Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion

Above, candidates and their sponsors stand as the candidates’ names are read aloud at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, during the Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion. The South Bend-area rites took place Sunday, Feb. 26, and will be followed by a Fort Wayne-area liturgy on Sunday, March 5. Also present at the rite were the unbaptized elect, who will receive baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist during the Easter Vigil.

At left, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades signs the "Book of the Elect" during the Enrollment of Names.

Saint Joseph High School triumphs at state

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Saint Joseph High School, South Bend, saw its student athletes excel over the weekend at state competitions in two sports.

On Saturday, the SJHS girls basketball team defeated North Harrison 57-49, taking the Class 3A State Championship title. Senior Killian Mountford also won the Class 3A Patricia L. Roy Mental Attitude Award.

“It feels great,” said Mountford on the award. “We have some really deserving seniors on the team. Anyone could have won it.”

SJHS made IHSAA history that night for another reason as well, with head coach Sydney Smallbone becoming the first individual to win a girls basketball state championship as both a player and a coach.

“I knew coming into the season we had such a talented group,” said Smallbone. She and the coaching staff worked on building chemistry to create a perfect balance with this victorious team.

Helping this chemistry was a coaching staff made up of other SJHS alumni; namely, Melissa Lechlitner, Kristen Dockery, and Tim Walsh.

The school will host a welcome home celebration for the state champion girls basketball team at 12:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon at the high school.

Four SJHS swimmers, Cole Short, Peter Jachim, Luke Barrett, and Joe Deahl, also competed at the state level Feb. 25-26 and took 14th in the 200-yard medley. Short and Barrett also placed well in individual events.

Additionally, two SJHS music students participated in the Indiana State School Music Association Solo and Ensemble Event at the state level earlier in the month.

Freshman Libby O’Brien, playing the flute, won a Gold award. Junior Miquel Enriquez, playing the alto saxophone, won a Silver.

Both earned Gold in Group I (the highest group) at the regional ISSMA Solo and Ensemble Event held on Feb. 4. Music listed on the Group I list is considered the most difficult literature for an instrument.

Students play their solo at the district level in front of a judge who rates them on their performance, looking at things like technique, tone quality, and musicianship. If they play a group I solo, which they must choose from a list of challenging pieces and receive a gold rating at the district level, they qualify for state.
Lent: A penitential mobilization

IN TRUTH AND CHARITY
BISHOP KEVIN C. RHoades

The following is the text of the homily of Bishop Rhoades on Ash Wednesday at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, a Lenten message for the whole diocese:

“Return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; rend your hearts, not your garments, and return to the Lord, your God.” These words of the prophet Joel introduce us to the season of Lent. They teach us that the basic feature of this time of grace, these 40 days of Lent, is conversion of our hearts. Lent is a time to get back on the right path by detaching ourselves from whatever keeps us distant from God. That’s why we do works of penance during these 40 days. They are not done for their own sake, but with a higher purpose: inner renewal and conversion.

We pray more during Lent. We deny ourselves certain foods or drink. Hopefully, we also practice almsgiving more fervently. And amidst these penitential practices, we are asking pardon of the Lord for our offenses.

We observe these 40 days of Lent not as isolated individuals, but as members of the community of the Church. Repentance and conversion is deeply personal, taking place in each of our hearts. When we go to confession, for example, it is individual. Yet, our reconciliation also involves the community. When we are restored to God’s grace in the sacrament of Penance, we are also reconciled with the Church. The sacrament repairs or restores our communion with the Church. It “has also a revitalizing effect on the life of the Church which suffered from the sin of one of her members” (CCC 1469).

So we don’t journey through Lent as isolated individuals, but together as brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ. Notice that the prophet Joel called the whole community to repentance. He said: “Blow the trumpet in Zion! Proclaim a fast, call an assembly; Gather the people, notify the congregation, assemble the elders, gather the children...” There was what St. John Paul II called “a penitential mobilization.” That’s what this season of Lent is: a penitential mobilization. All of us, young and old, children and elders; no one is left out. That’s why the Church has communal penances during Lent, like today, Ash Wednesday and Good Friday: We all fast. And on every Friday of Lent, we abstain from meat. So besides our individual Lenten penances, we do these common penances as a community, showing that we are all in this together.

It is beautiful to see how many attend daily Mass during Lent, gathering with brothers and sisters every day during this holy season. It is beautiful to see communities in our parishes and schools doing almsgiving together, engaging in projects like Operation Rice Bowl to assist the needy around the world. It is beautiful during Lent to gather together to meditate on the Lord’s Passion through the Stations of the Cross. I encourage you in these communal practices, a way to walk together on the penitential journey of Lent, while also doing private penance, individual acts, “going to your inner room,” as Jesus says in the Gospel, knowing that “your Father who sees in secret will repay you.”

The Church calls us to a penitential mobilization. You’ve heard that call. That’s why you are here at this Ash Wednesday liturgy. As individuals and as a community, today we recognize, in the ceremony of the ashes, that we are creatures, made of dust and destined to return to dust. We also recognize that we are sinners, in need of God’s pardon in order to be able to live according to the Gospel. We hear St. Paul’s exhortation: “We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.”

Even more important than receiving ashes today is our receiving the Holy Eucharist. The Lord comes to strengthen us with His grace and to revive our love. The Eucharist helps us to resist the temptation of sin. In Holy Communion, we receive the Lord who is “the Way that leads us to salvation, the Truth and the Life.”

May our Blessed Mother Mary walk with us during this Lenten journey and pray for one another. May our Blessed Mother Mary walk with us and support us with her prayers during these 40 days, so that purified in our hearts, we will be able to celebrate Easter with the deep joy that comes from authentic conversion!
Trump administration announces wide-ranging immigration guidelines

BY RHINA GUIDOS

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In two memos published Feb. 20, the Department of Homeland Security outlined guidelines that White House officials said would enhance enforcement of immigration laws inside the country as well as prevent further unauthorized immigration into the U.S.

