Bishop visits Marian High School
Bishop speaks to the challenges of young adulthood

“Be open to God’s call in your life.” The exuberance of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades’ message to Marian High School students framed the entire day of his annual visit to the Mishawaka school, which took place Feb. 9, as he discussed with fervor and candor the importance of discovery and discernment in young people’s lives. Among his favorite aspects of serving as bishop of the diocese, he told the students during Mass, is mingling with adolescents and young adults. In this way he unravels what is important to them, as well as what they are dealing with in the outside world.

“I see three particular challenges in our culture, which I call the ‘dark side’ of young adulthood: consumerism, intoxication and sex before marriage,” he said. These specific social pressures often sway young people away from the beauty of Jesus’ mandate that we work for food that satisfies eternally, which...
A central component of living as a disciple of Jesus, of pursuing the call to holiness in our everyday life, is prayer. Many people already have a good daily regimen of prayer. Some attend daily Mass. Others struggle to maintain a daily routine of prayer. I would like to describe some practices of prayer for your consideration, wherever you might be in your prayer life.

Of course, every Catholic should have a discipline of daily prayer. One size does not fit all when it comes to how we pray. The wonderful thing is that the Catholic Church has such a rich treasury of prayers, devotions, and spiritual practices. The most important thing is not “how” we pray, but “that” we pray, that we converse with God as the Lord of our life, with God who is Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Prayer when we get up in the morning, when we go to bed at night, and when we eat are staples of a daily regimen of prayer.

Prayer upon rising in the morning

Priests, deacons and religious are required every morning to pray Lauds, the Morning Prayer of the Church, from the Liturgy of the Hours. Some lay people also pray Lauds. It is a beautiful prayer with psalms, a Canticle, and intercessions. It takes about 10 to 15 minutes to pray. Some lay people use the wonderful little book “Magnificat,” which includes a shorter version of Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, as well as the prayers and prayers of daily Mass. It is a great resource that I highly recommend. I know many Catholics who have grown in their prayer life by using the monthly published Magnificat booklets.

Morning Prayer is a great way to sanctify one’s day, all one’s activities and works of the day. Whether not one uses the Liturgy of the Hours or Magnificat, what is most important is that one begins his or her day giving praise and thanks to God and offering one’s day to Him.

For many Catholics, a great and simple way to begin the day is to pray the Morning Offering. I have it taped to the mirror in my bathroom! It reminds us of the common priestly priesthood of all the baptized because it is an offering, an act of sacrifice, which is a priestly act.

There are different versions of the Morning Offering, but each one is basically a prayer offering everything that day to God, including our works, joys, and sufferings. We are giving our day to God.

It is also good when we make our Morning Offering to offer some specific prayers for spouses and children, for coworkers and for the needy, the sick, and the dying, including those individuals who have asked for our prayers or whom we have promised to pray for. If we anticipate a difficult situation that day, like a challenging meeting or encounter, it is good to ask the Lord in advance for wisdom and patience.

Beginning our day with prayer should be a daily habit. I read a story about the actor Denzel Washington giving advice to a group of young actors. He said something surprising. He said to them: “Put your shoes way under your bed at night so that you got your feet in the morning to find them. And while you’re down there thank God for grace and mercy and understanding.” Great advice — if we put our shoes way under our bed, getting down on our knees to get them and then remind us to stay on our knees for a few minutes in the prayer in the morning!

Night Prayer

Like prayer in the morning, prayer at night before going to bed should be part of our daily routine. As with Morning Prayer, priests, deacons and religious are required to pray Night Prayer from the Liturgy of the Hours only takes about five minutes. Whether or not we use this official prayer of the Church, the important thing is that we end our day with prayer.

As I recommended the Morning Offering upon rising, I recommend the Act of Contrition when going to bed. Many of us learned this custom as children. Before saying the Act of Contrition, I was taught to think back over the day and to give thanks to God for specific blessings; and then to think back over the day and ask God pardon for my sins that day.

Prayer of thanksgiving is very important before we go to bed. It is a reminder of God’s goodness and love. The examination of conscience and Act of Contrition are also important. It takes humility and is good for our souls to express sorrow for our sins and to express the desire to change and to live in God’s grace. Of course, we can offer the Act of Contrition any time during the day, but it is good to do so at the end of the day — to review our day, try to see it as God saw it. The Holy Spirit’s gift of wisdom enables us to see things as God sees things.

We should look not only at any moral failure in our actions, but also in our words and our thoughts, as well as our sins of omission, what we have failed to do. This shouldn’t be a scrupulous scrutiny — it only takes a few minutes. St. Paul wrote to the Corinthians: “Examine yourselves, to see whether you are holding to your faith.” This daily examen helps us to have a healthy self-knowledge. This is good for the spiritual life. With that knowledge, we can more consciously be resolved to fight against particular temptations and sins.

The end of our day, like the beginning of our day, can be an act of prayer. That’s what is key. The hinges of our day are focused on the Lord.

Grace before meals

This should be a regular habit in our lives. It is good to be aware that the food we eat is a gift from God and that our companions at a meal are also a gift. We are acknowledging God’s presence and goodness every time we say grace. We can pray before meals in spontaneous words or with the traditional “Bless us, O Lord,” prayer. It is a small thing, but if done attentively and deliberately, it helps us to cultivate an awareness of God at mealtime. Grace at meals reminds us that God is with us as He was with His people when Jesus shared meals with the disciples and others.
U.S. bishops call for solidarity with Middle East victims of violence

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Christians and all people in the Middle East need the solidarity of the U.S. Catholic Church, said the chairman of three committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the head of the Catholic Relief Services board.

“A concern for our Christian brethren is inclusive and does not exclude a concern for all the peoples of the region who suffer violence and persecution, both minorities and majorities, both Muslims and Christians,” said a Feb. 10 statement from the four bishops.

“To focus attention on the plight of Christians and other minorities is not to ignore the suffering of others,” the statement said. “Rather, by focusing on the most vulnerable members of society, we strengthen the entire fabric of society to protect the rights of all.”

The group consisted of Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore, chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty; Bishop Oscar Cantu of Las Cruces, N.M., chairman of the Committee on International Justice and Peace; Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Tex., chairman of the Committee on Migration; and Bishop Gregory J. Mansour of the Eparchy of St. Maron of Brooklyn, N.Y., chairman of the board of Catholic Relief Services.

The group pointed to the findings of a recent USCCB delegation to Iraq, which confirmed that Christians, Yazidis, Shite Muslims and other minorities had experienced genocide at the hands of the Islamic State group.

“It is important for Syrians and Iraqis of all faiths to recognize this as genocide, for that recognition is a way to help everyone come to grips with what is happening and to form future generations that will reject any ideology that leads to genocidal acts and other atrocities,” the bishops said in their statement.

The bishops called on Americans to accept “our nation’s fair share” of vulnerable families, regardless of religion and ethnicity, for resettlement as refugees. They called for special consideration of the victims of genocide and other violence.

They urged the U.S. to encourage the Iraqi government and the regional government in Irbil, Iraq, to “strengthen the rule of law based on equal citizenship and ensure the protection of all.”

U.S. aid should assist local and national efforts to improve policing and the court system and encourage local self-governance, the bishops said. Similar efforts are needed in Syria as well, they said.

The group also can provide “generous” humanitarian and development assistance to refugees, displaced people and Iraqi and Syrian communities as they rebuild, the statement said. Such funding can be directed in part to “trusted faith-based nongovernmental agencies” such as Catholic Relief Services and local Caritas agencies, the bishops said.

Latin patriarchate: New law governing lands poses ‘serious consequences’

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem warned of "serious consequences" from a new law that allows the government to seize private Palestinian lands where unauthorized Israeli settlements have been built.

"Such a law undermines the two-state solution, further eliminating hopes of peace," the patriarchate said in a Feb. 8 statement. "Rather, by focusing on the most vulnerable members of society, we strengthen the entire fabric of society to protect the rights of all.”

The legislation was quickly passed in the wake of the evacuation of the illegal outpost of Amona in the West Bank. The Feb. 1-2 evacuation took two days and was first ordered by the Israeli Supreme Court in 2014, but repeatedly had been pushed back because of legal appeals, until a final deadline of Feb. 8 was set in December.

The outpost consisted of mobile homes and log cabins and was built on privately owned Palestinian land. Some settlers had lived on the land for 20 years. The outpost’s buildings were either removed whole or demolished.

It is unclear whether the Palestinian owners will be permitted to return to farm there because the land abuts another Jewish settlement.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has promised to found a new settlement for the Amona evacuees on nearby land.

The Holy Land Coordination Jan. 14-19 said the half-century of occupation “demands action” and expressed opposition to settlement construction.

"This is a scandal to which we must never become accustomed," said the group of 12 prelates, including Bishop Cantu, after their visit.

