell us that. That’s always in the back of my mind.”

While that consistency marks Thompson’s life and her faith, it’s also the quality she appreciates most about the work of the ICC.

“The one thing that sticks with me about the ICC and the Catholic Church in general, it’s always constant,” says Thompson, a member of St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Indianapolis. “We work year after year for the poor, the vulnerable, and the common good and well-being of the people of Indiana. “Even though other things change, that remains the same. And the conference’s dedication to getting that word out to the legislature is always constant. The Church’s position is not always the popular position or what the legislature will go with, but that’s what I pride the conference on — the dedication.”

Thompson personifies that dedication, according to Glenn Tebbe, the executive director of the ICC. “I could not function without her,” says Tebbe, who has led the conference and represented the bishops of Indiana in public policy concerns for the past 13 years. “I depend on her to handle the operations and the general daily matters. She has been the constant for three directors — Ray Rufo, Des Ryan and me. She has put up with an Italian, an Irishman and a German. Who else can do that and still keep smiling and happy in one’s job?”

Thompson smiles as she recalls one of her favorite moments with the 19 bishops of Indiana she has worked for through the years, including four archbishops of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

This favorite moment unfolded when she reached her 10th anniversary of work for the conference. To mark the occasion, then-conference director Des Ryan and other staff members were taking her to lunch. But before the meal, Ryan had a surprise in store — the dedication.

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Big lessons to be learned from small actions, departing USCCB head says

BY MARK PATTISON

BALTIMORE (CNS) — In small and often intimate gestures, there are big lessons for bishops to learn as they exercise their ministry, said Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., in his final address as president of the U.S. bishops’ conference.

“Words of Jesus are more concrete in capturing God’s mercy at work in our bishops’ conference than his call in Matthew 25: ‘What you did for one of my least, you did for me.’”

He said in his remarks Nov. 14 in Baltimore at the U.S. bishops’ annual fall general assembly.

Archbishop Kurtz noted different encounters he had during his three-year tenure as president, each with a lesson learned.

In one instance, a Filipino woman in Tacleban, Philippines, after the devastation wrought by Typhoon Yolanda, explained what her neighbors and the whole community now faced with “no hint in her voice of seeking her own good,” he said. Instead “she was seeking the common good.”

“Bishops are called always to seek the common good — an environment in which all might thrive with dignity. For 99 years, we bishops have addressed vital issues on a national level — seeking that common good and mindful of those without a voice,” he said.

His mention of “99 years” refers to the fact that what is today called the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will mark the 100th anniversary in 2017 of its formal establishment.

In another of the archbishop’s encounters, an 8-year-old boy with Down syndrome in Kharkiv, Ukraine, who, after Archbishop Kurtz extended his hand, “instinctively jumped into my arms, gave me a big smile and said in a language that my heart understood: ‘I love you.’”

The archbishop was part of delegation that visited the war-torn country in June 2015.

The boy was “a trusting child of God deserving of a chance,” he said, like so many youths in the U.S. who need “a chance, an opportunity.” One aim of the recently established USCBB Task Force to Promote Peace in Our Communities, he noted, is to help bring about such opportunity by building trust in neighborhoods and promoting civility.

Meeting these youngsters, he said, put a face on the complexities of their situation and that of refugees, too. “Our nation is on thin ice” when such individuals are discussed “in the abstract,” he added.

“Whether the young child with Down syndrome from Kharkiv in my arms or the dozens of youth with dreams in their hearts, we bishops need those flashes of inspiration and encouragement to come to us from God,” Archbishop Kurtz said.

Another lesson learned came from visiting a home for the aged run by the Little Sisters of the Poor in his archdiocese.

The order, along with several other Catholic entities, has been in a long-running court battle with the federal government over employer requirements to provide contraceptive coverage to women and employees under the Affordable Care Act — covering the Little Sisters oppose on moral grounds.

“The lesson learned: Don’t allow a government to define what integrity of faith means. It’s our duty to protect those who wish to live their faith and to serve God and one another with integrity of faith,” he said.

Archbishop Kurtz outlined several challenges ahead including for the global church, as people continue to be persecuted for their religion, and for the U.S. church, as it continues to “tirelessly promote human dignity and as it faces ‘challenges to truth and charity within.’” He urged all to move beyond the lack of civility and rancor that marked this year’s presidential election and to work with elected officials, including the new Trump administration, for the common good.

The bishops’ meeting is “not simply a gathering — we are a family, a ‘communion’ of pastors,” just as a family seeks to serve each other as a prerequisite for authentic service beyond that family, he told the assembly.

Archbishop Kurtz told his brother bishops, “If not, our pastoral hearts will be shallow and short-lived with others. In the midst of the busy schedules that you bishops find as your daily routine, thank God for those moments of lifting up one another.”
Religious, lay leaders react to Trump win in presidential election

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Lay and religious leaders of all stripes reacted to news of Donald J. Trump’s upset win in the Nov. 8 presidential election. Most expressed hope that Trump would pay attention to their agenda, while others were more decidedly downbeat and still others counseled prayer.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., president of the U.S. bishops’ conference, outlined an ambitious agenda in a Nov. 9 postelection statement that congratulated Trump and all election victors.

“The bishops’ conference looks forward to working with President-elect Trump to protect human life from its most vulnerable beginning to its natural end. We will advocate for policies that offer opportunity to all people,” the archbishop said. “And we also call attention to the violent persecution threatening our fellow Christians and people of other faiths around the world, especially in the Middle East. And we will look for the new administration’s commitment to domestic religious liberty, ensuring people of faith remain free to proclaim and shape our lives around the truth about man and woman, and the unique bond of marriage that they can form.”

Top Vatican official congratulates Trump, offers prayers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Congratulating Donald Trump for his victory in the U.S. presidential election, the Vatican secretary of state expressed hope that people would work together “to change the global situation, which is a situation of serious laceration, serious conflict.”

Cardinal Parolin, Pope Francis’ top aide, spoke about the election early Nov. 9 during a meeting at Rome’s Pontifical Lateran University. The Vatican then released a transcript of his remarks.

“First of all,” he said, “we respectfully must take note of the will expressed by the American people in this exercise of democracy that they tell us, they are characterized by a large turnout at the polls.”

“We send our best wishes to the new president that his administration may truly be fruitful,” the cardinal said. “And we also assure him of our prayers that the Lord would enlighten and sustain him in his service to his country naturally, but also in serving the wellbeing and peace of the world.” Cardinal Parolin was asked about the polemics that arose earlier in the year between Trump and Pope Francis over the question of immigration, especially concerning the U.S.-Mexico border.

Pope reportedly says he won’t judge Trump but will watch impact on poor

ROME (CNS) — The day before Donald Trump was elected president of the United States, Pope Francis said he would make no judgments about the candidate and was interested only in the impact his policies would have on the poor.

Eugenio Scalfari, co-founder and former editor of La Repubblica, an Italian daily, said he met with Pope Francis Nov. 7 and asked him what he thought of Trump. “I don’t give judgments about persons and politicians; I only want to understand what suffers their way of proceeding will cause the poor and excluded,” the pope said, according to Scalfari. The journalist has explained on more than one occasion that he does not take notes or record his conversations with the pope; he re-creates them afterward from memory, including the material he puts in quotation marks. Scalfari, in an article published Nov. 11, said Pope Francis said his greatest concern today is for refugees and immigrants.

Voters reject nearly all ballot measures on issues of Catholic concern

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In this year’s election, voters were against nearly all of the ballot initiatives backed by Catholic leaders and advocates, except the referendum on minimum wage increases and gun control measures.

Voters passed an assisted suicide measure in Colorado and voted in favor of the death penalty in three states and in favor of legalized recreational marijuana in four states and against it in one. They also voted for minimum wage increases and gun control measures in four states. In Colorado, the only state with an initiative to legalize assisted suicide, voters passed the measure, making the state the sixth in the nation with a so-called “right-to-die law” joining Washington, Oregon, California, Vermont and Montana.

“The decision of the voters of Colorado have made to legalize physician-assisted suicide via the passage of Proposition 106 is a great travesty of compassion and choice for the sick, the poor, the elderly and our most vulnerable residents,” said Jenny Kraska, executive director of the Colorado Catholic Conference. “Killing, no matter what its motives, is never a private matter; it always impacts other people and has much wider implications,” she said in a Nov. 9 statement.

Catholics’ postelection to-do list: work for unity, healing

WASHINGTON (CNS) — All the distrust, virulence and rancor stirred up during the 2016 presidential election campaign did not go away when votes were tallied.