In a Feb. 21 news briefing, White House press secretary Sean Spicer said the guidelines include hiring more border agents, construction of a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border, and hiring more personnel to “repartiate illegal immigrants swiftly.”

The memos by Department of Homeland Security Secretary John F. Kelly also called for state and local agencies to “assist in the enforcement of federal immigration law” and for hiring “additional border patrol agents, as well as ‘500 Air and Marine Agents/Officers.’” The cost of implementing such programs, whether there’s enough funding and how Congress will be involved, was not discussed.

While there have been two arrests under the new administration involving recipients of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, known as DACA, the policy was not mentioned in the new guidelines.

The program grants a reprieve to receipt of public benefits.” Federa...

In a Feb. 24 statement, Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Migration, said that while public safety is important, the memos detailing the new guidelines “contain a number of provisions that, if implemented as written, will harm public safety rather than enhance it.” Bishop Vasquez added that it will break down “the trust that currently exists between many police departments and immigrant communities, and sow great fear in those communities,” if local enforcement is used to enforce federal immigration laws.

The memos also addressed the issue of unaccompanied minors who cross the border, fleeing violence in their home countries or seeking reunification with family in the U.S. They said that “regardless of the desire of family reunification,” smuggling or trafficking is “inolerable” and said “exploitation of that policy led to abuses by many of the parents and legal guardians.”

Bishop Vasquez said the policies in the memos “will needlessly separate families, upend peaceful communities, endanger the lives and safety of the most vulnerable among us” and urged the Trump administration to “reconsider the approach” expressed in the Feb. 20 memos but also “reconsider the approach it has taken in a number of executive orders and actions issued over the last month. Together, these have placed already vulnerable immigrants among us in an even greater state of vulnerability.”

Department of Homeland Security workers, the memo also said, should prioritize for deportation “removable aliens” who “have abused any program related to receipt of public benefits.”

Reports from major outlets such as The New York Times and The Washington Post said the administration in a conference call said it was seeking to calm fears among immigrant communities by saying only those who “pose a threat or have committed a crime” need to worry about being priority.

The Conference of Major Superiors of Men Feb. 21 issued a statement denouncing the recent arrest by immigration officials of six men exiting a hypothermia shelter at Rising Hope Mission Church in Alexandria, Va., saying it violated Immigration and Customs Enforcement policy “not to conduct enforcement actions at or near ‘sensitive locations’ like houses of worship.”

The conference said it invited “others to join us in denouncing these deportation efforts that harm the ‘least of our brothers and sisters.’ We especially denounce the irreverence, disrespect and violation of sensitive locations, such as houses of worship and ministry which belong to God and the erosion of our Constitutional right to be free from religious oppression by our government.”

The New York Times reported that the New Mexico’s Catholic bishops called the ideas in the memos “a declaration of some form of war.” AP provided documents to back up the claim but the White House denied it and the final guidelines made no mention of the National Guard.

Catholic leaders have been urging dignity and respect for immigrants and have acknowledged the rampant fear among communities.
Mass and film increase awareness of Christian persecution

BY CLAIRE KENNEY

On Thursday, Feb. 20, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated a Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, University of Notre Dame, to pray for persecuted Christians. The Mass preceded the showing of a film on Christian persecution, sponsored by the Under Caesar’s Sword program at Notre Dame.

In his homily, the bishop noted the connection between St. Polycarp, a bishop and martyr of the second century, the film and the first reading of the Mass. The connection was the city of Smyrna (modern-day Izmir) in Turkey. St. Polycarp was bishop of Smyrna. One of the persecuted Christians in the film was from Izmir and the first reading from the Book of Revelation was a message to the ancient persecuted Christian community in Smyrna. Bishop Rhoades explained how the message of the Lord to the church in Smyrna, recorded in the Book of Revelation, was a message that would have given strength and courage to St. Polycarp and can inspire persecuted Christians today.

That message is: “Do not be afraid of anything that you see or hear or do, however, as in the case of the martyrs,” Bishop said. “Instead, God promises the ultimate victory, eternal life.”

Following the Mass, many joined the bishop for the public viewing of “Under Caesar’s Sword,” a documentary detailing Christian persecution in the world today, focusing on the Middle East, Turkey and India. The “Under Caesar’s Sword” film is part of the larger Under Caesar’s Sword project, which explores the response of Christian communities to persecution.

A collaborative global research project led by Notre Dame and the Washington, D.C.-based Religious Freedom Institute, it is housed within the university’s Center for Ethics and Culture. The project explores three key questions:

1. How do Christian communities respond to repression?
2. Why do they choose the responses that they do?
3. What are the results of these responses?

Other project initiatives include or have included a conference in Rome that discussed the issue of Christian persecution; a public report of the team’s research discoveries that will be translated into four languages, an edited volume of essays describing the work of the scholars on this project and a journal on Christian persecution.

In his introduction of the movie, the bishop talked about a conversation he had a few years ago in Rome with the former Chaldean Catholic Archbishop of Mosul whose diocese was decimated by ISIS. ISIS expelled the Christians, most of whom were Chaldean Catholic, from Mosul and surrounding Christian towns. Some of the faithful were killed. Bishop Rhoades related how he asked the bishop if any of the faithful denied the faith in order to save their lives and livelihoods. The archbishop replied that there were none that he knew of.

Bishop Rhoades then offered advice on how fellow Catholics can support their persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ. He highlighted prayer and advocacy for persecuted Christians and other religious minorities and advocacy for international religious freedom. The bishop also encouraged generous material assistance through organizations that are assisting refugees escaping violence and persecution because of their faith, including Catholic Relief Services, Aid to the Church in Need and the Catholic Near East Welfare Association.

The Under Caesar’s Sword project is a collaborative global research project that investigates how Christian communities around the world respond when their religious freedom is severely violated. A Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, and a showing of the short documentary film of the same name, took place at the University of Notre Dame Thursday, Feb. 23.

