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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Volume 91 No.2

50¢

TODAYSCATHOLICNEWS.org

## Bishop Luers High School celebrates the Baptism of the Lord



Mollie Shutt

From left, Sergio Davila, Carlos Alvizures, Leticia Cruz, Jimena Lopez, Courtney Scott and Liseth Nino stand with Bishop Rhoades after being confirmed.

BY PATRICK MURPHY

FORT WAYNE — Monday, Jan. 9, the feast of the Baptism of the Lord and the last day of the Christmas season, was a special day at Bishop Luers High School,

Fort Wayne, as Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades made his annual pastoral visit there. The day began with Mass in the school gymnasium, celebrated by Bishop Rhoades and concelebrated by school chaplain Father Ben Muhlenkamp. During Mass, the bishop confirmed six

students of the school, one of whom also received his first Holy Communion.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades reflected on the meaning of Jesus' baptism in the Jordan River. He reflected on the important meaning of the Jordan River for the

Jewish people, recounting several Old Testament events that took place there. The bishop highlighted the crossing of the Jordan River by the Israelites at the end

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## Local March for Life calendar

BY MOLLY GETTINGER

On Jan 22, 1973, the Supreme Court made abortion legal and accessible in all 50 states in the infamous decisions Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton. Since then, the slaughter of innocent infants has been available on-demand, and more than 58 million unborn children have been victims of abortion.

Beginning in 1974, the year following the decisions, peaceful protests began to be held in Washington, D.C. and across the country to speak up for the lives of those who are unable to speak for themselves.

Again this year, a number of events will take place in protest of abortion and in support of life.

### Washington, D.C.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will send 352 participants on a pilgrimage to the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. Groups are also traveling from area colleges and universities, as well as from many of the religious orders in the diocese. Hundreds of thousands of protesters are also expected to be in attendance.

The national March for Life will take place on Friday, Jan. 27, on the National Mall, concluding at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Although the diocese's eight buses are full, everyone is invited to join them in prayer while viewing the march on EWTN or online at [www.ewtn.com/prolife](http://www.ewtn.com/prolife).

### South Bend

St. Joseph County Right to Life has organized a rally and march in downtown South Bend on Friday, Jan. 27, from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. The rally will begin at the Knights of Columbus "Hall at 553" and will consist of prayer and testimonies from leaders in the pro-life community. The march will travel just over half a mile, to the federal courthouse on the corner of Main and Jefferson streets in downtown South Bend,

where there will be a demonstration until 1 p.m.

DATE: Friday, Jan. 27

RALLY: 11:30 a.m. at the "Hall at 553," 553 E. Washington St., South Bend

MARCH: At noon, from the Hall to the federal courthouse in downtown South Bend

DEMONSTRATION: 12:15-1 p.m., in front of the federal courthouse

PARKING: Parking will be available at the Knights of Columbus Hall. For those only attending the demonstration, there is limited street parking in downtown South Bend.

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## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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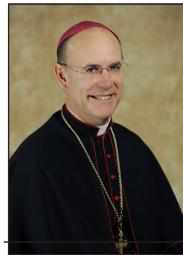
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# Pursuing unity, justice and the common good



## IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

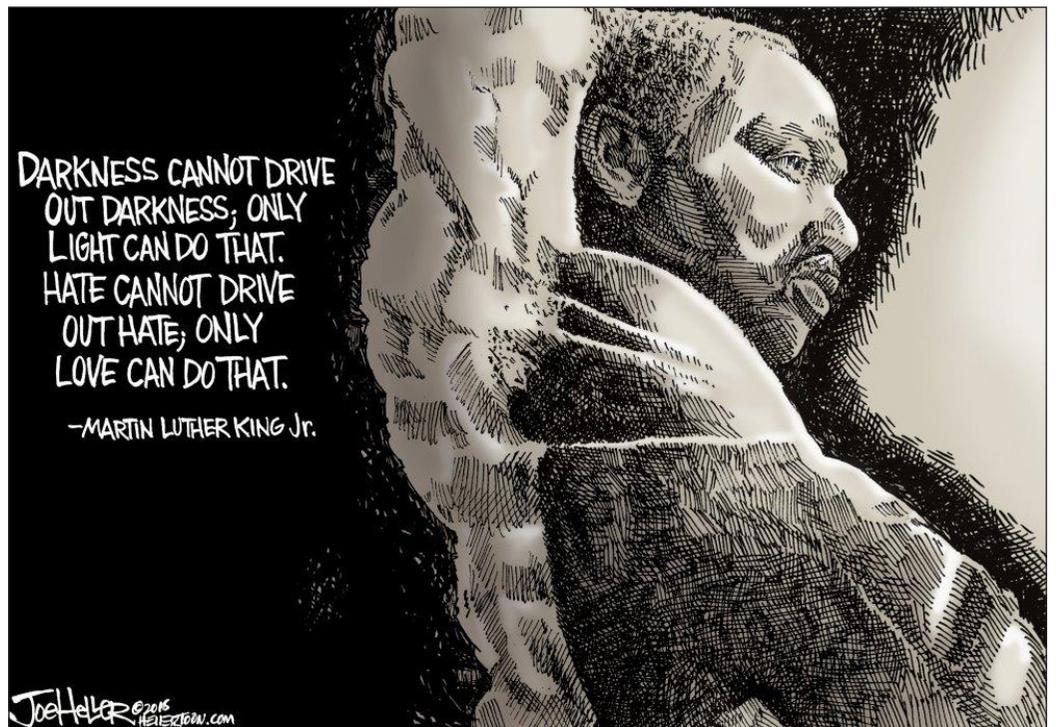
I am about to leave for a weeklong visit to Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. As a member of the board of directors of Catholic Relief Services, each year I travel to visit CRS projects in different countries. You may recall that last year I visited Haiti and shared with you my experience there. I am looking forward now to meeting our CRS staff and the poor whom they serve in another part of the world, the Holy Land. CRS works in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza implementing programs focused on emergency preparedness and response, livelihoods, peace building and youth development. Please remember us and those we visit in your prayers, especially praying for peace and reconciliation between Israelis and Palestinians, an end to violence in the region and a just resolution of conflicts.

During the week I am away, our nation will celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day on Jan. 16 and the inauguration of Donald Trump as president on Jan. 20. I was thinking how providential it is that the presidential inauguration will take place during the same week that our nation celebrates Dr. King. And then, in the following week, we will have the March for Life in Washington, which I look forward to attending with our diocesan delegation.

During the week when I will be visiting a region that is deeply divided and polarized, where violence and terrorism is not uncommon, our nation will hopefully be brought together after a polarizing presidential election. It was sad to see the divisiveness that spilled over into families, workplaces, groups of friends and even church communities. Opposing viewpoints are common in election seasons. Political debate is healthy when people engage one another with respect and constructive dialogue. Unfortunately, this past election season revealed a dark side in politics today that, if we are not careful, can harm the common good which should be the aim of politics.

I think of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and what he can teach us at this time in our nation's history. At a time of deep racial divisions in our country, this Baptist preacher called people to stand together for racial justice and an end to racial discrimination and segregation. His witness inspired millions. He opted for non-violence as the Christian approach, and the only truly effective approach, for ensuring and safeguarding human dignity.

In the public square and in politics, it is important that we bear witness to the Gospel, stand firm in the faith, and uphold the values we cherish as disciples of Jesus. This includes loving and respecting those who do not share our faith and values. We should be passionate about the protection of human life and dignity from the moment of conception until natural death, about justice for all people, including our immigrant brothers and sisters, about defending religious liberty, about protecting and caring for creation, and many other issues of importance. At the



CNS/Joe Heller

"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."  
— The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. The nation honors the legacy of Rev. King, the slain civil rights leader and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, with a national holiday, observed Jan. 16 this year.

same time, we are called to work together constructively, to dialogue respectfully, and not to adopt a mindset of hostility towards those who disagree with us. We must strive to work for unity in pursuing the common good, despite differences, without falling into moral relativism.

One of my favorite writings of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is his famous "Letter from a Birmingham Jail." When he was imprisoned for participation in a civil rights demonstration, he wrote about Christian discipleship and why he could not obey unjust laws. He was not a moral relativist. This Baptist preacher quoted two Catholic Doctors of the Church. "I would agree with Saint Augustine," he wrote, "that an unjust law is no law at all;" and with Saint Thomas Aquinas "that an unjust law is a human law that is not rooted in eternal and natural law." Interestingly, that very same week in April 1963, Pope Saint John XXIII, in his encyclical on peace, "Pacem in terris," quoted the very same passage from Saint Thomas Aquinas. He wrote: "laws and decrees enacted in contravention of the moral order, and hence of the divine will, can have no binding form in conscience."

The words of Dr. King and Pope John remind us of important truths as we prepare for the presidential inauguration and the March for Life. They remind us that permissive abortion laws, like laws that promoted racial segregation, violate the higher law, are unjust and must be opposed in a non-violent way. They remind us of our Christian obligation always to defend the truth about the dignity of the human person, born or unborn, black or white, young or old, healthy or sick, and documented or undocumented. They remind us that the Church can never remain silent in the face of injustice. At the same time, the way of Jesus teaches us that we are to love those who oppose us in fulfilling our Christian obligation. In fact, love of enemies is part of living the Gospel, perhaps the most difficult part.

As we celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day and approach Inauguration Day, it is

good to remember the courageous struggle for civil rights led by Dr. King. The struggle for justice goes on today. It includes the defense of the right to life of the innocent unborn and of the sick and aged. It includes efforts to combat poverty and to ensure the availability of jobs that lift people out of poverty by providing just compensation. It includes efforts to provide affordable health care for all while protecting the rights of conscience. It includes a quality education for all our children and the fundamental right of parents to choose a school for their children. It includes the protection of the stability of the marriage bond and the institution of the family. It includes the protection of the security and health of our communities from violence and the dangers of drugs and pornography. Let us pray that President Trump and his administration, together with Congress and the Supreme Court, will pursue true justice in their service of our nation!

When he spoke to the U.S. Congress in 2015, Pope Francis recalled the march that Martin Luther King led from Selma to Montgomery "as part of the campaign to fulfill his 'dream' of full civil and political rights for African Americans." The Holy Father said: "That dream continues to inspire us all. I am happy that America continues to be, for many, a land of 'dreams.' Dreams which lead to action, to participation, to commitment. Dreams which awaken what is deepest and truest in the life of a people." Pope Francis encouraged Americans to resolve "to live as nobly and as justly as possible, as we educate new generations not to turn their back on our 'neighbors' and everything around us. Building a nation calls us to recognize that we must constantly relate to others, rejecting a mindset of hostility in order to adopt one of reciprocal subsidiarity, in a constant effort to do our best."

Inspired by the witness of Dr. Martin Luther King, may we heed these words of our Holy Father. Let us pray for our government and for unity in our nation in the tireless and demanding pursuit of justice and the common good!