"This de facto annexation of land not only undermines the rights of Palestinians in areas such as Hebron and East Jerusalem, as the U.N. recently recognized, also imperils the chance of peace," the statement said.
Bishop appoints new director of Stewardship and Development

BY CLAIRE KENNEY

Jeff Boetticher, former director of school financial assistance programs for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has been appointed by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades to serve as director of the Secretariat for Stewardship and Development. Boetticher’s professional background includes extensive and diverse experience in Catholic education. In the past, he served as director of Development and Alumni Relations and chief advancement officer for Saint Joseph High School in South Bend, associate director of the Alliance for Catholic Education Office of Educational Outreach at the University of Notre Dame, and assistant principal of Curriculum and Administration at Loyola College Preparatory High School in Shreveport, La.

While serving as chief advancement officer at Saint Joseph High School, Boetticher oversaw the development and funding strategy for the construction of the new high school. He coordinated the $38 million capital campaign for the project and was integral to both the project’s management and completion of the new campus in just 18 months.

“The $38 million Forward in Faith Campaign at Saint Joseph High School was the most transformative experience of my career,” Boetticher said in an interview with Today’s Catholic. He went on to say that the success of the project demonstrated that seemingly impossible tasks can be accomplished through prayer, persistence and proper planning. He also expressed gratitude for the lessons learned and friendships formed through the experience.

The Secretariat for Stewardship and Development is a relatively new secretariat, created by Bishop Rhoades shortly after his installation as bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in 2010. Boetticher said that the previous director of the secretariat was part of his inspiration in accepting the job. “…I have a great respect and admiration for Harry Verhicle, who previously had this position, and I wanted to make sure his legacy of good work was continued and strengthened,” he commented.

Boetticher also considers the position a vocation and a way to give back to his diocese.

“I view this position as a wonderful avenue to more fully serve Bishop Rhoades, our diocese, and the Lord,” he said. “I believe that stewardship is an important expression of our Catholic faith, and hopefully I can help the pastors of our diocese harvest the resources necessary to fulfill their visions for their individual parishes. I am looking forward to the new role and the new challenges of this position,” he said.

In his role, Boetticher will oversee major gifts for the diocese, continue to cultivate and solicit Scholarship Granting Organization of Northeast Indiana scholarship gifts, work to strengthen funding for seminarian education and grow participation in the Annual Bishop’s Appeal. He joins the directors of the Secretariat for Catholic Education, Secretariat for Evangelization and Special Ministries, Secretariat for Communications and Secretariat for Administrative Services, all of whom operate under the direction of the vicar general, Msgr. Robert Schulte, and Bishop Rhoades.

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Thur., Feb. 23, 2017 | University of Notre Dame

Mass for Persecuted Christians
5:15 PM | Basilica of the Sacred Heart
Celebrant: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Documentary Film Screening
6:00 PM | Washington Hall
Introduction: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades
Reception to follow hosted by the Center for Ethics and Culture

More information and a film trailer can be found at http://bit.ly/USfilm

Celebration Choir of the University of Notre Dame
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Saturday, February 25, 2017
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Fort Wayne 5:00 PM

Couple donates Ethiopian religious manuscripts to Catholic University

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A massive donation of Ethiopian religious manuscripts to The Catholic University of America in Washington makes the school one of the largest holders of such texts outside Ethiopia.

The value of the donation, by Gerald and Barbara Weiner of Chicago, is estimated to be more than $1 million. The collection includes more than 215 Islamic manuscripts, 125 Christian manuscripts, and 350 so-called “magic” scrolls with prayers to protect the owner or reader from particular illnesses.

What makes the manuscripts valuable is that they’re handmade, according to Aaron Butts, an assistant professor of Semitic languages and literature at Catholic University. What makes them rare, he added, is that such texts are rarely seen outside Ethiopia and that the East African nation’s rainy season often renders the books and scrolls unusable or illegible after repeated use.

That so many texts — most of which date back to the 18th and 19th centuries, with a few even older — still survive, and in a usable condition, he told Catholic News Service, is “amazing.” Every one of them is a treasure,” Butts said.

The donation makes Catholic University the holder of the fifth largest collection of Ethiopian Christian manuscripts in the United States, and the largest collection outside of Ethiopia. Butts said Gerald Weiner had realized how few were available, and he wanted to make sure how few were available, and he wanted to make sure how many were available.

Each book’s contents also must be written by hand with ink. Frequently, there are illustrations in the books — and definitely on the scrolls — making the production of even one book a prolonged and relatively costly venture.

Butts told CNS that the Weiners wanted to make sure the recipient of the gift would be able to provide access to the collection. Catholic University will be able to provide not only scholars and students with access, but also Washington’s Ethiopian-American community.

The donated books and scrolls are still being assessed for their relative durability after two or three centuries. When the assessment is complete, which Butts hopes will be sometime in the spring, Catholic University will invite the Weiners to attend a reception marking the donation.

The Washington area is a religious concentration of Ethiopian restaurants and shops — including an Ethiopian evangelical church — along the border of Washington with the suburb of Silver Spring, Md., and many Ethiopian-American men make their living as taxi drivers.

Jeff Boetticher
Lawmakers consider adding abortion reversal pill to Indiana’s informed consent law

INDIANAPOLIS — An Indiana House committee heard a bill to expand Indiana’s laws regarding informed consent for abortion to include information on nonsurgical, chemical abortion reversal. The Indiana Catholic Conference supports the measure.

House Bill 1128, authored by Rep. Ron Bacon, R-Chandler, would require the Indiana Department of Health to develop a form that provides women information about an abortion pill reversal procedure. The form would have to list websites and telephone numbers that could provide more information on the potential reversal as well as the names of local medical professionals who could aid in the procedure.

The measure was heard before the House Public Policy Committee, Feb. 8, and chairman of the panel Rep. Benjamin Smailtz, R-Auburn, said he would hold the bill to give panel members an opportunity to get their pending questions answered.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director for the Indiana Catholic Conference, testified in support of the bill, saying the measure would strengthen Indiana’s informed consent statute by ensuring that the mother is fully informed of the risks as well as options should she wish to reconsider her decision. “It gives the mother an opportunity to save her child,” said Tebbe.

Bacon, who works as a respiratory therapist, said he learned about the abortion pill reversal for chemical abortion when he met Christina Francis, an obstetrician and gynecologist in Fort Wayne while attending a medical seminar. Bacon said, “If a woman changes her mind, there is a chance to reverse it.”

A medical or chemical abortion is a nonsurgical, drug-induced form of abortion with a two-step process. The expectant mother takes pills containing Mifepristone (RU-486) and later takes Misoprostol, or Cytotec, to end the life of the baby. The first drug, Mifepristone, acts as a progesterone blocker and causes a miscarriage. The second drug, Misoprostol, causes the woman to have contractions to expel the baby. To reverse the chemical abortion, a woman is given progesterone to counteract the progesterone-blocking first drug. Current abortion pill reversal is successful only after the first drug is taken.

Testifying in support of the bill, Ashley Sams of Indianapolis choked back tears and stopped several times to compose herself. Shortly after taking the first round of abortion pills, Sams felt guilt and panic. Sams knew she made the “wrong choice.” Immediately she began desperately surfing the web for a support group to help her with her emotional breakdown, and stumbled across the abortion reversal pill.

Sams said, “I found reversal help by accident. That information should be provided to everyone who takes the abortion pill, because we’re the ones that have to live with the consequences of our actions.” Sams successfully reversed her abortion using the APR method and is the mother of a healthy, 17-month-old boy.

Patricia Stauffer, vice president of public policy for Planned Parenthood of Indiana and Kentucky testified in opposition to the bill saying the bill was unnecessary and it only “seeks to stigmatize a woman seeking abortion.”

Katherine McHugh, a practicing obstetrician and gynecologist in Indianapolis with Indiana University Health, testified in opposition to the bill saying the bill was unnecessary and it only “seeks to stigmatize a woman seeking abortion.”

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Casey Reising, who described herself as a “womb to tomb” family practice physician of Magnificat Family Medicine in Indianapolis, testified in support of the bill. Reising said she is the only full-time physician trained in NaProTechnology in Indianapolis and she has treated three patients with APR. Natural Procreative Technology, also called NaProTechnology, is a new women’s health science that monitors and maintains a woman’s reproductive health and gynecological health. Reising said she is one of many NaPro-trained physicians who assist patients that call into the APR reversal hotline.

Sams’ when she called the hotline to reverse her abortion.

The Abortion Reversal Pill Network reports there have been 300 successful births after using the reversal procedure. These documented abortion pill reversal cases are expected to be published in a medical journal in the near future by George Delgado, a family practice physician in San Diego who also serves as medical director for the Culture of Life Family Services.

Tebbe said he expects the bill to pass the House panel and move the House floor for approval by the end of February.

The ICC offers several resources to stay up to date with legislative action reports, review position papers or join the Indiana Catholic Action Network. 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. Visit www.indianacc.org.

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Congress urged to pass conscience protections for health care providers

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York and Archbishop William E. Lori of Baltimore have urged the House and Senate to pass the Conscience Protection Act of 2017. They called it “essential legislation protecting the fundamental rights of health care providers ... to ensure that those providing much-needed health care and health coverage can continue to do so without being forced by government to help destroy innocent unborn children.” The two prelates made the plea in a joint letter dated Feb. 8 and released Feb. 10 by the USCCB. Cardinal Dolan is chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities and Archbishop Lori is chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty. In the Senate, the Conscience Protection Act of 2017 is known as S. 301, and in the other chamber it is H.R. 644. The companion bills would provide legal protection to doctors, nurses, hospitals and all health care providers who choose not to provide abortions as part of their health care practice. In the House, Republican Reps. Diane Black of Tennessee and Jeff Fortenberry of Nebraska introduced the measure Jan. 24. Republican Sen. James Lankford of Oklahoma sponsored it in the Senate Feb. 1 and now has at least 16 co-sponsors.

