Jubilant crowd gathers in Washington for annual March for Life

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Several contingents from the Diocese of South Bend-Fort Wayne and tens of thousands of other pro-lifers filled the grounds near the Washington Monument and marched up Constitution Avenue to the U.S. Supreme Court Jan. 27 as both a protest of legalized abortion and a celebration of successful pro-life efforts across the country.

In years past, the March for Life — which takes place on or near Jan. 22 to mark the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 decisions in Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton that legalized abortion virtually on demand — has been almost a battle cry for the uphill and constant fight faced by those in the pro-life movement hoping for more abortion restrictions and ultimately an end to abortion.

This year’s March for Life, under mostly sunny skies and 40-degree temperatures, was decidedly more upbeat, in part because one of the first speakers was Vice President Mike Pence: the first time a vice president attended the rally.

Pence, who has marched at the event before as a participant and addressed it as a congressman, repeatedly told the crowd — huddled together in winter coats and hats in front of the stage — that “life is winning” and assured them the Trump administration was behind them.

Kellyanne Conway, special adviser to Trump, and the first on the speakers’ list to address the group — holding aloft placards but none of the usual giant banners, which were banned for security reasons — similarly got plenty of cheers when she said: “This is a new day, a new dawn for life.”

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades joined the adults, young people and several parish priests and religious from the diocese in Washington, where he concelebrated the Jan. 26 opening Mass for the National Prayer Vigil for Life with Cardinal Timothy Dolan at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. On Friday the group joined their Catholic brothers and sisters for the walk down the National Mall to the Supreme Court.

Jeanne Mancini, president of March for Life, noted that the group has been marching in all types of bad weather over the years. She also pointed out that amid recent discussion about crowd size at events in Washington, it was hard to measure the number of people that day or for the total who have come out for the annual march over the past four decades. “The only number we care about is the 58 million” lost to abortion since it was legalized, she said.

As in years past, the crowd was primarily young, with a lot of high school and college-age groups. It was something the speakers took note of, saying this generation would not only keep the pro-life movement going but bring about changes.

Andrew Ouellette, director of youth ministry for the diocese, and Carl Loesch, director of the Secretariat for Catholic Education, accompanied the Fort Wayne-South Bend contingent to the nation’s capital.

“I am always honored to lead the youth of our diocese to Washington, D.C., for the annual March for Life,” said Ouellette. “This past weekend is a reminder to me as to why I went into diocesan ministry in the first place and why this march is so important. On our return home,…”

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BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

Andrew Ouellette

Youth from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend stand in support of life at the national march in Washington, D.C., Friday, Jan. 27.
On a mission with Catholic Relief Services

BIshop Kevin C. Rhoades

The following is a continuation of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades’ visit to the Holy Land with Catholic Relief Services Jan. 15-22.

Back in Jerusalem on Friday, we began the day with a visit with Archbishop Giuseppe Lazzarotto, the apostolic nuncio to Israel and apostolic delegate in Jerusalem and Palestine. The nunciature is located on the Mount of Olives. We met in the room where Blessed Pope Paul VI and Orthodox Patriarch Athenagoras met and embraced in 1964, the first such visit since the Catholic-Orthodox split 900 years ago. Archbishop Lazzarotto enthusiastically shared with us about that historic event.

Archbishop Lazzarotto spoke to us about the issues that the Church and the Holy See face in the Holy Land today, including negotiations with Israel and with the Palestinian Authority about the Church’s status and taxation issues. He also spoke about the Israeli-Palestinian situation and the Holy See’s promotion of dialogue and peace. The archbishop expressed gratitude to CRS for its work in Gaza and also was very interested in CRS’ work to establish a pediatric palliative care program at Augusta Victoria Hospital in East Jerusalem. CRS is bringing medical professionals together to support the dignity and wellbeing of terminally ill children and their families. This will be the first pediatric palliative care center in the West Bank, if all goes well.

Bethlehem

After our meeting with the Nuncio, we proceeded to Bethlehem through the “Wall” (Separation Barrier). We celebrated Mass in the Saint Jerome Chapel near the Grotto of the Nativity in the crypt of the Church of the Nativity. The chapel is located in the cell or cave where Saint Jerome lived for thirty years and translated the Bible from Hebrew and Greek into Latin (the Vulgate). After Mass, we had an excellent tour of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. We had lunch and a meeting with the De La Salle Brothers and students at Bethlehem University. This Catholic University has a majority Muslim student body. It is considered by many to be the best university in the West Bank. I was quite impressed by the students and their commitment to justice and peace in their homeland.

Pilgrims pray at the Western Wall on the Temple Mount in Jerusalem. It is the retaining wall closest to the former Temple and the holiest place of Jewish prayer. It is also called the “Wailing Wall,” which refers to the practice of Jews to weep at the site over the destruction of the Temple. Bishop Rhoades, following pious custom, placed prayers in the crevices of the wall, including over 1,000 petitions on small slips of paper given to him by the students of Bishop Dwenger High School. The bishop prayed at the wall for lasting peace between Israelis and Palestinians, especially in Jerusalem, whose name means “City of Peace.”
Trump’s action banning refugees brings outcry from U.S. church leaders

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Donald Trump’s executive memorandum intended to restrict the entry of terrorists coming to the United States brought an outcry from Catholic leaders across the U.S.

Church leaders used phrases such as “devastating, chaotic” and “cruel” to describe the Jan. 27 action that left already-approved refugees and immigrants stranded at airports and led the Department of Homeland Security to rule that green card holders — lawful permanent U.S. residents — be allowed into the country.

“This weekend proved to be a dark moment in U.S. history,” Chicago Cardinal Blase J. Cupich said in a Jan. 29 statement. “The executive order to turn away refugees and to close our nation to those, particularly Muslims, fleeing violence, oppression and persecution is contrary to both Catholic and American values.

Have we not repeated the disastrous decisions of those in the past who turned away other people fleeing violence, leaving certain ethnicities and religions marginalized and excluded? We Catholics know that history well, for, like others, we have been on the other side of such decisions.

“Their design and implementation have been rushed, chaotic, cruel and oblivious to the realities that will produce enduring security for the United States,” he said. “They have left people holding valid visas and other proper documents detained in our airports, sent back to the places some were fleeing or not allowed to board planes headed here. Only at the 11th hour did a federal judge intervene to suspend this unjust action.

“The Protection of the Nation From Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States,” which suspends the entire U.S. refugee resettlement program for 120 days, bans entry from all citizens of seven predominantly Muslim countries — Syria, Iraq, Iran, Sudan, Libya, Yemen and Somalia — for 90 days. It also establishes a religious criterion for refugees, proposing to give preference to refugees from religious minorities over others who may have equally compelling refugee claims.

“We are told this is not the ‘Muslim ban’ that had been proposed during the presidential campaign, but these actions focus on Muslim-majority countries,” said Cardinal Cupich.

“Ironically, this ban does not include the home country of 15 of the 19 Sept. 11 hijackers. Yet, people from Iraq, even those who assisted our military in a destructive war, are excluded.”

The cardinal quoted Pope Francis’ remarks in Congress in 2015: “If we want security, let us give security; if we want life, let us give life; if we want opportuni-
ties, let us provide opportunities.” He said Pope Francis “followed with a warning that we should haunt us as we come to terms with the events of the world. ‘The yardstick we use for others will be the yardstick which time will use for us.’”

Bishop Robert W. McElroy of San Diego said the executive action was “the introduction into law of campaign slogan-ning rooted in xenophobia and religious prejudice. Its devastat-
ing consequences are already apparent for those suffering most in our world, for our standing among nations, and for the imperative of rebuilding unity within our country rather than tearing us further apart.”

“This week the Statue of Liberty lowered its torch in a pres-
idential action which repudiates our national heritage and ignores the reality that Our Lord and the Holy Family were themselves Middle Eastern refugees fleeing government oppression. We cannot and will not stand silent,” he said in a statement Jan. 29.

Shortly after Trump signed the document at the Pentagon’s Hall of Heroes, Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Migration, said the bishops “strongly dis-
agree” with the action to halt refugee resettlement.

The USCCB runs the largest refugee resettlement program in the United States, and Bishop Vasquez said the church would continue to engage the adminis-
tration, as it had with administra-
tions for 40 years.

“We will work vigorously to ensure that refugees are humanely welcomed in collabora-
tion with the federal government without sacrificing our security or our core values as Americans, and to ensure that families may be reunited with their loved ones,” he said.

He also reiterated the bishops’ commitment to protect the most vulnerable, regardless of religion.

All “are children of God and are entitled to be treated with human dignity. We believe that by helping to resettle the most vulnerable, we are living out our Christ’s words, ‘as you have done for one of these, you have done for me.’”

Bishop McElroy said that the executive action did “not represent our values as a country nor the values of the Catholic Church in the United States.”

Cardinal Donald W. Wuerl of Washington called attention to the USCCB statement and the executive order during his homily at Mass Jan. 29 to celebrate Mass in solidarity with refugees.

In a letter to the president and members of Congress, more than 2,000 religious leaders representing the Interfaith Immigration Coalition objected to the action.

Sean Callahan, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, said: “Welcoming those in need is part of America’s DNA.”