# Federal judge blocks HHS transgender regulation

AUSTIN, Texas (CNS) — A federal judge in Texas Dec. 31 blocked a regulation by the Department of Health and Human Services requiring Catholic hospitals and health care providers to perform or provide gender transition services, saying it would place “substantial pressure” on the plaintiffs — a coalition of religious medical organizations who said the ruling was contrary to their religious beliefs.

“Plaintiffs will be forced to either violate their religious beliefs or maintain their current policies, which seem to be in direct conflict with the rule and risk the severe consequences of enforcement,” U.S. District Judge Reed O’Connor wrote.

The injunction comes four months after the same judge blocked a federal directive requiring public schools to let transgender students use bathrooms consistent with their gender identity.

The regulation from the Department of Health and Human Services requires that Catholic hospitals and health care providers perform or provide gender transition services, hormonal treatments and counseling as well as a host of surgeries that would remove or transform the sexual organs of men or women transitioning to the other gender. The HHS regulation requires group health plans to cover these procedures and services.

In the suit filed in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas in Wichita Falls, the Washington-based Becket Fund represented two groups against the new government regulation: Franciscan Alliance, a religious hospital network sponsored by the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration and the Christian Medical and Dental

Association. The states of Texas, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska and Wisconsin also joined in the suit.

“This court ruling is an across-the-board victory that will ensure that deeply personal medical decisions, such as gender transition procedures, remain between families and their doctor,” said Lori Windham, senior counsel at Becket Law.

She also said the judge’s decision was “a common-sense ruling” noting that the government “has no business forcing private doctors to perform procedures that the government itself recognizes can be harmful, particularly to children, and that the government exempts its own doctors from performing.”

A similar lawsuit was filed against the HHS ruling Dec. 28 by the Catholic Benefits Association, the Diocese of Fargo and Catholic Charities North Dakota in U.S. District Court in North Dakota.

“We are extremely pleased with the decision that the federal district judge in Texas made on behalf of our petition, and that of others, to preserve our religious liberty,” said Sister Jane Marie Klein, chairwoman of the Franciscan Alliance. “We saw the recent executive regulatory mandates coming from the Obama Administration as a direct attack on our Catholic values and one that would compromise our Catholic healthcare ministry. We respect the dignity of each person, but we could not allow ourselves to perform services contrary to our religious beliefs.”

Following the injunction, Sister Angela Mellady, provincial Superior of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, expressed gratitude to the team at Becket Law for representing

Franciscan Alliance in the litigation.

“As Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, we adore our Lord 24/7 present in the Blessed Sacrament and daily we strive to see and honor His presence in every person we encounter,” she said. “The care we offer is unconditional and seeks to affirm the inherent dignity of every human person. Our ultimate goal is to lead people to Jesus. This task is constantly challenged by a secular culture that advances ideas and technologies that are contrary to the human dignity and vocation of the human person. At times the uncertainty of the future for our Catholic ministries can be overwhelming. However, our foundress, Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel placed all her trust in Divine Providence: ‘All as God wishes. He leads; I follow.’ We pray for the strength and grace to remain steadfast in faith and to the mission Christ entrusted to us.”

The Catholic Benefits Association is made up of Catholic dioceses, hospitals, school systems, religious orders and other entities that offer their employees insurance and benefit programs that adhere to Catholic teaching.

The regulation, which also mandates abortions be performed, affects health insurers, hospitals and health plans administered by or receiving federal funds from HHS. There is no religious exemption.

The final HHS regulation was published in May. It applies to implementing Section 1557 of the Affordable Care Act, which provides that individuals cannot be subject to discrimination based on their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability.



## Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, Jan. 15 to Sunday Jan. 22: Catholic Relief Services visit to projects in Israel, West Bank and Gaza



## Priest appointment

The Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades, Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has made the following appointments.

**Reverend James Bromwich** to Priest Chaplain, Parkview Regional Medical Center, Fort Wayne, with residence at Saint Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, effective January 5, 2017.

**Reverend Augustine Mugarura** to Parochial Vicar of Saint Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, effective January 6, 2017.

## Today's Catholic content adjustment

Dear readers:

For a considerable number of past years, *Today's Catholic* newspaper has been pleased to provide coverage of local CYO, ICCL and diocesan high school sports teams and athletes on an almost-weekly basis. Along with this paper's mission to evangelize the Catholic faith and inform Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend regarding parish, diocesan, national and international news, and the latest from Rome, including this sports coverage within the scope of our mission has set the newspaper apart from its peers.

Over time, however, it has become increasingly unusual for a diocesan newspaper to provide regular coverage of local sports teams, programs and individuals — particularly of those at the elementary and middle school level. Partly for this reason, and also due to reallocations of resources and a re-examination of our mission, with this issue of *Today's Catholic* coverage you will find that this coverage has been superseded by news that is more directly related to issues of faith. Going forward, and for the foreseeable future, the paper will include only occasional coverage of sports-related news, that being limited primarily to the occasionally outstanding accomplishments of our Catholic high school teams.

Please understand that this change in no way constitutes an opinion regarding the value of the elementary and middle school Catholic league organizations that exist within our diocese. These programs, and all those who participate in them, provide Catholic witness through wholesome, engaging and physically rewarding activity. None of these are qualities that should be discouraged. Rather, we at *Today's Catholic* pray that their efforts would receive recompense and be supported in all the ways our Lord and Savior might see fit.

Thank you to all of the freelance writers, coaches and parents who have facilitated *Today's Catholic* sports coverage in the past. May God bless all those who generously give of their time and talent to make these unique sports opportunities a reality for our youth, as well as the young people who participate in them.

Yours in Christ,

Jodi Marlin  
Publications Manager, *Today's Catholic*  
Stephanie A. Patka,  
Director, Office of Communications

# How will U.S. policy affect Middle East Christians in 2017?

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A wide variety of issues, both domestic and foreign, have been raised during the presidential transition. One that hasn't received much notice is the situation of the beleaguered Christian community in the Middle East.

Given the interest in, and media coverage of, those other issues, it's an open question as to just what the United States would do for the Middle East's Christian minorities under the presidential administration of Donald J. Trump.

Rep. Chris Smith, R-New Jersey, said he would reintroduce a bill he first introduced in September that would ensure

U.S. aid specifically reaches Christian refugees and internally displaced people in the region.

Another feature would be to allow genocide victims — “at least the persecuted Christians,” Smith said — to apply as a family and get asylum in the United States. “It gives him the ability to get the interviews. It doesn't guarantee that they will become an asylee in the United States, but it gives them the opportunity.”

Smith said he gave a copy of the bill Jan. 4 to Vice President-elect Mike Pence. “I told him that everything in this bill you could do administratively,” he added.

Stephen M. Colecchi, director of the Office of International Justice and Peace at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington, was leaving for

a mid-January fact-finding mission in the region, with the first stop being Irbil, Iraq, a Kurdish-controlled zone in the northern part of the country where many Iraqi Christians have fled.

Two of Colecchi's traveling companions will be Bishop Oscar Cantu of Las Cruces, N.M., chairman of the USCCB's Committee on International Justice and Peace, and Bill O'Keefe, vice president for government relations and advocacy at Catholic Relief Services.

“I imagine we will meet with a fair number of internally displaced Iraqi Christians. We will also be meeting with some Syrians who have fled to the Kurdish region because of the



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## MIDEAST

Continued from Page 3

violence there," Colecchi told Catholic News Service. Also on the itinerary are visits to CRS projects that assist all groups, including Yezidis and Shiite Muslims, "who have been affected by the terrible conflict," he said.

The U.S. bishops' stance on policy matters relies in large part on the experiences of the bishops in the affected region or country. "We look for situations where there is clear church teaching, guided by the local church," Colecchi said. "We consult with the Holy See and make sure our positions are consistent with the Holy See. And we look for situations where the United States can make a difference. The United States is heavily involved in the region and needs to take leadership to help those who are suffering."

"There's lots of confusion" when it comes to consensus on solutions, said Michael LaCivita, communications director for the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, a Vatican agency.

"There's lots of folks advocating for their people to return to their native communities, the ones that have been freed or liberated. The problem is that 80 percent of these places have been destroyed. There's a lot of rubble. In order for people to return to their villages and their towns, they need proper housing, and they need infrastructure and they need security — and guarantees that they're not going to be exposed as they were a few years ago."

The Department of State's declaration of the Islamic State's murderous sprees since 2014 as genocide "allowed the international community to come full circle and really realize the gravity of the situation. Communities were being wiped off the face of the earth. They were going extinct, basically," said Philippe Nassif, executive director of In Defense of Christians.

Nassif said the fate of Christians will improve in some places, but likely not in others, citing "fundamentalism" in Egypt directed against the nation's Coptic Christians.

In Defense of Christians has the creation of a Christian autonomous region in the Ninevah Plain of Iraq as one of

its legislative priorities. Another is to have Congress recognize the genocide with aid money to relieve its effect. A third is to support the security and stability of Lebanon, which Nassif noted has "the most populous and stable Christian population" and which could serve as a model for political cooperation between Christians and the majority Muslim populations elsewhere in the region.

"To be honest, I find that politicians from both parties and the Congress seem to be very concerned about the crisis in the region," Colecchi said. "I know there have been dramatic increases in U.S. assistance." However, Smith complained to CNS about U.S. funds being sent to U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees camps, where very few Christians have gone.

Colecchi added, "What I'm fearful of is that political commitment will come up against fiscal challenges. It's in our best interest that the fabric of those communities be re-knit. It will be interesting to see. Most Americans, if you ask them, are quite supportive of federal aid, and they think it's about 20 percent of the federal budget. When you ask them how much it should be, they think, not that much, about 10 percent. When you tell them that it's less than 1 percent of the budget, they're shocked."

CNEWA's LaCivita is grateful for the more than \$9 million generated from a special collection in fall 2014 to help Middle East Christians. CNEWA received 25 percent of that, and CRS the other 75 percent. But absent stability, cash infusions are not a cure-all.

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# Indiana Catholic Conference gears up for state legislative session

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Catholic Conference gears up for state legislative action as 150 lawmakers returned to the Statehouse Jan. 3, in Indianapolis, to craft a biennial budget by the April 29 adjournment deadline.

The ICC, which celebrated the 50-year anniversary of its founding in 2016, represents the Catholic Church in Indiana on national and state matters of public policy.

"The ICC communicates the value and dignity of the human person created in the image and likeness of God to state legislators and public policy makers," said Glenn Tebbe, executive director, who serves as the public policy spokesperson for the bishops in Indiana.

"It is my job and the job of the church through the ICC to share our theological perspective and practical experience with state public servants to assist them in making sound public policy to benefit the common good," said Tebbe. "Our work and policy statements reflect an application of the consistent life ethic as it relates to proposed legislation, current and future public policies. We shed light on the value and dignity of the human person from conception until natural death." The ICC classifies issues into a few broad umbrella categories including: life, education, families and children and the common good.