Daniel Philpott, professor of political science at the University of Notre Dame and co-director of the Under Caesar’s Sword project, also spoke at the event. Funded by a grant of $1.1 million from the Templeton Religion Trust, Under Caesar’s Sword began in summer 2014 with the formation of a team of about 15 scholars who traveled around the world to study Christian communities in many of the worst sites of persecution in the world, he said in his remarks to the viewing audience.

“The current phase of the project seeks to disseminate the results of their research, so that the world may be in closer solidarity with persecuted Christians.”

The film’s other directors include Thomas Farr, president of the Religious Freedom Institute, and Timothy Shah, who serves as a senior adviser for the Religious Freedom Institute and associate professor of the Practice of Religion and Global Politics at Georgetown University. The project team is optimistic that Thursday's film event will help to spread a message of unity. Their hope is that the event would inspire people in the Notre Dame community and in the diocese at large to stand in solidarity with persecuted Christians through prayer and action.

The film was followed by a reception on campus. An estimated 150 people attended the event.

View the film for free online at http://ucs.nd.edu/film/.

The BOOK OF EXODUS: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

“The BOOK OF EXODUS: A SPIRITUAL JOURNEY”

Wednesday, March 8, 7 PM
Eck Visitors Center
University of Notre Dame

Visit icl.nd.edu/events/exodus for more information.

All Saints Religious Goods
8808 Coldwater Road - Fort Wayne - 260-490-7506
In Coldwater Centre at Wallen Road, 1.5 miles north of I-69

- First Communion and Confirmation Gifts
- First Communion Dresses
- Crucifixes
- Medals
- Books
- Rosaries
- Statues
- Bibles

“SIN, MERCY, AND THE VISION OF GOD IN THE BOOK OF EXODUS”

with John Cavadini
Professor of Theology
Director, McGrath Institute for Church Life

Visit icl.nd.edu/events/exodus for more information.

Ten Commandments, Thomas Ingmire, Copyright 2002. The Saint John’s Bible, Saint John’s University, Collegeville, Minnesota USA. Used by permission. All rights reserved.
Pro-life bills supported by Indiana Catholic Conference advance

INDIANAPOLIS — Two pro-life bills supported by the Indiana Catholic Conference have advanced at the mid-point, commonly called “crossover,” in the Indiana General Assembly. “Crossover” refers to the point in the legislative session when House bills cross over to the other chamber — the Senate — and Senate bills cross over to the House.

Senate Bill 404, authored by Sen. Erin Houchin, R-Salem, would require parents who seek an abortion for their minor children to verify their parental status. The measure would prevent adults who are not a minor’s parent from posing as the minor’s parent. The bill also would prohibit a person from aiding or assisting a minor who is pregnant in obtaining an abortion without the consent of the minor’s parent or guardian. If an adult did aid and assist a minor in obtaining an abortion without parental consent, it would allow parents to collect damages against an adult who either posed as the minor child’s parent to obtain an abortion, or aided or assisted the minor in obtaining an abortion.

“Currently in Indiana we have a parental consent law, but we don’t have verification that that person is an actual parent,” said Houchin. As a former Department of Children Services employee, Houchin said she’s seen this happen. “We can clarify in our state law that someone must verify they are the parent of a child seeking an abortion.”

Corrine Purvis, an attorney with Bopp Law Firm who serves as general counsel for Indiana Right to Life, testified in support of the bill, said Senate Bill 404 would strengthen parental rights by protecting parents’ ability to give consent for their minor child to obtain an abortion by ensuring that parental verification is required and enforced. Eight other states require parental verification. Purvis said the bill also would strengthen parental rights in a judicial bypass process by raising the judicial standard to “clear and convincing evidence” if a minor seeks a judicial bypass to go around parental consent to get permission from a judge to obtain an abortion. Purvis said 15 other states have the clear and convincing evidence, the highest judicial standard, for minors seeking a judicial bypass to obtain an abortion without parental consent.

Todays Catholic

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BRIGID CURTIS AYER

minors to be protected against sexual predators and abuse by persons who may pose as a parent of a minor so the minor can get an abortion.

The Senate Judiciary Committee voted 6-4 to advance the bill, Feb. 22, and the full Senate approved the bill. The bill crosses over from the Senate to the House for further consideration.

A bill to add information on the abortion reversal process for chemical abortions to Indiana’s informed consent law also advanced. House Bill 1128, authored by Rep. Ron Bacon, R-Chandler, passed the House Public Policy panel 7-5 on Feb. 21, and passed the full House. The bill would add to Indiana’s informed consent law information and referral services for a procedure to reverse a chemical abortion if a woman changed her mind. Reversing a chemical abortion drew disagreement from local obstetricians and gynecologists. Some physicians who testified cited actual instances of them successfully treating patients with the process to save an unborn child. Other physicians said the process was not based on vetted science. Bacon said the bill would give women who regret trying to end their pregnancy by taking abortion inducing drugs, a chance to reverse it and potentially save their unborn child. House Bill 1128 crosses over from the House to the Senate for further consideration.

A third pro-life proposal was introduced this year, but it failed to move. House Bill 1134, authored by Rep. Curt Nisly, R-Goshen, would define that human life begins at conception and the state has a compelling interest to protect it. The bill would ban abortion. If passed, the state law would be challenged in federal court based on the long standing constitutional right to abortion since the 1973 landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision of Roe v. Wade.

While the bill didn’t advance this year, Tebbe said it might be a good thing.” Tebbe explained that the goal of the bill was laudable; however, the timing of the bill was not prudent. “If the protection at conception bill passed now, it would be challenged in federal court and struck down,” said Tebbe.

“There is no guarantee the U.S. Supreme Court would uphold the state of Indiana’s law to define protection of a human life at conception. If that happened, it could cause the reverse effect of the intent of the bill,” said Tebbe.

The Indiana Catholic Conference offers several public policy and legislative resources on its Web page at www.indianaacc.org.

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.indianaacc.org.