“Denying entry to people desperate enough to leave their homes, cross oceans in tiny boats, and abandon all their worldly possessions just to find safety will not make our nation safer,” Callahan said. “The United States is already using a thorough vetting process for refugees, especially for those from Syria and surrounding countries. CRS welcomes measures that will make our country safer, but they shouldn’t jeopardize the safety of those fleeing violence; should not add appreciable delay nor entail unjust discrimination,” he said.

The Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor is seen in August 2016. President Donald Trump’s executive memorandum, intended to restrict the entry of ter-

oris coming to the United States, brought an outcry from Catholic leaders across the U.S. this week.

Thursday, February 9: 9 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, St. Francis Xavier Parish, Pierceton

Monday, February 6: 10 a.m. — Meeting of Bishop’s Cabinet, Archdiocese of Fort Wayne, Fort Wayne

Tuesday, February 7: Noon — Mass, Walb Student Union, IPFW, Fort Wayne

Tuesday, February 7: 7 p.m. — “Spark Your Faith”, Saint Louis Besancon Parish, New Haven

Wednesday, February 8: 7 p.m. — Mass with Blessing of Chapel, Our Lady of the Road, South Bend

Thursday, February 9: 9 a.m. — Mass and Pastoral Visit, Marian High School, Mishawaka

Friday, February 10: 11 a.m. — Mass with Blessing of Chapel and Altar, Saint Lawrence Brindisi Friary, Fort Wayne

Saturday, February 11: 7 a.m. — Spanish Mass for Deacon Candidates, Lindenwood
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Church leaders in the United States and Mexico acknowledged the need for governments to keep their country secure but said two recent U.S. presidential actions could endanger the lives of immigrants and split border communities.

President Donald Trump called for construction of an “impassible physical barrier” along the United States’ southern border because “continued illegal immigration presents a clear and present danger to the interests of the United States.”

He called for increased enforcement and the withdrawal of federal funds from cities and states that do not comply.

The presidential actions, signed Jan. 25 at the Department of Homeland Security, brought an immediate stream of reactions from church officials, as a group and as individuals. Many cited Pope Francis’ call to build bridges and break down walls.

Representatives of the bishops in the United States and Mexico, who have been working on this issue for 20 years, said the answer was comprehensive immigration reform, not a wall.

Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Migration, said Trump’s actions would “fear families apart and spark fear and panic in communities.”

“Building a wall would “make migrants, especially vulnerable women and children, more susceptible to traffickers and smugglers. Additionally, the construction of such a wall destabilizes the many vibrant and beautifully interconnected communities that live peacefully along the border,” said Bishop Vasquez.

“Instead of building walls, at this time, my brother bishops and I will continue to follow the example of Pope Francis. We will look to build bridges between people, bridges that allow us to break down the walls of exclusion and exploitation.”

Bishops from Mexico quoted Bishop Vasquez’s remarks and spoke of the border communities served by two different dioceses. As examples, they cited Matamoros, Mexico, and Brownsville, Texas, as well as Laredo, Texas, and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico — communities separated only by the Rio Grande.

“We express our pain and rejection to the construction of this wall, and we respectfully invite you to reflect more deeply on the ways in which security, development, activation of employment and other necessary and fair measures can be pursued without causing further damage than those already suffered by the poorest and most vulnerable persons,” said the Mexican bishops.

They said they would continue to help Central Americans traveling through their country, en route to the United States and urged the Mexican government, when dealing with the U.S., to “safeguard dignity and respect for people, regardless of their nationality or creed.”

“We respect the right of the United States government to care for its borders and its citizens, but we do not believe that a rigorous and intensive application of the law is the way to achieve those objectives; on the contrary, these actions generate alarm and fear among immigrants, disintegrating many families without further consideration,” they said.

Nearly every church leader who issued a statement explicitly recognized the president’s right and duty to protect U.S. security. In a separate statement Jan. 26, Bishop Vasquez said he shared the concern that all feel when someone “is victimized by crime, especially when the perpetrator of that crime is someone who is in the United States without authorization.”

However, he said, Trump’s executive action authorizing increased enforcement “would force all jurisdictions to accept a one-size-fits-all regime that might not be best for their particular jurisdictions.”

He said the bishops, who work with law enforcement and immigrant communities, know how important it is to have cooperation between the two, and he said he feared Trump’s action could hurt that relationship.

“I have enormous respect for and value our federal law enforcement agents who risk their lives every day to enforce our immigration laws. I also recognize that there may well be situations where local government feel they need to foster a relationship with their communities by working with the victims of or witnesses to crime without instilling a fear that by coming forward, they or their family members will be handed over to immigration authorities,” he said.

The executive memo that did not address the issue of DACA, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, nor did they discuss emigration from the Middle East, which government officials indicated would be addressed at a later time.

In 2006, President George W. Bush signed the Secure Fence Act, which authorized several hundred miles of fencing along the 2,000-mile U.S. frontier with Mexico. The Associated Press reported that legislation led to the construction of about 700 miles of various kinds of fencing designed to block both vehicles and pedestrians, primarily in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and California. It said the final sections were completed after President Barack Obama took office in 2009.

The AP reported that a 1970 treaty with Mexico requires that structures along the border cannot disrupt the flow of rivers that define the U.S.-Mexican border along Texas and 24 miles in Arizona.

The bishops of Arizona, which includes 389 miles of border with Mexico, reiterated their call for comprehensive immigration reform. They said their “hearts and prayers go out to refugee families who have faced terrible violence and lost their own homes and now need a new place to live.”

“Focusing on building a new border wall has the potential to take us away from these important considerations that impact vulnerable families and will ultimately be useless,” Pope Francis has called for bridges, not walls, between people,” the four bishops said in a statement.

In a blog, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston reiterated the migration commission concerns about the border wall and an increase in deportations and detentions. He reiterated the archdiocese’s commitment to a policy that “protects human rights, dignity and the homeland at the same time.”

Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, N.J., said Trump’s executive actions were “the opposite of what it means to be an American.”

“Closing borders and building walls are not rational acts,” said the cardinal, whose grandparents were immigrants. “Mass detentions and wholesale deportation benefit no one; such inhuman policies destroy families and communities.

“In fact, threatening the so-called ‘sanctuary cities’ with the withdrawal of federal funding for vital services such as health care, education and transportation will not reduce immigration. It only will harm all good people in those communities,” he said.

Sean Callahan, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, which works in Central America, said the United States needs “to address the reasons people are leaving their homes — violence and lack of opportunity. And we need to protect their right to apply for asylum.”

“While working in the most violent neighborhoods of Honduras, for example, we have seen widows and children are orphaned by violence,” he said. “People have a right not to migrate and remain in their home countries — that is our goal — but when their very lives are threatened, they don’t have that option. And as a nation, we have always allowed our day in court to apply for protection.”
**Iraqi patriarch: Fast track for Christian refugees will fuel tensions**

**BY CAROL GLATZ**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Giving priority to Christian refugees for resettlement programs would be "a trap" that discriminates and fuels religious tensions in the Middle East, said Iraq's Chaldean Catholic patriarch.

"Every reception policy that discriminates (between) the persecuted and suffering on religious grounds ultimately harms the Christians of the East" and would be "a trap for Christians in the Middle East," said Patriarch Louis Sako of Baghdad.

The patriarch, speaking to Fides, the news agency of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, commented on an executive action by U.S. President Donald Trump that temporarily stops from U.S. entry refugees from all over the world and migrants from seven countries in an attempt to review the screening process. The document asks that once the ban is lifted, refugee claims based on religious persecution be prioritized.

Patriarch Sako said any preferential treatment based on religion provides the kind of arguments used by those who propagate "propaganda and prejudices that attack native Christian communities of the Middle East as 'foreign bodies'" or as groups that are "supported and defended by Western powers."

"These discriminating choices," he said, "create and feed tensions with our Muslim fellow citizens. Those who seek help do not need to be divided according to religious labels. And we do not want privileges. This is what the Gospel teaches, and what was pointed out by (Pope) Francis, who welcomed refugees in Rome who fled from the Middle East, both Christians and Muslims without distinction."

Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle of Manila, Philippines, president of Caritas Internationalis, said any policy that gives priority to Christians "might revive some of these animosities and might even pit Christians against Muslims, and that (also) might generate contrary action from the Muslims against Christians."

"This is a time when we don't want to add to the prejudice, the biases and even discriminatory attitudes evolving in the world," he told Catholic News Service in Beirut Jan. 30 at the Caritas Lebanon headquarters.

Emphasizing that he had not read the text of the executive action, but only news reports, the Philippine cardinal said announcing a ban being applied to specific countries was akin to "labeling them — and the migrants coming from those countries — as possible threats to a country. I think it is quite a generalization that needs to be justified."

Cardinal Tagle, who has visited refugee settlements as part of his role as Caritas president, said he asks people who express reservations about receiving refugees for resettlement. "Have you ever talked to a real refugee? Have you heard stories of real persons?"

"Very often, the refugee issue is reduced to statistics and an abstraction," he said, and when people actually talk with refugees, "you realize that there is a human story, a global story (here) and if you just open your heart, your eyes, your heart then you could say, 'This could be my mother. This could be my father. This could be my brother, my child."