The Nov. 8 election’s outcome, for many, only added more layers of frustration, anger and fear, prompting dozens of protests across the country.

Political leaders, including Hillary Clinton, President-elect Donald Trump and President Barack Obama, acknowledged the disunity and urged people after the election to try to work together.

Catholic leaders have been making similar pleas, not only for the nation, but also recognizing the division that exists among the church’s own members who split their vote — 45 percent for Clinton and 52 percent for Trump.

Four days before the election, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson, CEO of the Knights of Columbus, told a Catholic group in Arlington, Va., that regardless of the election’s outcome, “our country will remain deeply divided and those divisions are, to a very real extent, also reflected within our own Catholic faith community.”

The question before Catholics, he said, is whether we will be “a source of unity and reconciliation, or whether we will be a cause of further division.”

That view also was expressed in a Nov. 9 editorial in the National Catholic Reporter newspaper describing the political climate as a “profound moment in our nation’s history and in our church’s history. ... The question now is whether we have the courage and leadership to confront these hurts, work for justice and begin the healing process.”

Putting it even more succinctly was an Election Day tweet by Cardinal Tobin of Indianapolis: “Whatever happens at the polls, God will reign. Our work begins tomorrow: healing wounds.”

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said: “Every election brings a new beginning. Some may wonder whether the country can come together, work toward a vision and fulfill the promise of a more perfect union. Through the hope Christ offers, I believe God will give us the strength to heal and unite.”

Prayer After An Election

God of all nations,
Father of the human family,
we give You thanks for the freedom we exercise and the many blessings of democracy we enjoy in these United States of America.

We ask for Your protection and guidance for all who devote themselves to the common good, working for justice and peace at home and around the world.

We lift up all our duly elected leaders and public servants, as those who will serve us as presidents, as legislators and judges, those in the military and law enforcement.

Heal us from our differences and unite us, O Lord, with a common purpose, dedication, and commitment to achieve liberty and justice in the years ahead for all people, and especially those who are most vulnerable in our midst.

Amen

The “Prayer After an Election” by Cardinal Adam Maida, Archbishop of Detroit, is used with permission.
Inmates work their way to forgiveness, through education

By Marlene Travis

“Inmates work their way to forgiveness, through education.”

Free living, wrote Chris, as the motivation behind earning an associate’s degree while incarcerated.

Chris, along with 53 other inmates, is studying to earn that degree from Holy Cross College. This year, 11 students will graduate with Associates of Arts degree through the Westfield Education Initiative program, a collaborative venture between Holy Cross College, the University of Notre Dame and the Bard College Prison Initiative in upstate New York.

WEI first offered classes at Westville Correctional Facility in the spring of 2013. With 12 associate degrees earned so far, in five short years the program has allowed the incarcerated men to earn a degree that will empower them to re-enter society as productive members. David said the education has, “taught me to think of others more.”

That’s the WEI goal, to inspire incarcerated men to become their best selves through education.

Aleasha Seroczynski, Ph.D., is WEI director of College Operations. She commented on the challenges those students face while trying to earn a degree. “Prison environment is very chaotic and regimented. It’s noisy, and there is very little privacy.”

Yet, WEI students are dedicated. “Some of them get up in the middle of night to write their papers,” Seroczynski said.

This time to think and reflect is crucial to these students, who want to better their lives. “I think that this is a great program that allows you to ‘think,’ to think differently about not only your life, but the life of others,” said Joshua, another program participant.

“What you want in life doesn’t have to be out of your reach. With this education, you’re only limited by the length of your grasp.”

The Westfield students are an inspiration in the Jubilee Year of Mercy, and Seroczynski’s outlook is a good reminder of Pope Francis’ message about forgiving offenses. “The end of the Jubilee year should not end the acts of mercy. They should inspire us to be merciful all the time,” she said.

“Pope Francis inspires the life of the heart, which we try to do at Westfield Prison. Pope Francis inspires us to inspire them.”

The professors involved with the program are breaking down the barriers that society has created about the marginalized, and they seek to transform the attitude that inmates are nothing but deserving of their jail time. Dr. Michael Griffin, theology professor at Holy Cross, weighed in about the connection between WEI and mercy: “WEI is about academics first, and not simply a ministry to the less fortunate. The students are collegians, some of them among the brightest at any college. But yes, there is an element of mercy in extending the opportunity of college. Mercy is about seeking wholeness, and academic life is not whole if it excludes those who are incarcerated. So in that sense, this is a work of mercy.”

Rejecting society’s view that the only way to pay a price for his crime, Chris said he has always had a passion to help those in need. “My education with WEI allowed me to develop direction and inspired me to dive deeper into my thoughts.”

— Sir 2:18

Westfield Education Initiative is a collaborative venture between Holy Cross College, the University of Notre Dame and the Bard College Prison Initiative, through which the students involved will earn associate’s degrees. Pictured are the students and professors of this year’s WEI program.
‘Trinity Tree’ planting ceremony to commemorate SMC presidential inauguration

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary’s College marked the inauguration of President Janice Cervelli with a tree planting ceremony at 11 a.m. Tuesday, Nov. 8, on the lawn south of Spees Unica Hall. Joining the president was the Rev. John I. Jenkins, CSC, president of the University of Notre Dame, and Brother Jesus Alonso, CSC, vice president for Strategic Initiatives at Holy Cross College.

The tree is named the Trinity Tree, representing the shared values and collaboration among Saint Mary’s, the University of Notre Dame and Holy Cross College, which make up the tri-campus community.

A river birch was chosen to be the Trinity Tree because it grows with three connected trunks.

The Trinity Tree reflects the relationship of the three institutions founded by Holy Cross congregations and honors the vision of Sister M. Madeleva Wolff, Saint Mary’s third president, who believed that learning thrived in a beautiful environment.

“Blessed Basil Moreau, the founder of the Holy Cross congregations and a guiding light for us today,foresaw that ‘Holy Cross will grow like a mighty tree,’” President Cervelli said.

“The Trinity Tree will symbolize the partnership between the tri-campus schools and our commitment to higher education in the Catholic tradition.”

Since taking over responsibility for Catholic Cemetery in Fort Wayne on Jan. 5, 2015, Superintendent Casey Miller wanted to enhance the beauty of an area called “The Sunken Garden.” “I had been thinking of adding a feature that would not only give it religious significance, but to be relevant to the cemetery as well. I remembered when my father-in-law, Bernardo Botero, died, and our family prayed the rosary every night for several days after the funeral,” he said. “When we visited his resting place at the cemetery we would again remember him and the rosary.”

Casey Miller has continued to plant additional trees and plants and will be implementing a program with the St. Joseph River from Saint Mary’s, the Sunken Garden and the St. Joseph River from Saint Mary’s to create a visual and physical development of the area.

Janice Cervelli inaugurated as Saint Mary’s College’s 12th president

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary’s College formally installed Janice Cervelli as Saint Mary’s College’s 12th president Nov. 12. The Inauguration ceremony took place at the Eck Visitors Center in the Catholic tradition.”

President Cervelli’s leadership will guide her in the ways of justice and peace so that Saint Mary’s College will thrive under the continued protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary.”

Parish mission planned

FORT WAYNE — Our Lady of Good Hope Parish will have a parish mission, “Learning to Live in the Fire of God’s Love through the Holy Spirit,” Nov. 27-30 from 6:45-8:30 p.m. in the church. Jim Murphy, Catholic evangelist and member of the International Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services at the Vatican, will be the presenter for this four-day mission, closing with Mass Nov. 30. Each evening begins with praise and worship at 6:45 p.m. with the presentation starting at 7 p.m.

Janice Cervelli was installed as the 12th president of Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame, on Saturday, Nov. 12. She comes to Saint Mary’s from the University of Arizona, where she served for eight years as dean of the College of Architecture, Planning, and Landscape Architecture. Previously, she was dean of the Clemson University College of Architecture, Arts, and Humanities from 2000-07. South Bend Mayor Pete Burke said he believes the college and to foster a spirit of creative problem solving that meets the needs of our time.”

President Cervelli is homegrown, growing up on Riverside Drive in South Bend, across the St. Joseph River from Saint Mary’s College. She attended Holy Cross Grade School and Saint Joseph High School and went on to earn a bachelor of science degree from Purdue University’s College of Agriculture and a master of landscape architecture from the University of Georgia.