Tebbe identified several priority issues upon which he will take action or keep a watchful eye this year. In the life category, he anticipated legislation to be introduced banning the death penalty for those with serious mental illnesses.

"The Catholic Church's efforts to abolish the death penalty are long standing," said Tebbe. "The ICC will support legislation to ban the death penalty for those suffering from serious mental illness if the bill gets a hearing."

Other states have enacted statutes legalizing physician-assisted suicide. Hoosier lawmakers' interest in taking on the end-of-life issue has not materialized, said Tebbe. The Catholic Church opposes assisted suicide in all its forms, and Tebbe said if a bill to legalize it surfaces this year, the church will oppose it. But at this point he is unaware of any bill being introduced in Indiana on the topic this year.

In the area of education, school choice legislation emerges every year and Tebbe expects state lawmakers to move on expanding state-funded preschool. "As the preschool expansion takes place, I will be advocating that religiously-affiliated schools can participate and not be left out of the equation to improve opportunities for Hoosier children," he said. The Indiana Choice Scholarship Program continually undergoes scrutiny and the issue often

## INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BRIGID CURTIS AYER

spawns a point of contention during legislative deliberation. During the session, he remains abreast and actively involved in discussions on possible tweaks to the plan and offers suggestions and resources to improve access and delivery of the scholarship program as a whole.

Creating a new biennial budget lends itself to potential opportunities to promote the common good. Tebbe said he will work with others to ensure that programs to benefit the most vulnerable in society, including lower income families and children, or the elderly are protected or enhanced. One such issue coming down the

pike includes help for those with opioid drug problems and receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits — commonly known as food stamps. Current Indiana law prohibits any person with a drug felony to be banned permanently from receiving food assistance through the SNAP program, even if they qualify based on income.

Tebbe said evidence-based research supports that individuals who receive adequate access to good nutrition have improved odds of reforming their lives and it reduces recidivism. He will also support adequate funding to alleviate the needs of families and children including funding for education, both public and nonpublic.

Tebbe says he believes the coming session will be productive in advocating for the church's interests and furthering the common good. Throughout the session, Tebbe monitors or takes action on roughly 100 bills.

The Indiana General Assembly consists of 150 legislators — 100 representatives and 50 senators. After the 2016 election, Republicans maintained a super majority in both the House and Senate, with 70 Republicans and 30 Democrats in the House, and 41 Republicans and nine Democrats serving in the Senate.

The ICC offers several resources on its webpage for interested parties. Stay up to date with legislative action reports, review position papers or join the Indiana Catholic Action Network. Also as a part of its 50-year anniversary, the ICC produced videos to explain the role and importance of its involvement in public policy making. These videos and other resources are available at the ICC Webpage at [www.indianacc.org](http://www.indianacc.org).

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## Cardinal Tobin looks to bridge chasm between faith, life in anxious world

NEWARK, N.J. (CNS) — The chasm between faith and life is the greatest challenge facing the Catholic Church today, Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin said at his installation Mass, and he urged the church to be salt for the earth so that the presence of Christ does not become “a comforting, nostalgic memory.” Delivering the homily during the liturgy Jan. 6, the feast of the Epiphany, Cardinal Tobin said he wanted to head off “a growing trend that seems to isolate us, convincing us to neatly compartmentalize our lives” as people attend Mass on Sunday and then doing “whatever we think we need to do to get by” the rest of the week. Cardinal Tobin said his appointment reminded him “that stakes are incredibly high” as he assumes leadership of the richly diverse Archdiocese of Newark. “If we permit the chasm between faith and life to continue to expand, we risk losing Christ, reducing Him simply to an interesting idea of a comforting, nostalgic memory. And if we lose Christ, the world has lost the salt, light and leaven that could have transformed it,” he said.

## Infant safe after being found abandoned at Minnesota cathedral

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — A newborn child found on the doorstep of the Cathedral of St. Paul was in good health and being cared for by local children's services officials. Nathan Leonhardt, a custodian at the cathedral, discovered the child Jan. 4 as he was locking the building about 6 p.m. following evening Mass. The baby was left in a plastic laundry basket between the exterior and interior doors of a church entrance. Leonhardt and Father John Ubel, cathedral rector, cared for the infant boy in the church sacristy until emergency responders arrived. The priest said he baptized the child while waiting for police and an ambulance to arrive. Father Ubel said he hopes the boy, whom he christened Nathan John, will be adopted by a Catholic family. He finds it significant that the baby was left at a Catholic parish. The baby was placed in the care of Ramsey County Child Protective Services.

## Guard the faith, make it grow, pope tells parents at baptism

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Parents are charged with guarding the faith given to their children at baptism and helping them become true witnesses by example rather than just rules, Pope Francis said. By asking the church for faith for their children through the sacrament of baptism, Christian parents have the task of helping

## Bishop Rhoades to observe CRS efforts in Israel, Gaza



CNS photo/Mohammed Saber, EPA

Displaced Palestinian men and children warm up in front of a fire Dec. 30 at the Khan Younis camp in the Gaza Strip. Over the years, many of the displaced people living in the camp lost their shelters in Israel Defense Forces operations. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades visits Gaza this week with Catholic Relief Services, which responds to humanitarian crises in the region and works with local partners to strengthen the economic, civic and environmental foundations for a viable Palestinian state — alongside a secure Israel with recognized borders.

their children to grow so that they “may be witnesses for all of us: also for us priests, bishops, everyone,” the pope said during a Mass in the Sistine Chapel. During the Mass Jan. 8, the feast of the baptism of the Lord, Pope Francis baptized 28 infants — 15 boys and 13 girls. “Faith is not reciting the ‘Creed’ on Sunday when we go to Mass: It is not only this,” the pope said. “Faith is believing that which is the truth: God the Father who has sent His Son and the Spirit which gives us life.” The pope’s brief homily centered on the meaning of faith, which he described as a lifelong journey that “is lived” and leads to becoming a witness of Christ. Parents, he continued, must also teach through their example that faith “means trusting in God.”

## Magi's journey reflects longing for God, pope says on Epiphany

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Magi had the courage to set out on a journey in the hope of finding

something new, unlike Herod who was full of himself and unwilling to change his ways, Pope Francis said. The Wise Men who set out from the East in search of Jesus personify all those who long for God and reflect “all those who in their lives have let their hearts be anesthetized,” the pope said Jan. 6, the feast of the Epiphany. “The Magi experienced longing; they were tired of the usual fare. They were all too familiar with, and weary of, the Herods of their own day. But there, in Bethlehem, was a promise of newness, of gratuity,” he said.

Thousands of people were gathered in St. Peter's Basilica as the pope entered to the sounds of the choir singing “Angels we have heard on high” in Latin. Before taking his place in front of the altar, the pope stood in front of a statue of baby Jesus, spending several minutes in veneration before kissing it. The pope said that the Magi adoring the newborn king highlight two specific actions: seeing and worshipping. Seeing the star of Bethlehem did not prompt them to embark on their journey but rather, “they

saw the star because they had already set out,” he said. Police are not pursuing the case as a criminal matter, said Sgt. Mike Ernster, St. Paul police spokesman. Minnesota law allows a mother to leave a newborn in a safe place within seven days of birth, such as a hospital or urgent care clinic without having to answer any questions. However, a church is not classified as one of those safe places.

## Father Scanlan, college and church leader, dies at age 85

STEUBENVILLE, OHIO (CNS) — Franciscan Father Michael Scanlan, whose name is almost synonymous with the Franciscan University of Steubenville, died Jan. 7 at Garvey Manor, a Catholic nursing home in Hollidaysburg, Pa., after a long illness. He was 85. The priest transformed the struggling College of Steubenville — now known as the Franciscan University of Steubenville — in the 1970s. He was its long-

time president — from 1974 to 2000 — and then chancellor at the university from 2000 to 2011 when he retired. The school became a university in 1980 and changed its name in 1986. Father Scanlan's funeral arrangements reflect his involvement not only at the school but also his roots with his order: Third Order Regular Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, based in Loretto, Pennsylvania. A viewing and wake was scheduled Jan. 10 at the university's Christ the King Chapel and a memorial Mass was to be celebrated at the school's fieldhouse Jan. 11. A viewing and vigil service also was to be held Jan. 11 at St. Francis Friary in Loretto, followed by Mass of Christian Burial Jan. 12 at the Chapel of the Immaculate Conception at St. Francis University, Loretto. Father Scanlan, whose 1997 autobiography was titled “Let the Fire Fall,” was described by the provincial of his order, Franciscan Father Richard Davis, as “one of the most obedient, charitable, humble, and very holy men in our community.”

## Doctrinal chief dismisses idea of ‘fraternal correction’ of pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church is “very far” from a situation in which the pope is in need of “fraternal correction” because he has not put the faith and church teaching in danger, said Cardinal Gerhard Muller, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Interviewed Jan. 9 on the Italian all-news channel, TGCom24, Cardinal Muller said Pope Francis' document on the family, “Amoris Laetitia,” was “very clear” in its teaching. In the document, the cardinal said, Pope Francis asks priests “to discern the situation of these persons living in an irregular union — that is, not in accordance with the doctrine of the church on marriage — and asks for help for these people to find a path for a new integration into the church according to the condition of the sacraments (and) the Christian message on matrimony.” In the papal document, he said, “I do not see any opposition: On one side we have the clear doctrine on matrimony, and on the other the obligation of the church to care for these people in difficulty.” The cardinal was interviewed about a formal request to Pope Francis for clarification about “Amoris Laetitia” and particularly its call for the pastoral accompaniment of people who are divorced and civilly remarried or who are living together without marriage. The request, called a “dubia,” was written in September by U.S. Cardinal Raymond L. Burke, patron of the Knights of Malta, and three other cardinals. They published the letter in November after Pope Francis did not respond.

## USF to host 'The Sultan and the Saint' screening

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis is presenting the free, Fort Wayne premiere of the film, "The Sultan and the Saint," on Saturday, Feb. 4 at 7 p.m. in the USF Robert Goldstine Performing Arts Center, 431 W. Berry St., Fort Wayne.

During the Crusades, St. Francis of Assisi risked his life by walking across enemy lines to meet the Sultan of Egypt, the Muslim ruler Al-Malik al-Kamil. This remarkable encounter, and the commitment to peace of the two men behind it, lessened the impact of the Crusades and improved the relationship between Muslims and Christians.

Featuring dramatic reenactments and renowned scholarship, this story is brought to life in the movie. Scholars interviewed in the film include Fr. Michael Cusato, OFM, St. Bonaventure University; Sister Kathy Warren, OSF, Sisters of St. Francis of Rochester, Minn.; Dr. Suleiman Ali Mourad, Smith College; Dr. Hodaya Ziad, Institute for Islamic, Christian and Jewish Studies; Paul Moses, Brooklyn College; and others.