"These are human lives," he said, "for people making decisions on the global level, please know that whatever you decide touches persons for better or for worse. And if our decisions are not based on the respect for human dignity and for what is good, then we will just be prolonging this problem — creating conflicts that drive people away."

Canadian Jesuit Father Michael Czerny, undersecretary for migrants and refugees at the Vatican's new Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development, told CNS in Rome that Christians are asked to reflect on the Good Samaritan and not to "react and act as if the plight of migrants and refugees is none of our business. People should focus on those seeking security and "take the trouble to find out the facts" — like how "migrants, far from being a drain, make a net contribution to the domestic economy — rather than swallow allegations which just trigger fear."

"Richer countries should not only welcome those who are fleeing, they "can do much more to help improve security and living, working, education and health opportunities in the refugee- and migrant-producing countries," he said in a written statement.

More effort should be put into peacemaking and more resources dedicated to "helpful foreign aid."

"The role of government is to enact its people's values, keeping different factors in balance. National security is important, but always in balance with the human security, which includes values like openness, solidarity, hope for the future," the Jesuit priest said.

"The bottom line," he said "is the centrality and dignity of the human person, where you cannot favor 'us' and 'them,' citizens over others."

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**In Jordan, Syrian refugees accepted by U.S. frustrated with Trump action**

**BY DALE GAVLAK**

AMMAN, Jordan (CNS) — Promised resettlement in the United States after escaping death and destruction in their homeland, many Syrian refugees are frustrated and angry over President Donald Trump's executive action banning their entry to the U.S. until further notice.

"We're frustrated," she said.

"We were told that we were accepted for resettlement in the U.S., and now everything is at a standstill," a Syrian refugee woman told Catholic News Service, wiping away tears as she surveyed her crumbling home in the Jordanian capital.

"Neither the U.S. Embassy nor the International Organization for Migration have responded to our repeated telephone calls about our status or what to expect in the future," said the mother of four young children, whose family fled to Jordan in 2015 after their home was bombed. Rahma provided only her first name for fear of reprisal.

"If there is no longer any chance of being resettled in the U.S., then we would like to know whether we can apply somewhere else which will welcome us," she said.

The burden of not being able to work in Jordan over these past years has left Rahma's family desperate, unable to provide even the basic necessities of food and heating for the winter.

Refugee Abdel Hakim, a pharmacist from the southern Syrian town of Daraa, cannot contain his anger at seeing his dreams of starting a new life in the United States dashed. He and his family were far along in the approval process and expected to travel shortly from Jordan to the U.S. He called the measure "discriminatory and racist."

"In the beginning, we didn't want to leave Syria. But as it's been plunged deeper in war, we no longer even the door to America has been slammed shut in our faces," he told CNS.

For the past 15 years, waves of refugees fleeing the 2003 Gulf War, the Syrian civil war and those persecuted by Islamic State militants have flooded Jordan in search of a safe haven. Catholic and other churches have provided food, clothing, heating and other items, regardless of the refugees' religious background.

International faith-based aid groups, such as Catholic Relief Service and Caritas, have been at the forefront of efforts helping refugees, mainly from Syria and Iraq, but also those who fled the Arab Spring uprisings of 2011.

Resource-poor Jordan has struggled to provide water and electricity, education and health services to hundreds of thousands of refugees as the grinding conflicts in their homelands show little sign of ending. Many Syrian refugees accepted for U.S. resettlement have arrived from Jordan.

More than 27,000 Syrian refugees from 11 Middle Eastern host countries were under consideration for resettlement in the U.S. and in various stages of the approval process at the time of Trump's action, according to the International Organization for Migration, a U.N.-related agency that interviews and prepares refugees for resettlement.
Yemen Trump ban

A Yemeni and three children are seen in Sanaa, Yemen Jan. 26. Giving priority to Christian refugees for settlement programs would be “a trap” that discriminates and fuels religious tensions in the Middle East, said Chaldean Catholic Patriarch Louis Sako of Baghdad. See story on page 5.

**Newark auxiliary punched in mouth; alleged attacker arrested**

IRVINGTON, N.J. (CNS) — Auxiliary Bishop Manuel A. Cruz of the Diocese of Newark told a conference this morning to tell everybody that he was fine Jan. 29, the day after he had been punched in the mouth by an assailant. “He did meet almost every person in the cathedral God has designed for us to protect our lives now and in eternity.” The vigil closing Mass early Jan. 27 was celebrated by New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond, whose homily sounded similar to that of Cardinal Dolan’s in terms how acceptance of abortion is “used to justify” other disrespect for life at various stages, citing assisted suicide, euthanasia, the death penalty and the rejection of immigrants.

**Religious, political leaders condemn shooting at Quebec mosque**

QUEBEC CITY — Faith and political leaders condemned a shooting at Quebec’s main mosque that left at least six people dead. Vigils were scheduled Jan. 30 in Quebec City and Montreal, the evening after two men entered the Quebec Islamic Cultural Center and opened fire, killing at least six men who were praying and injuring 19 more. Police later said they had arrested one suspect in the attack, the motive for which remained unclear. Pope Francis met with Quebec Archbishop Cardinal Gerald Lacroix in Rome Jan. 30 and assured him of his prayers for the victims of the attack on the mosque. A Vatican statement said the pope highlighted the importance of Christians and Muslims remaining united in prayer in these moments. Afterward, the cardinal immediately departed for Canada. Archbishop Christian Lepine of Montreal said: “Nothing can justify such murderously acts aimed at innocent people. We are called to say again that, whatever our beliefs are, as human beings we are all brothers and sisters, all equal in dignity.”

**Respond to violence with Christ’s love, strength, pope tells churches**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Francis prayed for an end to the daily violence and brutality waged by fundamentalist extremists in the Middle East. “Your sufferings are our sufferings. I join you in praying for an end to the conflict and for God’s closeness to those who have endured so much, especially children, the sick and the elderly,” the pope told representatives of the Oriental Orthodox churches Jan. 27. The representatives were in Rome for a meeting of the Joint International Commission for Theological Dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Oriental Orthodox Churches, which include churches with large communities in Syria, Iraq and throughout the Middle East. The Oriental Orthodox churches that officially participate in the dialogue include the Coptic, Syriac, Armenian, Ethiopian, Eritrean and Malankara Orthodox Syrian churches. The pope said he recognized that “many of you belong to churches that witness daily the spread of violence and acts of brutality perpetrated by fundamentalist extremism.”

**Surrounded by ‘family,’ Cardinal Joseph Tobin takes possession of titular church**

ROME (CNS) — Flanked by the parishioners and well-wishers he called his “new family,” Cardinal Joseph W. Tobin of Newark, New Jersey, celebrated Mass at his titular church in Rome. The cardinal formally took possession of the Church of St. Mary of the Graces Jan. 29. The church is located just a short distance from St. Peter’s Basilica. Arriving dressed in his cardinal-red cassock, Cardinal Tobin was greeted by Father Antonio Raimondo Fois, pastor of St. Mary of the Graces, and presented with a cross which he solemnly kissed before he entered and blessed the people in the packed church. In his homily, Cardinal Tobin reflected on the Sunday’s reading from the First Letter to the Corinthians (1:26-31), in which St. Paul said that God “chose those who are shameless and despised by the world. In a world that prizes itself in having, in dominating others, in being fearful of others and in making selfish choices,” Cardinal Tobin said Christians should instead heed St. Paul’s call to “boast in the Lord.”

**Detroit archbishop says new auxiliary bishops part of ‘unbroken chain’**

DETROIT (CNS) — Driving along Chicago Boulevard toward the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament the morning of Jan. 25, one could tell it was going to be a blessed day for the Archdiocese of Detroit. Seminarians from Sacred Heart Major Seminary, just a mile from the cathedral, were en route; some were joking and laughing as they walked, others were praying a rosary. Approaching the cathedral’s steps, about 30 members of the Neocatechumenal Way were singing and dancing to herald the joyful occasion. Inside an inviolate congregation of friends, family and well-wishers packed the cathedral to the brim as a line of consecration began and at the end of it, the men who would become auxiliary bishops for the Archdiocese of Detroit. The Gospel needs to be preached until the end of time because of the gift of life that Jesus Christ has conferred. And so by an unbroken chain we come to this day,” Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron, principal celebrant and consecrator for the liturgy, said during his homily.

**Cardinal Dolan:** If sanctuary of the womb is violated, no one is safe

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York warned that if the sanctuary of the womb is violated, then other sanctuaries are at risk. “Can any of us claim any of us claim a sanctuary anywhere where the first and most significant sanctuary of them all, the mother’s womb protecting the child can be raided and ravaged?” he asked in his homily during the Jan. 26 opening Mass for the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. The Vigil Mass, always precedes the annual March for Life, which takes place on the National Mall. Cardinal Dolan, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, called the womb a sanctuary which becks us, where we are safe and secure in our mother’s tender yet strong embrace, where the Creator himself assures us of protection and life itself, a sanctuary God has designed for us to preserve our lives now and in eternity. “The vigil closing Mass early Jan. 27 was celebrated by New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond, whose homily sounded similar to that of Cardinal Dolan’s in terms how acceptance of abortion is “used to justify” other disrespect for life at various stages, citing assisted suicide, euthanasia, the death penalty and the rejection of immigrants.