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South Bend Mayor Pete Buttigieg was among a series of representatives at the ceremony who welcomed President Cervelli to her new position. “Saint Mary’s has been and must continue to be a source of progress that strengthens the fabric of our community. Who better to lead the college in that effort than a daughter of South Bend who grew up just across the river?”

Kelly O’Shea Carney ’84, president of the Alumnae Association Board of Directors, said in her welcome, “As an accomplished academic leader whose career has demonstrated vision, strength, conviction, and commitment to the same values that have guided Saint Mary’s over the last 172 years, Jan is exactly the kind of strong, smart, principled leader we expect and appreciate at Saint Mary’s.”

During the investiture portion of the program, Chairman of the Board of Trustees Mary Burke entrusted President Cervelli with the mantle of leading the 172-year-old Catholic, women’s, liberal arts college. In the process, President Cervelli:

• Accepts her responsibility to advance the Mission of Saint Mary’s College as a sponsored institution of the Sisters of the Holy Cross.

• Affirms the college’s commitment to the vital engagement with the liberal arts, to educating women and transforming lives.

• Affirms the college’s commitment to living out the rich possibilities of its Catholic tradition.

• Recognizes her responsibility to lead this institution with all members of this community and to foster a shared commitment to the intellectual, spiritual, social, and physical development of the Saint Mary’s student.

Burke then asked the assembly to bless the college’s new president, praying that God guide her in the ways of justice and peace so that Saint Mary’s College will thrive under President Cervelli’s leadership and become an even greater force for positive changes in the world.

Burke also surprised the president with an apostolic blessing from His Holiness Pope Francis. The framed blessing states that the pope “invokes an abundance of heavenly graces and the continued protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary” on Janice Cervelli.

International Crèche exhibit and pilgrimage

NOTRE DAME — The third annual International Crèche Pilgrimage, a tour of nativities from around the world, will begin at the Eck Visitors Center on the Notre Dame campus, Sunday, Dec. 4 at 2 p.m. Families are welcome and children are encouraged to dress in nativity-inspired costumes.

Sancta Familia holy hour set to begin

FORT WAYNE — A Sancta Familia Holy Hour will be Thursday, Nov. 17, from 7-8 p.m. in the new Bishop Dwenger Chapel. Michael Heinlein, Bishop Dwenger theologian and editor of Our Sunday Visitor’s “The Catholic Answer” publication, will address the gathering on the topic “Why Young People are Leaving the Faith.”

Sancta Familia (Holy Families) is a new initiative that meets every third Thursday of the month to provide spiritual growth and catechesis. Each monthly gathering will include adoration, communal prayer and a “sanctifying the home” inspirational sharing.

Catholic Cemetery plants rosary garden

Since taking over responsibility for Catholic Cemetery in Fort Wayne on Jan. 5, 2015, Superintendent Casey Miller wanted to enhance the beauty of an area called “The Sunken Garden.” “I had been thinking of adding a feature that would not only give it religious significance, but to be relevant to the cemetery as well. I remembered when my father-in-law, Bernardo Botero, died, and our family prayed the rosary every night for several days after the funeral,” he said. “When we visited his resting place at the cemetery we would again remember him and the rosary.”

Casey Miller has continued to plant additional trees and plants and will be implementing a program with the St. Joseph River from Saint Mary’s, the Sunken Garden and the St. Joseph River from Saint Mary’s to create a visual and physical development of the area.

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Provided by Saint Mary’s College

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Jodi Martin

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Sankofa 2016:
Moving from ‘Lord, have mercy’ to ‘Thank You, Jesus’

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

A sked how she was doing, an elderly African-American church member replied, “I’m somewhere between ‘Lord, have mercy!’ and ‘Thank you, Jesus!’” Deacon Mel Tardy told this story to explain the title of his keynote address at the annual Sankofa gathering held Saturday, Nov. 12, in South Bend.

“Sankofa” is a West African term meaning “go back and fetch.” It signifies taking hold of the past in order to move confidently into the future. A group of Catholics, diverse in age and ethnicity, kicked off Black Catholic History Month by coming together at Saint Joseph High School to share what they have experienced on their individual and collective journeys to overcome racism. Called to order by drumming, participants were welcomed by Brother Roy Smith, who introduced Tardy.

One theme that emerged repeatedly during the day was the importance of listening attentively and nonjudgmentally to each other’s stories, so Deacon Tardy began by telling his own. Raised in New Orleans, he didn’t discover until he matriculated at Notre Dame that most people feel a mismatch between “black” and “Catholic.” Campus security stopped him several times for “walking or biking while black,” he said, and he felt too black for his white friends and too white for his black friends. Not until he read W.E.B. Du Bois did he find “black and being American.” By trying to hold together being black and being American, he said, and he felt too black for his white friends and too white for his black friends. Not until he read W.E.B. Du Bois did he find “black and being American.”

Deacon Tardy began photos ranging from a lynching right here in Indiana to Martin Luther King’s early arrest for a traffic infraction to sketch the history of African-Americans in this country, pointing out that Christians were only able to justify owning slaves by regarding them as less than human. When we lump together all whites or all policemen, we make the same mistake, he pointed out, “if you stoop to their level, it’s like bowing to them.”

He spoke briefly about the genesis of the Black Lives Matter movement and various reactions to it. His conclusion was that black lives matter too, rather than only black lives matter.

In their pastoral letter, the U.S. Bishops stated: “We live in a racist society,” where even the Church has been guilty of the sin of racism. The remedy is to privilege voices that have been marginalized. The result will be much more than a different style of music in our worship, the bishops said. It will lead to rethinking the Gospel and discovering anew the God who hangs out with the poor.

After the keynote address, participants broke into discussion groups to share their own experiences. During a series of workshops, the Gbologan family presented “A Taste of Africa: Stories from Togo,” representatives of the Office of Hispanic Ministry of the diocese talked about “Cultural Competencies in Shared Parishes;” Maria Stancari, Bismarck House, explained “The Collateral Consequence of Having a Felony Record;” Sally Thompson, Urban Life Matters in Indianapolis, told her story of abortion, healing and forgiveness; and Cheryl Ashe addressed how the African-American marriage decline affects everyone.

Participants also had the option of seeing a film about Venerable Sister Henriette DeLille, founder of a black religious congregation. After lunch, they sang, clapped and celebrated with the West African dance company from IUSB. Then everyone formed a large circle for “Harambee,” or “Let’s pull together,” to share what they had heard and try to generate action steps for the future.

Besides general principles like listening and sharing stories, study circles were recommended.

Sixty parishioners of St. Pius X have done such circles, using “Created in God’s Image: Sin and Racism and the Call to Conversion” based on a pastoral letter and workbook created by the Green diocese. Other resources include books like Rev. Bryan N. Massingale’s Racial Justice and the Catholic Church and DVDs about several African-Americans being considered for canonization. Cheryl Ashe offered to show those films to parish groups or discuss how to help ex-offenders re-enter society.

The day concluded with Mass, led by Father Jerome Robinson from St. Rita in Indianapolis and Notre Dame’s Voices of Faith Gospel Choir.

The fifth annual Sankofa event was planned by the diocese’s Black Catholic Advisory Board. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades called those leaders together in 2012 to help the diocese more effectively meet the pastoral needs of Catholics of African descent, including evangelistic outreach, pride and unity.

Photos by Kevin Hagenjos
A diverse group of the faithful from around the greater South Bend area gathered at Saint Joseph High School Saturday, Nov. 12, for the annual black Catholic Sankofa conference. In addition to Mass and music, participants shared personal stories of faith and race and discussed both topics through the lens of current events.
A process that aims to support the U.S. Catholic Church and its faithful by encouraging, uplifting and equipping a rapidly growing member group — that of Hispanics — will be repeated in 2016-18.

According to Pew Research, Hispanics make up 42 percent of the Catholic population in the United States. Sixty percent of Catholic youths in the U.S. are Hispanic, which indicates that in the near future the face of the Catholic Church in America will be largely Hispanic. That’s why a primary outcome of the V Encuentro process is to discern pastoral practices and priorities that impact the quality of ministry among Hispanic Catholics, under the leadership of the U.S. bishops.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops explains that the “Encuentro” process — the word means “encounter” — is a two-year process of missionary activity, consultation, leadership development and pastoral discernment in parishes, dioceses and episcopal regions that culminates with a national event.

The main objective is to discern the way in which the Church in the United States responds to the Hispanic presence and, in turn, to strengthen the way in which Hispanics respond as a Church.