For more information and to register to attend, visit <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sultan-saint-ft-wayne-film-premiere-feb-4th-tickets-28696724676>

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## St. Vincent de Paul Society honors Top Hat members



Provided by Darrell Dodane

The Fort Wayne District Council of the St. Vincent de Paul Society held a celebratory breakfast at St. Mary Mother of God Church in Fort Wayne. In recognition of their outstanding service, six Vincentians received awards. Cheryl Mowan was given a special award for her many years of service. The Top Hat Award was given to five members. Pictured from left to right are Father Timothy Wrozek, St. Vincent de Paul Society spiritual advisor; Top Hat honorees Carl and Carole Hoffman, St. Vincent Conference; Jeanette Hetler, Our Lady of Good Hope Conference; Diane Brady, St. Martin de Porres Conference; Greg Hakes, St. Mary Conference in Decatur; and Jack Dunifon, St. Vincent de Paul Society district president.

## Souls ignited at SEEK2017

DENVER — Nearly 13,000 attendees, including a contingent from the University of Saint Francis and IPFW, Fort Wayne, charged up their faith at SEEK2017, Jan. 3-7 in San Antonio, Texas. The biennial event, hosted by the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, featured the theme "What Moves You."

More than 300 priests celebrated daily Mass at this year's event. Adoration and confession throughout the event provided many opportunities for reflection and prayer. The Holy Spirit opened many hearts on Thursday night, with adoration in the main hall. That evening alone, more than 4,000 people went to confession. Over the course of the event, more than 6,000 confessed their sins to priests during the sacrament of reconciliation.

"I hope this week at SEEK2017 young adults experienced the Lord seeking each of them in a unique way," said Archbishop Charles Chaput, OFM Cap. "When people experience that God is seeking them, they'll be more likely to seek Him as well."

Many of the conference talks will be available in a few weeks for digital download at [www.shopfocus.org](http://www.shopfocus.org).

## Parishes act to assist hard-of-hearing at Mass

BY PATRICK MURPHY

"Can you hear me now?"

That catchphrase — popularized by a national telecommunications company — is being asked, figuratively, by parishes in Fort Wayne, as they reach out to people with hearing impairment.

"People with hearing difficulty are an important part of our ministry," said Msgr. Robert Schulte, rector at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The cathedral is one of two parishes that installed a new "looping system" just before Christmas to assist those with hearing impairments. Our Lady of Good Hope Church also installed the system recently; and another Fort Wayne parish, St. Jude, did the same in 2013.

"Among other things, the looping system eliminates background noise, so the user can clearly hear and enjoy the Mass," said Msgr. Schulte.

The normal audio systems in churches are generally inadequate for the hearing impaired, even if an individual has a hearing aid," said Robert DeNyse, an audiologist who consults with parishes about looping systems. Excessive reverberations and background noise often make it difficult for those with hearing challenges to understand the homily or to follow the Mass.

An estimated 48 million



Mollie Shutt

**Jerome Wait, a parishioner at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Parish, tests the new looping system with his personal hearing aid during an orientation session in December.**

Americans with significant hearing loss, according to the website of the Hearing Association of America — including one in five teenagers. Two or three of every 1,000 children in the United States are born with detectable hearing loss in one or both ears, the website reports. Those close to the problem locally say there is no reason to believe the local situation does not follow the national pattern.

One of those with hearing loss is Kate Jones, a member of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish who was born with a hearing

disability that became worse as she grew older. "I was never embarrassed by my hearing aids," she said. "God gave me this impairment for a reason. I will continue to work in whatever way I can to help individuals with disabilities."

Jones graduated from IPFW, where she earned a masters degree in special education and taught school before becoming a stay-at-home mom to five youngsters. She is also a member of Building Inclusive Parishes, a group made up of churches on the eastern part of the diocese working to help indi-

viduals with disabilities.

Jones got interested in looping systems after attending Mass at St. Jude and being amazed at the sound quality. "I knew I had to get one at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish."

Cate Forbing, a volunteer at the cathedral, also became interested in the problems of those with hearing difficulties after listening to Jones talk about how much more she enjoyed the St. Jude Mass because of the looping system. Both are members of Building Inclusive Parishes. "I brought the problem up to Monsignor (Schulte)," she

said, "only to find out he was already interested in getting a loop installed."

Initially, Msgr. Schulte was discouraged by the cost of looping systems, which generally entail installing wiring under the flooring. After comparing prices, however, he was able to get what he considered to be a good price, about \$8,200.

Loops entail wiring that encircles an area, Msgr. Schulte said. "Anybody inside the circle can hear quite well, he said. "Anybody standing in the aisles (or otherwise outside the loop) can't hear as well," he explained.

Some details still need to be worked out. For instance, newer hearing aids have a setting that enables the user to tune into the church's public address system, but older models require enhancement.

Flyers on the inside doors of the cathedral inform visitors about the looping system, and note that help is available for those with questions or who might need assistance adjusting their personal aids. In addition, at 11 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 14, DeNyse and Forbing will host a second orientation session at the cathedral for those interested in connecting to the loop.

Thus far feedback has been positive, Msgr. Schulte said. "We regularly hear from parishioners who say they are pleased."

# Holy leisure is at the heart of a culture of life

BY FREDERICK EVERETT

What do you think of when you hear the word “leisure”? Do you think of weekend getaways, watching TV, gardening, reading a book, taking a walk, praying to God or just taking a nap? Is it time that you treasure, time that you feel that you have to justify to yourself (or others) or, perhaps, do you think of it as just wasted time?

Interestingly, the way that each of us answers this question will help determine the type of culture in which we live — including whether or not we live in a culture of life, where every human being is cherished and respected from the moment of conception. How is it, you might wonder, that our idea of leisure can be so important?

This past summer, while at a conference for diocesan pro-life directors from across the country, a young woman religious from the Sisters of Life gave a talk on the subject of holy leisure and how it is related to building a culture of life. Before the talk, I had my reservations on how helpful or interesting



Provided by Women's Care Center, South Bend

**According to Sister Mariae Agnus Dei of the Sisters of Life, conscientiously embracing one's leisure time is the foundation for building a culture of life. “When we enter into holy leisure, we enter into God's loving gaze and remember our dignity — not only as human beings created in His image and likeness — but as His redeemed sons and daughters called to an ever-deepening divine transformation.”**

a talk it was going to be: After the conference, I confessed to my wife that the sister's was the best talk, hands down. Here's why.

Sister Mariae Agnus Dei, SV, not only gave an inspiring talk, but she was simply a delightful person to hear and behold. She spoke cheerfully and from the heart, in measured tones that bespoke an inner peace and joy. In fact, part of her message was that unless we are able to radiate such peace and joy, and delight in others, we cannot build a true culture of life. The only path to achieving this is by delving into — you guessed it — holy leisure.

Leisure, after all, is not just time spent not working. It is an attitude of mind, a capacity to be in touch with your true self and marvel at the world. It involves both a disposition of receptivity and reverence. It is, most profoundly, the capacity to appreciate the beauty, truth and goodness of creation as the gift of a gracious creator. As she would put it, “Leisure is not

time off — it's time in.”

Relating this concept of leisure to the spiritual life, Sister Mariae Agnus Dei quoted a moving passage from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton:

“I set off into the woods and soon found an outlet in a meadow; and a chestnut tree with rich moss underneath and a warm sun overhead. Here, then, was a sweet bed. The air still, a clear blue vault above — the numberless sounds of spring melody and joy filled the air — and my heart was made to be as innocent as a human heart could be, filled with an enthusiastic love for God and admiration of His works. ... God was my father, my all. I prayed, sang hymns, cried, laughed and talked to myself about how far He could place me above my sorrow. Then I laid still to enjoy the heavenly peace that came over my soul; and I am sure, in the two hours so enjoyed, grew 10 years in the spiritual life.”

This ability to contemplate the goodness of creation stands at the center of our spiritual journey that is echoed all the way back to the story of creation. God not only created everything good — and human beings very good — but He also rested on the seventh day in order to contemplate the goodness of His creation and to delight in it. This is why He commanded us to do the same. We are to delight in Him and in all that He has made so that the immense gratitude that we feel becomes the source of the peace and joy that we can radiate to others.

The Sisters of Life have made this attitude an intentional part of their ministry with women experiencing a crisis pregnancy. They call it “Delighting in Her.” They try to echo God's gaze of joyous delight, asking Him to move them by the goodness that He has inscribed in these women.

Sister Mariae Agnus Dei told the story of one woman who had mistakenly walked into the Bronx crisis pregnancy center, thinking it was an abortion clinic. After listening empathetically to her fears and concerns, she invited the woman to join her and the other sisters for a day in the country in upstate New York. The sisters made it a point to ask the Holy Spirit to help them see the woman's good qualities and to delight in them. “We sought to express that delight to her, like a mirror to reflect her goodness back to her — whether it was her smile, her courage, her strength or sense of humor.”

After a day with the sisters, this woman's sense of worth and beauty — something that is often strangled by the fears and difficulties of an unexpected pregnancy — was restored. In remembering her own goodness, she began to be able to affirm the goodness of the child that she was carrying. She had regained the confidence that she could, in fact, bring this child into the world — and she was actually excited about it.

The importance of learning to delight in each other in this way cannot be overstated. Nobody wants to be an object of pity or the project of someone who just wants to help them. As the Rev. William Virtue puts so well:

“The power of love to affirm the other person is this: Love is first an act of being moved by the other's goodness. As we manifest our delight, this reveals to the other his or her goodness. This experience of being confirmed in one's worth is the emotional ‘food’ that nourishes the growth of the human heart. ... The acts that we do for the other person should be preceded by first being moved — otherwise the other person gets the impression that we love them only because we are good, and not because of any goodness in them moving us. But the other is affirmed precisely in the realization that it is the goodness of his or her being which is the cause of our delight.”

According to Sister Mariae Agnus Dei, in our workaholic world that focuses on productivity, “we have really lost sight of who we are because we have lost sight of who God is.” When we enter into holy leisure, we enter into God's loving gaze and remember our dignity — not only as human beings created in His image and likeness — but as His redeemed sons and daughters called to an ever-deepening divine transformation. This — and only this — can be the foundation for building a true culture of life that can endure.”

Frederick Everett, JD, is co-director of the Family Life Office for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.



*It was you who created  
My inmost self; and put  
Me together in my  
Mother's womb; for all  
These mysteries I thank you,  
For the wonder of myself, for  
The wonder of your works.*

Psalm 139, 13-14

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# 'Arrival' is dead-on about the gift of life

BY LISA EVERETT

"The Church firmly believes that human life, even if weak and suffering, is always a splendid gift of God's goodness. Against the pessimism and selfishness which cast a shadow over the world, the Church stands for life: in each human life she sees the splendor of that 'Yes,' that 'Amen' who is Christ Himself. To the 'No' which assails and afflicts the world, she replies with this living 'Yes,' thus defending the human person and the world from all who plot against and harm life."