**Never underestimate the courage and wisdom of women, pope says**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The humble counsel of courageous women should never be disregarded but rather embraced as “foolish missionary cardinals,” Cardinal Dolan said Jan. 28 event titled “Women are the Church: Christ’s Real Presence” in an attempt to have an open dialogue on women’s roles in the Church. The agenda included understanding the role of women in the Church, the need for a new model of female leadership and the call to “boast in the Lord.”

**Detroit archbishop says new auxiliary bishops part of ‘unbroken chain’**

DETROIT (CNS) — Driving along Chicago Boulevard toward the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament the morning of Jan. 25, one could tell it was going to be a blessed day for the Archdiocese of Detroit. Seminarians from Sacred Heart Major Seminary, just a mile from the cathedral, were en route; some were joking and laughing as they walked, others were praying a rosary. Approaching the cathedral’s steps, about 30 members of the Neocatechumenal Way were singing and dancing to herald the joyful occasion. Inside an inviolate congregation of friends, family and well-wishers packed the cathedral to the brim as a line of consecration began and at the end of it, the men who would become auxiliary bishops for the Archdiocese of Detroit. The Gospel needs to be preached until the end of time because of the gift of life that Jesus Christ has conferred. And so by an unbroken chain we come to this day,” Detroit Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron, principal celebrant and consecrator for the liturgy, said during his homily.
Center for Liturgy plans summer symposia

SOUTH BEND — The McGrath Institute for Church Life’s Center for Liturgy will host three symposia this summer on the basic principles of liturgical and sacramental formation in a secular age.

The week of June 19-23 will host the first of its Liturgy and Life symposia on “Encountering Jesus Christ in the Bible and Liturgy.” Evangelization begins with an encounter with the person of Jesus. But it is within the liturgical life of the church where one meets the person of Jesus. During this week participants will consider core theological and spiritual practices for fostering this encounter with Christ through the Bible and the Liturgy.

June 26-30 will be the first of its Catechesis of the Good Shepherd symposia, on “The Senses of the Scriptures.” Catechesis and theological education in the United States needs its own renewal: The Catechesis of the Good Shepherd provides core pedagogical principles through which this renewal may unfold.

The week of July 17-21, together with Notre Dame Vision, it will host the third annual Conference on Liturgical Music Ministers on “The Word, Music and the Saint John’s Bible.” Liturgical and devotional music must always be grounded in the Scriptures. This week participants will contemplate various forms of music for worship, including chant, Masses, praise and worship, hymnody and Taize.

The launch of the three symposia this summer coincides with a rebranding effort of the institute. The Center for Liturgy has been an integral part of the McGrath Institute for Church Life since the 1970s. Through a recent endowment of our Institute, it is poised not simply to hold conferences on campus but is now able to do the kind of research, education and outreach in liturgical and sacramental formation that will nourish and renew the life of the church.

For more information on the symposia visit liturgy.nd.edu.

Essay contest for Black History Month

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Black Catholic Advisory Board will offer a high school essay contest on the theme, “The Most Notable African-American of the 21st Century.”

Essay requirements are: Times New Roman, 12 point spacing, double length and 300-550 words (including cover sheet). Cover sheet should include full name, mailing address, telephone number, school and grade.

The essay should include a bibliography page that does not count toward the word count total. To submit an essay as an email attachment place “Black History Month Essay Contest” in the email subject line, with first and last name to Wendy.summers@comcast.net no later than Thursday, May 7.

Monetary prizes will be awarded of $100 for first, $50 for second and $25 for third place.

Catholic identity nourished at Catholic schools

BY JEANNE Ewing

When people think of Catholic schools, one of the qualities they often attribute to them is an education that surpasses what is offered in local public schools. Yet, that, while certainly a goal, it is not the extent of what it means to send a child to a Catholic school.

At the core of Catholic education is something that reaches farther than the academic rigor of reading, writing and arithmetic. It encompasses life-long learning, teaching children about morality, living a virtuous life and striving to love and serve Jesus in all that they do.

Among the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are two that incorporate truly remarkable programs that instill those values and virtues often lacking in a public education.

St. Anthony de Padua School, South Bend, has been running an after school Eucharistic Adoration Club for its elementary students. First-grade teacher Betsy Williams explained how it all began.

“I took my first graders to the church once a week to pray the rosary for Bishop Rhodes and our pastor, Father Dave Ruppert. Afterward, I got so many hugs and thanks from the kids for taking them to pray in church. They felt a peace that comes from quietly sitting with Jesus and looked forward to the rosary all week. I told them they were resting in His presence.”

Shortly thereafter, an idea struck Williams. She saw how her students responded to being in the quiet church and she imagined what a gift it would be to start a Eucharistic Adoration Club. Once the idea was approved by both the pastor and principal, four children began regularly attending after school. “We meet on the first and third Thursday of every month,” Williams said. “The students come to my classroom for a snack and we talk about the saints, Adoration and practice songs to sing during Adoration. Then we process to the church at 3:30 and pray for 45 minutes.”

In only one year the club has grown from four students to 30 who attend nearly every meeting. These include children from every grade, and they even have a preschooler who attends. William’s aspiration is to eventually offer an evening Holy Hour for parents and their children.

Third-grader Sophia said, “I like [Adoration] because it is fun and we pray for those we love.” Brynn, a first-grade student, added, “I go because I want to spend time with Jesus. I am glad I joined. I like saying the rosary.”

Another enriching way that St. Adalbert has chosen to develop its Catholic identity is through a student housing program, which is unique to its roots in the Holy Cross Congregation. Principal Andrew Courier explained, “Although St. Adalbert has chosen to develop its Catholic identity through a student housing program, which is unique to its roots in the Holy Cross Congregation. Principal Andrew Courier explained, “Although St. Adalbert was founded as a diocesan parish, our parish is now staffed by Holy Cross priests. The Congregation of Holy Cross offers us rich opportunities to reach the children on a faith level, especially in the area of vocations.”

One such way is through the housing system, which dates back to church tradition in England, France and Ireland. “When religious orders, especially the Benedictine monks, operated schools, students were assigned boarding houses and thus competed on many levels according to their residential assignments,” Courier elaborated.

St. Adalbert has four houses on its premises, each named after a Holy Cross saint or spiritual leader.

Each fourth-grade student is assigned to one of the four houses during a selection ceremony that includes songs, dances and other traditions. The freshmen at the Corby House ring a bell once owned by Father William Corby himself. Each house meets on a monthly basis with school staff, and the adults help the student set goals and learn new virtues.

Catholic identity is so important in the schools of the diocese, concurred Williams and Andrew. “Nothing in life is more important than forming a relationship with Jesus,” said Williams. “If they learn this, it’s what will sustain them throughout their lives. It creates a life of meaning, and they will have the peace that only Jesus can give.”

“An encroaching secularism in today’s society makes it critical for Catholic school leaders and teachers to ensure that the Faith is passed on to the children. We open the doors in the morning … by beginning with a Gospel reading. Catholic schools need to be the place where children encounter Christ through the sacraments.”

100 Day celebration

Kindergarten and second grade students at St. John the Baptist Catholic School in New Haven celebrated 100 days of school on Jan. 19. Kindergarten students dressed like they were 100 years old and second graders made 100 posters with their own unique ideas. All the students had a day of fun activities related to 100.

Provided by Janice Comito

Members of the Eucharistic Adoration Club at St. Adalbert School, South Bend, listen to Deacon Brian Miller as Adoration begins.
They shared with us that their biggest struggle as students is the difficulty in transportation because of the Separation Wall and checkpoints, making them sometimes late for class or missing class. Still, they value the education they are receiving. Bethlehem University receives significant financial support from the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, as the Knights and Ladies in our diocese well know. It is a beacon of hope in the place where Jesus was born.

In Bethlehem, we also visited one of several olive wood workshops renovated with CRS funding. Olivewood works provide a livelihood for many Bethlehem Christians. There are poor working conditions in many workshops, including lack of ventilation leading to lung and other health problems. CRS is helping to improve these conditions by funding renovations. We then visited the Fair Trade – Holy Land Handicraft Cooperative Society Shop, a CRS partner. We spent some time shopping there in support of the olivewood and other handicraft workers.

Gethsemane and Western Wall

On Saturday, our final full day in the Holy Land, we celebrated morning Mass in the Church of the Agony (also called the “Church of All Nations”) in the Garden of Gethsemane. In front of the altar, a large rock formation in the ground is said to mark the place where Jesus prayed in agony before his arrest on Holy Thursday night. We also saw the ancient olive trees in the Garden that have roots going back to the time of Jesus.

Near Gethsemane, also on the Mount of Olives, we visited the Orthodox Church which contains what the Orthodox believe to be the Tomb of the Blessed Virgin Mary, where her body was laid before the Assumption. An Armenian liturgy was taking place while we visited there.

The rest of the day in Jerusalem was free. I spent the day visiting the four quarters of the Old City: Christian, Armenian, Jewish, and Muslim. I prayed at the Western Wall and spent a good amount of time placing the over 1,000 little slips of paper with prayer petitions from the Bishop Dwenger students in the crevices of the wall. Actually, I enjoyed this activity as devout Jews watched me doing this, perhaps wondering about so many prayer intentions! I stopped at many other sites and shops in the Old City and especially enjoyed some prayer time at St. Anne’s Church and the ruins of the Pool of Bethesda where Jesus healed the paralytic.