Encuentros have taken place several times in the past. In 1972, the first one allowed U.S. Catholic Hispanics to gain visibility and to express their needs, aspirations and contributions as baptized persons and members of the Church. The second Encuentro, in 1977, allowed participants to identify themselves as a community that is diverse, yet unified by a common faith, history, culture and language. According to the USCCB, they also discerned a way of being a Church based on the ecclesiology that Church. This vision was recorded in the National Pastoral Plan for Hispanic Ministry. The most recent Encuentro, which took place in 2000, allowed U.S. Hispanic Catholics to host and share the experience and mission of Encuentro with all the cultures and races that make up the Church in the United States.

V Encuentro, the fifth iteration of the process, will encourage U.S. Hispanic Catholics to continue their walk as God’s people and to discern pastoral priorities and strategies that are most appropriate to the present time.

“This is our time to ask: What is our role in our Church, and how do we achieve coherence? How do we participate in the New Evangelization?” summarized Enid Roman, director of Hispanic ministry for the diocese.

As with the fourth Encuentro, the first level of preparation takes place at the parish. This is where the conversations will begin, said Roman. In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend this will begin on Dec. 3, when teams of representatives from each parish with a Hispanic ministry will gather at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Warsaw. There, they will receive training in how to organize and run parish-level Encuentros in the spring for fellow Hispanics who are interested and have the potential to carry their Church forward.

On Sept. 30, these parish Encuentro groups and others from across the Midwest will gather for a regional Encuentro that takes place at the University of Notre Dame. Finally, in 2018, Encuentro groups from across the country will gather in Grapevine, Texas, for a culminating event at which the salient needs and resources identified at the local and regional level will be discussed and incorporated into a plan for the future.

“We will discuss how we see the future and, as Hispanic missionary disciples, what we’re going as a Church. What is the plan? What are the goals? A summary of this conversation will then be presented as an open letter to the U.S. bishops,” said Roman, who added that the bishops, in turn, will use the document as a blueprint for the next several years of Hispanic ministry in the U.S.

In addition to the initial Encuentro processes that will take place in parishes of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend that have Hispanic ministries, two will also be held in English; one at the cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne and the other at St. Matthew’s Cathedral in South Bend. This will allow second- and third-generation Hispanics who are dominate in English, and therefore may not attend a Hispanic parish, to participate in Encuentro as well.

“It’s time, Roman believes, for Hispanics to step up and take responsibility for their faith and the function of their Church in the new millennium.

“Our people ask everything from our priests, from our pope. But every baptized person has a responsibility to get out there and be a witness to God’s love. These sessions will ingrain in them how to be a witness; how to get out into the community and invite people back into Church. We want to be witnesses, and experienced evangelists; we want to start a reaction of love.”

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“The new chapel offers a lot more opportunity to practice our faith, pray and worship in a space that’s worthy of our prayers,” she said.

From a practical standpoint, the amount of seating has quadrupled — from 45 to 180. What’s more, its move from a small, former classroom to the front of the school makes a loud and clear statement that the school’s Catholic identity is at its forefront.

“If we look at our mission and vision, we want to help all students practice their faith and see that it’s at the center of what they do,” she said.

The larger space, known as the Chapel of Saint Francis of Assisi, was constructed in loving memory of Bishop John M. D’Arcy. At a Mass with blessing and dedication ceremony Nov. 10, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades acknowledged the significance of the name.

“This new chapel is named in honor of one of the most popular saints of the Church, Francis of Assisi. He is the patron saint of Bishop Luers High School. The art of this chapel will reflect the medieval art in Assisi and include beautiful scenes of Saint Francis’ life,” he pointed out.

Some of the most striking artwork that will be placed in the new chapel, to direct those who visit the chapel in worship, has yet to arrive and be installed. A few key pieces are in place, however, and the bishop explained the relevance of one during the Mass.

“Here in the center we see the San Damiano crucifix that spoke to Saint Francis at the beginning of his mission to renew the Church. Saint Francis is an extraordinary model of discipleship. He was a troubadour of the Lord, filled with love for Christ and the joy of the Gospel. His poverty inspires us to remember that only Christ is our true treasure. Meditating on his life of evangelical poverty, simplicity, chastity, and obedience, his love for the Church and the Eucharist, and his care of creation, can help us to live and embrace the radical truth of the Gospel. I pray that Saint Francis’ example and prayers will lead all who pray in this chapel to be faithful and committed disciples of the Lord.”

Those prayers and other forms of worship will be better accommodated now, given the chapel’s expanded footprint. First Friday Masses, Masses for entire grade levels, adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and alumni Masses are all expected to be scheduled in the new space. Retreats will also move to the chapel, giving them a more spiritual backdrop.

Albertson said already the project has been a boon to Luers. “Students are excited about the new chapel,” she said. “This is about and for them.”

Along with investments in the spiritual welfare of students, the school has demonstrated its commitment to academics. The media center and library have been updated; a new, more-flexible space accommodates reference materials and includes updated technology that will better prepare them for college and the workforce.

Following Communion, Tiffany Albertson, Bishop Luers High School principal, thanks Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, donors to the school’s new Chapel of Saint Francis of Assisi and others in attendance for their support of the endeavor to create a more beautiful worship space.
St. Francis of Assisi, pray for us...

Members of the choir of Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, lead hymns of praise during a Mass with dedication of the altar in the school’s new Chapel of Saint Francis of Assisi.

Alumni of Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, many of whom contributed to the construction of the school’s new chapel, were in attendance at the Mass on Thursday, Nov. 10.

Josephine Serrani, a sophomore at Bishop Luers High School, presents the gifts to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

Bishop Rhoades replaces a portion of the altar after installing a relic of St. Francis Xavier during a Mass with dedication of the altar at the new Chapel of Saint Francis of Assisi, Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne on Thursday, Nov. 10.

Josephine Serrani, a sophomore at Bishop Luers High School, presents the gifts to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

This relic of St. Francis Xavier was placed in the Bishop Luers High School Chapel of St. Francis of Assisi altar by Bishop Rhoades, during the Mass.
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades was the keynote speakers at the Strengthening Marriage and the Family: Building a Christ-Centered Home conference on Saturday, Nov. 12, at Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne. The Fort Wayne Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend sponsored the joint conference.

Fred Everett, co-director of the Office of Family Life in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, introduced Bishop Rhoades's talk, titled “Building Marriage and Family on Solid Rock: Christ, Faith, and Love.” Bishop Rhoades began by saying that he was grateful for the collaboration between the diocese and the LDS Church. He also said that the topic of marriage is a “paramount of importance” and that the Western world is seeing marriage and family in a crisis. However, he added, the crisis is not just because of the recent redefinition of marriage.

The family is “the primary cell of society,” and things such as materialism, relativism and secularization weaken it, he said. The most impactful weakening is secularization, or “diminishment of faith,” and absence of religion in a family can make it harder to sacrifice one’s self. With materialism, idols such as power, money, comfort and pleasure are used for the self and not for the family, which could cause corruption in a marriage.

He added that it’s difficult to focus on strengthening the family if the difficulties aren’t first discussed. He encouraged both the Catholic Church and the LDS Church look to God’s design for marriage, and family plans created by Him in order to love. He explained that with faith and trust in God, a married couple sets out on God’s path for them without knowing the joys, burdens and plans that may come their way.

Bishop Rhoades then discussed faith in marriage and family life. “Love must be built on solid rock,” he said. Love is more than just feelings, however, and that the rock of true love comes from God. Without love built on solid rock, the foundation of marriage and family collapses.

Marriage is an everyday task that requires the couple to say, “I do” every day to the vows they took at their wedding, he said. He recalled Pope Francis’s three “magic phrases” for love: The first is “May I,” which focuses on being a polite request to enter into one’s life with respect and care; the second is “Thank you,” which is necessary to keep alive the awareness that the person — whether a spouse, child, or parent — is a gift from God. The third is “I’m sorry,” which focuses on acknowledging our mistakes and apologizing for them instead of accusing someone else of our own wrongdoing.

Bishop Rhoades led into discussing the importance of developing a relationship with God through cultivating a prayer life individually as well as in the family. The common phrase, “The family who prays together stays together,” was mentioned in relation with cultivating a family prayer life. In addition, he said that at weddings he tells couples not to let a day go by without praying for their spouse.

All families have their struggles, he said, but he is convinced that a Christ-centered family turns to the Lord in mercy and perseveres in faith and love because “nothing can separate us from the love of God.”