I have always found these words of St. John Paul II particularly moving, from the first time I read them decades ago in his apostolic exhortation on the family, "Familiaris Consortio." They seem to me to be a beautiful and stirring manifesto of the church's motherly love for every



CNS photo/Paramount Pictures

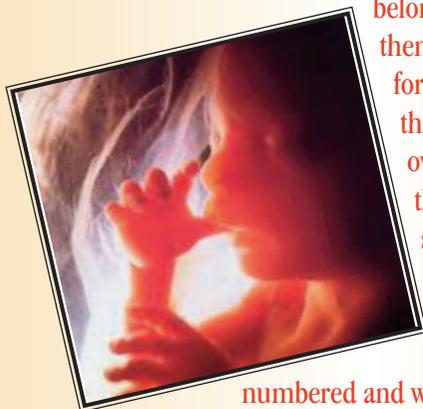
Forest Whitaker appears as Col. Weber in a scene from the movie "Arrival," a secular film with a distinctly pro-life message. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults.

human being, even those — no, especially those — who are sick or handicapped or suffering in any way. Imagine my surprise when, sitting down in a theater with my family two months ago, I saw this same conviction portrayed subtly, yet powerfully on the big screen in a secular film. The pro-life message had arrived in an altogether unexpected way, packaged in a poignant story that was appealing and accessible to modern audiences in a movie called — you guessed it — "Arrival."

If you have not yet seen the movie, this article contains spoilers. But I encourage you to see it when it comes out on DVD in February. "Arrival" has received 10 nominations from the Critics Choice Awards, including Best Picture, Best Director, Best Actress and Best Adapted Screenplay, and the National

ARRIVAL, page 12

"Human life is sacred and inviolable at every moment of existence, including the initial phase which precedes birth. All human beings, from their mothers' womb,



belong to God who searches them and knows them, who forms them and knits them together with His own hands, who gazes on them when they are tiny shapeless embryos and already sees in them the adults of tomorrow whose days are

numbered and whose vocation is even now written in the 'book of life'. -*Evangelium Vitae*

ST. JOSEPH PARISH  
MISHAWAKA

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*"You formed my inmost being; you knit me in my mother's womb."*

Psalms 119:13

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST  
NEW HAVEN, IN



Human Life is Precious from Conception until Death

Always Choose Life

St. Bavo Parish  
Mishawaka

# Apostolate of Divine Mercy fights unceasingly for lives of the unborn

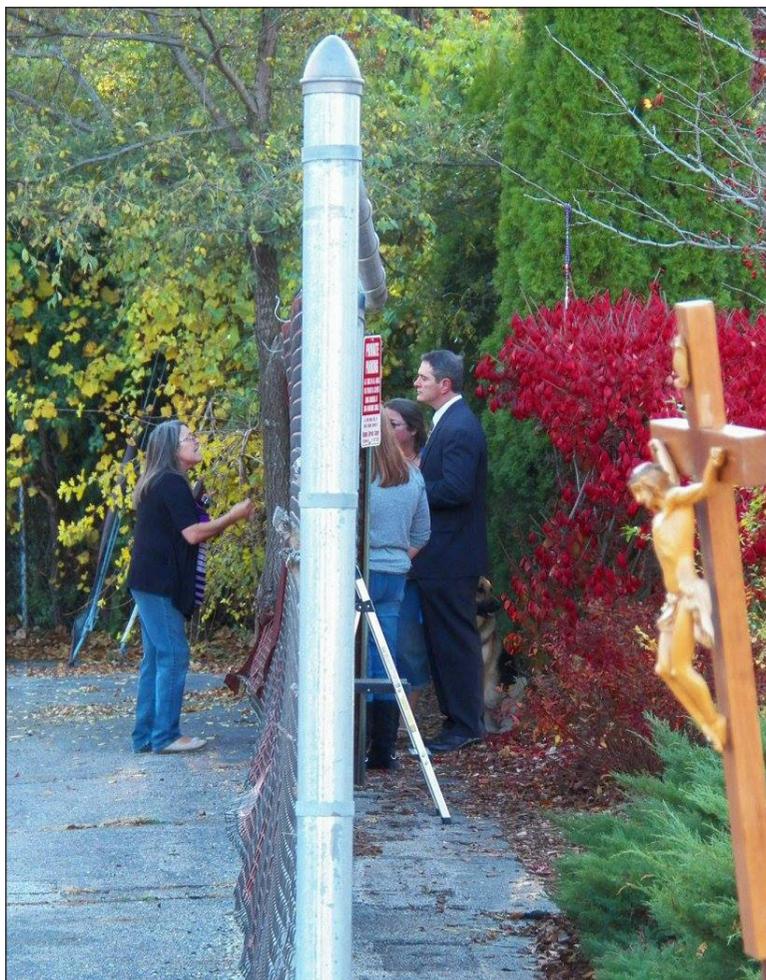
BY ANDREW MENTOCK

For over four years, the mission of the Apostolate of Divine Mercy in Service of Life, Marriage and the Family, has been to mitigate the despair of mothers who feel they are being forced to have an abortion because of their situation or some other factor.

In the scenarios where a woman feels she is being forced or pressured, volunteers with the apostolate are there for her by doing everything they can to care for her health and safety.

"Is there any assistance we can give you to help you through this pregnancy, such as legal, financial, medical, shelter or domestic violence protection?" said Shawn Sullivan, director of the Apostolate of Divine Mercy, posing the initial questions to which volunteers attempt to discern answers by talking with the women. "We care about you and want to help you, no strings attached."

The apostolate also takes to the streets in order to provide facts about Planned Parenthood, whether that's to the general public or those in attendance at pro-abortion gatherings. For example, along with the Franciscan Brothers Minor, members of the apostolate attended a rally last year in downtown South Bend



Photos provided by Shawn Sullivan

Shawn Sullivan, director of the Apostolate of Divine Mercy, and Ellen Master evangelize through the fence surrounding the former South Bend clinic of an abortion doctor. Rain, shine or sub-zero temperature, day-in and day-out, prayer and evangelization at the location was a focus of the apostolate until the abortionist's license was revoked last year.



With the Apostolate of Divine Mercy's spirituality and intellect being guided by St. John Paul II's writings on the Eucharist, Mass and Adoration are the source and summit of its mission. Pictured is Father Bruno Shah, OP, celebrating the apostolate's first Mass of 2017, for the success of its ministries.

held by Pro-Choice Michiana, during which they reached out to rally participants to discuss abortion-related issues.

Sullivan said 2016 was a year of huge successes for the Apostolate of Divine Mercy and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

"Obviously, the biggest was zero abortions. We went from 3,315 abortions along the I-90 Corridor — three of the facilities being Dr. Klopfer's — to zero, and Dr. Klopfer lost his license. We were gratified by the fact that the state authorities accepted and relied upon the evidence we supplied when finally shutting down the abortion clinic and (his) medical license."

Dr. Ulrich Klopfer was known as a long-time abortionist whose medical license was taken away after he was found guilty of five charges made by the Indiana Attorney General's office, including failure to report abortions performed on children under that age of 14.

Additionally, during a Sept. 4 prayer service at the apostolate's headquarters in South Bend, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades entrusted the Apostolate of Divine Mercy to someone very special.

"On this beautiful day in the life of the church, the day of Mother Teresa's canonization as a saint, I wish to entrust this Apostolate of Divine Mercy to

## Legal Abortion's Sting Roe v. Wade's Impact, 44 Years Later...



### God's Beautiful Design

- You were genetically complete from the moment of conception.
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- At eight weeks, you could feel pain.
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### 44 Years of Legal Abortion

**Roe v. Wade (January 22, 1973)**  
Ruled that during the first trimester, abortion is left up to the privacy between a woman and her doctor. Prior to the age of viability, States can regulate only in the interest of the mother's health.

**Doe v. Bolton (January 22, 1973)**  
Decided that abortion would not be considered criminal at any point if the continuation of the pregnancy would endanger the life of the mother, the child would be born with grave, irremediable defect, or pregnancy resulted from rape.

### 44 Years of Hurting...

- ...Children**
  - Since 1973, over 60 million children have died as a result of legal abortion.
  - More people have died from abortion than in all American wars, combined.
- ...Women**
  - Strongly linked to physical complications, death, future infertility, depression, breast cancer, drug and alcohol abuse, and suicide.
- ...The Community**
  - Abortion has compromised a basic respect for human life in our society.

### The Christian Response



Prayer



Outreach



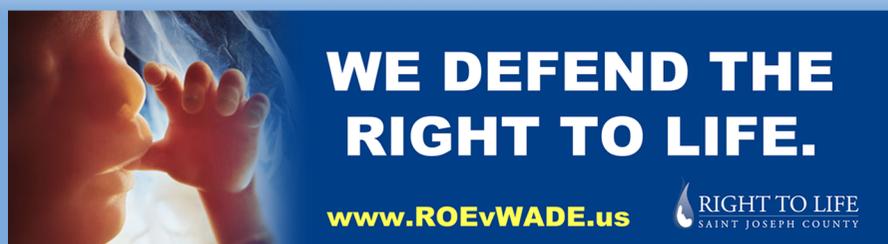
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South Bend  
**March for Life and Rally**  
Friday, JANUARY 27

11:30am Rally at 553 E. Washington St.  
Featuring Adri, who chose life and adoption for her baby after going to the Women's Pavilion to abort.

12pm March to Federal Courthouse

Visit [prolifemichiana.org/MarchforLife](http://prolifemichiana.org/MarchforLife) for more info!



Kloska Family  
**Life Defenders Boot Camp**  
Saturday, February 11, 10am-2pm  
Geddes Hall, Notre Dame

Want to learn how to defend the case against abortion with conviction and grace? Join us for an apologetics training, which will include 101, 201, and 301 levels for youth 8th grade and up AND a new adult track this year! Visit [prolifemichiana.org/BootCamp](http://prolifemichiana.org/BootCamp) to sign up!



**Dr. Ulrich Klopfer, a physician who performed abortions in several Northern Indiana cities for years, talks with Apostolate of Divine Mercy volunteers inside the lobby of The Life Center, the apostolate's headquarters.**

of people to help run its offices, fundraise and provide programs, as is comprised entirely of "volunteers for God."

"We always like to say that the 'messy' work of the apostolate is not for everyone," said Sullivan. "It can be downright depressing and frustrating at times. But everyone can support the apostolate in some way. We have programs with costs and mothers and families with needs. (But) we don't have any overhead, so donations are going into the building or out into the streets."

Visit [www.DivineMercyForLife.com](http://www.DivineMercyForLife.com) or 2018 Ironwood Cir, South Bend, IN, 46635. Sullivan can be reached at 574-286-7860 or [sullyatlaw@SBCGlobal.net](mailto:sullyatlaw@SBCGlobal.net).

the care and intercession of St. Teresa of Calcutta," he said. "The work you do is a work of charity and mercy. I pray that Mother Teresa will inspire you to serve Jesus in the poor and the vulnerable, including the most vulnerable in our society, the innocent unborn."

