Bishop Luers High School celebrates the Baptism of the Lord

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

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.

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. to 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
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.
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.

During the week I will be travelling 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 sprung from friendships, families, communities, 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.

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 about 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.

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 a human law and that is not rooted in eternal and natural law.” Interestingly, that very same week in April 1965, 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 enact 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 permissible abortion laws, 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, even in the face of opposition and persecution.

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 force them to perform “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, such as hormone 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 for Religious Liberty, 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 things are possible to him who believes and follows.’ We pray for the strength and grace to remain steadfast in faith and to the mission Christ entrusted to us.”

Sister Jane Marie Klein, chairwoman of the Franciscan Alliance.

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 teachings.

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.

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 election campaign. 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...
**MIDEAST**

Continued from Page 3

“‘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 Muslim 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,” Colecci 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 LaGvita 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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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. Tebbe said if a bill to legalize it surfaces this year, the church will oppose it. But at this point he is expressing 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 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 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 Website at www.indianacc.org.

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BRIGID CURTIS FAYE

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ILLEGAL ABORTION

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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 do “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 Cusick, a cathedral rector, carried 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 their children to grow so that they “may be witnesses for all of us: also for our 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 ‘Credo’ 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 Klem, 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.

Bishop Rhoades to observe CRS efforts in Israel, Gaza

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.

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 presented a 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 people 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 to these people to find a path for a new integration into the church according to the conditions of the sacraments (and) the Christian message on matrimony.” In the papal document, he said, “I do not see any opposition; on the other side we have the clear doctrine on marriage, and on the other the obligation of the church to care for these people in difficult situations.” Cardinal Muller was interviewed about a formal request to Pope Francis for clarification about “Amoris Laetitia” and particularly its call for the pastoral approach toward 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.

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

STEBENVILLE, 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 transpired 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 2001 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.”

News Briefs

CIS photo/Mohammed Saber, EPA

CIS photo/Mohammed Saber, EPA
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. Shulte. 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 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 said 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 individuals 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.

Parishes often offer 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. According to Sister Mariae Agnus Dei of the Sisters of Life, conscientiously trying to reflect God’s gaze of respect life, 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, 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 they 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 beauty – something that is often strangled by the fears and difficulties of an unexpected pregnancy. When we enter into holy leisure, we enter into God’s loving gaze and beauty — and human beings 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.”

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.

According to Sister Mariae Agnus Dei, 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.”

Not a mistake
Not a problem
Not a burden
Not an inconvenience
Not a nuisance
Not an accident
Not a punishment

A Miracle

Saint Pius X Catholic Church
Respect Life Ministries
StPius.net/RespectLife

Provided by Women’s Care Center, South Bend

www.ichooselife.org  260.471.1849
‘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 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

Respecting ALL LIFE through our ministries
including the elderly, children, refugee,
homeless, poor, sick and underserved.

Dignity and Respect for All —
a Core Value of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ

Partners in the work of the Spirit
Donaldson, Indiana

www.poorhandmaids.org • facebook.poorhandmaids.org
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 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.

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

St. Joseph Hessent Cassel

Babies are a gift from God

CHOOSE LIFE!
Sacred Heart Parish
125 North Harrison
WARSAW

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

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University of Fribourg

Markus Grompe
Oregon Health & Science University

For more information and to apply:
ethicscenter.nd.edu/vita | ndethics@nd.edu

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.

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 of people to help run its offices, raise funds and provide programs, as it 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 or 2018 Ironwood Cir, South Bend, IN, 46635. Sullivan can be reached at 574-286-7860 or sul-lyadlaw@SBCGlobal.net.

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.

“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

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.
“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 ‘useless’ to be outside the boundaries of legal protection.”

Pope John Paul II

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

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 relax 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 born afraid of 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 Logisan 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.

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 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.

Miriam’s Blessing is a beautiful expression of the mother’s 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 the Family Life Office for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

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 not Peter Heek 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 to 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, 451 W. Berry St., Fort Wayne
MARCH: 1 p.m., leaving from the USF PAC and ending at the federal building
PARKING: Available at the University of Saint Francis, in front of the Performing Arts Center

LIFE
Continued from Page 1

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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 Gowaski
Email: mgowaski@dioceseofwab.org; phone: 260-422-4611
South Bend area: Lisa Everett
Email: lisaanneweverett@sbcc-global.net; phone: 574-234-0687

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

I t 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 lucky 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 also inspired to become a missionary. In 1996 the son married his wife and two daughters with him to Uzbekistan in central Asia, after he became part of an international interdenominational mission 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 so until the very end of his life. But eventually, age began to catch up with him 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. Kaminkas: Back in 1983 we met when I was working as a medical student to be a registered nurse at Lutheran Hospital (Fairfield). Late one Friday afternoon in May, you stayed late in the hospital 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, you did the arteriogram, you allowed me to be in the room. You stopped the procedure to tell me, ‘We need to get your dad to surgery immediately! Why do you want to do the surgery?’ I chose Dr. Schatzlein, and within a couple of hours, I had four bypass CAB surgery. Before, and even as he was wheeled to the operating room, the elders of my parent’s 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. Her heart 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 in Dad has done well all these years, and to once again thank you for your kindness, expertise and your faith which have enabled 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

H ello! I feel like I should reintroduce 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. This is the big step: retirement.

Retirement is definitely about letting go. A friend told me that retirement was the most difficult part 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, course work 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 of decades of hard work, as well as a sense of scrambling with the fear of losing 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 we now begin all sentences with the past tense, such as “I was...” 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 my older 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-imagining, this time hopefully where God has the central role. So often, frenetic routines, commitments that could 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 a space to listen to God, who has been speaking all along. We can now “un-mute” God’s broadcast, cast all of which have the same refrain of love without limits, while weaving through the verses of love and loss, successes...
Go in haste! Be amazed! Treasure!

Bishop Robert Barron

WORD ON FIRE

SCREPTION 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 Sosthenes Be Holy Lord Takes Away Israel Seen
Apostle Church Grace Toward Him Ponde Baptized Testified
Christian Jesus Corinth Peace Lamb Water Remain 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 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 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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WO0

Continued from Page 13

and failures, sickness and health, regrets and fond remembrances, marriage and death. It is as if we are celebrating our lives, not only in terms of what we have achieved, but also in how others have cared for 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 will be the joy of experience and discovery, not mastery of knowledge and skills. These help me to appreciate the ingenuity and generosity of people, which I take as the manifestation of God’s generosity to and collaboration with our 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 goodness, turn to the source of all we are and love and look to Him as the destination of our journey.

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

DOCTOR

Continued from Page 13

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.

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.
WHAT’S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. View more Catholic events and submit yours at www.diocesefwsb.org/bulletin. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at 260-399-1449 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: simshauser@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 260-486-1261, Ext. 3139.

Card and socializing party planned
FORT WAYNE — The Queen of Angels card and socializing party will be Saturday, Jan. 21, from 7 p.m. to midnight. Food and beer provided for a cost of $10. Baby sitting available. Call Denny Jamison at 260-418-1159 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 574-273-5067 to reserve your spot or e-mail ststansevents@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.

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.

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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TAKING CARE OF EACH OTHER is what community is all about.
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.

“The Prayer of Saint Augustine” and “Humbly, We Adore Thee.” The students who were confirmed are Sergio Davila, Jimena Lopez, Leticia Cruz and Carlos Alvizes. Alvizes also made his first Holy Communion.

Following the Mass, Lopez, a freshman, said she felt “closer to God. It was inspiring.” A friend of Lizeht Nino smiled broadly as she hugged her. “I don’t know English very well,” she said, “but I know Liseht (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!”