The Indiana General Assembly on Feb. 13 unanimously passed a resolution congratulating the Indiana Catholic Conference on the 50th anniversary of its founding. The ICC represents the Catholic Church in Indiana on national and state matters of public policy. Pictured at left reading the resolution is Rep. B. Patrick Bauer (D-South Bend), who authored the bill. To his right are Glenn Tebbe, ICC executive director; Bishop Charles C. Thompson of Evansville; and Bishop Timothy L. Doherty of Lafayette.

State resolution honors ICC 50th anniversary

The Indiana General Assembly on Feb. 13 unanimously passed a resolution congratulating the Indiana Catholic Conference on the 50th anniversary of its founding. The ICC represents the Catholic Church in Indiana on national and state matters of public policy. Pictured at left reading the resolution is Rep. B. Patrick Bauer (D-South Bend), who authored the bill. To his right are Glenn Tebbe, ICC executive director; Bishop Charles C. Thompson of Evansville; and Bishop Timothy L. Doherty of Lafayette.

Engineer your future at Bethel College!

Bethel’s innovative 3-2 engineering program allows you to earn a bachelor’s degree with coursework in math, science and the liberal arts within three years and then transition to the University of Notre Dame to complete a bachelor’s degree in a specific engineering discipline in two years.

Start with a strong foundation at Bethel that will help you finish with a competitive edge for your career in engineering.

Find out more: BethelCollege.edu/Engineering
Questions? Contact us at 800.422.4101 or Admissions@BethelCollege.edu

Charles Schisla

March 5, 2017
**USCCB committee applauds decision on transgender directive**

**BY CINDY WOODEN**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of two U.S. bishops’ committees Feb. 24 praised President Donald Trump’s repeal of the Obama administration’s directive on transgender access to bathrooms.

The guidance, issued last May by the U.S. Department of Education, required schools that receive federal funding to grant transgender students’ requests to use bathrooms corresponding to their gender identity.

The new directive, issued by the Trump administration, said it applied to all public schools as well as colleges and universities that received federal funding.

Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, and Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Catholic Education, issued the following joint statement:

“Such issues are best handled with care and compassion at the local level, respecting the privacy and safety concerns of all students,” they said.

In rescinding the directive, the Trump administration said that addressing of transgender access to bathrooms is best left to the states and local school districts, not the federal government.

The Obama administration said it applied to all public schools as well as colleges and universities that received federal funding. The directive “summarizes a school’s Title IX obligations regarding transgender students,” administration officials said, and that it also explained how the Education and Justice departments will “evaluate a school’s compliance with these obligations.”

The federal Title IX statute prohibits sex discrimination in educational programs and activities, like sports. Some months before issuing the directive, Obama administration had warned schools that denying transgender students access to the facilities and activities of their choice was illegal under its interpretation of federal sex discrimination laws.

Officials at the Justice and Education departments in the Trump administration rejected the previous administration’s position that nondiscrimination laws require schools to allow transgender students to use the bathrooms of their choice.

That directive, they said, was arbitrary and devised “without due regard for the primary role of the states and local school districts in establishing educational policy.”

“Pope Francis has taught that ‘biological sex and the socio-cultural role of sex (gender) can be distinguished but not separated’,” said Archbishop Chaput and Bishop Murry, quoting from “Amoris Laetitia,” the papal document on marriage and family.

“The Catholic Church consistently affirms the inherent dignity of each and every human person and advocates for the well-being of all people, particularly the most vulnerable,” the two prelates said. “Children, youth and parents in these difficult situations desire compassion, sensitivity, and respect. All of these can be expressed without infringing on legitimate concerns about privacy and security on the part of all young students and parents.”

**Catholic Relief Services supports new lives of refugees**

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Discovery of Earth-sized planets boosts hope of finding alien life**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Access to clean drinking water is a basic and urgent human right and a key component in protecting human life, Pope Francis said.

“Nothing is more essential for the survival of persons and decisive for the future of humanity,” the pope said Feb. 24 during a meeting with 90 international experts participating in “Dialogue on Water” at the Pontifical Academy of Sciences. Looking at all the conflicts around the globe, Pope Francis said, “I ask myself if we are not moving toward a great world war over water.”

Access to water is a basic and urgent matter, he said. “Basic, because where there is water there is life, making it possible for societies to arise and advance. Urgent, because our common home needs to be protected.”

Citing “outrageing” statistics from the United Nations, the pope said, “each day — each day — a thousand children die from water-related illnesses and millions of persons consume polluted water.”

**South Sudan bishops condemn atrocities, appeal for help**

MANNHEM, England (CNS) — South Sudan’s Catholic bishops asked for the world’s help to prevent mass starvation that threatens the lives of more than 5 million people. In a separate statement, they also said the looming famine was a man-made catastrophe. They denounced government and rebel troops for attacking the civilian population and at times operating “scorched-earth” policies in defiance of international law.

In a Feb. 23 appeal for humanitarian assistance, the bishops said farmers have fled lands without planting crops as civilians are targeted by both sides in the country’s increasingly bloody three-year civil war.

Food shortages have been compounded by problems of unemployment, soaring inflation and poor rains, meaning that the country had now entered a critical time, the bishops said. Citing government predictions, they estimated that about 4.9 million people would be “food insecure” by April and about 5.5 million people by July.

Among the most vulnerable are more than 3 million refugees and people internally displaced by fighting between the supporters of President Salva Kiir and former Vice President Riek Machar.

**Governor’s veto on defunding Planned Parenthood called ‘deeply offensive’**

RICHMOND, Va. (CNS) — Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe has again “demonstrated his unwavering commitment to the nation’s largest abortion provider” by vetoing a bill that would have defunded Planned Parenthood, the state’s Catholic conference said.

They said his action comes at an “expense of comprehensive health care for women” because the defunding measure would have redirected state dollars to community health centers that provide primary care to women and their families.