The conference also consisted of speakers and breakout sessions from members of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and the Fort Wayne Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. The topics included a vision of strong marriage, conflict resolution, the relationship between husband and wife, the family, parenting, teaching teens about sexuality and the Gospel in the home.

BY SARAH DUSTMAN

Max and Donna Pace listen to Jason Cook discuss “Being Married and One: Facing Challenges, Overcoming Hopelessness, Finding Joy” during the Strengthening Marriage and the Family conference at Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne on Saturday, Nov. 12.

Lindsay and Joseph Platt listen to Bishop Rhoades discuss the role of faith in the ongoing success of a marriage. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades delivers the keynote speech at the Catholic and LDS conference at Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne on Saturday, Nov. 12.
BY BONNIE ELEBOM

A pictorial exhibit of 44 historic images depicting stirring scenes as well as quiet, intimate moments during papal visits to the Holy Land from 1964 to 2014 will soon be on display at the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne’s Rothschild Center. The visits were made by some of the most well-traveled popes in history: Blessed Pope Paul VI, St. Pope John Paul II, Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI and Pope Francis.

Jointly sponsored by Aviv Ezra, consul general of Israel to the Midwest, and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, the exhibit is designed to engage the broader community and illustrate the positive interreligious dialogue between Catholics and Jews. The diocese’s co-sponsorship is an expression of support for the exhibit, noted Bishop Rhoades. Executive director of the Jewish Federation, Jaki Schrier, called it “the Jewish community’s early Christmas gift to the Catholic community.”

Titled “The Popes’ Visits to the Holy Land: Building Bridges of Faith,” the photographs displayed feature papal visits to nearly a dozen Holy Land sites, including the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, traditionally held to be the site of the Last Supper; and the Western Wall. “I am deeply grateful to the Jewish Federation of Fort Wayne for co-sponsoring the exhibit of the historic visits of our recent Popes to the Holy Land. I am looking forward to seeing the exhibit and encourage the Catholics of our diocese to join our Jewish brothers and sisters in visiting the exhibit,” said Bishop Rhoades, who also shared a personal note. “I recall with particular clarity watching the visit of Pope Saint John Paul II during the Jubilee Year 2000. It was riveting to watch the frail John Paul, who lived through the terror of the Holocaust in Poland and lost many Jewish friends in that Nazi evil, pray at the eternal flame at Yad Vashem. After silent prayer, he shared that he had come to Yad Vashem ‘to pay homage to the millions of Jewish people who, stripped of everything, especially of their human dignity, were murdered in the Holocaust.’ He said that he wished to remember ‘for a purpose, namely, to ensure that never again will evil prevail, as it did for the millions of innocent victims of Nazism.’ The Holy Father then, as he had so often in his pontificate, condemned any forms of anti-Semitism. The pope then walked slowly and painfully to greet seven Holocaust survivors and took each one by the hand, a sincere and moving gesture of profound respect and love.”

He continued: “Also on that visit to Israel, Pope John Paul II prayed at the Western Wall, the holiest site of Judaism. There he did what so many pious Jews have done through the centuries: he left a prayer-petition in one of the wall’s crevices. I look forward to seeing the photographs of this visit and of the visits of other Popes, visual reminders of the mutual respect, closeness and solidarity we are called to have in our relationship as Jews and Christians, as sons and daughters of God.”

The public is welcome to view the archival images at the Rifkin Campus, 5200 Old Mill Road, Fort Wayne. The exhibition opens Mon., Dec. 5, and will remain through Thursday, Dec. 15. A special introductory program, also open to the public, will take place Mon., Dec. 5, at 7 p.m. Special guests for the event will be Bishop Rhoades; University of Saint Francis President Sister Elise Kriss, OSF; U.S. Senator Joe Donnelly; and Itai Milner, deputy consul general of Israel to the Midwest. Each will briefly welcome those in attendance.

The keynote speaker for the evening will be Rabbi Yehiel Poupko, Rabbinic scholar at the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago. His topic will be the advancement of Roman Catholic Church relations with the Jewish people under the stewardship of St. Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis. A celebratory reception and refreshments will follow the evening’s program.

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Among the images taken during visits to the Holy Land of Israel by Catholic popes is one of St. Pope John Paul II, at the top of the page, and Pope Francis, seen here. Many of the images will be on display in Fort Wayne Dec. 5-15, in an exhibit titled “The Popes’ Visits to the Holy Land: Building Bridges of Faith.”

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Exhibit of papal visits to the Holy Land to open in Fort Wayne
Three lessons for young Catholics

Last week, I had the privilege of speaking to several thousand high school students from the Catholic schools of the Los Angeles Archdiocese. They were gathered at the University of Southern California, and the atmosphere was electric. There was a good deal of upbeat music and games, but when Archbishop Gomez processed into the arena ad nauseam. But pre

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 Three lessons for young Catholics pin drop. There is just something Gomez processed into the arena in California, and the atmosphere in the Archdiocese. They were gathered in schools of the Los Angeles school students from the Catholic about this great mission.

What ensued could be compared to a Beatles concert circa 1964. What I said, “I want you to remember to a Beatles concert circa 1964. What ensued could be compared to a Beatles concert circa 1964. What I said, “I want you to remember the crowd. My first move was to ask all of the young people to run an emptying game rather than a filling game. The secular game, instead, should be counter-cultural. It has always appeared as mediocrity! Quite appropriately, we think of it at all, to give it a religious endowment. We worship the crucified Jesus, someone who stood so thoroughly antagonistic to all that is natural and loyal friends and stability helps us recognize the gift that helps us see how much we can ever

Rethinking Thanksgiving after the Year of Mercy

This year, Thanksgiving week starts right after the formal conclusion of the Extraordinary Year of Mercy. How do we incorporate what we have gained from the prayers, talks, readings and reflections that took part in during the year to shape the way we think about and celebrate Thanksgiving? So much of our Thanksgiving pivots around what fills us with satisfaction and a sense of suf- ficiency. Like most people, my gratitude is tightly wrapped around all the good things or blessings in my life.

Elements of this long litany include the love and bond and sons, the good health of my immediate family, success in various engagements, fun and loyal friends and stability that insulates us from the eco- nomic travails that many oth- ers face. It is only natural and appropriate to give thanks for all the things that go well in our lives, may these be work, health, finance or relationships.

The Year of Mercy called us also to be mindful of those things that don’t go so well in our lives. We all, in different ways and to different degrees, wander away from the king- dom like the prodigal son who departed to the far country, straying from the family of God, depending on our own devices, abandoning virtuous habits and indulging in empty pleasures. The Year of Mercy shone a light on things that far exceed our flaws and willful

Christ the King is our conduit to salvation

The Second Book of Samuel furnishes the first biblical reading for this feast, marking the close of the Church’s year. Once, Samuel was a single book. In time, editors divided the volume into the two books now seen in Bibles. These books record major events of the reign of King David in Israel, which was from 1004 to 971 B.C. Scholars classify it as a history book in the Old Testament.

In this weekend’s reading, David becomes the king of Israel. He was more than a governmen- tal authority or political figure. His task as king was to strengthen

en the union between God and the people. He was God’s instru- ment, not in a plan to control people. After all, people had free wills allowing them to choose the course of their actions. Rather, David was God’s gift to the people to bring them more closely to Him. David assisted in bringing them to prosperity, peace and life.

For a second reading, the Church presents a passage from the Epistle to the Colossians. This epistle was written to the Christian converts in the Roman Empire.

It clearly says that Jesus is the absolute key one of creation. Through Jesus, all people possess the hope of eternal salvation. Through Jesus, Christians share in the very life of God.

Magnificent in its imagery, this reading acclaims Jesus as the “image of the invisible God.” St. John, who wrote the last reading, it is a passage from Luke’s powerful Passion narra- tive that recounts the trial and execution of Jesus.

Americans never can under- stand monarchies, burdened as they are by grade-school lessons about Britain’s overbearing King George III at the time of our Revolution. In modern monar- chies, ideally, the king or queen embodies the highest national values.

Most associate Queen Elizabeth II with the United Kingdom. Actually, she is a mon- arch, and head of state, of 15 totally independent nations, Australia among them. Over her reign, Elizabeth II visited Australia, in a trip that was bittersweet. Given her age, some said that she would not come again.

George is queen of Australia, his country, the prime minister said that Australians have always cher- ished democracy as the enable- ment of the innate dignity of every person, justice for all, com- passion for the poor, and even peace among peoples; and they hope for the future believing in the human ability to rise above evil and fear.