The apostolate has two big events coming up this year. "First, the national office of 40 Days for Life asked us to run the Merrillville campaign of 40 Days for Life, which is outside of the Merrillville Planned Parenthood," said Sullivan. "This, in addition to operating the 40 Days for Life campaign outside of the Planned Parenthood on Grape Road (Mishawaka), which refers patients to Merrillville for abortions."

If anyone feels called or has a heart for the type of work being done at the Apostolate of Divine Mercy, volunteers are accepted. The ministry is in constant need



*May the Divine Guidance that assisted Saint Joseph prevail for those who are active in the Pro Life Movement.*

**St. Joseph  
Hessen Cassel**

*Babies are a gift from God*



**CHOOSE LIFE!**  
**Sacred Heart Parish**  
125 North Harrison  
WARSAW



**Take my hand...  
not my life!**

St. Stanislaus Kostka  
55756 Tulip Road  
New Carlisle, Indiana



"Caring for life from the beginning to the end. What a simple thing, what a beautiful thing... Care for life. It's worth it."

*-from a homily in 2005 by then Cardinal Bergoglio, now Pope Francis, celebrating Aug. 31 feast of St. Raymond Nonnatus, patron saint of expectant mothers, newborns.*

**St. John the Evangelist Parish - Goshen**

Rev. Tony Steinacker, Pastor

**St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish - Bristol**

Rev. Robert Van Kempen, Pastor

**St. Thomas the Apostle Parish - Elkhart**

Rev. Jason Freiburger, Pastor

**St. Vincent de Paul Parish - Elkhart**

Rev. Matthew Coonan, Pastor

**Notre Dame Vita Institute**

June 9 - 17, 2017

*training leaders in the national and international pro-life movement*



Hosted by the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture, this week-long intensive interdisciplinary training program gives participants an opportunity to study the fundamentals of the life issues, tour award-winning community outreach programs, and network with pro-life leaders from around the world. Receive instruction from premier faculty, including:

**Carter Snead**  
*Notre Dame Law School*

**Ryan Bomberger**  
*Radiance Foundation*

**Helen Alvaré**  
*Scalia Law School, George Mason University*

**Monique Chireau**  
*Duke University School of Medicine*

**Fr. Michael Sherwin, O. P.**  
*University of Fribourg*

**Markus Grompe**  
*Oregon Health & Science University*

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[ethicscenter.nd.edu/vita](http://ethicscenter.nd.edu/vita) | [ndethics@nd.edu](mailto:ndethics@nd.edu)

**St. Joseph Parish - Bluffton**



*May Saint Joseph the Patron Saint of our parish, appointed by God as the Foster-Father of the infant Jesus, foster the cause of Pro Life.*

## ARRIVAL

Continued from Page 9

Board Of Review recently designated it one of the Top Ten Films of 2016. While the director, Denis Villeneuve, certainly must relish this kind of critical acclaim, it is clear that he did not intend the movie's pro-life message. He is on record in a recent interview confessing, "I was honestly afraid that because of the nature of the story, it could be seen as a pro-life movie, which is not for me."

Much to Villeneuve's chagrin, I imagine, "Arrival" is being perceived precisely this way, and not only by pro-lifers. The film is, in fact, challenging the perception of what it means to be pro-life among those who generally consider themselves in the opposite camp. Consider this assessment by Elizabeth Logan in her article for *glamour.com*, called "Amy Adams' Arrival Complicates Morality and Motherhood in a Way We've Never Seen Before:" "I'm still parsing what, exactly, the politics of this film are. It seems to have an underlying pro-life message, not in an anti-feminist way but in a pro-living, pro-people, pro-heartbreak, pro-humanity kind of way. Literally, it is *for* life. ... Have the baby and treasure the moments you do have, the film says."

This comment is referring to the central theme of "Arrival," a deeply personal drama intertwined with an international sci-fi thriller. Adams plays the lead character, Louise Banks, a linguist summoned in an attempt to communicate with aliens who have suddenly landed all over the planet. As she learns their language she acquires their ability to perceive the future, and she sees that one day she will have a daughter who will die from an incurable illness at an early age. But instead of avoiding this terrible pain by foregoing motherhood, Louise decides to go ahead and have a child anyway. "In so doing she becomes a pro-life figure for the ages," New York Post reviewer Kyle Smith wrote, "a stand-in for all those brave mothers who give birth to children they know through prenatal testing are destined to be born with untreatable diseases."

Smith hits the nail on the head, for while the premise of "Arrival" is firmly grounded in science fiction, it parallels a scenario that is all too real for many parents — those who discover that they carry genetic diseases that can be passed on to future children, as well as the more than 100,000 expectant couples each year who receive the devastating news of a difficult prenatal diagnosis. It may be the detection of a chronic condition like Down syndrome, spina bifida or cystic fibrosis, or a life-threatening disorder like anencephaly, Trisomy 13 or Trisomy 18. With little or no information or resources

available to support the option of carrying the baby to term, many of these pregnancies end in abortion. When offered a service of comprehensive support, however, the majority of parents choose to carry to term and cherish the precious child they have been given.

Miriam's Blessing is a new ministry of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend that is designed to provide comprehensive support to parents who receive a difficult prenatal diagnosis. It is based on the national program Be Not Afraid, which utilizes a peer ministry model of support and presence. Peer ministers provide empathetic emotional and spiritual support based on their own experience of having carried to term after a poor prenatal diagnosis, or having experienced a perinatal loss such as miscarriage, stillbirth or early infant loss. Support extends through three distinct phases: the pregnancy, the birth and the postpartum period. Families are typically followed for one year after the birth, no matter the outcome.

Miriam's Blessing is a beautiful expression of the motherly love of the church, which, as St. John Paul II so eloquently put it, believes that every human life, even if weak and suffering, is always a splendid gift of God's goodness. Amy Adams' character in "Arrival" speaks a language that is alien to many in today's culture, but not to the countless mothers all over the world who decide to carry a child whose life may be difficult or brief but filled to the brim with love. As Elizabeth McCracken wrote in "An Exact Replica of a Figment of my Imagination," her heart-wrenching memoir of the stillbirth of her first child: "I would have done the whole thing over again, even knowing how it would end."

If you or anyone you know might benefit from Miriam's Blessing, please get in touch with one of the diocesan coordinators:

**Fort Wayne area: Mary Glowaski**

Email: [mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org](mailto:mglowaski@diocesefwsb.org); phone: 260-422-4611

**South Bend area: Lisa Everett**

Email: [lisaanneverett@sbc-global.net](mailto:lisaanneverett@sbc-global.net); phone: 574-234-0687

**Lisa Everett**, is co-director of the Family Life Office for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

## LIFE

Continued from Page 1

### Elkhart

Elkhart County Right to Life and the Holy Innocents Pro-Life Action Group are hosting a rally and march in downtown Elkhart on Saturday, Jan. 14, at noon. The rally will feature keynote speaker Melissa Ohden, an abortion attempt survivor. It will also include testimonies from "Silent No More Awareness" members, and is expected to last about 90 minutes. The march will immediately follow the rally and will head to the Reason Enough to Act office and Women's Care Center for prayer, then returning to the Lerner Theatre. The round trip is about 0.8 miles.

DATE: Saturday, Jan. 14

RALLY: Noon-1:30 p.m., Lerner Theatre, 410 S. Main St., Elkhart

MARCH: Immediately following the rally

PARKING: Available at the Lerner Theatre

### Fort Wayne

Allen County Right to Life has organized a rally and march in downtown Fort Wayne on Saturday, Jan. 21, from noon-2 p.m. The rally will begin at the University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center and will feature activist Peter Heck as guest speaker. The march will follow the rally at 1 p.m. and will travel 0.8 miles to the federal building. The event will end at the conclusion of the march.

DATE: Saturday, Jan. 21

RALLY: Noon at the University of Saint Francis Performing Arts Center, 431 W. Berry St., Fort Wayne

MARCH: 1 p.m., leaving from the USFPAC and ending at the federal building.

PARKING: Available at the University of Saint Francis, in front of the Performing Arts Center

"Thank you for LIFE...  
I'm lovin' it!"



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH  
FORT WAYNE

"THE CONFLICT  
is between a culture that  
affirms, cherishes, and celebrates the gift of life,  
and

a culture that seeks to declare entire groups  
of human beings - the unborn, the terminally ill,  
the handicapped, and others considered 'unuseful'  
to be outside the boundaries of legal protection"

-Pope John Paul II

ST. LOUIS BESANCON

## RESPECT FOR LIFE

"CARING FOR  
LIFE FROM THE  
BEGINNING TO  
THE END. WHAT  
A SIMPLE THING,  
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL  
THING...SO, GO  
FORTH AND DON'T  
BE DISCOURAGED.  
CARE FOR LIFE. IT'S  
WORTH IT."

~ POPE FRANCIS

## RESPECT LIFE

"Even the weakest and most vulnerable,  
the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor,  
are masterpieces of God's creation,  
made in his own image, destined  
to live forever, and deserving of  
the utmost reverence and respect."

-Pope Francis

St. Patrick Church  
ARCOLA



## A special letter

It was Friday evening, May 20, 1983, when I saw a 66-year-old minister at the request of his son. The son was an intensive care unit nurse at Lutheran Hospital, back when it was still on Fairfield Avenue in Fort Wayne. The minister was having unstable chest pain, or what we called pre-infarction (pre-heart attack) angina.

I had been in town for less than a year, and although I thought I was a well-trained cardiologist there was very little experience under my belt. I admitted him to the hospital and planned to perform a heart catheterization on him Monday. But he became unstable early Monday morning and had to be rushed to the catheterization lab for an emergency coronary arteriogram, which is when we found multiple critical blockages in his coronary arteries.

The only good option back then was to recommend emergency, open-heart surgery. After inserting an intra-aortic balloon pump to help stabilize him, he was rushed to surgery for a quadruple bypass. After a rocky week in the hospital, he made a full recovery without sustaining any permanent heart damage.

He was a very special man who had spent many years of his life in Third World countries teaching Christianity to thousands who did not know of Jesus Christ. His son practiced nursing for years but was also inspired to become a missionary. In 1996 the son moved his wife and two daughters with him to Uzbekistan in central Asia, after he became part of an international interdenominational mis-

sion agency.

I still remember the minister giving me updates on his son when he came in to see me for routine appointments. These encounters were always very special for me, as he would always tell me he was praying for me to bring good health to all my patients. He had many stories and antidotes that inspired me and kept me smiling the rest of the day.

I usually saw him several times per year, and he continued to do very well for the many years. But eventually, age began to catch up with the minister as well as with his lovely wife. In 2010, his wife died at the age of 92. His love for her was only comparable to a fairy tale. The last visit I had with this special patient was July 30, 2010. A year went by and he had no more checkups, nor was there any contact with him. I presumed his heart had finally given out and the Lord had taken him.

Fast forward to August 2016, six years later, when I received a letter from his son. I'd like to share with you excerpts from the letter.