Russia’s Catholics ponder ‘historic lessons’ on anniversary

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — As preparations get underway for this year’s 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, the country’s small Catholic Church is keeping a low profile. However, because some Russian Catholics support the policies of President Vladimir Putin, the church is looking to remain neutral and focus on prayer services and discussions of the church’s history of the last century. “Although we won’t be commemorating the revolution, our church communities will naturally reflect on what happened,” said Msgr. Igor Kovalevsky, secretary-general of the Russian bishops’ conference. “We’ll pray for Russia, and for all those who died for their faith during those dreadful years. But the Catholic faithful hold various political views, so the church won’t try to promote any one position,” he said. Russia’s revolution will include the 1917 overthrow of Czar Nicholas II, which occurred in March under the country’s modern calendar, and the seizure of power by Bolsheviks under Vladimir Lenin the following November, which ended hopes of democratic rule.

Vatican official speaks at U.S. bishops’ bioethics conference

DALLAS (CNS) — The head of the Pontifical Council for Life urged the U.S. bishops to stress the human dimension that is under threat of being ignored in the continued search for technological progress. “New technologies, by reason of the satisfaction they bring, their complexity, and their great efficiency have become the touchstone by which today’s ethical challenges are judged,” said Archbishop Vincenzo Paglia Feb. 6 in Dallas, where the bishops were gathered for their 26th workshop on bioethical issues. “The promise of a longer life, and even of immortality is the most convincing argument that technological society can offer,” Archbishop Paglia said, adding the rhetorical question, “Why should we turn down the possibility of overcoming all limits that technology offers?” Archbishop Paglia cited 20th-century philosopher Hans Jonas, who fled Germany shortly after the Nazis took power in 1933, whose writings “influenced the development of our awareness today that we are stewards of creation.” Jonas saw situations “where clearly our decisions must be based on much more than mechanistic technological and economic analysis,” he said. The text of Archbishop Paglia’s remarks were made available on the Vatican Radio website.

Don’t dialogue with the devil, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Satan is a liar and a cheat who prom- ises people everything then leaves them with nothing, Pope Francis said at his early morning Mass. In his homily Feb. 10, Pope Francis contrasted the way Eve interacted with the serpent in the garden of Eden and the way Jesus reacted to the devil after receiving 40 days of temptation. With Eve, “the father of lies” demonstrates how he is a specialist in tricking people, the pope said. First, he makes her feel comfortable, then he begins a dialogue with her, leading her “step by step” where he wants her to go. “He’s a trick- ster,” the pope said. “He promises you everything and leaves you naked,” like he left Adam and Eve. Jesus, on the other hand, does not enter into a dialogue with the devil, but responds to his temptations by quoting Scripture, Pope Francis said.

NCEA leader says school choice support can help Catholic parents

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — The Trump administration’s apparent endorsement of parental school choice presents a “huge opportunity” for Catholic school parents, the president of the National Catholic Educational Association told a group of Catholic high school principals May 1 in San Francisco.

“TYoung your politics, the current administration proclaims some understanding or belief in support of school choice,” Burnford said in his talk at Archbishop Riordan High School. In his remarks, he did not mention President Donald Trump directly, saying in later comments he did not want to politicize the subject of parental choice. His speech was given four days before Betsy DeVos was confirmed by the Senate as the nation’s education secretary. DeVos, former chairman of the American Federation for Children, a school choice advocacy group, has long been an advocate of school choice. She told the sena- tors during her confirmation hearing, “Parents no longer believe that a one-size-fits-all model of learning fits the needs of every child.”

Rev. King’s words still resonate, say church leaders

HOUSTON (CNS) — At a time when the nation is politically divided, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s legacy of seeking peace between races has particular reson- ance. “I believe Dr. King’s message of tolerance, human dignity and peace is just as meaningful and necessary today as it was in the 1950s and 1960s,” said Deacon Leonard Lockett, vicar for Catholics of African descent for the Archdiocese of Galveston—Houston. “We find ourselves at this hour in a nation of unrest and the wonderment and beauty of Dr. King’s message is that it transcends time,” the deacon said. “Dr. King reminded us over and over during his ministry that we are all created in the image and likeness of God and that we share in a sacred brotherhood and sisterhood.” Deacon Lockett said that as citizens of this nation we must not just citizens of African descent, but all citizens regard- less of one’s race, creed or politi- cal philosophy — must learn to live in peace at all times of the year as if it was Martin Luther King Day, which is observed every January. This year the King federal holiday was Jan. 16.
Around the Diocese

Quiz Bowl champions

The Saint Joseph High School Quiz Bowl team defended its tournament title recently by defeating Riley High School 405-125 in the semifinal and Mishawaka High School 465-50 in the final, becoming South Bend city champions. The team swept through the league season and league tournament with a tally of 10-0. This is the sixth year out of the last seven that the team has finished undefeated. Team members will try for their fifth consecutive state title on April 22 at Ancilla College. Pictured in the front row, from left to right are team members Ryan Farrisee, Reed Oei, Tomas Aguilar-Fraga and Ashley Decker. In the back row are moderator Ben Dillon and team members Michael Hall, Jacob White, Gus Desch and Ben Culver.

Marian Light of Learning nominee

Ken Andrzejewski, a science teacher at Marian High School, Mishawaka, received the school’s 2017 Light of Learning nomination, but due to a presentation at a science convention, was unable to attend the South Bend Area Light of Learning Luncheon sponsored by Quality Dining on Feb. 2. He is pictured with Marian High School Principal Mark Kirzeder during a school recognition of his nomination.

The work of the church: Near East and beyond

SOUTH BEND — Christopher Kennedy and Norma Intriago of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association will speak at St. Jude Parish on March 13, to discuss the work of their organization and the current plight of Christians in the Near East. The event will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Keller Room after the 5:30 Mass. RSVP to 574-291-0570, Ext. 308 or faith@stjudeparish.net to help plan refreshment needs.

Catholic Charities offers citizenship classes

FORT WAYNE — Catholic Charities is now registering individuals to participate in citizenship classes that will take place over eight weeks and are structured to help individuals understand and prepare to take the test to become U.S. citizens. Classes will be held every Tuesday evening from 4-6 p.m. at the Catholic Charities Fort Wayne office, 915 S. Clinton St. Registration fee is $10. To register or for more information contact Bertha at 260-422-5625 ext. 282 or bs paulding@ccfwsb.org.

Presentation on the sufferings of Christ

ROME CITY — Dr. Tomas McGovern, a Fort Wayne physician, will use the Shroud of Turin as a guide to the wounds of Christ and speak to the death process from a medical viewpoint of Christ and speak to the death process from a medical viewpoint of Christ. McGovern, a Fort Wayne physician, is: a guide to the wounds of Christ and speak to the death process from a medical viewpoint and speak to the death process from a medical viewpoint.

Gifts for wedding couples is parishioner’s legacy

ABOUT 200 newlywed couples in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have received a special gift from their parish as they started their married life together: a Bible and a crucifix. Couples who marry at either Queen of Angels or Most Precious Blood parishes in Fort Wayne receive the gift set as a special memory of their wedding day that also serves as reminders of God’s love and promises throughout their marriage.

The project was the idea of Queen of Angels parishioner and Knights of Columbus member Norbert Sauter, who passed away in December. In an email Sauter sent in July, he wrote: “Since 2007, Most Precious Blood has distributed 125 sets to newlyweds and Queen of Angels has distributed 72 sets for a total of 195 sets. That impresses me even, and I was involved at the beginning.” According to his daughter, Pat Beckman, he felt strongly about the project. She remembered him saying, “There’s not a more wonderful way to start your marriage than to have your first wedding gift given to you by the church and it being a Bible and crucifix.” She also says that her father never wanted any recognition for his works, and added that “he just wanted to do the right thing and go from there.”

One of the newlywed couples who received the gift set was Shalei and Adam Beckman. Adam is Sauter’s grandson. When Adam and Shalei were married at Most Precious Blood, they received the two gifts from the pastor, who also blessed both items. Shalei said it was a surprise to receive them at the rehearsal dinner, and since they were both new to the Catholic faith, it held special meaning. “It was definitely a blessing, something that we were able to bring home and share with our family and enjoy,” she said.

The project was initially funded from a Christmas card sale. When those funds ran out, Sauter approached the Queen of Angels/Most Precious Blood Knights of Columbus Council 11043 for assistance. They agreed to help. Grand Knight Tom Schall remembered Sauter’s enthusiasm about the project, and the council continues to provide assistance.

To help keep the Bible and crucifix program going, donations can be sent to: Knights of Columbus Council 11043, 1515 Barthold St, Fort Wayne, IN 46808. For further information, send an email to gk11043.org.