The statements came in a statement issued Feb. 24 by the Virginia Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the state’s bishops. Earlier that day when McAuliffe vetoed the bill, known as H.B. 2264, Planned Parenthood and its supporters held a veto ceremony on the steps of the governor’s mansion in Richmond. He vetoed a defunding measure last year as well. “Attempts to restrict women’s access to health care will impede the goal of making Virginia the best place to live, work and run a business,” he said in a statement. New reports said pro-life supporters also rallied in Richmond, holding signs that read “All Lives Matter” and “Say No to Planned Parenthood.”

**Catholic Relief Services supports new lives of refugees**

Catholic Relief Services supports new lives of refugees

Working closely with Syrian and Iraqi refugees in the Middle East and Europe, Catholic Relief Services staff get to know about the fear and terror they fled, and also about their hopes and dreams for a peaceful future.

Malak, for example, at left, is a young Syrian woman who fled from war-torn Aleppo a few years ago. She is now fulfilling her lifelong dream as a teacher working in Turkey.

“Pope Francis has taught that ‘biological sex and the socio-cultural role of sex (gender) can be distinguished but not separated’,” said Archbishop Chaput and Bishop Murry, quoting from “Amoris Laetitia,” the papal document on marriage and family.

“The Catholic Church consistently affirms the inherent dignity of each and every human person and advocates for the well-being of all people, particularly the most vulnerable,” the two prelates said. “Children, youth and parents in these difficult situations desire compassion, sensitivity, and respect. All of these can be expressed without infringing on legitimate concerns about privacy and security on the part of all young students and parents.”
**Auburn Lions club donates coats to Catholic Charities**

Provided by Liz Flaherty

The Auburn Classic Noon Lions Club made a donation of 264 coats, plus hats and gloves, to the Auburn office of Catholic Charities in January. The donations were purchased with the proceeds of its annual Christmas Stroll and will be distributed to the clients of the Catholic Charities organization.

"In Leviticus 19:33, God commands us to love the stranger as we love ourselves, and to treat the stranger no differently than we treat the citizens born among us," said Sister Starlet Ann Wagner, CSC, a member of the General Council of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, who, with others on the leadership team, developed the 19:33 Offering initiative. She noted that the number 1933 has historical significance in the fight against religious-based persecution, as it was in that year that the first anti-Jewish laws were passed in Germany.

"To Redeem the Soul of America: Toward a Moral Vision for a New Civil Rights Movement," by Rev. Bryan N. Massinggale, STD, professor of theological and social ethics, Fordham University, Wednesday, March 22, 7 p.m. Madeleva Hall, Carroll Auditorium.

"Who Are My People?: Christianity, Violence, and Identity Politics in Sub-Saharan Africa," by Emmanuel Katongole, Ph.D., associate professor of theology and peace studies, The Kroc Institute, University of Notre Dame, Thursday, March 23, 7 p.m. Student Center, Vander Vennet Theatre.

More information on the Center for Spirituality and lecture series can be found at https://www.saintmarys.edu/spiritual-life/center-for-spirituality/lectures-events.
Candidates committed to Hispanic Diaconate Formation

BY DENISE FEDOROW

Once a month on a Friday evening, after finishing their jobs and saying goodbye to their children, a group of about a dozen men gather with their wives along — gather at Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center for Spanish-language continuing education in the Diaconate Formation Program.

Their education starts Friday evening and continues all day on Saturday. The men are in the third year of the four-year diaconate program — the first to be held in Spanish in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

During the February weekend, Peter Caserrella, a professor of theology at Notre Dame, instructed the candidates about the sacraments. He began Friday night’s lesson by talking about how the Hispanic culture relates to the sacraments, as well as the sacramentals that are important to those of Latino heritage.

During his presentation, Caserrella utilized “Language of Worship” (“El Lenguaje de la liturgia”) by Dora Tobar. He said that along with language, art and music are also expressions of faith and heritage. He told the candidates that before they start to study the sacraments they have to understand this “language of the heart.”

The group also discussed the prevalence of consumerism, versus what God wants for us; at which point Huberto Vasquez held up the example of the Amish. Caserrella responded that even the Amish have challenges, and said, “We need to be bridges, not walls. If we isolate ourselves, how can we be bridges?”

During a break, Vasquez, of St. Patrick Church in Fort Wayne, spoke to Today’s Catholic about the journey toward the diaconate. Huberto and his wife, Lintyvia, have four children aged 14, 12, 10 and 2 years. The 2-year-old was not even born when he began his formation.

He admitted it’s “hard sometimes” to stay committed, because his children demand a lot of time — then there’s his job and other family commitments.

“Some days I wish there were more hours in the day, but God always gives me the grace to continue — and my wife and kids are very supportive,” he said.

Huberto said he’s been learning a lot about the teachings of the church, but also about the great need that exists in the community. He said his home parish is a large one, with three communities — English, Vietnamese and Spanish.

“Since day one, everyone knew me and Victor (Sandoval) were doing this and they’ve given us a great deal of support and prayer,” he said. “Every time they see me and us, they say they’re praying for us.”

Vasquez added that since this is the first diaconate formation in Spanish, it has definitely garnered interest; not only in Fort Wayne, but also at other parishes that have Spanish Masses.

He said his children are supportive, and always ask when he’ll be ordained. He said one son has expressed an interest in becoming a priest. His children always tell him to have a good class when he leaves and ask about it when he comes home.

“We have fun together as a family,” he said. “I miss them when I’m gone for the weekend, but it’s worth it.”

Juan Campos from St. Patrick Church in Ligonier, and his wife, Martha, also have four children aged 22, 21, 14 and 4. He also spoke of feeling challenged by meeting the needs of his family, job and studies. He said his youngest child wants to be a priest. His children always tell him to have a good class when he leaves and ask about it when he comes home.

“We have fun together as a family,” he said. “I miss them when I’m gone for the weekend, but it’s worth it.”

Campos said his oldest child wants to be with him all the time when he is home. Campos does his best to divide his time and makes sure he sets Sundays and Mondays aside as family days.

He’s grown a lot through the process, especially by praying the Liturgy of the Hours; and in personal prayer, and has shared that growth with his family.