Conclusion

The week in the Holy Land was certainly a blessing, visiting holy sites, seeing the good works of CRS, and seeing the life and struggles of the Palestinian people in Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza. I invite you to pray for these brothers and sisters and for peace and reconciliation among peoples in the Holy Land. I thank you for your ongoing support of Catholic Relief Services and its operations in the Holy Land and so many other parts of the world.

I end this column with the following words from Pope Francis’ homily during Mass at Manger Square in Bethlehem on May 20, 2014: “Building peace is difficult, but living without peace is a constant torment. The men and women of these lands, and of the entire world, all of them, ask us to bring before God their fervent hopes for peace.”

Throughout the trip, I thought of the words of Blessed Pope Paul VI: “There is no peace without justice”; and the equally important words of Pope Saint John Paul II: “There is no justice without forgiveness.”

For the complete story visit www.todayscatholicnews.org
Twelve olive trees in the Garden of Gethsemane have roots that biologists say go back to the time of Jesus.

The ruins of the pool of Bethesda are located next to St. Anne’s Church in Jerusalem. It was at this pool that Jesus healed the paralytic as recounted in the Gospel of John, chapter 5.

Below the altar in the Church of the Agony at Gethsemane is a rock where, according to tradition, Jesus prayed in agony before his betrayal by Judas and his subsequent arrest by the Temple guards and soldiers on Holy Thursday night.

The Damascus Gate opens into the Muslim Quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem.
The parish of St. Stanislaus has a rich Polish heritage dating back to the 19th century. The church was founded as a mission of the nearby St. Hedwig faith community because priests during that time noticed the increasing Polish population moving into the Golden Hills area of South Bend. The first Mass at St. Stanislaus, Bishop and Martyr Church was celebrated on March 25, 1900.

Over the years the church has undergone physical changes, such as an enlargement of the church building, a new apse and sacristy, and a modernization of the site that included an elevator and such as an enlargement of the church building, a new apse and sacristy, and a modernization of the site that included an elevator and...
St. Casimir Parish is a ministry of the Congregation of Holy Cross and was, like St. Stanislaus, originally an offshoot of St. Hedwig Catholic Church, which was at one time known as the head church for all the Polish area churches: of St. Casimir, St. Stanislaus and St. Adalbert. The church currently shares pastor Father Paul Michael Ybarra, CSC, with St. Adalbert in South Bend.

According to Father Ybarra, Masses were originally held in the school building, which was built in 1899. If visitors climb upstairs to the gym they will find that its roof is cruciform, and there remains a lofted area above what is now a kitchen, that was once the choir loft.

The current church, built in the 1920s, is where all liturgies are held. A vigil Mass takes place on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, and Sunday English Mass is at 9:30 a.m., Sunday Spanish Mass at 11:15 a.m. The Mass with the fastest-growing attendance is the Spanish Mass.

The fairly small parish has over 200 registered families and some very large ministry groups. “The Married Men’s Club, formed back in 1938 to support the foundation of a kindergarden for St. Casimir’s Catholic School, currently numbers about a 100 members. A very active group, they continue to support the parish in a myriad of ways, from running parish festivals to providing for needy families. Although many members of the group are not parishioners of the parish, most share ties to the parish as former school alumni, an increasing rarity given that the school was closed in 1975,” noted Father Ybarra.

Another active group is the St. Casimir Seniors Club that meets monthly. Often, over 100 seniors gather for community and fellowship in the old school building. They share a meal, engage in various activities and seek to support the parish through fundraising efforts.

“Our English RCIA community for St. Casimir and St. Adalbert meets at St. Casimir. Currently, we have 11 catechumens and candidates seeking full communion with the church,” stated Father Ybarra. The Spanish-language ministries are very large as well. “Our charismatic prayer group, Group de Oracion, meets weekly with a monthly healing Mass. It is very well attended …”

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

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BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI
Richard and Kathleen Urda of St. Matthew Parish, South Bend, participated in the St. Joseph County March for Life, which ended in front of the federal courthouse downtown.

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The Ladies’ Sodality is a group that assists the women of the parish in the living out of their Catholic faith with a purpose to be better followers of Christ and imitators of the Blessed Virgin. They meet monthly for prayer and a talk from the director of the sodality, and fellowship.

Msgr. Fritz said the altar boys are another strong group that does an excellent job. They understand that what they do is very important, and they are all honored by the role they have in the sacrifice of the Mass.

“We are also trying to coalesce a men’s group and get a youth group off the ground,” he said. “All of the things that our parish offers have as an important and integral purpose: formation in the faith and assistance in the life of virtue, to offer help through companionship, instruction and the grace of God through sacraments and sacramentals.”

The mission of the parish is for the salvation of souls. This is done through an integrally traditional parochial life centered around the sacrifice of the Mass. “The beauty and timelessness of our faith,” is what Msgr. Fritz hope all visitors experience. “I always encourage people to come and truly give the ancient rites a real try: once or twice is not sufficient. It takes time and openness. This is why we have our “Lenten Latin Mass Challenge;” come every Sunday during Lent to really give the Tradition a chance to speak to you. Don’t worry about the language or any of the differences; in fact, for newcomers, I tell them to not try and follow along — rather, sit and let your senses take in everything: the music, the incense, the choreography of the ceremony, everything. The similarities should make themselves known, as the skeletal framework is similar to the English Mass: Kyrie, Gloria, prayer, reading, Gospel, offertory, Sanctus, elevations, Agnus Dei, etc. As more familiarity is acquired, it is easier to engage and enter into the great mysteries and begin to plumb the depths of the Tradition. These are the rites that formed saints. These are the rites for which this church was built by our ancestors. These are the rites which are every Catholic’s patrimony and right.”

In the future the church plans to continue to be faithful to its mission, doing whatever it can to save souls. Msgr. Fritz and the community plan to offer the sacraments, sacramentals, opportunities to learn about the truths of the faith and to provide a place in which people can come together and benefit from one another — not only in social camaraderie but in deeper, true friendship: intellectually, morally, spiritually.

“As we finish our choir loft renovation, we will turn our attention to the sanctuary. We’ve lined up acquiring an altar from a church that has been closed, but we will need to raise money to have it dismounted, repaired, shipped and installed. So, we are having a fundraising ‘Trivia Night’ on Feb. 11 at MR Falcons,” said Msgr. Fritz. “After this project, we hope to continue renovating and maintaining the parish church for the next 100+ years.”

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They sing songs and praise God in a charismatic fashion. They are also very active in their support of the parish through food sales and other fundraising efforts,” he said.

“A Christ Renews His Parish program is also run out of St. Casimir.

“Father Ybarra. “Once someone lives the retreat they continue ongoing formation with weekly meetings; our group attendance for those hovers at 60 to 80 people every Friday. Topics are primarily focused on spirituality and our Catholic faith. People in formation will then serve as retreat leaders for upcoming retreats. Many of those who lived the retreat are also ministers and leaders in parish ministries across both St. Adalbert and St. Casimir.”

In 2005, evangelization and outreach were determined to be the parish’s key missions. “I believe we are doing well in terms of evangelization to our senior citizens and Latinos living in the surrounding neighborhood. We must do better with our youth, the African-American community and our former parishioners and alumni who have moved away from the west side of South Bend,” said Father Ybarra.

When they do come, he hopes visitors find a warm, loving and merciful environment devoted to the Gospel.

“The church interior is gorgeous. We are so fortunate, we need only maintain our facilities and grow our community. I would love to reopen the school in some capacity, in accord with St. Adalbert Catholic School. Currently our children at St. Adalbert’s benefit from the use of St. Casimir’s gym for sports and (our) stage for school plays. I believe it’s a building with a great deal of potential.”

Photos by Jennifer Miller

Provided by St. Casimir

Deacon Ryan Pietrocarlo, CSC, and Yadira Gonzalez, a St. Mary’s College student and member of the Grupo de Oración at St. Casimir, South Bend, are dressed as St. Joseph and the Blessed Virgin Mary for Las Posadas in December. Las Posadas commemorates the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, their search for lodging and the birth of Christ. The Grupo de Oración also produces a yearly pastorela, a stage production covering the events of Christ’s birth from the point of view of the shepherds. Both are important traditions in Mexican culture.

Through snow, cold and wind, the Knights of Columbus No. 553 led the St. Joseph County Right to Life March for Life on Friday, Jan. 27. Marchers remembered the more than 60 million American lives lost after the legalization of abortion in 1973 and prayed for Roe vs. Wade to be overturned.
St. Thomas the Apostle parishioner awarded Eagle Scout rank

BY DEB WAGNER

On Jan. 10, Sam Coates, 18, of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish Boy Scout Troop 750, was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout. He constructed and installed houses for the barred owls, wrens and wood ducks of Elkhart’s Wellfield Botanical Gardens. The Elkhart Central High School senior estimates the project took about a year to complete.