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Sister Helen Alford to explore the purpose of business Feb. 28

BY PATRICK MURPHY

A n international voice for ethics and social justice in the workplace is coming to Fort Wayne as part of the Servus Omnium Lecture series at the University of Saint Francis.

Sister Helen Alford, who worked for Michelin Tire, British Aerospace and other European companies before becoming a Dominican nun, will be the featured speaker at the fifth installment of the series, which will be presented at the downtown campus on Feb. 28, the day before Ash Wednesday.

Sister Alford is a professor of economics and ethics at the prestigious Pontifical University in Rome, and an advisor to the United Kingdom’s blueprint for Better Business, a consortium of economic and intellectual leaders who about a decade ago came together to explore how business can and should operate for the purpose of business, a topic part of her life’s work, she said, during a recent interview with Today’s Catholic.

“I’ve been thinking about this purpose of business question for many years,” she said. “And the work of the Better Business Consortium is to explore that further.”

She intends to focus her remarks on the purpose of business and what makes it work. “I believe that confusion confuses specific business goals — like making a profit — with the purpose of business,” she said.

“The generating profit may be one of the goals of business, it can only do this because its purpose in some, perhaps imperfect way, is to make a specific contribution to the common good.

“Catholic social thought can help us be more realistic in the business world,” she added. “Profit can only be attained, she then pointed out, because the business’ purpose in some way is to make a specific contribution to the common good.

After the economic crisis of 2009 — the most serious since the Great Depression, in the view of many — there has been general dissatisfaction with business and a loss of trust, especially in the financial sector. There has also been a call for tougher government regulations. But more stringent regulations could make things worse, Sister Alford insisted. “If we are to rebuild trust in business, business needs a purpose that genuinely contributes to society’s good.

Incorporating Catholic social thought into business is not only a good and proper thing to do, she believes, it also brings a significant competitive advantage. Catholic social thought is a more advanced form of what is being discussed in major business schools, she said, and what is needed is the involvement of people in decision-making to enable them to grow in their mastery — rather than just giving them financial incentives to do better.

The whole idea of “shared value,” as presented by Michael Porter and Mark Kramer in Harvard Business School, is a kind of simplified version of the way Catholic social thought is strong, she said. “So I really encourage Catholic business people in the U.S. to study Catholic social thought and to start thinking practically about how it could be put into practice in their own businesses.”

Sister Alford considers Catholic social thought as a house’s foundation that supports the entire structure. “A business isn’t just about profits for stockholders, but about the mission on which it intends to elaborate.”

Sister Alford enjoyed her time in the word of business, which led to her ultimate life’s work — promoting social justice and ethics as a Dominican nun. She had occasionally thought about becoming a nun when she was in college, but didn’t decide to enter the sisterhood until the early 1990s.

“I couldn’t see it at the time, but I think God was leading me back, I can see I was being led in this direction — the good Lord was preparing me.”

The USF Servus Omnium series initiated in 2013; “Servus Omnium” is Latin for “Servant of All,” according to Dr. Lance Richey, senior service America director for the series. St. Francis of Assisi, in a letter to his brotherhood, called himself the “servant of all,” explained Richey, who embroidered the Franciscan ideal of servant leadership.

New gender policy won’t affect Catholic Scouting units, says committee

IRVING, Texas (CNS) — The Boy Scouts of America’s new policy to accept members based on their gender identity will have no impact on Scouting units sponsored by the Catholic Church, said the National Catholic Committee on Scouting.

The Boy Scouts announced Jan. 30 that effective immediately, the organization has to offer units based on their religious beliefs.

The change in policy “has no impact on the operation and program delivery of Scouting programs and units,” said a Feb. 4 statement issued by the Catholic Scouting committee.

“Scouting serves the Catholic Church through the charter concept, which is similar to a franchise,” it said. “The units chartered to a Catholic institutional sponsor are owned by that organization. The BSA has stipulated that religious beliefs will continue to have the right to make decisions for their units based on their religious beliefs.”

The statement was signed by George S. Sparks, national chairman of the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, and Father Kevin M. Smith, a priest of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y., who is national chaplain of Catholic Scouting. The statement was approved by Bishop Robert E. Guglielmone of Birmingham, Ala., who is the episcopal liaison between Catholic Charities of the Southern Region and Catholic Scouting.

In announcing the membership change, Michael Surbaugh, chief Scout executive, said the organization has been “challenged by a very complex topic — the issue of gender identity.”

“After weeks of significant conversations at all levels of the Scouting organization, he said, officials decided a birth certificate is no longer sufficient for determining eligibility to participate in Cub or Boy Scouts.

“We have taken the opportunity to evaluate and update our approach,” he said in a video message posted online. “I hope you’ll join with me in embracing the opportunity to bring Scouting to more families and children who can benefit from what our organization has to offer.”

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St. Aloysius Parish is known as home to many generations

BY DEB WAGNER

St. Aloysius Parish in Yoder has been a pillar of the small, rural community for the nearly 160 years. In 1858 Bishop John Henry Luers, the first bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne, assigned a priest to help the Catholic families of the area commonly known as Pleasant Township. Three acres of land were donated for the plot where the church was built in 1859. Seventeen years after the church was erected Father Ferdinand Koerdt established the school, which opened Oct. 17, 1876, with 38 pupils.

Last year marked 140 years of continuous Catholic education in the current school building, which was completed in 1956 with only four classrooms. Additional classrooms and a gym were added in 2001.

On the south side of the parish grounds there is a small, old cemetery of about 600 graves. Eight priests are among those buried there. Four of them, all former pastors of St. Aloysius Parish, are located around the large cross in the center of the cemetery. Father Koerdt, the first resident pastor, is also buried in the cemetery, as well as approximately 50 veterans of the U.S. military.

Many priests and sisters have served the parish over the years. The parish and school have provided a nurturing environment that led 11 young men to join the priesthood and 10 young women to join the religious life. One such individual was quoted in the parish’s 150th Anniversary book as saying, “We are all better off, being closer to our Divine Lord, more aware of our faith, better prepared to help others because of our association with St. Aloysius Parish.”

In more recent times, the mission “to know Christ, meet Him in the sacraments, and evangelize through acts of love, and works of mercy” remains the same at St. Aloysius.

Currently, the parish is comprised of approximately 215 families. There are 108 students in grades prekindergarten through eighth grade currently enrolled in the school, whose small class sizes provide great learning possibilities. Many of the St. Aloysius students give back to their parish community by serving at Mass and participating in various sports activities. Some of them are also members of other organizations such as Lego Club, Girl Scouts and ACE, which stands for Aerospace Connections in Education.

Saint Anne Communities has been a leader in healthcare throughout our community for 50 years. From Adult Day Services to Skilled Nursing and everywhere in between, our caring staff enriches the lives of our Residents by encouraging freedom and independence while preserving their dignity and uniqueness.

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Mass Times:
Sunday: 7, 9, 11 a.m.
Weekday: 8:30 a.m. Tue.-Sat.
Saturday: 8:30 a.m.; 5:30 p.m.

Reconciliation:
Saturday 4-5 p.m.
and by appointment

Provided by St. Aloysius Parish

Students at St. Aloysius School in Yoder dressed up as their favorite saints for the Fort Wayne-area All Schools Mass last fall.

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Students at St. Aloysius School in Yoder dressed up as their favorite saints for the Fort Wayne-area All Schools Mass last fall.
BY RON BUSCH

A church is more than brick and mortar, and St. Therese is no exception, as one can see from the parish’s numerous school and church activities. St. Therese not only offers many traditional Catholic Church activities, but also operates a food pantry for local families in need. The church and school are located in Waynedale, in the southwest part of Fort Wayne.

Parish history

St. Therese established its roots over 70 years ago, when Father Herman Schoudel was assigned on Nov. 13, 1946, to begin plans for a parish that was to be located in Waynedale. While the plans were underway, Mass was said for this community at the Wayne Township School gymnasium. Eventually, in November of 1947, approval was given to purchase an Army chapel located at Baer Field’s Army Air Base. In January of 1948 the chapel was moved to the grounds of St. Therese Parish — a faith community on the southwest side of Fort Wayne.

In addition to the church and a school, a chapel is located on the grounds of St. Therese Parish — an faith community on the southwest side of Fort Wayne.

In MY diocese

St. Therese parishioners minister through service

Followed by a renovation and dedication the following October. Tragedy struck the parish on Feb. 24, 1950, when a fire in the church caused major damage. After extensive repairs, a second fire in December 1970 caused irreparable damage. Church activities were moved into the school building near the church. Masses were held in the school building for some 30 years until plans were laid for a new church in August 2000. In the interim years the church dedicated a new parish hall/gymnasium. In April of 1986 it adopted St. Maximilian Kolbe in Honduras as its sister parish, and coordinates parish activities throughout the year to benefit that parish. Plans for a modern church building were initiated in August of 2000 and on April 13, 2003, the first Mass was celebrated in the new St. Therese Church. The current church grounds include a school building, parish hall/gymnasium, the church and a rectory that is also utilized for parish offices.