“At the beginning he admitted it was hard sometimes to get the family together to pray at meals and at bedtime. “Now it’s become a need — it has brought the whole family closer in prayer.” Campos said.

He likes the spiritual service, not just at the altar but also out of the church, with people in need. He said he feels a special calling towards the sick. Thirty years ago he was a seminarian, and even though he left the seminary a part of that desire stayed. So when the opportunity for deacon formation came up he decided to take the ‘re-call’ that he didn’t take so seriously the first time. He said believes people see him as a bridge between them and the priest.

Saturday morning began with 7 a.m. prayers and Mass in the chapel, celebrated by Father Wilson Corzo of St. Patrick, Ligonier. Prior to the Mass one of the men led the group in prayer, as another had done the night before.

During his homily Father Corzo told the candidates that their ordination is not the end of their work. He advised them to heed the words of Pope Francis, who said not to exalt ourselves but to strive to do God’s work with humility. He also challenged them to participate more in the singing during the Mass, because as deacons they have to lead the congregation and cannot count on the choir, because sometimes there isn’t one. He said they need to be excited to praise God in word and song, because it is all-important.

His words inspired the men to sing an extra song together after the end of Mass.

At breakfast, Marco Castillo of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Warsaw, said that through formation his faith has matured. He’s become more motivated in all aspects of his life; as a husband, a father and at work. He and his wife Maria, who accompanied him, have a 17-year old daughter. He said sometimes it’s not easy to take care of all his commitments, his daughter will be graduating high school the same time as his ordination. But he is motivated and as a couple and as a family he wants to be a good example of Christian family life.

Castillo said he hoped his parish could see the growth in him, and he believes some are more motivated to serve the church or to look into the diaconate formation program. He said his relationship with his wife and his daughter are blossoming as the fruits of this labor, and more trust is developing between them.

Saturday’s class time was also about the sacraments, using the Catechism of the Catholic Church as a reference.

Candidates in the Hispanic Diaconate Formation Program and their wives listen intently to the teaching of Notre Dame Professor Peter Caserrella during a Friday-night session of classes held at Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center.

Candidates in the Hispanic Diaconate Formation Program and their wives listen intently to the teaching of Notre Dame Professor Peter Caserrella during a Friday-night session of classes held at Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center.

Those wanting more information about the diaconate program can visit the website www.diocesefwsb.org/Permanent-Diaconate.

Candidate Fred Everett and his wife Lisa have seven children, ages 14-28, and two living grandchildren. They attend Cathedral of St. Cletus Christi in South Bend. When asked what the kids thought of his becoming a deacon, Everett laughed and said, “They were thinking, ‘Oh no — the end of the blue’ my youngest said, ‘Dad, you should become a deacon.’” They’ve all been supportive.

Everett once said, “You’re only in a position in life where you’re able to have an interaction where you can show mercy,” he said, “And it has deepened my personal life, because as a deacon you promise to pray the Liturgy of the Hours and pray for the people of God.”

“Now it’s become a need — It has brought the whole family together to pray at meals,” Campos said. “I miss them when I’m gone for the weekend, but it’s worth it.”

Everett pointed out that the Greek word “diakoneo,” which means to serve and Jesus called to serve.

Giovani Muñoz, from St. John the Evangelist, Goshen, has three children, ages 7, 6 and 4, with his wife, Virginia. He said his children are excited for him because they think it’s like college, which they told him he didn’t have an opportunity to attend. Muñoz said he’s at the point in formation where he’s seeing the big picture and it reminded him of when he was in marriage preparation class.

He had a lot of emotion upon beginning the program; he was excited, but also a little afraid and admitted that’s how he’s feeling now. “I want to be a witness. I don’t want to do anything that can cause someone to lose their faith,” he said. “But at the same time, I trust that God has called me to this and I need to be humble and ask for prayers.”

“Deacon Stan LeMieux is the coordinator of the diocesan Diaconate Formation Program, and is supported in the Spanish-language instruction by Father Roman and Lourdes Silva of the Office of Hispanic Ministry. Deacon LeMieux said each summer the men do a work of charity consistent with the role of a deacon: The first summer they ministered to the poor, the second summer they ministered to the sick and this summer they will teach in their parishes.

“I’m very thankful to Bishop DeVirgilio and Bishop Rhoades for their work with the Hispanic community,” said Vasquez. This is a great gift, and they saw the need. I just hope and pray God gets us through.”
The Knights of Columbus recently held its annual Free Throw Contest for diocesan students. This year an eighth grader from St. John the Baptist, New Haven, won the honor of participating at the state competition on March 12. Rachel McCarthy also set the record for the most baskets this year, 22 of 25.

Franciscan Friars Minor, from left, Brother Lucas, Brother Mariano, Brother Leo Maria (obscured), Brother Felice and Brother Cassian Maria warm up the crowd during a concert Friday, Feb. 24 at the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne. Worldwide Seminarian Support hosted the concert to benefit four Franciscan Friars Minor who will enter the seminary in the fall. The musicians hailed from five area FFM friaries.

Patrick Hake, at bottom left, and Dan Niezer, far right, seminarians of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, were members of the intramural team earning the No. 1 seed in the recent Mount St. Mary University basketball tournament. Led by Deacons Andrew Labenz of Wichita, Kan., and Cole Kennett of Lincoln, Neb., others on the team include seminarians from Peoria, Ill., Norwich, Conn., and Harrisburg, Pa. Msgr. Michael Heintz serves as the team’s conditioning coach.

Provided by Janice L. Comito

Provided by Msgr. Michael Heintz

Provided by Msgr. Michael Heintz

**The Passion through the Shroud of Turin**

*with Dr. Thomas McGovern*

**Thursday, March 9**

**Seating Limited, Register Today**

In Person: Our Lady, Mother of Mercy Corporate Office
2730 E Northport Rd, Rome City, IN 46795
Via Phone: (260) 303-4990
E-mailing: MotherofMercyFoundation@Gmail.com

**Tickets are free, free will donation accepted**

Doors open at 5:30 pm. Lenten dinner of soup, bread and water at 6 pm. talk at 7 pm
Dr. Tom McGovern, renowned Fort Wayne physician, will use the Shroud of Turin as a guide to the wounds of Christ and speak to the death process from medical view point.