"Dear Dr. Kaminskas: Back in 1983 we met when I was working nights in the ICU as a registered nurse at Lutheran Hospital (Fairfield). Late one Friday afternoon in May, you stayed late in your office to examine my father, Curt Claassen. You asked him to be admitted to the hospital the following Sunday for an arteriogram on Monday. The following Monday morning as you did the arteriogram, you allowed me to be in the room. You stopped the procedure to tell

## THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

me, 'We need to get your dad to surgery immediately! Who do you want to do the surgery?' I chose Dr. Schatzlein, and within a couple of hours dad had four-bypass CAB surgery. Before, and even as he was wheeled to the operating room, the elders of my parents' church came to pray and anoint him with oil, for healing. Because of your expertise, the rapid surgery and God's goodness, Dad never did have an infarct. He recovered well, was diligent in his exercise and continued to serve at First Mennonite church in Berne for a number of years. Dad is now nearly 98 (on Sept. 28), and still living in Berne, at Swiss Village retirement center. He plays hymns on the piano every day and radiates his love for God.

"Mom passed away in 2010 from congestive heart failure, at the age of 92. Dad's hearing and sight are failing, but this doesn't seem to affect his joy! I have often wanted to write this letter to let you know that Dad has done well all these years, and to once again thank you for your kindness, expertise and your faith, which led you to help our family that day back in May, 1983! May God's loving presence and blessings be strong in your

DOCTOR, page 14

## Retirement: an invitation for something more

Hello! I feel like I should re-introduce myself to you, as I have just finished my five-year term of service at Catholic Relief Services and now write to you in my status as "me" and not president and CEO, dean or professor or whatever titles I have held since starting my professional career in 1979. Yes, this is the big step: retirement.

Retirement is definitely about letting go. A friend told me that retirement was very difficult for him. After giving notice to his board, he found himself depressed and carrying a great deal of anxiety and hostility toward nothing in particular and everything in general. He eventually sought help from a counselor.

There are also others who count their days toward retirement with detailed plans for relocation, coursework already selected at local colleges and new memberships in all sorts of volunteer, exercise and learning communities. For most people, including myself, it is probably a mix of both: joyful anticipation of the fruits from decades of hard work, as well as a sense of scrambling when we lose our footing in familiar structures.

While everyone's reaction to retirement differs, I think beyond the practical financial, health and health care considerations, the gut level issue pertains to identity and worth.

Who are we without our professional roles and titles? How would we look at ourselves without being a provider? Will



OUR  
GLOBAL  
FAMILY

CAROLYN WOO

we now begin all sentences with the past tense, such as "I was a ... " or "I did ... " Do I matter anymore? To whom?

Identity and relevance are so innate to us that even a child gets it. I remember our younger son, who moved to South Bend, Ind., as a fourth-grader, coming home from the first day of school with the lamentation, "It sucks to be a nobody."

As hard as they are, I think the questions about identity and worth compose the embossed invitation for re-imagination, this time hopefully where God has the central role. So often, frenetic routines, commitments that could not be denied or worries about this and that tyrannized our schedules and squeezed out prayer time, stillness or just sitting with God long enough for the heart to let out a belly laugh for all the blessings that fill us.

The uncluttered life creates space to listen to God, who has been speaking all along. We can now "un-mute" God's broadcasts, all of which have the same refrain of love without limits, while weaving through the verses of love and loss, successes

WOO, page 14

## God redeems His people through His Son



THE  
SUNDAY  
GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Second Sunday In Ordinary Time John 1:29-34

The Book of Isaiah furnishes this weekend's first reading from the Scriptures. Relief and joy uplifted the atmosphere; hopes centered upon a bright future, all because of the fact that after the humiliation, uncertainty and anguish of being conquered by Babylonia, and then after generations of exile in Babylon for many, God's people were entering a new day of return to their homeland and hopefully to lives of prosperity and security.

Lest anyone think this fortu-

nate turn of events was the mere outcome of changing politics or luck, the prophet eloquently insisted that the plight of the people was improving because of God's direct and merciful intervention into human affairs. God brought their relief. God promised to protect and sustain the people, despite the misfortunes that might befall them. God was faithful. In turn, the Hebrews, God's people, human instruments on earth of the divine will, were faithful during their years of trial. They never succumbed to the paganism of Babylon.

For its second reading, the church this weekend selects a passage from St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians. Today the apostle Paul ranks among the greatest Christian figures of all time, and certainly he stands as a most extraordinary figure in the development of Christianity during the crucial time of the first century A.D.

Attaining this distinction was not without personal cost for Paul. He had to contend with converts to Christianity who

were not always loyal to the Gospel. The very culture in which they lived not only surrendered without a whimper to human instincts but also elevated these instincts literally to the level of the divine, delighting in lust, gluttony, drunkenness and so on. The Christian converts in Corinth, then one of the major cities of the Mediterranean world, literally were awash in this culture.

Another burden for Paul was that he had to defend his very credentials to preach the Gospel. He had to insist that Jesus had called him to be an apostle.

The last reading is from St. John's Gospel. The author of the fourth Gospel was attracted to John the Baptist, possibly coming from a group influenced by him. Among John the Baptist's qualities was his absolute intellectual and religious honesty. He was fearless. He thoroughly believed that God had called him to be a prophet. So, St. John's Gospel presents John the Baptist in the most admiring terms.

In this reading, John the

Baptist saw Jesus in the distance and acknowledged Him as the Redeemer. The element of sacrifice was vividly present. John identified Jesus as the "Lamb of God."

Finally, treasured Old Testament symbols testified to the identity of Jesus. The dove descended from the sky, from heaven, to rest upon Jesus. God is in Jesus.

### Reflection

At Christmas the church excitedly told us that Jesus was born. Son of Mary, Jesus was a human, as are we. The shepherds, representing all humanity, adored Jesus.

At the Epiphany, the magi found Jesus after searching for God. To assist them, God led them and protected them. In Jesus, they found God.

At the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan the church introduced us to Jesus as the Savior of doomed humankind. In Jesus, humans would have access to eternal life.

Now, continuing the process,

John the Baptist, so reliable and so insightful in his holiness, proclaimed Jesus as the Lamb of God. In all these settings, the church carefully puts before us the person of Jesus the Lord and tells us about Jesus. It invites us to follow Jesus. It invites us to know Jesus. He is one of us. He spoke to us. He died for us. We only must wish to know the Lord.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Is 49:3, 5-6 Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10 1 Cor 1:1-3 Jn 1:29-34

**Monday:** Heb 5:1-10 Ps 110:1-4 Mk 2:18-22

**Tuesday:** Heb 6:10-20 Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c Mk 2:23-28

**Wednesday:** Heb 7:1-3, 15-17 Ps 110:1-4 Mk 3:1-6

**Thursday:** Heb 7:25 — 8:6 Ps 40:7-10, 17 Mk 3:7-12

**Friday:** Heb 8:6-13 Ps 85:8, 10-14 Mk 3:13-19

**Saturday:** Heb 9:2-3, 11-14 Ps 47:2-3, 6-9 Mk 3:20-21

# Go in haste! Be amazed! Treasure!

By now most of you are probably aware of the depressing statistics regarding the “nones;” that is to say, those in this country who claim no religious affiliation. The most recent survey showed that now fully one-fourth of Americans belong to no religion at all — that’s approximately 80,000,000 people. Among those in the 18-29 age group, the percentage of nones goes up to 40!

This increase has been alarmingly precipitous. Fifty years ago, only a fraction of the country would have identified as unreligious, and even a decade ago the number was only at 14 percent. What makes this situation even more distressing is that fully 64 percent of young adult nones were indeed raised religious, but have taken the conscious and active decision to abandon their churches. Houston, we definitely have a problem.

I have written frequently regarding practical steps that religious leaders ought to be taking to confront this rising tide of secularist ideology, and I will continue to do so. But for the moment, I would like to reflect on a passage from the Gospel of Luke, which was featured on the Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God and which sheds considerable light on this issue. It has to do with the visit of the shepherds to Mary and the Christ child in the stable at Bethlehem, and it hinges on three words: haste, astonished and treasured.

We hear that, upon receiving the angel’s message, the shepherds “went in haste” to visit the Holy Family. This echoes a passage from a bit earlier in Luke’s Gospel: Having heard the news of her own pregnancy and that of Elizabeth, Mary, we are told, “went in haste” to the hill country of Judah to help her cousin.

The spiritual truth that both of these pericopes disclose is that energy, verve, enthusiasm and a sense of mission come precisely from a good that is perceived to be both objective and transcendent to the ego. If I might borrow the language of Dietrich von Hildebrand, it is only the objectively valuable — as opposed to the merely subjectively satisfying — that fills the mind and soul with passion and purpose. When the sense of

objective and transcendent value is attenuated — as it necessarily is within the context of a secularist worldview — passion and mission fade away.

John Henry Newman said that what gives a river verve and movement is precisely the firmness of its banks. When those banks are broken down, in the interest of a supposed freedom, the once energetic body of water spreads out into a great lazy lake. What we have in our secularist culture, which denies the transcendent good, is a subjectivism that gives rise to the “whatever” attitude. Toleration and self-assertion reign supreme; but no one goes anywhere in haste. Rather, we all rest on our individual air mattresses in the midst of the placid but tedious lake.

The second word I want to emphasize is “astonished.” Luke tells us that those who heard the shepherds’ testimony were “astonished” at the news. The King James Version renders this as “they wondered at” the message. Wonder, amazement and astonishment happen when the properly transcendent power breaks into our ordinary experience. The findings of the sciences delight and inform us, but they don’t astonish us; the reason for this is that we are finally in control of the deliverances of the scientific method. We observe, we form hypotheses, we make experiments, and we draw conclusions. Again, this is all to the good, but it doesn’t produce amazement.

Dorothy Day witnessed to the astonishing when she said, upon the birth of her first child, that she felt a gratitude so enormous it would correspond to nothing or no one in this world. Mother Teresa was properly amazed when, on a lengthy train journey to Darjeeling, she heard a voice calling her to minister to the poorest of the poor. The apostles of Jesus fell into wonder when they saw, alive again, their Master, who had been crucified and buried.

These are the most precious kinds of experiences that we can have, and if St. Augustine is right, they alone can satisfy the deepest longing of the heart. A secularist ideology — the worldview embraced by the nones — produces the clean, well-lighted



## WORD ON FIRE

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

space of what we can know and control. But it precludes true astonishment, and this leaves the soul impoverished.

The final word from Luke upon which I’d like to reflect is “treasured.” The evangelist tells us that Mary “treasured these things, pondering upon them in her heart.” Newman said that Mary, precisely in this contemplative, ruminative frame of mind, is the model of all theology. I’d press it further. She is the real symbol of the church in its entire function as the custodian of revelation. What is the Sistine Chapel? What is Notre Dame Cathedral? What is “The Divine Comedy” of Dante? What is the “Summa Contra Gentiles” of Thomas Aquinas? What are the sermons of John Chrysostom? What are the teachings of the great ecumenical councils? What is the liturgy in all of its complexity and beauty? These are all means by which the church stubbornly, century in and century out, treasures the astonishing events of God’s self-manifestation.