Parish activities

In addition to the school, the church of 518 families has a Youth Ministry for grades 5-12, Knights of Columbus Council No. 9460, a Holy Name Society and Rosary Society, a prayer Line, United for Life group, and a St. Vincent de Paul Society.

The food pantry is operated by volunteers of the St. Vincent de Paul group.

The pastor of St. Therese Catholic Church is Father Lawrence Teteh, CSSp. Father Teteh has been pastor since June 21, 2011. He stated, “There are lots of rewarding things about working here in the parish; for example, parishioners always come through when we need them for our school and church. There is a good spirit of volunteering and the parish and school render lots of service even to the wider community. People are welcoming, and friendly. We have a strong core group of parishioners.”

That strong core group of parishioners includes Linda Thomas, director of religious education and RCIA activities. The music ministry, led by Music Director Beverly Rieger, even has its own music blog found at: http://music-ministrysttheresefw.blogspot.com. And the newly formed St. Therese Ringers, a group of chimes players, began rehearsal on Feb. 1.

Other activities have included a Mardi Gras party for parish adults and a spaghetti dinner fundraisers for the School. More church and school activities can be found in the weekly parish bulletin.
St. Therese school is proud of its hardworking honor students.

Donovan, who taught fourth grade at St. Therese School without priding one to end his or her day with prayer. Jeanette mentioned of former principal Donovan, who taught fourth grade at St. Therese School without pride.

Continued from Page 11

THERESE

St. Therese School

St. Therese School has 200 students in grades pre-K to eight. As the only Catholic school and church in the south side of Fort Wayne, St. Therese is a landmark to the Waynedale and landmark of Scripture. The addition of the attractive and aesthetic church in 2003 has added a significant to the diocese, St. Louis Besancon pastor, Father Ben Muhlenkamp, reflected upon the following events.
BY SARAH DUSTMAN

Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne’s Catholic group, Mastodon Catholic, is focusing this year on developing community and dipping deeper into the faith. The group has also gone through changes that will help with its mission, including a new name, a new chaplain, different weekly activities and the development of men’s and women’s households.

Mastodon Catholic changed its name to reach out to students on campus differently. The previous name of the group was IPFW Newman Catholic Fellowship. Riley McCullough, president of Mastodon Catholic, explained that someone who isn’t Catholic might not understand that “fellowship” means “community.” She also said that the name Mastodon Catholic is more straightforward.

The addition of chaplain Father Royce Gregerson has changed the game for Mastodon Catholic. Father Gregerson offers Mass on campus regularly and is present at the group’s other events. His presence, McCullough said, brings a high level of knowledge and he talks often about his experiences studying in Europe. Along with this, Father Gregerson is assigned to St. Charles Borromeo, which is only five minutes from IPFW; Mastodon Catholic is able to hold weekly events at St. Charles, providing a stability of meeting place that has been helpful for the group.

Mastodon Catholic held events during the past year that focused on obtaining deeper information about the Catholic faith. Some of these events include talks about the pro-life and pro-marriage movements, Theology of the Body, drinking, drugs and church teachings. Other events included Mass on campus, the Summit Awakening conference and an annual retreat at St. Felix Friary.

Among the changes, the recent establishment of a men’s and a women’s household have been the largest and possibly the most crucial. Both started after the group’s campus minister approached her own friends and McCullough about the idea of households, hoping that it would help Mastodon Catholic develop a deeper sense of community. She got the idea from Ohio State University’s St. Paul’s Outreach, which consists of a small group of men or women living together in community to study, learn and grow together.

McCullough said that the households will bring Mastodon Catholic community together in a new way, since school events aren’t enough for group members to bond. The households have already helped Mastodon Catholic as a whole and have made group life fuller by instilling a deeper sense of community.

The members of the Spes Unica household, a Catholic women’s house on the campus of IPFW, pray together nightly.

Mastodon Catholics strengthen commitment and community

The women’s household, Spes Unica, translates from Latin into “Our Only Hope.” McCullough said the women in the household prayed about a name and “wanted something that incorporated sisterhood.” One of the women came across the phrase “Spes Unica,” which is part of the Latin phrase, “Ave Cruz, Spes Unica” (“Hail to the cross, our only hope.”) The name resonated with the group because of how true it is that God is their only hope.

The purpose of Spes Unica is women helping women become better women,” McCullough said. One of the ways three women in the household help each other achieve the goal is by praying the Compline together at night. The women have busy schedules that include work and school, but McCullough said it’s nice to come home to holy women who have holy conversations. Due to their schedules, the women haven’t been able to plan as many regular events as they’d like, but it’s something that they’re working on this semester. Before establishing regular activities, Spes Unica wants to get a sense of the other women in their community and their interests. For example, if other women are interested in volunteering for a pro-life cause, then that’s something that they’ll do together. McCullough said that the focus of any of their activities is to invest in the women in their community.

Even though Spes Unica has an established community, six of the women are graduating this year, so more women are needed. Mastodon Catholic has a larger group of freshmen and sophomores currently, so there is a new age of women within the group. The main goal is that these women will get involved with Spes Unica and that their example will set an example for the women helping women become “better women,” McCullough said.

Members of the Ave Cruz household, a men’s Catholic fellowship at IPFW, are currently looking for a permanent house at which to gather.

Ave Cruz

The men’s household took its name from the first part of the same phrase. Phillip Litchfield, vice president of Mastodon Catholic, said that Ave Cruz’s original name was “Bread of Divine joy; however, the men decided to change the name because they like the “mysterious, virile and delightful joy that beyond to Christ’s cross can bring.”

Litchfield said that the most important event for Ave Cruz is weekly Adoration at St. Jude’s Adoration Chapel. Some of their other events include weekly “Lagers and Logos” Bible study, where the men come together to “encounter Christ in the gospel as well as discover the fascinating nuance of both Bible and beer,” and a monthly half-day retreat. In addition, at their weekly meetings, the men plan events, grow in Christian brotherhood and work on setting a foundation to the household community so that the community may continue past graduation.

Ave Cruz is thriving with members and activities, they face the challenge of not having a physical house. The men work around this challenge by going to members’ apartments, dorm rooms and relatives’ houses and communicating through group messaging and email. Ave Cruz also encourages its members to meet up for a meal, to study or play video games. Litchfield said that this arrangement hasn’t been easy, but it’s their goal to have a house for the next school year because daily interactions are important for the men to help “build the bonds of brotherhood.”

Litchfield stressed that Ave Cruz needs prayers. “Ave Cruz is a work of the Holy Spirit and knowing the abilities of any of the brothers,” he said. He also said that in order to reach their full potential, Ave Cruz members need to “lead lives of authentic masculinity, virtue and Christian charity” that will inspire other men on campus.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the households at IPFW can email avecruzFW@gmail.com.

Bishop to students: Avoid hypocrisy in matters of faith

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Mass at IPFW on Tuesday, Feb. 7 for the Mastodon Catholic group as well as other students on campus.

The homily began with Bishop Rhoades telling students about the importance of daily Mass. He shared that he started attending daily Mass halfway through his freshman year of college and heard a calling to the priesthood by his sophomore year. The bishop added that being nourished by the Eucharist through attending daily Mass is a beautiful habit.

The rest of the homily focused on the Gospel reading from Mark 7:1-13, in which Jesus addressed the Pharisees about their hypocrisy concerning God’s law. In the parable, the Pharisees chastised the Apostles for eating with unclean hands. According to the law of the elders, a person of the time should have washed his hands carefully before eating. Jesus responded by addressing Isaiah’s prophesy, saying, “This people honors Me with their lips, but their hearts are far from Me” (Mark 7:4). Then Jesus told the Pharisees that they “disregard God’s commandments, but cling to human tradition” (Mark 7:8). The bishop referred to the Pharisees’ reaction as “paying lip service” to God and worshipping Him superficially. He also said that the Pharisees practiced the word of God through practicing the traditions of the elders.

The bishop then discussed hypocrisy in today’s world. “Hypocrisy is a danger that we need to avoid,” he said, stressing that Christians especially need to avoid hypocrisy in their lives and that hypocrisy among Christians could cause young people to leave the faith. He asked those present to “examine ourselves to make sure that we’re not like the Pharisees.” He also told the students to ponder the questions “Where is my heart? Where is my heart in relation to God?”
Journeying through the mists of memory

BY BARB SIEMINSKI

When Patti Hagadorn attends Mass at St. Therese Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, she spends the hour not with her family or the other congregants, but seated alone in the confessional booth. Sometimes her friend, Cindy Mowan, will stay with her for a few minutes until Hagadorn’s husband, Jim, and daughter, Amy, come for her after the service, and take her to the altar to receive the Eucharist.

For many years Patti and Daisy, her beloved toy apricotoodle, would go for solitary walks through their friendly South Wayne neighborhood. Today her walks with Daisy continue, but her stroll has become plus-one: Someone must be with her, lest she get lost, and because she has been deemed a flight risk. In the evenings she heads upstairs to the dark sanctuary of her bedroom, where she stays until morning.

This, as of five years ago, is the new normal of Patti Hagadorn’s life.

On Sept. 17, 1974, her carefree days were forever changed by a horrific drunken driver automobile crash that put her into a coma. Upon regaining consciousness, she began the tedious journey of returning to a semblance of her former health, which now included unwelcome side effects such as epileptic petit mal and grand mal seizures.