Seeing in these values the path to what is good and godly, Australians drew a constitu- tion to embody these values. Many have died for these values in wars against tyranny. Australians live for these values.

“Your Majesty,” he then said, “You are one of us. Christ the King is one of us. He identifies the greatest of values and shows us the way to achieve them.

Christ the King is our conduit to salvation

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

Feast of Christ the King

Lk 23:35-43

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READINGS

Sunday: 2 Sm 5:1-3 Ps 122:1-5

Col 1:12-20

The Gospel

Bishop Robert Barron

Rethinking Thanksgiving after the Year of Mercy

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Catholicism embodied: ‘The Pivotal Players’

Looking for some uplift after this tawdry election cycle? Some inspiration for what lies ahead? A good way to enrich Advent? Examples of sanctity to help you be the missionary disciple you were baptized to? Then let me recommend Bishop Robert Barron’s new DVD series, “Catholicism: The Pivotal Players.”

“Pivotal Players” is a follow-up to Bishop Barron’s immensely successful, 10-part mega-series, “Catholicism,” the most compelling presentation of the symphony of Catholic truth ever created for modern media. Key figures in Catholic history are gathered throughout the original series to illustrate this truth of the faith or that facet of the Catholic experience. Now, with “Pivotal Players,” six of the most striking religious personalities in Catholic history take center stage, the adventure of their lives serving to deepen our understanding of the “faith once delivered to the saints” (Jude 1:3).

The six are Francis of Assisi, Catherine of Siena, Thomas Aquinas, John Henry Newman, G.K. Chesterton and Michelangelo Buonarroti: the reformer, the mystic, the theologian, the convert, the evangelist and the artist. Two are doctors of the Church — and a third may be one day. Several of them inspired successors of St. Peter, another two may go off in no uncertain terms. Two were Englishmen and converts from Anglicanism: one, will-o’-the-wisp slight and the other gargantuan; one the quintessential Oxford don, the other, the quintessential Anglo-eccentric genius. One grew up a wannabe knight errant before his abrupt turn into radical evangelicalism. Still another was arguably the greatest genius in human history, his extraordinary talents ranging across sculpture, painting, architecture, poetry and other fields. Four were Italians (if you’ll permit the anachronism for an Umbrian, a Siennese, a sort-of Neapolitan, and a devout Florentine). Each of them was the human analogue to what astrophysicists call a “singularity” — someone to whom the old rules of spiritual gravitation didn’t apply.

And they shared something else in common in the fervor of their passionate intensity of their Catholic faith: Each lived at a time of crisis for the Church, and each helped the Church address that crisis creatively while remaining true to itself.

Francis of Assisi and Catherine of Siena lived at a time when the institutional Catholicism had become complacent, losing its evangelical edge. By creating something utterly new in Catholic life — the mendicant religious orders dedicated to evangelization — Francis inspired in the Church a new Gospel radicalism centered on the joyful experience of salvation. By persuading (perhaps better, shamming) Pope Gregory XI to return to Rome from his political exile in Avignon, Catherine of Siena made it possible for the papacy to be again the center of unity for the entire Catholic world, as Christ intended it to be.

Thomas Aquinas, for his part, crafted the “new learning” of Aristotle into Catholic theology in a creative synthesis that gave the Church conceptual tools for the future. When skepticism has often hardened into cynicism, or just plain boredom.

There are important things to be learned from each of these God-touched human personalities for the challenges Catholicism faces in the post-modern world of the 21st century. Rudio to Bishop Barron for bringing those things to our attention in a gripping way.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

BARRON

Continued from Page 14

the young people, think again. The 20th century had more who witnessed to the faith with their lives than all of the previous centuries combined. We Christians are a rebellious lot — and this should appeal to the idealism

WOO

Continued from Page 14

expect or think we deserve: God raises us to be heirs when we, like the prodigal son, would settle for being servants. For me, one change this Thanksgiving will lie in what I give thanks for. Of course, we should thank God for our good

other fields. Four were Italians (if you’ll permit the anachronism for an Umbrian, a Siennese, a sort-of Neapolitan, and a devout Florentine). Each of them was the human analogue to what astrophysicists call a “singularity” — someone to whom the old rules of spiritual gravitation didn’t apply.

And they shared something else in common in the fervor of their passionate intensity of their Catholic faith: Each lived at a time of crisis for the Church, and each helped the Church address that crisis creatively while remaining true to itself.

Francis of Assisi and Catherine of Siena lived at a time when the institutional Catholicism had become complacent, losing its evangelical edge. By creating something utterly new in Catholic life — the mendicant religious orders dedicated to evangelization — Francis inspired in the Church a new Gospel radicalism centered on the joyful experience of salvation. By persuading (perhaps better, shamming) Pope Gregory XI to return to Rome from his political exile in Avignon, Catherine of Siena made it possible for the papacy to be again the center of unity for the entire Catholic world, as Christ intended it to be.

Thomas Aquinas, for his part, crafted the “new learning” of Aristotle into Catholic theology in a creative synthesis that gave the Church conceptual tools for the future. When skepticism has often hardened into cynicism, or just plain boredom.

There are important things to be learned from each of these God-touched human personalities for the challenges Catholicism faces in the post-modern world of the 21st century. Rudio to Bishop Barron for bringing those things to our attention in a gripping way.

George Weigel is Distinguished Senior Fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.
Success breeds confidence for Bishop Dwenger Saints

BY ANDREW MENTOCK

Bishop Dwenger plays in the Summit Athletic Conference — one of the tougher high school conferences in the state of Indiana — so the Saints have their work cut out for them. However, with a long history of success, Bishop Dwenger athletes are confident that they’ll continue their winning ways, no matter how good their competition this season is.

Boys’ basketball

Bishop Dwenger’s basketball team, coached by Matt Kostoff, finished 11-13 last season, but is poised to have a winning record this season. The team has two returning starters: Campbell Donovan, a 6-foot senior guard who averaged 14 points per game last year, and Conlan Martin, another 6-foot senior guard, who averaged nine points per game. Several other players returned from last year’s team as well. Success will depend on development of the large players.

Coach Mike Bauer. Depth will be a key factor for us. We will grow throughout the year are wrestling, so team defense will be important, so team defense will be a key factor for us. We will grow throughout the year and hope to win all of their meets this season: senior Amy Wellbaker, and juniors Sophia Wright-Turflinger and Ellen Cornwell.

Gymnastics

Bishop Dwenger gymnastics is one of the most successful programs in Northern Indiana, having won five state championships since 1995. Their most recent state championship is from 2012. After finishing second in state last season, the team is looking to continue that history of success.

Team members are excited about the season and about the fact that they completed last year — which will help them with some of the younger gymnasts coming in. They will return three players who placed at state last season: senior Amy Wellbaker, and juniors Sophia Wright-Turflinger and Ellen Cornwell.

Boys’ and girls’ swimming and diving

Sarah Keys is very excited to begin her second season coaching the Saints swimmers. They have a new assistant coach, Sarah Rinaldi, and Theresa Rinaldi returns as the diving coach. Both teams performed well in conference last season, with the boys finishing first and the girls finishing second. Both have increased the number of students participating, which will help them build on their success.

Captains for the girls’ team are seniors Natalie Yehle and Lizzy Dolan and captains for the boys’ team are Josh Dickel and Spencer Frain.

Standout swimmers for the girls are senior Natalie Yehle, who just committed to swim at Youngstown State University next year (100 fly, 200 individual medley); All-SAC junior Sydney Trahan (100 backstroke, 500 Free), recipient of All-SAC last season; freshman Laura Wright (100 breaststroke); and senior Grace Garret (diver). I fully expect the girls’ team to win all of their meets this season,” said Keys. “We have a tremendous amount of depth in all events, and our seniors are determined to end the season with a winning season. Our primary goal is to win the SAC meet.”

For the boys’ team, standout swimmers include senior Josh Dickel (100 breast); sophomore Andrew Smith (100, 200, 500 freestyle, 200 individual medley), recipient of All-SAC award last year; senior Jackson Heaton (200 fre, 100 backstroke, 200 medley relay); and senior Spencer Frain, (diver).

Wrestling

Coach John Tone and the Saints return 10 out of 14 start-ers from a team that was SAS co-champions last year. “We are pretty high on this year’s team,” said Tone. “We have a lot of guys returning, so I expect us to do really well.”