Coates met with several organizations in the area before deciding to work with Wellfield Botanical Gardens. “Wellfield was chosen for my project because they had a clear idea of what they wanted,” Coates said.

Even though the goal was clear, Coates encountered two main challenges along the way. One was that he said he found himself exercising leadership skills with younger Scouts regarding the necessary task and teamwork to complete the job. Fundraising was his second challenge. Using his contacts through the parish, Wellfield Botanical Gardens and his troop, the estimated $400 in materials needed for the project were donated. Coates said he telephoned, emailed and visited with a lot of people before achieving his fundraising goal. The weather also proved to be a challenge at times, such as when they had to dig underwater in the rain in order to bury 5-gallon buckets of cement. The buckets held the poles upon which the wood duck houses were mounted.

Upon the announcement of Pioneer Trails’ newest Eagle Scout, Coates acknowledged the help of his Scout leaders and fellow Scouts in arriving at this remarkable achievement. From his Eagle Scout project, Coates said he acquired a few skills that will be beneficial to him in the future. He said he learned that in order to get a large group of people to complete a project, you have to keep them on task. In the future, he plans on studying computer science and is grateful he has these task-completion and leadership experiences, as they’ll help him successfully manage a computer science project.

Coates has applied to eight schools of higher education and has already been accepted to Purdue University for next school year, but is waiting to hear back from a few more places such as Stanford, Yale and MIT before making his selection. Ultimately, he aspires to work for Google. He says another option he would entertain is going on to graduate school so he could work as a college professor.

When asked what the rank of Eagle Scout meant to him, Coates said, “It is the crowning achievement of my Scouting career.” He has been in Scouting since he was old enough to join. His mother, Kate, reflected, “In the beginning, you are not sure if this is going to be a lasting endeavor. In the last year, however, Sam took ownership of the project and incorporated everything Scouting taught him. I watched him become a man in the last year.”
Bishop launches 2017 Lampen Lecture Series

BY RON BUSCH

S
ome say that the younger generation just doesn’t measure up to past generations. As if to prove that point, Americans are often reminded of the “greatest generation” and the sacrifices they made for this country.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades spoke of the current generation of youth and young people in the church at the Lampen Lecture Series of Ancilla College on Jan. 25. After a reality check of the current state of affairs, the bishop went on to talk of the “intentional disciples” found among young people and how they have found contentment and a sense of purpose in their daily walk within the church and their personal lives. His lecture was titled, “The Role of Young Adults in Church and Society.”

Bishop Rhoades began his presentation by reviewing his just-completed trip to the Middle East and the Holy Land. He spoke of conversations with young people at Bethlehem University, which is approximately 30 percent Catholic and 70 percent Muslim. He mentioned the faith and hope that the students had, even though their situation did not foster a pronounced optimism among the youth.

He began the lecture by noting that, “Before looking at the role of young adults in church and society, it is necessary to consider the sociological realities of young adult life.” The bishop reported he had “learned a lot from (his) own personal experiences and encounters with young adults, and also from reading various books and studies, especially those of Dr. Christian Smith at the University of Notre Dame.” Smith refers to young adults as “Emerging Adults,” rather than “teens and young adults.”

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Bishop Rhoades referred to young adults as “intentional disciples: during his presentation.The audience at Ancilla College was challenged to find new ways to get young adults engaged in parish and diocesan life. Bishop Rhoades referred to young adults as “intentional disciples: during his presentation.
LEGISLATION TO LIFT FOOD BENEFITS BAN FOR REFORMED DRUG OFFENDERS CLEARSEN SENATE PANEL

INDIANAPOLIS — Legislation to lift a ban on food assistance for reformed drug offenders passed a Senate panel Jan. 25 by an 8-1 vote and is headed to the Senate floor. The Indiana Catholic Conference supports the legislation. Senate Bill 9, authored by Sen. James Merritt, R-Indianapolis, allows Indiana to opt out of a federal law that bans convicted drug felons from receiving the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits.

“We support efforts to enhance access to SNAP benefits for those returning from incarceration back into society, because it helps former offenders move forward with their lives,” said Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference. “Senate Bill 9 would help offenders get the food they need to become self-sufficient.”

Merritt said, “You can murder someone, do your time, be released from the department of corrections and receive SNAP benefits. But if you are convicted of a drug felony, do your time, and are released from the department of corrections, you cannot receive SNAP benefits.” Merritt said there is a lot of evidence showing these individuals who lack proper nutrition are more likely to return to crime or drug use.

Merritt said if it’s the state’s goal is to eradicate the heroine epidemic in five years, a comprehensive solution to the problem must be the way forward. Lifting the ban on people who exit the department of corrections after serving their time for a drug felony is one part of this comprehensive plan.

“Let’s think about someone who leaves the department of corrections, who has been there a long time,” said Merritt. “I hope that when they leave they would not go hungry. You have no job. You have a felony on your record. Maybe you live out in rural Indiana. We don’t want this individual to re-offend,” said Merritt. “We want to support this individual on what we hope would be a very temporary basis.”

Merritt said his hope is to allow former offenders to “pull themselves up by their bootstraps”, but also to give them a start to getting their life on the right track.

Emily Bryant, executive director of Feeding Indiana’s Hungry, an association of Indiana food banks, who testified in support of the bill, said Indiana is one of seven states that have a permanent ban on SNAP benefits for drug felons. Bryant said anyone convicted of a drug felony from 1996 to the present has a lifetime ban on SNAP benefits.

In Indiana, the SNAP monthly benefit for an individual is $118 per month and any able-bodied person ages 18–49 must work as a condition to receive SNAP. SNAP is a program of the federal government designed to alleviate hunger and address poverty. Formerly known as the food stamp program, SNAP helps low-income people and families buy food. SNAP benefits are provided in the form of an electronic benefit card that acts like a debit card and can be used in grocery store lines for the purchase of food.

SNAP is regulated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and administered in Indiana by the Family and Social Services Administration.

Merritt has authored another bill, Senate Bill 154, to assist low income persons access SNAP benefits. Senate Bill 154 would remove asset limits on SNAP benefits. In Indiana, the asset limit for SNAP recipients is $2,250 per household, or $3,250 for a household if there is a person with a disability or 60 years or older. The asset limit includes other than a person’s home; cash and bank accounts. Besides the asset limits, persons must pass a gross income test of not more than 130 percent of poverty to qualify for SNAP benefits.

Thirty-five states and Washington DC have eliminated their asset resource limit for SNAP benefits. “Asset limits create a disincentive for savings,” said Merritt. “Savings are a prerequisite for self-sufficiency. Eliminating the asset test leads to an increase in low income persons having a bank account.”

Merritt said having asset limits burden charities, nonprofits, township trustee offices to fill the void. It leaves the individual having to spend time going to several locations to gather food rather than working. Merritt said Senate Bill 154 is a good start to the state’s comprehensive program to change the Indiana code to kill heroin in five years.

“SNAP is a hand-up, and temporary in nature,” said Merritt.

Some of the other organizations that support eliminating the SNAP asset limit include the Indiana Coalition for Human Services; the Children’s Coalition of Indiana; the Marion County Commission on Youth; the Indy Hunger Network; Indiana Citizens Action Coalition; and the Marion County Reentry Coalition.

Tebbe expects a committee vote on Senate Bill 154 before the end of February, and if approved the bill moves to the Senate floor for further consideration.
What makes a pilgrim, and a pilgrimage?

Understanding pilgrimage is, I believe, extremely important for our journeying out his or her faith. We do ourselves a great disservice by thinking that a pilgrimage is some sort of holy adventure like the likes of which we can never become. A pilgrimage, by definition, is “one who journeys to a sacred place.” The very fact of the matter is that we are all pilgrims journeying to a sacred place, our heavenly home. It’s important to recognize this truth so that we can analyze what makes a pilgrimage, and do our best to emulate one — thus making our journey home a little less difficult.

Two summers ago, I and two other young people from the diocese, Matt Anderson and Bella Widner, set out to go on a pilgrimage of our own, the Camino de Santiago. The Camino is an extremely old pilgrimage in which one walks from France to the west coast of Spain, ending before the tomb of St. James in Santiago. On the Camino, it became clear to me that there are three things a pilgrim must do in order to finish his or her journey, and I believe they apply to our earthly pilgrimage as well.

The first thing a pilgrim must do is to keep the end goal in mind. As a very task-oriented person, I did a lot of thinking about “the end” on the road to Santiago. These thoughts certainly made the blisters a little less painful, and not only that, but they made me want to press on despite the pain. I couldn’t wait to hear those triumphant trumpets blast as I entered Santiago. (In reality what I heard were car horns and a street performer playing “Scotland the Brave” on bagpipes.) Similarly, thinking about our end goal of heaven not only makes our earthly sufferings more tolerable but also helps us to act in such a way as to someday attain our goal. While no one enjoys thinking about their own mortality, it’s critical to remember that this earth is not what we were made for. Just as thinking about the finish line makes a race bearable, pondering the reality of our heavenly home doesn’t eliminate the “blisters” of our lives entirely, but makes them more tolerable, as we know there’s something greater for us at the end. Put simply, you were not made for blisters, you were made for heaven.