Then, five years ago Patti, now 61, went through severe, repeated periods of forgetfulness. Her doctor recommended a specialist, who performed exhaustive tests in search of a final answer.

The stunning diagnosis sent the family reeling — early-onset dementia. Since then there have been many changes that have affected the whole family, including Jim, Amy and recently married older daughter Jamie Covey. One major adjustment was Jim leaving his 42-year factory and softball umpiring jobs to take care of Patti full time.

“Each day Patti wakes up hoping to remember everybody and what is going on,” said Jim, adding that they will celebrate 39 years of marriage this year.

So far Patti’s decline has been slow, but exacerbated by an energy-draining Sundowner’s Syndrome; which means she needs to get to her darkened bedroom quickly or suffer a severe bout of confusion and agitation that comes with the exodus of daylight. She must stay there until sunrise.

Because she can no longer tolerate crowds and loud organ music, during Mass Patti with great effort, comes to the solitude of the confessional and follows the service with her hymnal and rosary. Her many friends have taken it upon themselves to be protective of her, whether in church or outside.

Ever an optimist, Patti has found slivers of sunshine within the impending fog of dementia.

“I was raised in the Church of the Nazarene,” she said, with parents who were strict about attending Sunday services.

“When I was 16, I went with a friend to her Catholic church on a Saturday evening and I immediately knew that I wanted to convert. I spent each Saturday with my friend so I could secretly go to Mass with her on Saturdays and to my own church on Sundays. When I got married, I told Jim, a devout Baptist, that I wanted to convert to Catholicism, and he said jokingly that he’d

Photos by Barb Sieminski

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Therese parishioners Jim and Patti Hagadorn discuss where to display their copy of Michelangelo’s beloved Pietà statue to the best advantage in their home. The Fort Wayne couple recently embraced the Catholic faith and rely on it to help them cope with the multiple physical and mental challenges that Patti faces.

The Hagadorns share a tender moment as they wonder what the future holds, and pray for more blessed days on which Patti will remember the people in her life that she loves.

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The Hagadorns share a tender moment as they wonder what the future holds, and pray for more blessed days on which Patti will remember the people in her life that she loves.
Public lay association exchanges friendship and affection at South Bend nursing home

BY JENNIFER MILLER

On one of the busiest street corners on South Bend, Eddy and LaSalle, stands a building that most speed by as soon as the light turns green. Ironically, many of the people in that building move at the opposite pace, one small shuffle or push of the wheelchair at a time.

There is a hidden holiness the building’s “Cardinal Nursing Home” sign: a beauty and passion for life that quietly flourishes in the residents whom the Sant’Egidio Community simply calls “friends”.

Sant’Egidio began in Rome in the 1960s simply to live the Gospel in friendship with the poor. The community has spread through the world and is best known for aiding the Peace Treaty of Mozambique after a bloody civil war. In September of 2002, a South Bend community of the famous international group was formed.

Professor Daniel Philpott was one of the four men who found the local Sant’Egidio Community. “In the poor we find Jesus himself, as the Gospel of Matthew records him explaining in Chapter 25. We love the poor with such a special love that He dwells in them,” he said. “Besides friendship, we come without agenda or program. It’s very simple. We don’t call it ‘ministry’ or ‘service’ or ‘volunteering’; rather, it is simple friendship. We try to be with them and get to know them in all of their particularity. … We have visited them in the hospital. We have gone to their funeral when they die. We pray with them. We are often surprised by the mutuality of the friendship. They give us gifts, or say something nice to us, or simply share a smile — and we go home rich.” The members lead weekly prayer, the daily prayer of the church, and facilitate a monthly Mass at Cardinal. A beautiful tradition in the Sant’Egidio Community is that a book is kept of friends who have died, with photos and stories, so that they may be remembered. In the case of Cardinal Nursing Home residents, many of these friends were left or forgotten by their families, very poor and never had a visitor to remember them. Visiting Cardinal Nursing Home is not a “check-off-a-box” or a drudgery obligation for members of the community; they think of it as a friend’s home whom they want to visit, and friends whom they miss and love. This love is transformative. Nancy Dowlut’s life is one that transformed Philpott.

Dowlut was born in South Bend in 1949, a parishioner of St. Patrick Church. A “committed Catholic and person of faith,” she still remembers her first Eucharist with Father Drielsko in 1956, when she was 7 years old. She attended Navarre Elementary, St. Patrick School, Washington High School and then studied mechanical engineering at IUSB and IU Gary. Very bright, she studied Russian engineering at IUSB and IU Gary. She met the Sant'Egidio Community simply because her feet were cold, as her slippers kept falling off. A member of the community bought her some slippers to keep them warm. Wanting to get to know her, and despite the verbal language divide, Judy Coros from the community devised a board of letters and pictures. Dowlut could point and spell out words, while charades and gestures filled in the gaps. This allowed a bud of a friendship to blossom.

Philpott describes his friendship with her as well. “In Nancy I have had the gift of coming to know an extraordinary person…. Nancy has a picture of my family with my daughter as a baby on her shelf. Coming to know her as a dear friend, I have learned to communicate with her easily and without words. Albeit through many episodes of misinterpretation, I can often tell what she is saying through her gestures. I can tell when she is frustrated, mischievous, affectionate, or ready to end a conversation and get some rest. She is popular with the nurses and the other residents, remarkably communicating affection to them. … I often find myself at the receiving end of her expressions of love.”

For 20 years Dowlut lived on a farm and worked as a librarian until suddenly when she was 55, she had a stroke. A condition she was born with, spinal meningitis, had possibly reoccurred. Her mother cared for her and she recovered slightly but then relapsed into her current condition. For the past 13 years Dowlut has not been able to speak or walk. Her hands, which cared for so many books of knowledge, are now bent and twisted.

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Dave Rubin, the pelvic issues and Larry David

A t the end of January, I was interviewed in Los Angeles by Dave Rubin for his popular program, “The Rubin Report”. Dave is a stand-up com-edian, political satirist, protégé of Larry King and speaker for humanists. I think it’s fair to say, the classi-cally liberal, secularist worldview. He has demonstrated a particular interest in the issues raised by the new atheists and by the supposed conflict between religion and the sciences. He is also an advocate of gay marriage. You might be wondering, therefore, why he’d want to talk to a Catholic bishop. But this reveals one of his most appealing characteristics: a willingness to engage points of view very different from his own. I found during my pleasant, stimulating hour with him that he has studied the methods of his mentor, Larry King, which is to say he asks good, searching questions but doesn’t play “gotcha” or try to trip up his interviewee. About halfway through the conversation Dave turned to several hot-button issues, including abortion, pornography and gay marriage. I was more than happy to engage all of these, and I did so in a way that, I hope, struck the right balance between moral authority and the secular world today, religion is reduced to the policing of sexual behavior, and this is massively unfruitful. I’d like to draw attention to one topic from my conversation with Dave Rubin that I think merits special consideration, simply because it shows an important link between Biblical religion and the very liberal-ism that Dave represents. Toward the end of our interview, he asked me about humor in the context of power. I replied that wherever I hear such figures I do, in fact, think of the authors of the Scriptures, for the Bible is marked, through and through, by a playful irony and by a profound skepticism regarding power, authority and any claim to human perfectability. Read Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, the author of the book of Jonah, the composer of first and second Samuel, especially in regard to kingship and institutional corruption — if you doubt me on this score, Much of our political sensibility in regard to checks and balances and much of our healthy skepticis-m in regard to the accumula-tion of power by any one person or one group, I insisted to Dave Rubin, are born of these Biblical instincts.

Next, is this principle on fuller display, I explained, than in the central symbol of the Christian religion. The cross of Jesus, depicting a tortured and humiliated man put to death by a corrupt political power, is held up as a kind of taunt to imperial Rome — and to any of Rome’s successors down through the ages. What Christians say through that sign to all oppres-sive dominations, I showed, is that you dominate the world through your threats and military power, but God’s authority is greater than yours and so, ultimately, it will overwhelm your. This is why it is a delicious (and typically Jewish) irony that Pontius Pilate, the Roman governor, places over his head the sign of a humble Roman citizen, marked simply “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews”.

Reflection
God has revealed to us the divine law. It is no set of rules for the sake of rules. Rather, it is the blueprint by which we can live, fully respecting the perfection and love that dwells in the Holy Trinity. So, the law of God is vitally important. In each of the documents of Jesus recorded in this reading from St. Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus draws a significant comparison. Realizing that God’s, as revealed to Moses, is of God and cannot be abridged or cancelled, the Lord did not discount the law but refiner it. Rather, these words illustrate the fact that the Lord came to fulfill it. What does this mean? Observing God’s law does not mean simply going through motions, as meaningful as the results may be. More profoundly, it means obeying God because of the root of God’s love, and at the root of God’s love is love, lovingly revealed the divine law to us for our benefit. If we respond because of our love for God to be with God, then we obey fittingly. Then our obedience assumes a wonderfully powerful personal meaning.

The reading finally reveals to us the identity of the Lord. God gave the law. Only God, as lawgiver, can interpret the law. Jesus acts in a divine role by answering questions about the law. He is God.

THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Matthew 5:38-48

T he first reading is from the Book of Leviticus, one of the five books of the Pentateuch, the Torah, the basic revelation by God to the Chosen People.

This reading reports the day when God spoke to Moses. “I, the Lord, your God, am holy,” says God: “You must not therefore seek another, using the term “brother” as if to emphasize the size.

The reading sets the stage for the message from St. Matthew’s Gospel that will follow as the third reading.

St. Paul’s First Epistle to the Corinthians provides the second reading. A favorite image employed by Paul throughout his writings was that, through faith and baptism, Christians literally bond with Christ. In Christ, they become heirs to eternal life. In Christ, they receive the Holy Spirit, bringing into their very beings divine grace and strength.

This reading is a reminder that the Church is Christ’s body, that in Christ, disciples become heirs to eternal life.

Reflection
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The reading finally reveals to us the identity of the Lord. God gave the law. Only God, as lawgiver, can interpret the law. Jesus acts in a divine role by answering questions about the law. He is God.

READINGS

SUNDAY: Lv 19:1-2, 17-18 Ps 103:1-4, 8, 10, 12-13 1 Cor 3:16-23 Mk 5:38-48
Monday: Sr 1:1-10 Ps 39:1-2, 5 Mk 9:14-29
Tuesday: Sr 2:1-11 Ps 37:3-4, 18-19, 27-28, 30-40 Mk 9:30-37
Wednesday: 1 Pt 5:1-4 Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6 Mt 16:13-19
Thursday: Sr 5:1-8 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Mk 9:41-45
Friday: Sr 6:5-17 Ps 119:12, 16, 18, 27, 34-35 Mk 10:12-13

On orthodoxy

Orthodoxy is a multivalent term. It can refer in a more or less specific sense to our brothers and sisters in the Eastern churches, and is often associated with particular forms of Orthodox Russian Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, Armenian or Macedonian Orthodox, for example. Many of these wonderful Christian men and women live and work and pray in our diocese, and in terms of our ecumenical efforts, they have a special closeness to us as Catholics: They share with us both sacramental life and apo-tolic succession.

But orthodoxy is also a broader term used to refer to beliefs, teachings or ideas that are in accord with the established teaching of the community that is the church. And it is in this sense that the term is occasion-ally misused. Not infrequently one hears it said, “that indi-vidual is more orthodox” or “so-and-so is less orthodox” — the term being used rather loosely, and in fact often meaning noth-ing more than the idea that in question happens to share the same opinions and world-view of the speaker (and so is “more orthodox”) or has a difference of opinion from the speaker (and is thus “less orthodox”).

To use the term in this way, however, is to misunderstand orthodoxy. Orthodoxy is like pregnancy: You either are or you aren’t. No one is ever “more” or “less” pregnant, and, like-wise, no one is “more” or “less” orthodox. In terms of Catholic orthodoxy, there are no degrees or levels: you either are or you aren’t. Orthodoxy means within the parameters established by the authority of the church and in accord with its public and defined teaching. If one’s teach-ing or belief is in accord with the established teaching of the church and within the parameters established by the magiste-rium for “right belief,” one can- not be considered “less anything but simply “orthodox,” not “more” or “less” so.

Some individuals from time to time employ the language of “more” or “less” orthodoxy in order to praise those who share their views or to criticize their opponents — those who may or may not share the same emphases, devotions, interests or ecclesiastical aesthetic within the surprisingly broad and expansive intellectual horizon that is the Catholic Tradition. Sometimes, those who invoke “tradition” have only one small slice of “the tradition” in view, a “freeze-dried moment” or mere “snapshot” of a Tradition which is much broader — and far more interesting than they might imagine. Unless it can be demon-strated that someone holds a view or belief that is clearly at odds with the established belief of the church, he or she cannot be considered anything but simply “orthodox.”

HEINTZ, page 17

Pray for those who persecute you’
How does the Catholic Church resolve new bioethical questions?

A number of years ago, I participated in a debate at Harvard on embryonic stem cell research that also included a Jewish rabbi, an Episcopalian clergyman and a Muslim imam. The debate went smoothly and cordially, although I was the only voice in the group who defended the human rights of individuals who happen still to be embryos. After the debate, the Episcopalian clergyman pulled me aside and told me how he thought Catholics should consider themselves fortunate to have such a defined position in the reference point in the church and the Vatican, particularly when it comes to resolving new bioethical questions. With surprising candor, he shared how he had sat on various committees with others from his own faith tradition where they had tried to sort through the ethics of embryonic stem cells, and he lamented, “we just ended up discussing feelings and opinions, with no good way to arrive at conclusions.”

Many people, indeed, appreciate that the Catholic Church holds firm and well-defined positions on moral questions, even if they may remain unsure about how or why the church actually arrives at those positions, especially when it comes to unpacking new scientific developments like embryonic stem cell research.

So how does the church arrive at its positions on bioethics? For one thing, it takes its time and doesn’t jump to conclusions even in the face of media pressure for quick sound bites and rapid-fire news stories. I once had a discussion with a journalist for a major newspaper about the ethics of human-animal chimera. He mentioned that a leading researcher working on chimeras had gotten the pope and afterwards implied that the pope had given his blessing to the project. I reminded him that it’s quite common for the pope to offer general encouragement and blessings to those he meets, though that wouldn’t be the same thing as sanctioning new and morally controversial techniques in the biosciences. As a rule, the Catholic Church does not address important bioethical questions that way, through chance encounters with the pope as you are strolling through the hallways of the Vatican.

Instead, the church may reflect for months, years or even decades to identify its considerations and guiding principles when new moral dilemmas arise in the biosciences. Even with this slow and deliberative approach, I think it’s fair to say that the church generally stays ahead of the curve. By the time of the successful cloning of Dolly the sheep in 1996, for example, the Catholic Church had already been reflecting on the question of human cloning for many years and concluded, nine years prior to Dolly, that human cloning would be morally unacceptable in an important document called “Donum Vitae” (“The Gift of Life”).

This same document also identified key moral problems with doing human embryonic stem cell research 11 years before it was even possible to destructively obtain those cells from human embryos. When the first test tube baby was born in 1978, the serious moral concerns raised by the procedure had already been spelled out 22 years earlier, by Pope Pius XII, in his 1956 allocation to the Second World Congress on Fertility and Human Sterility, wherein he concluded: “As regards the question of human artificial fecundation in vitro,” let it be sufficient to observe that they must be rejected as immoral and absolutely unlawful.”

Whenever definitive conclusions about medical ethics are reached or otherwise clarified by the church, they are normally promulgated through official church documents like papal encyclicals and addresses, or, with the approval of the pope, documents and commentaries from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith — the Vatican office responsible for preserving and interpreting Catholic doctrine — or other congregations, councils or dicasteries of the church.

Even today, certain bioethical controversies remain under active discussion within the church, such as the question of whether it would be allowable to “adopt” abandoned frozen embryos by implanting and gestating them in volunteer mothers. While a 2007 CDF document expressed some hesitations and concerns about the proposal, debate continues inside and outside the Vatican.

New medical discoveries and technological developments challenge us to careful moral reflection and discernment. These scientific developments can either be an opportunity for genuine human advancement or can lead to activities and policies that undermine human dignity. The U.S. bishops, in a recent document, summed it up this way: “In consultation with medical professionals, church leaders review these developments, judge them according to the principles of right reason and the ultimate standard of revealed truth, and offer authoritative teaching and guidance about the moral and pastoral responsibilities entailed by the Catholic Christian faith. While the church cannot furnish a ready answer to every moral dilemma, there are many questions about which she provides normative guidance and direction.”

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D., serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

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


crossword

February 19 and 26, 2017

ACROSS

1 Abbreviation for Book of Samuel
2 Northwest coast
3 8 One of the soldiers did to Jesus
4 Compass point
5 “She” in French
6 Apple center
7 Anti-ballistic missile
8 Wrote to Corinthians
9 Anti-ballistic missile
10 Waterpower electricity
11 Pennsylvania (abbr.)
12 Rose color
13 English speaker
14 Business degree
15 Joab
16 Ten Commandments
17 Falls on the just and the unjust
18 Will validation
19 Glenn
20 Tulip
21 Bullfight cheer
22 Cannot serve and Mammon
23 Most High
24 For an eye
25 Central daylight time
26 Layer of laminate
27 “To the right!”
28 Lead in a battery
29 Margin of victory
30 Glacial
31 Get to
32 Corner of tape measure
33 Cry out
34 Rise up — horse
35 Summer
36 Curtain
37 Old testament
38 9 Rich dirt
39 Mattress
40 Cannot lengthen life
41 Margarine
42 Rise up — horse
43 Henry ___ (Tudor)
44 Famous violist
45 Version of the Bible
46 Hit a fly
47 Decorative border
48 Extremity
49 Ten Commandments
50 Do not sow or ___
51 Sit in a car
52 Resort hotel
53 Past times
54 Fog
55 Eastern Standard Time

DOWN

1 Break twig
2 Abbreviate (abbr.)
3 Note
4 Kaffir (Tudor)
5 Thrill
6 Virgin Mary color
7 Silver
8 Specially made haddock
9 Rich dirt
10 Opera solo
11 Pennsylvania (abbr.)
12 Danish physicist
13 Reserve Officers
14 Training Corp.
15 “To the right!”
16 22 Hallowed be ___ name
17 For an eye
18 Central daylight time
19 Layer of laminate
20 Life
21 Life
22 Use to anoint
23 To the right!
24 42 Rise up — horse
25 Central daylight time
26 Layer of laminate
27 Life
28 43 Henry ___ (Tudor)
29 Glacial
30 Follow commandment
31 Robert Baro
32 43 Henry ___ (Tudor)
33 Melt
34 Curtain
35 43 Henry ___ (Tudor)
36 Have nests
37 43 Henry ___ (Tudor)
38 43 Henry ___ (Tudor)
39 Trouble
40 43 Henry ___ (Tudor)
41 Margarine
42 43 Henry ___ (Tudor)
43 43 Henry ___ (Tudor)
44 43 Henry ___ (Tudor)
45 Kneecap
46 Hit a fly
47 Extremity

Answer Key can be found on page 19
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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send announcements at least two weeks prior to the event. View more Catholic events and submit new ones 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 the Today’s Catholic advertising sales staff at 260-399-1499 to purchase space.