Two of the Saints’ returning players competed in semi-state last season. They are junior Josh Smith, who wrestled at 106 pounds, and senior Stephen Nix, who wrestled at 182 pounds. The team went 8-10 last season in dual meets, but many of the team’s events this season are larger tournaments, which is not the team’s forte.

“They wrestle hard and get after it,” said Tone. “Every point matters to them. They know it takes a team to win, and that’s why they do pretty well.”

Saint Joseph Indians to develop young teams

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Warm fall weather created a fantastic start to the winter sports season for Saint Joseph High School. The Indians had a great fall sports season and are optimistic for a strong winter debut.

Boys’ basketball

“We graduated all five starters, so experience will be a key factor for us. We will grow throughout the season and hope-fully be peaking performance wise come playoffs,” said Head Coach Mike Bauer. Depth will be strength for the team.

“We could go as far as 12 deep. Our practices should be very competitive, so hopefully skill level will go up as the year progresses,” he added.

Felt that the team needs to get some experience for a lot of the players who have zero varsity play time, as an area in which the team needs work. “Our goal is always the same — get better every day and win sectional,” said Bauer.

Girls’ basketball

The Saint Joe Lady Indians basketball team greeted a new head coach this season with the hiring of 2007 alumini Sydney Smallbone.

“This season we have a very tough schedule lined up. We have our NLC games, as well as several tough nonconference matchups. This should challenge us and hopefully prepare us for the postseason,” said Smallbone.

“It’s hard to predict how the regular season will turn out. We will need to come focused and ready to play every game. We are looking to learn as the regular season progresses, and we plan on taking the postsea-son one game at a time,” stated Smallbone.

The team’s strengths is a veteran varsity team this year. Their experience and knowledge are the biggest strength this season. According to Smallbone, leadership is an area the team will need to improve, but she is looking to have the upperclass-man step up and take ownership of the season. The goal? To win state.

Wrestling

According to Head Coach Dan Luther, this year’s team is a younger team with only two seniors. However, they do return two former semi-state qualifiers along with a couple regional qualifiers, so some wrestlers have high expectations for them-selves.

“Our team’s strengths are their willingness to learn and to work hard. We have a group that we put through some of the toughest practices around, and they come back every day ready to work. We hope that we can make up for our inexperience with hard work,” noted Luther.

The areas they need to work on throughout the year are wrestling smarter and not making mistakes that potentially cost the team matches. Luther said this is common with inexperienced teams, and they are going to need some young guys to step up and grow up, wrestling-wise, during the season.

Our goal is simply to get better every day and compete. If we have the mindset that we are going to leave it all on the mat no matter who we wrestle, we will get better and the team will see some success. And we have some individuals who have set their sights on making it to state, a goal that we all strive to reach every year,” said Luther.

Hockey

“We have a fairly young team with only four seniors,” said hockey Head Coach Chris Kleva. “However, I’m expecting us to compete hard and be in every game. The Michiana High School Hockey League will be very competitive again this year, and I believe Saint Joe will be a contender.”

The Saint Joseph High School team has good depth. They don’t have any superstars, but they do have a lot of very good hockey players who want to compete. Playing together as a team, moving the puck and continued development will be keys to a successful season.

“With any team I’ve ever coached, we can always be bet-ter skaters. Skating is the most important skill of any player. If you can’t skate, it’s tough to do all the other things — passing, shooting, transitions etc. We work on our skating technique every practice,” said Kleva, of areas the team will work on. “Our defensive play is another focal point. We have a young defensive crew and young goal-tending, so team defense will be stressed.”

The goal every season is to win the league championship, the city tournament and then a state title. Beyond that, Kleva said, it’s about playing together as a team, competing hard, learning how to win and how to lose (as a team) and, most importantly, having fun.
**TODAY’S CATHOLIC**

**Bishop Luers winter athletes are ‘ready to shine’**

By Ron Busch

**Boys’ basketball**

The Bishop Luers Knights boys’ basketball team returns to action with six seniors. Among that group, Anton Berry, JJ Foster and Ray Walker are receiving interest from coaches at the college level. Sophomore Sydney Curry, after a good freshman year, is increasingly mature and focused and is expected to shoul-
der a larger load this season. Also returning are Alex Nahr, Blane Cook and Jason Davis. This group has finished no lower than the upper half of the conference their first two years, and they were fourth last year. Each of those three years, they exceeded all expectations. The last two years, they came close to winning sectional championships. This year’s team continues the tradition of talent, and much will depend on the young men supporting those six seniors. The Knights’ coaching staff believes that if this team “can feed off” their past disappointments and utilize their talents and experience, they will have a fun and competitive season.

**Girls’ basketball**

Last year the girls’ basketball team had a very respectable season both in out of conference games as well as within the SAC. Improving upon a few key points will go a long way toward getting over the hump and finishing at the top of the conference. Head girls’ varsity basketball coach Mark Plesky returns a team that went 14-10 overall and finished second in the SAC conference last year, with a 7-2 record. Key returning play-
ers are Katrina Knape and Taylor Bradley. Last year Knape averaged seven points per game, along with six rebounds. Mentoring teammate Taylor Bradley con-
tributed seven points per game and seven rebounds.

Anaya Johnson, Sha Biglands and Lydia Reimbold are the guards taking over for last year’s graduating seniors. Coach Plesky stated that the 2016-17 edition of the Bishop Luers team “will be a young team, but the goal will be to get every game.” They want to be “ready for the sectionals so our players can play the best basket-
ball of the season.”

**Swimming and diving**

Swimming and diving season is underway. Coaches include Tricia Koob and assistant Pam Lunsford. The team graduated 11 seniors last year, but this year’s team has three seniors — Fabiana Cotton, AJ Gill and Olivia Koob — who Coach Tricia Koob expects to have key leadership roles. Those student-
athletes are Fabiana Cotton, AJ Gill and Olivia Koob.

Last year’s team turned in great performances at the SAC meet, from both boys and girls. AJ Gill, Brock Lombardo and Alex Maldeyne were ALL-SAC. Building on last year’s successes, there’s an expectation of strong SAC finish for the boys and a fourth place or higher finish for the girls. Coach Koob stated that “both AJ and Brock are capable of making a run at being All-SAC again this year, and freshmen Jack Gill and Madeline Pape are hopeful for that honor as well. These freshmen will be difference-makers for our team. They want it, and they’ve proven that they can win with a few first-place finishes,” she pointed out. “We need the depth to be able to score with two or three swimmers in each event. That’s a challenge for a small team.”

**Wrestling**

Wrestling is a winter sport that sometimes takes a back seat in popularity, but there’s no reason for that to happen this year at Bishop Luers. Head Coach Rod Bolden has a capable team, returning seven of last year’s starters and adding five new faces to the mix. Returning are seniors Luke Fisher, Gage Malot and De’Vion Swain. As region qualifiers last year, the five other individuals are eager to advance further, to the state tournament: Gage Malot, Luke Fisher, Ben Frecker, Mitch Traft and Chad Withrow.

With the regional experience, Malot and Fisher will shoulder a leadership role. In addition, Fisher was an alternate at semi-state; Woeker qualified for semi-state and was an alternate for the state championship. These returning wrestlers look to build on their previous success. Coach Bolden wants it known that “we also have a good group of young wrest-
ers working hard to have suc-
cess of their own.” It’s an eager group; these Knights are anxious to prove themselves this season both locally and at the state level.

**Marian Knights look to repeat past accomplishments**

By Andrew Mentock

Marian High School coaches and athletes are getting ready for another exciting winter sports season. Many of the teams are young, but they are also full of talent. Teams such as basketball are looking to continue their domi-
nance, while other programs hope to show that they are one of the top teams in the Northern Indiana Conference.

**Boys’ basketball**

Bishop Luers winter athletes are ‘ready to shine’

Boys’ basketball

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**Gymnastics**

Bishop Luers, though lacking in required equipment, does have two sophomores participating in gymnastics for the school. Stephanie Lee and Isabelle Scofield started making waves last year as freshmen, when they competed in the All-Around as varsity gymnasts.

Because of the team’s size, the Bishop Luers gymnastics team has joined forces with the Bishop Dwenger gymnastics team. Lee and Scofield will again compete in the All-Around on varsity this year, and they are looking forward to another great season representing the Knights. The first meet is November 20, and Bishop Dwenger will be one against a talented Dekalb team. Although small in number, the team members say they are “big in heart,” and hope their year-round training pays off in a successful season.
Annual Bishop’s Trophy battle

Nick Gray, right, representing Redeemer Radio, presented the Bishop’s Trophy to the Bishop Dwenger football team captains during morning announcements on Oct. 25. Bishop Dwenger won, 14-7, against Bishop Luers on Friday, Sept. 30. The team captains are, from left, Amaun Clark, Blake Podsclhne and Frank Yanko.