**GRAPHIC CONTENT.** May not be suitable for young children.
By Barb Sieminski

It's a milestone like no other in a young child's life, and it means that a young person is growing up in the sanctity of the church. To celebrate the big day, most people want to give their children or grandchild something that will last a lifetime and that will make him or her smile proudly in remembrance of the big day.

Area gift stores offer many choices, but one might also consider opening a college account or buying some stock in the child's name, with annual contributions from the donor taking place over the coming years.

For more tangible selections, Pat Harrington of All Saints Religious Goods in Fort Wayne recommends statues of Christ, children's Bibles and saint books as good choices for first Communion gifts. When getting a Bible, consider making it even more special by having the front cover personalized in gold leaf with the child's name.

“If you're looking for one thing that is truly beautiful, it would be the tradition of giving a young lady her first miraculous medal for her first communion,” said Sue McFarland of Divine Mercy Gifts, South Bend. Additional selections include religious jewelry, personalized religious picture frames that say “My First Holy Communion” and that will hold a photo of the child from the big day; or attractive music or jewelry boxes and first Mass books.

According to Kara Slocum, proprietor of Cathedral Bookstore, located in the Bishop Noll Center, Fort Wayne, the store is having its annual spring sale March 20-25, which means 20 percent off the entire purchase for first Communion shoppers.

“Jewelry is a favorite gift for little girls,” said Slocum. “Cross necklaces, rosary bracelet, cross earring and miraculous medal rings are big sellers. Rosaries for both boys and girls are very popular too — we sell them with small beads, ideal for a small child. They come in a variety of colors from black, olivewood and blue for the boys to the pink, purple, multicolored and even flower and butterfly-shaped beads for girls.

“We also have ties, gloves and veils,” said Slocum. “Other appropriate gift items we carry include missals and prayer books, wooden keepsake boxes and musical figurines.”

Another exceptional — and popular — gift idea, especially for a young child, is a glow-in-the-dark rosary that he or she can use as they lay in bed. These are a little more expensive than non-glow beads, but thoroughly enchant the children who receive them and encourage children to say the rosary.

A small wooden gift box for a child’s rosary is even more treasured if personalized with a Bible verse and the child’s name. The verse could say something like, “First Communion blessings for Samuel” followed by a simple Bible verse. Parents and grandparents, consider buying a small, medium or large first Communion gift sack and wrapping paper to hold your gift. These, if not found locally, can be purchased online. And even though Christmas is a long way off, a personalized “My First Communion” ornament — available as a boy angel or girl angel — makes an unusual gift that the recipient will remember each Advent when decorating the tree.

Finally, one of the most priceless take-away moments of this big day is the use of a camera to photograph or videotape the big smiles and the actual event, and share it with family and friends.
At St. Martin de Porres in Syracuse — a lake community parish whose attendance swells significantly in the summer, but in winter is modest — the number of students preparing for first holy Communion is frequently small. Nonetheless, they’re excited.

The pastor of St. Martin is Father Andrew Nazareth, and the director of religious education is Cathy McGonigel. McGonigel said there are a total of 29 students in the religious education program. The second grade catechist, Jessica Martin, is grooming her students to receive the Eucharist for the first time.

This is Martin’s third year as a religious education instructor, and she was an assistant for a year prior to that. This is her first year teaching the students preparing to receive the sacrament of first holy Communion. She said she enjoys interacting with the kids and loves to “see the growth the kids achieve as they go through the year.” Her students this year are Landon Gerber and Malia Schrader.

Malia’s mom is planning to enter the church at the Easter Vigil. Because of a family situation, Malia is only at St. Martin every other week.

Martin said the children have been learning about the parts of the Mass, kindness, the real presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, Lenten sacrifice and the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Landon said he was looking forward to receiving Jesus, but when asked if he was excited he replied, “Kinda yes and kinda not. I want to receive Jesus, but I get stage fright and don’t want to sweat a lot in front of the whole church community.”

At first Landon didn’t think receiving first Communion would make him feel differently. But as they talked more about his favorite story of Jesus on the cross, and how Jesus died to save all of humankind, things changed.

When asked why Jesus left us the sacrament of Eucharist, Landon replied, “So He could be in us. So we would choose to do only right and so He can love us.”

“As soon as I did that whole talk, now I think I will feel differently because Jesus is in me. I think I will be filled with joy!” the young man added.

Landon also spoke of his first reconciliation, saying he was nervous and excited beforehand and confused and excited afterwards. He described how feeling absolved of his sins by saying, “I was confused but excited because it was like, whoa what just happened in there?”

Malia said one of the best things she’s learned so far is how the Eucharist is Jesus’ body and blood. Both children said they believe that transformation is possible because, as Landon said, “Jesus can do anything — anything is possible.”

As the students began their lesson a couple of weeks ago, they read the parable of the rich young man. Martin said the lesson of the parable is that we should love nothing more than God. Asked if they heard the story before, Landon said he knew it was from the Gospel of Matthew. In response to his teacher’s question asking why the young man was sad, he said, “He didn’t want to give up his stuff, but he wanted to be with God.”

“Is it okay to love your things as long as you love God more?” Landon wanted to know.

Martin said that most people like their things, but she reiterated that nothing should be more important to us than God.

Martin said her students “definitely keep me on my toes, but they’re fun to teach and it’s fun to see their growth. I’m excited to see them receive the sacrament.”

The teacher and students talked about the experience of being such a small class. Landon said his Sunday school classes have usually been one or two people, which he thought was nice, although he still wishes there were more kids. Martin agreed, saying that in a way, it’s easier to have a larger class because there’s more interaction and the students can bounce ideas off each other. She said the advantages, however, are that her students get more individual attention and they get through lessons quicker.