Sacred Heart community meal
WARSAW — Knee Time women’s prayer group will prepare and host the monthly community meal Tuesday, Feb. 21, in Sacred Heart School gym from 5:30-7 p.m. All are welcome.

Football smoker planned
FORT WAYNE — A Notre Dame Football Smoker will be Sunday, March 5, from 12:30-5:30 p.m. at St. Joe Hessen Cassel Activity Center. This is a stag-only event. Presale tickets are $20 and are available at 9 Mile Restaurant or by calling Chuck at 260-450-4016. Tickets are $25 at the door and seating may be limited. Must be 21 years old to enter. Admission includes all you can eat and drink. There will be duck races, door prizes and more. All proceeds benefit the St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Knights of Columbus, Council 12579 and the school.

Fish fry
ANGOLA — St. Anthony of Padua Knights of Columbus are offering a Lenten Fish Fry in the Parish Hall at 700 W. Maumee St. from 5-7 p.m on Feb. 17, March 5, 17, and April 7. Dinner is $8 for adults, $5 for children 4-12 and children under 3 are free. For more information contact the parish office at 260-665-2259.

St. Vincent’s Career Ministry
FORT WAYNE — The St. Vincent de Paul Parish career ministry will meet Monday, Feb. 20, from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at St. Vincent’s Spiritual Center, 1502 E. Wallen Rd., for one-on-one coaching, networking, educational resources as well as guest speaker and executive Bill Ambrose. Through Ambrose’s presentation, “The Value of Being a Servant,” you will not only learn how to prioritize and re-focus your job search but you will also discover what potential lies before you. Change your perspective and you will change your results. Bring a copy of your resume.

Soup’s On!

Join us for a bowl of Ash Wednesday Soup
Your free will donation will help support St. Mary’s Soup Kitchen which serves 1,000 free bowls of soup to hungry people every day.

Come Begin Lent Simply...
Bring a friend for a lunch of soup and braid on Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2017 to St. Mary Mother of God Parish at Lafayette and Jefferson in Fort Wayne 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
(Lenten prayer service with ashes at 11:00 a.m.)

Volunteer for Sharathon
Sharathon is a celebration of our Family of Faith!
Go to RedeemerRadio.com and click “Volunteer for Sharathon”

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Decatur
C. Joseph Beauchot, 88, St. Mary of the Assumption
Jerry L. Snyder, 63, St. Mary of the Assumption
Fort Wayne
Mildred L. Leonard, St. Jude
Ronald R. Maslouski, 81, St. Patrick
Thomas Szymanski, St. Charles Borromeo
Cynthia A. Anker, 62, St. Vincent de Paul
Robert W. Murphy, 89, Our Lady of Good Hope
Francis J. LaPlante, Sr., 87, St. Vincent de Paul
Angela C. Rectorus, 47, St. John the Baptist
Martin L. Horn, 65, St. Vincent de Paul
Huntington
Jeremiah Driscoll, 84, SS. Peter and Paul
Sr. Anne Victoria McNulty, OLVM, 92, Noll Chapel
Mishawaka
Louis Kail, 94, St. Monica
Notre Dame
Ellen J. Malone, 92, St. Joseph Chapel
New Carlisle
John F. Lubicins, 84, St. Stanislaus Kostka
New Haven
Virginia Lee Brames, 86, St. Louis Besancon
Carol Diane Irick, 72, St. John the Baptist
South Bend
Thomas F. Higgins, Sr., 81, Holy Cross
Carl Matthew Kay, 71, Holy Family
Therese Raven, 86, St. Therese, Little Flower
Veronica Puchala, 96, Christ the King

Submit obituaries to mwebber@diocesefwsb.org

Las Vegas Night
SOUTH BEND — Holy Family Church Ushers Club, 5640 S. Mayflower Rd., will have Las Vegas Night Saturday, March 4, from 6-11 p.m. in the parish center. Tickets are $8 in advance at the rectory and $10 at the door. Ticket includes sandwiches, beverages and a chance in $1000 drawing. Lic#145000

Mardi Gras dance
FORT WAYNE — The St. Gaspar del Bufalo Council No. 11043 Knights will host a Mardi Gras Dance on Saturday Feb. 25, in the gymnasium at Most Precious Blood, 1515 Barthold St. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with music by the band “Actual Size” from 7-11 p.m. Hors d’oeuvres and soft drinks provided; a cash bar will available. Advance tickets at www.kofc11043.org. Cost is $50 per couple, or $40 per couple at the door. Must be 21 years of age or older to attend.

Visit www.diocesefwsb.org for the full calendar.

The CrossWord

Feb. 19 and 26, 2017

D.I. McCOMB & SONS

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was a reference to the Eucharistic discourse in St. John’s Gospel for the Mass. “Embrace the countercultural values you learn here,” he added. “People are hungry for truth, freedom, justice, peace, meaning and purpose. The bread of God satisfies all the hungers of the heart. None of the pressures from the world will grant you the happiness you seek.”

The date of Bishop’s pastoral visit to the school fell on the feast day of Blessed Maria Theresia Bonzel, foundress of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration. The close connection between the sisters and Marian High School led Bishop Rhoades to invite the Franciscan friars and sisters to join in celebrating Mass together with the students and staff. The faithful who were present heard about the mission and ministry of Blessed Maria Theresia, which tied in with Bishop’s message of discovery and discernment.

“Mother Maria Theresia Bonzel is a perfect example of faith,” he said. Even though she was a woman who grew up in a wealthy family, with countless opportunities for what she could do with her life, she discerned as a child that she wished live like St. Francis of Assisi, later founding a religious community of sisters who served the poor, sick and orphans in Germany. In the 1870s, six of the sisters traveled to the U.S and started a hospital in Lafayette. Eventually the sisters were transferred to Mishawaka, where they reside today.

“If it weren’t for the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, there would be no Marian High School,” Bishop expounded. “They donated the land for this school to be built. Just as Mother Maria’s motto was, ‘He leads, I follow,’ so I encourage you to use your time of discovery and discernment to work for the food that endures for eternal life.”

For everyone, discovery includes self-knowledge: understanding one’s natural gifts and talents, as well as supernatural gifts, which are most important of all. Discernment begins with praying about and being open to one’s vocation to the priesthood, religious or consecrated life, or marriage. For many people, both self-knowledge and discernment unfurl slowly beginning in the teen years but continuing throughout adult life. Bishop Rhoades encouraged the students to “pray, ask and be open” to God’s will for their lives every day.

A major part of being open includes education about the plight of those who are suffering throughout the world, Bishop Rhoades recalled and shared about his time spent in the Holy Land in January as part of the Catholic Relief Services board of directors, specifically in the war-torn areas of Palestine and Gaza. After meeting with leaders of the Palestinian government to understand more about the current political, economic and religious climate, he realized how incredibly divided, tense and oppressed the people of the Middle East truly are. One of the highlights of the trip, however, was helping the Missionaries of Charity take care of the disabled children and elderly in the homes they established near the one Catholic church in Gaza.

“Learn about the church’s work in these areas of the world. There are so many people hurting and suffering who need our help.” he concluded.

These closing remarks of the Mass segued into Bishop Rhoades’ classroom visits, mainly to theology classes. Apologetics, for seniors; Christ’s Mission Continues in the Church, for sophomores; and Christology: Who is Jesus Christ? for freshmen. The conversations each began as true encounters between the bishop and the students, who seemed to feel comfortable opening up and laughing about their everyday lives. The youth were vibrant in the presence of the bishop and unpacked conversations about original sin, what the faculties of the bishop include, and even how St. Thomas Aquinas’ theology is relevant today.

Midday, Bishop Rhoades mingled with student members of Campus Ministry and the Student Council over lunch as they shared both a prayer and the meal. Many of the students discussed issues that concerned them and ways they wanted to make a difference in the world, to which the bishop responded, “Speak with respect for the other, and be honest. Be evangelizers, not proselytizers.”