Up and down the ages, the church ponders what God has done so that the memory of these mighty deeds might never be lost. As such, she performs an indispensable service on behalf of the world, though the world might not have any sense of it. She keeps holding up the light against the darkness.

So to the nones and to those who are tempted to move into secularism, I say, don’t float on the lazy lake; rather, go in haste! Don’t settle for something less than astonishment; be amazed! Don’t fall into spiritual amnesia; treasure!

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

will be the joy of experience and discovery, not mastery of knowledge and skills. These help me to appreciate the ingenuity and giftedness of people, which I take as the manifestation of God’s generosity to and collaboration with my fellow human beings.

Over 20 years ago, Father Mark O’Keefe of St. Meinrad Archabbey Seminary in Indiana said something that stayed with me. Getting older, he reflected, was about letting go: of our youth, looks, athletic prowess, jobs, parents, other loved ones, various abilities and eventually

our independence.

I remember feeling sad then. But now, the second part of his comment comes into focus: We let go so that we can turn to God’s grace to know how much we are loved and look to Him as the destination of our journey.

**Carolyn Woo** is the former president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services and former dean of the University of Notre Dame’s Mendoza College of Business.

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for January 15, 2017

1 Corinthians 1:1-3 / John 1:29-34

Following is a word search based on the second reading and Gospel for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

PAUL	APOSTLE	CHRIST JESUS
SOSTHENES	CHURCH	CORINTH
BE HOLY	GRACE	PEACE
LORD	TOWARD HIM	LAMB
TAKES AWAY	RANKS	WATER
ISRAEL	BAPTIZE	REMAIN
SEEN	TESTIFIED	SON OF GOD

### HOLINESS

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

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## Saint of the Week

*John Neumann*



1811-1860  
January 5

A native of Bohemia, John entered the seminary and was nearing ordination when he departed for the United States. He joined the Redemptorists and served as a priest in New York, Maryland and Pennsylvania. In 1852 he was named the fourth bishop of Philadelphia. He founded more than 50 churches and greatly expanded Catholic education. John had a fondness for immigrants and knew six languages. His pastoral zeal was evident up to his last moments of life. He collapsed and died in the street at age 48.

## WOO

Continued from Page 13

and failures, sickness and health, regrets and fond remembrances, now and eternal. It is a time for celebrating our lives, not only in terms of what we have achieved, but also in how others have carried us.

For me it is also a time to do different things where grades, issued by others or myself, no longer matter. The only criterion

## DOCTOR

Continued from Page 13

life and family! With thanks,”  
the son’s signature.

I smiled for days after receiv-

ing this letter. Over six years had gone by since I had last seen him. I had no idea the reverend was still alive. I thank God for the opportunity to be a physician and for all the blessings that have come by being in this profession. Praise the Lord!

# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

**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](http://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 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

**Casino Night**  
**MONROEVILLE** — St. Rose School Casino Night will be Saturday, Feb. 4, at the Monroeville Park Pavilion. Doors open at 5:30 with drinks, casino games and pull tabs. Texas Hold'em tournament begins at 7 p.m. To register in advance contact Tony Simshauser at 260-341-4040 or email: [tsimshauser@weigandconstruction.com](mailto:tsimshauser@weigandconstruction.com). Euchre tournament begins at 7 p.m. RSVP to Renee Wallen 260-416-2426. Indiana license No. 142896.

**Financial Aid meeting**  
**FORT WAYNE** — An information meeting for new incoming Bishop Luers High School families will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 11, in the Media Center at 6:30 p.m. to review tuition policies and discuss financial aid. Topics covered include tuition payment plans, financial aid, scholarships and School Choice Scholarship Voucher process. There will be a question-answer period, as well as handouts available. For information, contact Jenny Andorfer at 260-456-1261, Ext. 3139.

**Card and socializing party planned**  
**FORT WAYNE** — The Queen of Angels card and socializing party will be Saturday, Jan. 21, from 7 pm to midnight. Food and beer provided for a cost of \$10. Babysitting available. Call Denny Jamison at 260-418-1139 for information.

**'Cubs Win' trivia night planned**  
**SOUTH BEND** — St. Stanislaus Parish is hosting a "Cubs Win" trivia night on Saturday, Feb. 11, at M.R. Falcons Hall, 3212 Keller St. Cost of Admission is \$10 per person or a table of 10 for \$100. Bring your own food to share

and drinks will be available for purchase. Call Lisa at 574-273-3067 to reserve your spot or e-mail [ststanssevents@gmail.com](mailto:ststanssevents@gmail.com). All proceeds will benefit the renovation of the church.

**International Ministry of Hope and Healing plans evenings**  
**FORT WAYNE** — Our Lady of Good Hope, 7215 Saint Joe Rd., will be hosting a healing Mass, as well as an evening of teaching with Father (Mac) McAlear on Monday, Feb. 20. "Teaching: Forgiveness and Mercy" is at 6:30 p.m. followed by a question and answers period. On Tuesday, Feb. 21, Mass starts at 6 p.m. followed by healing service. For information visit [www.frmac.org/about-the-ministry.html](http://www.frmac.org/about-the-ministry.html).

**Ladies movie nights scheduled**  
**FORT WAYNE** — St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 1502 E. Wallen Rd., will offer a ladies movie night every week during January and February. The dates are Jan. 14, 21, 27 and Feb. 4, 11, 18, 25 all at 7 p.m. in the Life Center. There will be popcorn, a movie, and some surprises. For information contact Kathleen Fogarty at 260-229-8558.

**Community meal provided monthly**  
**WARSAW** — Sacred Heart Parish will host a monthly shared community meal on Tuesday, Jan. 17, from 5:30-7 p.m. in the school gym. January's meal is being prepared by Knights of Columbus council 4511.



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<b>Fort Wayne</b> Michael Henry Kinder, 78, St. Therese	<b>Mishawaka</b> Walter McQuade, Jr., 54, St. Monica	Helen T. Toth, 92, St. Matthew Cathedral
Vicki Messmann, 65, Most Precious Blood	Catherine M. DeVreese, 93, St. Joseph	Aloysius S. Gapinski, 90, St. Matthew Cathedral
Martha Berghoff Ryan, 78, St. Joseph	<b>New Haven</b> Vivian F. Henry, 87, St. John the Baptist	Janice M. Schymanski, 65, St. Patrick
Carol A. (Junkin) Miller, 79, St. Therese	Gloria Agnes Kage, 84, St. John the Baptist	Harriet R. Luczkowski, 85, St. John the Baptist
Kathy Ann Fisher, 69, St. Jude	<b>Notre Dame</b> Francis M. Kobayashi, 91, Basilica of the Sacred Heart	Richard A. Maples, 70, Our Lady of Hungary
Michael J. Huhn, 66, St. Vincent de Paul	<b>South Bend</b> Jeanne Sergio, 77, St. Anthony de Padua	Louise J. Reiner, 85, Holy Cross
<b>Granger</b> Colleen Gilliam-Laidlaw, 68, St. Pius X		Submit obituaries to <a href="mailto:mweber@diocesefwsb.org">mweber@diocesefwsb.org</a>

**Holy Name Society fish fry**  
**NEW HAVEN** — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry Friday, Jan. 13, from 4-7 p.m. at the church. Adults \$9, children 5-12 \$5.50 and children under 5 free. Refreshments will be served.



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Photos by Mollie Shutt

Carlos Alvizures, a student at Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne, receives Holy Communion for the first time during Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades' annual pastoral visit to the school.



The Bishop Luers choir sings during the morning's celebration of Mass.



Bishop Luers student Leticia Cruz receives the sacrament of confirmation from Bishop Rhoades during his pastoral visit to the high school Jan. 9. School chaplain Father Ben Muhlenkamp, left, concelebrated the Mass.

## LUERS

Continued from Page 1

of the Exodus and their entrance into the Promised Land. John the Baptist preached and baptized at the Jordan River, a powerful sign that the new Exodus was about to begin.

The bishop explained that a new Joshua would lead the people to freedom in the Promised Land. That new Joshua is the Messiah, Jesus, who came to the Jordan River to be baptized by John. Jesus did not need baptism or repentance, since He was without sin. "But he went into the waters like all the other people to demonstrate His solidarity with them. He shows us that He came to unite Himself to sinners whom He had come to save." Jesus' baptism was the beginning of His public ministry.

After explaining the revelation of the Holy Trinity at the Baptism of Jesus, the bishop spoke to the six candidates for confirmation about the effects of the sacrament of baptism: becoming sons and daughters of God, brothers and sisters of Christ and temples of the Holy Spirit. They would receive an increase of the graces of their baptism at confirmation, a special outpouring of the Holy Spirit to strengthen them to live as faithful disciples of the Lord.

Over 600 students, faculty members and guests participated in the Mass, including the sponsors and families of those who were confirmed. At the end of the Mass, the bishop thanked the administration, faculty and staff of Bishop Luers for their devoted service to the mission of Catholic education. He commended the school choir and asked them: "Do you have a CD? I'd like to use it when I meditate in prayer." The bishop commented on the beauty of two songs that the school's choir sings so well:

"The Prayer of Saint Augustine" and "Humbly, We Adore Thee."

The students who were confirmed are Sergio Davila, Jimena Lopez, Liseth Nino, Courtney Scott, Leticia Cruz and Carlos Alvizures. Alvizures also made his first Holy Communion. Following the Mass, Lopez, a freshman, said she felt "closer to God. It was inspiring." A friend of Lizeth Nino smiled broadly as she hugged her. "I don't know English very well," she said, "but I know Liseth (a junior at Luers) is proud and thrilled."

Stephanie Lee, a sophomore at Bishop Luers, was happy to be in attendance at the Mass. "We see the bishop quite often," she said, "and we're always glad he's here." Riley Mintch, also a sophomore, said the bishop's message personalized the feast that day and gave more meaning to the Baptism of Christ.

The bishop's visit came within days of his leaving for Palestine and Gaza as a member of the board of directors of Catholic Relief Services. The bishop shared with the Luers community about the work of CRS in the West Bank and Gaza, which began after World War II. CRS is involved in peace building, development, building livelihoods and emergency response and recovery. The bishop highlighted the problems in Gaza, an area devastated by war and conflict that has left not only physical damage, but instability and insecurity for the people, with over 50 percent unemployed.

The bishop thanked the Luers community for its support of CRS and asked for prayers for his trip and for peace and reconciliation in the Holy Land.

After Mass, Bishop Rhoades visited theology classes, had meetings with the faculty and enjoyed lunch with Student Council members. "I enjoy talking with students," he said, "learning about them, their lives and their concerns. Hopefully they learn something — I know I do. And I love the Luers spirit!"



It is a Bishop Luers tradition that one student hugs the bishop during his pastoral visit: This year, doing so was the honor of Sergio Davila.