Secondly, a pilgrim must unite their sufferings to God. My dad used to say to me, “hope for the best, plan for the worst.” Never has this been truer than during my adventures in Santiago, which began with getting lost in the Madrid airport. Next came the blazing heat, then the attempted pickpocketing, the tendonitis, then the blisters; and how could I forget the lost passport debacle. Pilgrimage is supposed to hurt, and it’s certainly not supposed to be a walk in the park. Maybe that’s the point, because in suffering one can unite himself to Christ in a very special way. It’s easy to pray when everything is going well on our journey, but enduring suffering with joy and faithfulness can be an incredibly powerful and meaningful prayer. This doesn’t mean that our earthly pilgrimage can’t be enjoyable, because just as we unite ourselves to Christ’s sufferings in the low points of our lives, we give God praise for the good times.

Last, a pilgrim has to rely on others. On a pilgrimage, you make friends that encourage travel companions. Spain is known for an anxiety-inducing nightmare ending in, most likely, surrender. Luckily I had them, and lucky for all of us the Catholic Church is a vibrant community full of potential encouragers. We not only have our fellow Catholics to push us on to our goal, but we also have the communion of saints. These saints are those who have finished the race before us, and they intercede for us and inspire us in our own heroic lives.

Pilgrimage, whether you want it or not, matters a great deal. The pilgrim mentality entails keeping the end in mind at all times, uniting sufferings to God and relying on others. Even if you don’t think these things are necessary for salvation, they certainly can’t hurt.

Fort Wayne native Sam Lyon is currently discerning the priesthood at Marian University in Indianapolis.

Angels among us: how helping leads to healing

Spend a day in a surgery waiting room and you’ll witness a hundred quiet acts of mercy.

Strangers gather for a host of reasons, with a common cause: to sit beneath the slowest clock and wait it out. They make calls, utter prayers and read magazines, and in their anxiety they extend morsels of compassion: smiles and small talk, directions to the pharmacy and tips on its offerings. One person is shown the way by someone slightly less new — flashes of humanity while loved ones down the hall are put under.

The Mercy at one Minneapolis hospital, where I spent a recent Thursday as my husband’s elbow was reassembled, began with a text: “Surgery started. Everything going well.” Five words to make you feel oriented and relieved, the optional last three abounding in kindness.

A 60-something couple across from me hurriedly down for their son’s four-hour surgery, a double mastectomy. A toddler behind them sprawled across her grandpa, staring at the fish tank. A camouflage-clad college student wanted to know where his dad would be recovering over night. A 40-something woman, thin and seemingly checked on his wife’s status.

We were told we would be notified as soon as any information became available, but people could not wait. The women behind the front desk responded with grace, promising

Christina Capgechi
The Netflix original series “The Crown,” which has to do with the last months of the reign of King George VI and the first years of the reign of his daughter, Queen Elizabeth II, is just the kind of program that Americans in particular seem naturally to love. It features beautiful period settings of palaces, processions and formal receptions; and it provides a behind-the-scenes look at the “ne plus ultra” of the British aristocracy. Consider it “Downton Abbey” on steroids.

Some of the more affecting scenes in the entire series unfold around the transition from father to daughter, a time of trauma for the nation and deep personal pain for the family of the relatively young king. After Elizabeth, just returned from an African sojourn, had viewed the body of her beloved father, she meets her grandmother, Queen Mary, in one of the corridors of Buckingham Palace. The old lady, swathed in black Victorian garb, spies her granddaughter and then with tremendous dignity and through considerable discomfort, contorts herself into a formal curtsy. Tallow-waxing this uncustomed display, Elizabeth registers her astonishment and feels, perhaps for the first time, that she is now the monarch.

Queen Mary had composed an extraordinary letter to her granddaughter, just after the death of her husband, that made clear that, as queen, Elizabeth would not be beholden to Parliament, for it had not chosen her, nor to the people, for they had not voted for her, but rather to God, in whose name she would be coronated. This is how the letter concludes:

If you doubt me on this score, I might recommend a close reading of the prologue to the Declaration, which states, “We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights.” Thomas Jefferson is not speaking here of values consequent upon the people’s will, but rather of the proper ethical matrix for any and all legislative deliberation. When this feature of public life is forgotten, everything becomes a matter of majority vote or private whim — and the society necessarily drifts.

There is another scene in “The Crown” that brings this home. When they were children, King George brought Elizabeth and Margaret together and invited them to pledge that they would always remain faithful to one another and that nothing would ever supersede their mutual loyalty. When the moment of truth came many years later, and Elizabeth was forced to choose God’s way over her sister’s desire, Margaret bit- terly reminded her of this oath. Though he was a good man and though the two sisters dearly loved one another, King George should never have compelled his daughters to make that pledge. For nothing can be permitted to violate the God-given moral values upon which a society is rightly constructed. God bless the makers of “The Crown” for helping us to see this in a most dramatic way.

CAPECCHI

Continued from Page 12

by the Dominican Sisters of Hawthorne and explained to me his reasoning: “Spiritual and corporal works of mercy happen there. We can’t personally do much of that work, and so we have proxies.”

The same organization sends two nurses every month to his retirement home for priests, to trim their toenails. “As I get older, my feet get fatter and farther away from me,” he said. “That’s the trouble.”

What a beautiful way to serve the church’s servants, and it’s the kind of assistance most would never think to provide. “Old folks appreciate the power of touch,” he said.

One of this month’s Scripture readings brings it all home with words from Isaiah: “Thus says the Lord: Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless … and do not turn your back on your own. Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your wound shall quickly be healed.”

Acts of mercy aren’t just to be performed when you’re in perfect condition and your to-do list is complete. They’re done when you are wounded — that’s how you arrive at healing.

“Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer, you shall cry for help, and He will say: Here I am!”

Christina Capecci is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn., and editor of SiterStory.org.
Planting seeds of growth

BY JAMES MOUNT

Aug. 15, 2014, was just another evening for Paul Gerardot, property manager of St. Henry Parish Community Center in Fort Wayne. That evening, however, would end in a catastrophe. Riding his motorcycle, a car pulled out in front of him. Gerardot swerved to avoid the hit, lost control of the bike and dropped it, falling off and hitting his head. He never hit the car, but wasn’t wearing a helmet.

Rushed to the hospital, he had no heart rate and no blood pressure. Doctors fought for his life and with his vital signs restored, Gerardot drifted in and out of consciousness for 65 days. Suffering a traumatic brain injury, he was lucky to be alive — but today you wouldn’t think anything had ever happened to him.

Coming back wasn’t easy. It required months of rehab and retaining his brain. During the process he came to know Kristin Smith, the leader of Parkview Hospital’s brain injury support group and a specialist in brain injuries. Their acquaintance would bring Smith and Parkview to a place special that was very special to Gerardot: the church’s community gardens.

People who suffer TBIs have unique challenges in their rehabilitation efforts. Smith’s efforts center on not only helping these people regain full function of their motor and cognitive abilities but also helping friends and family form a support group for TBI patients. According to her, the TBI support group has a three-fold focus.

First, it offers group sessions to discuss problems, questions and concerns and helps group members through varied expertise and personal experience. Second, it offers educational groups bringing speakers into the group to further educate about brain trauma. The third focus is social, bringing patients, family, friends and community members together in a relaxed and fun environment. The third focus brought Smith and Parkview to St. Henry.

Smith was impressed with a visit to a community garden picnic sponsored by St. Henry over the summer. “We loved our visit to St. Henry,” she said. “The people were generous hosts in sharing their support and resources to provide a welcoming environment with food and friendship.”

Smith became aware of St. Henry Parish, and its annually planted community gardens, through Gerardot’s treatment and rehabilitation. She also appreciated his attitude during the process, which helped other group members with their own recovery. “Paul always brings a message of hope and the importance of functional activity, as well as ongoing purpose for our survivors and their families. He’s always able to drive home the point that no matter their impairments their lives still have purpose and meaning. He also expresses how helping others can help them.”

She came away impressed by the efforts put forth by the parish and the hospitality presented to the TBI group. “I was so appreciative to Paul and his board and contacts for all the hard work they did in getting food arranged and prepared — all the people who supported, set up, cleaned up and provide entertainment.”

TBI group members came away aware of a special place they can utilize in their rehabilitative efforts.

“I feel that many of our group members were made aware of another place they could go to be functional, to obtain some activity and work toward their return to independent living following their brain injuries.”

Smith sees a value in the existence of a place like the community gardens, and shared her hope for future collaborative efforts with St. Henry to provide TBI patients a haven to regain their life functions. “I would love to see some of our group members regularly participate in gardening at St. Henry and share their experiences and possibly fresh food with the group.

The success of group members in these types of activities and programs helps them recover and regain a sense of purpose back to their life. This, in turn, brings examples of success and hope back to our group to share with others who are struggling.”

Smith also sees a growing and able pool of volunteers for St. Henry to come from this collaboration.
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.diocesesfwbs.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.

Help for hurting marriages
Retrouvaille is a worldwide program that teaches couples how to rediscover each other and work through difficult times in their marriages. To learn more about the program or to register for the Feb. 24-26 weekend in Indianapolis, visit the website at www.HelpOurMarriage.com or www.retrouvaille.org. Email Retrouvaille@gmail.com or call 317-489-6811 for confidential registration information.