Students read original works at La Casa de Amistad

Saint Joseph High School Spanish 2 Heritage students took an educational field trip to La Casa de Amistad, South Bend, recently to read their original works to children in the Yo Puedo Leer program. The high school students first read different simple texts in Spanish, analyzed them, then studied the different elements of Spanish-language children’s stories and how they are different from other simple texts. To complete the project, they created their own children’s stories, then shared them.
Columbia City
Robert E. Wiemken, 77,
St. Paul of the Cross

Churubusco
Sharon E. Strater, 65,
St. John Bosco

Decatur
Penny Bressler, 47,
St. Mary of the Assumption

Fort Wayne
Mary J. (Dahm) Binnis,
65, St. Vincent de Paul

Rest in Peace

Plymouth
Richard Paul Costello,
78, St. Michael

South Bend
John R. Jurek, Sr., 84,
Holy Cross

Jane A. Tobey Pica,
79, St. Therese, Little Flower

William A. Ryan, 78,
St. John the Baptist

George J. Deinart, 82,
St. Bavo

Roger L. Young, 81,
St. Jude

Waterloo
Gerald M. McNerney,
72, St. Michael the Archangel

Yoder
George Parrott, 88,
St. Alloysius

Submit obituaries to mweber@diocesefwsb.org

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Giving thanks this holiday season.

As you celebrate the season with family and friends, may your memories and the simple joys of giving fill your home with warmth and your heart with joy. Happy Thanksgiving from your local Dignity Memorial® professionals.

Volunteer opportunities at soup kitchen
SOUTH BEND — The St. Augustine Parish soup kitchen is looking for volunteers. The soup kitchen is open each Monday, Wednesday and Friday (except holidays) from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Volunteer hours run from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Work on a regular basis, or in a substitute capacity. For information call Peter Smith at 574-532-5720.

Cupertino Classic scheduled
FORT WAYNE — The third annual Cupertino Classic will be Tuesday, Dec. 27, at Bishop Luers High School, 333 E. Paulding Rd., at 6:30 p.m. The friendly basketball competition between priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is family friendly and admission is free. More information will be posted on the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/CupertinoClassic.

Ham and turkey dinner
NEW HAVEN — The St. Louis Besancon ham and turkey dinner fundraiser will be Sunday, Nov. 20, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the parish hall. Tickets are $9 for adults, $5 for children 5-12, and children under 4 eat for free. Various raffles, the Country Craft Store and a silent auction with items and services donated by over 45 local businesses and supporters will be offered.

Fall Knight out
FORT WAYNE — St. John the Baptist Parish will have Fall Knight Out featuring music of the Tommy Saul Trio on Saturday, Nov. 26, from 7-10 p.m. in the PAC. Big screen sports, corn hole games, music and dancing, beer and wine, a cigar tent and chili and dogs. Tickets are $10 and include a bowl of chili, a hot dog and adult beverage. Additional food and beverages are $2 each. Proceeds benefit the parish and the new Bishop John M. D’Arcy council of the Knights of Columbus. Contact John Shank at 260-341-4429. Must be 21 or older.

Win a Thanksgiving turkey
FORT WAYNE — St. Vincent de Paul Parish Church, 1502 E. Wallen Rd., will host Knights of Columbus Turkey Bingo on Sunday, Nov. 20, in the parish hall, door No. 9 at 5 p.m. Calling starts at 6 p.m. Cash prizes, snack bar must be over 18 to play.

Turkey Trot raffle planned
FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Luers High School Turkey Trot will be Sunday, Nov. 20, at Columbia Street West from 6-10:30 p.m. Presale tickets are $20 or $30 at the door. Music by Actual Size. Individual sponsorships are available. For tickets and information contact Mike Gigli at 260-672-2473.

Advent Lessons and Carols
FORT WAYNE — Begin the Advent season with John Angotti for “Advent Lessons and Carols: A Journey to Christmas via Music and Scripture” on Wednesday, Nov. 30 at 6:30 p.m. in St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1502 E. Wallen Rd.

The Little Mermaid Jr. performed
FORT WAYNE — The St. Vincent Drama Club is proud to present Disney’s “The Little Mermaid Jr.” on Saturday, Nov. 19 in the parish hall, 1502 E. Wallen Rd. at 2 and 7 p.m. General admission $5, children 3 and under free.

Friendsgiving tailgate
FORT WAYNE — St. Vincent de Paul Parish invites young adults to the 2016 Young Adult Friendsgiving Tailgate on Saturday, Nov. 19, from 3:30-8 p.m. at the Life Center. See old friends and make new ones at this family-child friendly event. Notre Dame vs. Virginia Tech game will be on the big screen, as well as activities for the little ones and a corn hole competition for the adults. Sign up to bring your favorite Thanksgiving or tailgate dish to share. More details at www.saintmv.org.

Corpus Christi Fall bazaar
SOUTH BEND — Corpus Christi Parish will have a holiday bazaar Saturday, Nov. 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Over 50 quality handmade craft vendors, Altar and Rosary Society raffle and lunch to fund eighth-grade class trip.

Bazaar planned
CHURUBUSCO — “Not Your Grandma’s Bazaar,” hosted by the Rosary Society of St. John Bosco Parish, 216 N. Main St., will be Friday, Nov. 18, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Baked goods, handmade crafts, hand rolled noodles and a raffle with a chance to win a handmade quilt and other prizes.

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Priests preserve black Catholic history at Notre Dame

November is Black Catholic History Month in the United States and Brazil. This observance was established in 1990 by the National Black Catholic Clergy Caucus. On Oct. 24, a delegation of black priests entrusted the Theodore Hesburgh Library with its historical documents for the purpose of preservation and study. The delegation membership included Father Kenneth Taylor, president of NBCCC; Father Clarence Williams, CPPS, vice president and archivist; Father Theodore Parker; and Deacon Melvin Tardy.

The three priests were nostalgic about bringing the documentation to Notre Dame because of their personal histories with the university. "It is hard to believe that we were here as seminarians in 1970, and began the National Black Catholic Seminarians Association. And now we return almost 50 years later as priests. Things have come full circle," said Father Parker, of the Archdiocese of Detroit and a former member of the Coordinating Committee of NBCSA.

At the first meeting at Notre Dame, 70 black seminarians from across the country attended. They were the guests of the National Black Sisters Conference that had formed two years earlier.

Father Taylor was also present in 1970 and shared the amazing realization of returning these historical documents to a place that was instrumental in building the Black Catholic movement in its infancy. He pointed out the context of handing over of the documents at this time.

"November, as Black Catholic History Month, is a project of the Black Catholic clergy, so this is a perfect time to accept the invitation to place our chronicle with the Notre Dame archives on the American Catholic Heritage," he said.

This visit to Notre Dame University is one step towards a greater appreciation of the Black Catholic movement to be explored in 2018. Father Williams is the chairman of the NBCCC 50th anniversary committee: he said, "We are putting things in place as we approach in less than 10 months the 50th anniversary of our Black Catholic movement which began with the clergy leading it. The priests met with the National Interracial Justice Conference the week after the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in Detroit, Mich. — these priests asked that those Negro priests present could gather as a caucus to share their feeling and thoughts of the Negro mood. The result of their meetings was a statement on the racism of the Catholic Church and the formation of a national organization, NBCCC. The rest is history."

The NBCCC has a standing committee to review documents and articles that will continue to build this Black Catholic collection. Father Taylor stated, "We are open to the contribution of others who wish to preserve our Black Catholic History and invite their participation. In a special way, we dedicate our efforts in the memory of Father Cyprian Davis, OSB, who recently died. He (encouraged) us (to) be examples, to value the contribution of our unique Catholic journey. He was the keeper of the archives, and now that he is no longer here to protect and preserve, we must take up that responsibility."

Father Williams challenges the leaders to participate in the 50th anniversary of the Black Catholic movement this year. "We hope that Black Catholic leaders during this Black Catholic History month will go from their attic to their basement to discover and recover the various important documents, articles, photos and objects that tell our story, how we have come this far by faith," he said.

Those wishing to contribute to the historical collection can find information on how to proceed on the NBCCC website, www.nationalblackcatholicclergycaucus.org.