Concert to benefit seminarians
FORT WAYNE — The Franciscan Friars Minor will host a benedict concert at the University of Saint Francis North Campus Auditorium on Friday, Feb. 24, at 7 p.m. Original Music composed by “Brothers” in various contemporary styles and traditional Gregorian Chant, will be presented. Admission is free-will offering and proceeds will benefit the seminarians of the Franciscan Friars Minor.

Saint Meinrad Day of Service planned
FORT WAYNE — The Saint Meinrad Alumni Association will have a Day of Service on Saturday, March 11, in 11 cities. In Fort Wayne the event will be held at Our Lady of Good Hope Catholic Church, 7217 St. Joe Road, and will begin with registration at 8 a.m. Work will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 2 p.m. There is no cost to participate and each volunteer will receive a free T-shirt and lunch. You need not be an alumnus of Saint Meinrad to participate. Volunteers are asked to register by March 1 to ensure an accurate count for lunch and T-shirts. For more details or to register, visit http://alumni.saintmeinrad.edu/dayofservice.

Fish fry
FREMONT — St. Paul Chapel, 8780 E. 700N, will host a Lenten fish fry from 5-7 p.m. in the parish hall on Fridays, Feb. 24, March 10 and 24. Meals are $8 for adults, $5 for children 4-12 and children 3 and under are free. For information contact Katie at 260-665-2259.

Vocation society plans meeting
FORT WAYNE — The Father Solanus Casey Vocation Society will meet Friday, Feb. 3, at St. Joseph Hospital, beginning with Mass in the chapel at 11:30 a.m. followed by lunch and guest speaker, Andrew Outlette, director of youth ministry for the diocese.

Knights plan fish fry
SOUTH BEND — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 9, from 5-7 p.m. Adults $9, children 5-12 $4. Shrimp or chicken strips available for $9.50 and cheese pizza for $1 per slice.

Hospice volunteer training dates announced
Center for Hospice Care needs volunteers in St. Joseph, La Porte, Elkhart, LaGrange, Starke, Marshall, Kosciusko and Fulton Counties. The next Volunteer Training is dates are: Feb. 14, 16, 21, from 9 a.m. to noon; and Feb. 23, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Mishawaka Campus, 501 Comfort Place. Registration required by contacting Kristiana Donahue at 574-286-1198 or donahuek@cfhcare.org.

Soup and bread served on Ash Wednesday
FORT WAYNE — Begin Lent simply and bring a friend for lunch of soup and bread on Ash Wednesday, March 1, from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at St. Mary’s, 1101 S. Lafayette St. The free donation will help support St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen, which serves 1,000 free bowls of soup to hungry people every day. A Lenten Prayer Service with distribution of ashes will begin at 11 a.m.

Spaghetti dinner raises funds for school
FORT WAYNE — St. Therese Parish will have a spaghetti dinner Saturday, Feb. 25, in the St. Therese gym following the 5 p.m. Mass. Proceeds will help with updates and repairs at St. Therese School. The cost is $8 for adults, $5 for children ages 5-12, and children 4 and under are free.

CCGS alumni association plans March open house
FORT WAYNE — The Central Catholic High School Alumni Association will have an open house Sunday, March 12, from 1-3 p.m. at its office, located at 4816 E. State Blvd.

Benefit supper for Hannah’s House
MISHAWAKA — The Knights of Columbus, Council No. 1878 will host a benefit spaghetti supper for Hannah’s House Maternity Home with a Heart on Friday, Feb. 24, from 5-7 p.m. at 114 W. Fourth St. Tickets are $8 for adults, $5 for children 5-12 and children under 5 eat free. This dinner helps care for pregnant mothers and newborn babies.

Interpreter to be at Mass
FORT WAYNE — An interpreter for the deaf and hard of hearing will be present for the 11:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Feb. 12, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, 1122 S. Clinton St. Cathedral parish and the Diocesan Office of Evangelization provide an interpreter every second Sunday of the month. For more about this ministry, contact Allison Sturm at 260-399-1452 or asturm@diocesesfwbs.org.

Catholic Business Network meetings
FORT WAYNE — The next Catholic Business Network meeting will be Friday, Feb. 3, with Mass in the Guerin Chapel at 7 a.m. followed by fellowship in the Cathedral Center at 7:30 a.m. Guest speaker will be Dr. Lance Richey, dean of the School of Liberal Arts and Sciences at University of Saint Francis speaking on the topic: “Of Profits and Prophets: Some Catholic Principles for Business Leaders.” Refreshments provided by Joe Brown with Rekindle the Fire.

The CrossWord

FEB. 5 & 12, 2017

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Therese Little Flower Holyn Hour
February 7
7:00 p.m.
St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel
With Fr. David Voors

Please, come and pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

Diocesan liturgical training scheduled
The Office of Worship has organized diocesan liturgical trainings on upcoming Saturdays in early 2017 for parish lectors and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. There is no charge to attend a training, but advance registration is required by mail or email. The remaining lector training will be on March 4 at St. Jude Church in South Bend. The extraordinary minister training will be on Feb. 4 at St. Joseph Church in Mishawaka. The times and durations of the trainings vary. Visit www.diocesesfwbs.org/Trainings-And-Retreats for more information.
Saturday morning.
The National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C., on
Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades gives a homily at a diocesan Mass for pilgrims at

Multiple bus loads of representatives from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South
T O D A Y ' S C A T H O L I C

New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, chairman of the U.S. bishops’
Committee on Pro-Life Activities, delivers the homily during the opening
Mass of the National Prayer Vigil for Life at the Basilica of the National
Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Jan. 26. The all-night
vigil is held before the annual March for Life, which this year marked the
44th anniversary of the Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision that legalized
abortion across the nation.

I always notice how many of the teens come back with a desire
and a zeal to spread the good news of life and to grow in their
relationship with Jesus Christ
through the sacraments.”
Loesch noted that the young
people especially enjoyed hearing
Vice President Pence and some
of the other speakers at the rally
before the march. “They were
very moved by Representative
Mia Love’s personal witness of
her parents choosing life for her
despite their difficult situation,”
he said. Msgr. Michael Heintz
and diocesan seminarians at
Mount St. Mary Seminary in
Emmitsburg, Md., hosted the
Fort Wayne-South Bend group
for Mass following the march,
giving everyone an opportunity
to meet with seminarians of the
diocese on the way back home.
Father Royce Gregorson,
parochial vicar at St. Charles
Borromeo Parish in Fort Wayne,
accompanied local marchers
for the first time in six years.
Afterwards, he reflected that
“The presence of so many
young people is a cause for so
much hope for our country and
our world.”
He also noted the peaceful
tone of the event.
“The marchers” do not carry
signs with derogatory lan-
guage and they refrain from
inflammatory statements about
people with whom they dis-
agree. … The March for Life
reminded me about how much
brokenness there is in the
world. Women gave testimonies
about how their lives had been
affected by abortion. Women
from minority communities and
others from the inner city spoke
about how abortion providers
prey upon ethnic minorities
and the economically disad-
vantaged. But even more than
the brokenness, what stood out
was hope.”
“This is a message of love,”
said Bridget Donofrio, from
Washington, holding aloft a
poster-board sign with words
written with a black marker:
“Respect all women born and
unborn.”
Many of the march signs were
pre-made placards with mes-
sages such as “I am pro abun-
dant life” or “Defund Planned
Parenthood” and “I am the pro-
life generation.”
The city of Washington, fresh
from the inauguration crowd
and the women’s march held the
next day, seemed prepared for
this march.
On the Metro, when two older
women asked a young woman
for directions and pointed to the
group with signs that they want-
ed to join, the woman looked
up from her phone and asked if
there was a protest today.
“It’s the March for Life,” one
woman said. A few seconds later
she added. “It’s not a protest; it’s
more of a celebration.”
During a homily delivered to
about 3,000 of the faithful from
the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South
Bend and others on Saturday
morning at the National Shrine
of the Immaculate Conception,
Bishop Rhoades reflected on
the letter to the Hebrews, which
extols the faith Abraham had in
God.
“Abraham trusted that we would
come evil and working so that
faith and all human life. When our
faith is put to the test, especially
in this anti-life and pro-death
culture, we need that strong and
obedient faith of Abraham, who
trusts in God no matter what.
When the storms come, our faith
can be shaken like that of the
disciples in the boat. When we
cry out to Him like the disciples
Jesus calms the storm. The Lord
brings peace and calm not only
to the sea, but to our anxious or
fearful hearts.”
Bishop Rhoades then drew
a parallel to the faith of those
whom he met during a recent
visit Catholic Relief Services
programs in the Holy Land.
He encouraged the March for
Life pilgrims to buttress their
faith in a manner similar to the
Palestinians, who live with cri-
pling scarcity and a lack of free-
dom of movement.
“We must never give up or
lose hope. We must persevere,
trusting that goodness will over-
come evil and working so that
life and justice will prevail. May
Mary, our Immaculate Mother,
and Saint Thomas Aquinas,
the great Angelic Doctor of the
Church, intercede for us and all
who serve the Gospel of life!”

Continued from Page 1

High school youth and chaperones from the South Bend, Mishawaka and Elkhart area pose with Bishop Rhoades out-
side the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.