Malia read the definition of sacrifice: giving up something out of love and the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus died for our sins. Landon wanted to clarify that “nothing could top that, right? Not even if someone else did the cross thing?”

The students then discussed types of things that people sacrifice during Lent — giving up a favorite food or donating favorite toys. The Last Supper and the institution of the Eucharist also came up, and Martin explained it was then that Jesus said to his disciples, ‘This is my body, this is my blood’ and taught the apostles it was what He wanted them to do for us.

Landon remarked, “if Jesus hadn’t done the Last Supper and no one knew it, we wouldn’t have first Communion.”

First Communion at St. Martin de Porres is scheduled for May 7 at the 11 am Mass.
Former St. Joseph’s Farm became St. Pius X Parish

By Claire Kenney

Just after crossing the state line from Michigan to Indiana, one comes across a parish that sits on Fir Road in Granger. With roots dating back to 1870, St. Pius X Catholic Church is home to over 10,000 registered parishioners. The parish began at St. Joseph's Farm in Granger, the farm that Father Edward Sorin, CSC, founder of the University of Notre Dame, shared with his Holy Cross brothers, sisters and fellow priests. The farm allowed the Holy Cross Order and fellow priests to develop a sense of Christian fellowship. This is done through life-long religious education and stewardship, calling all members to serve others, to share our blessings with those in need, and to promote Catholic social justice.

Betsy Quinn, St. Pius director of stewardship and evangelization, has been in her position for about 15 years. In the role, she works to maintain a close relationship with those in need, and to promote Catholic social justice. Father Bill Schooler, St. Pius director of stewardship and evangelization, has been in her position for about 15 years. In the role, she works to maintain a close relationship with those in need, and to promote Catholic social justice.

Quinn said, “Yet, by continually developing our stewardship efforts, in prayer, service and sacrifice, and a dedicated effort to parishioner engagement, we see parishioners becoming more spiritually committed people who are engaged in our faith community.”

Despite being one of the largest parishes in the diocese in terms of membership, the ministries of St. Pius X in Granger help parishioners feel connected to each other as well as to their faith. Construction of the new St. Pius X Church in Granger is near completion, with the dedication Mass to be held on Saturday, March 25, at noon.

Hundreds of St. Pius X parishioners share their gifts and talents every year for the benefit of both the St. Pius parish family as well as the larger community, she noted. “Thousands of hours of service are given by parishioners: They enhance the celebration of Mass, better the greater community through social outreach programs, form current and future generations in the faith through religious education programs, sponsor adults entering the church through the RCIA program, and assist homebound parishioners by bringing them the greatest gift of our Catholic faith, the body and blood of Jesus Christ.”

The parish has approximately 78 active programs and ministries, including Life Skills, Young Adults Group, Bible Study, Outdoor Gardening Ministry, Kids of the Kingdom Ministry, Art and Event Ministry, Children of St. Angela Merici and Bereavement Team. Beth Murphy, a long-time parishioner and current kindergarten teacher at the parish school, is also actively involved in St. Pius’ Young Adults Group. The relationships cultivated through participation in the community have become formative to her faith life.

“I truly value the people I have met here at St. Pius,” Murphy said. “I started working at the school right after graduating from college in 2010. I believe the relationships I have built over the years, by being involved in various ministries, have helped me create a balanced adult faith life.”

Msgr. Bill Schooler and Father Bill Meininger — referred to as “Father Bill 1” and “Father Bill 2” respectively, and Deacon Lou Giovanni, serve the parish community. Deacon Giovanni has only been at St. Pius for a few years, but feels very much a part of the community.

“St. Pius is everything that I had hoped for in a parish new to me: warm, inviting, engaging and full of the love and spirit of Jesus Christ,” he said. “Under the leadership of Msgr. Bill Schooler and Father Bill Meininger, I have found a happy home, a prayerful community and a vibrant ministry!”

St. Pius X
52553 Fir Rd.
Granger, IN 46530
574-272-9462

Mass Times:
Sunday: 8 a.m.; noon, 5 p.m.
Saturday: 5 p.m.
Weekday: 8:15 a.m. M-Th;
6:45 a.m. W-F; 6 p.m. T, 9 a.m. F
Reconciliation:
Saturday 8:30-9:30 a.m.;
3:30-4:30 p.m. or by appointment

Orthopedic Recovery?
YOU HAVE a Choice!

DID YOU KNOW?
• Private Medicare suites are available
• We accept most insurance
• We have a customized therapy program that can provide therapy up to 3 hours/ day
• We are in close proximity to St. Joseph Medical Center, Memorial Hospital, Elkhart General Hospital and Unity Medical & Surgical Hospital
• Complimentary transportation

Creekside Village
1420 E. Douglas Road
 Mishawaka, IN 46545
574-307-7200

ASC SeniorCare.com

Orthopedic Recovery
You Have a Choice!
An immigrant church, then and now

BY DENISE FEDOROW

G
given the
beauty
of the
architecture
at St. Adalbert Church, South Bend, it’s
understandable
why it has been
nicknamed “the
cathedral of
the west side.”
The fact that such a magnificent
cathedral of
the west side.
Church, with gorgeous stained
glass windows, numerous
arches, intricate gothic styl-
ing and triple spires, was built
not from wealth but from the
sweat of hard-working Polish
immigrants, makes it even more
impressive.

History of St. Adalbert

St. Adalbert has a rich back-
ground that’s closely tied to the
history of Polish immigrants to
the South Bend area. The par-
ish was the last and the largest
of four Polish Roman Catholic
Churches founded in South
Bend.

According to a history book
printed for the parish’s 50th
anniversary, Polish immigrants
started settling in South Bend
around 1868, even in the face of
what were, at one point, deter-
mined to be insurmountable
obstacles. They formed fraternal
aid societies, whose members
then organized to build church-
es. The St. Adalbert society
became official in 1905 with 80
members. Its land committee
went house-to-house, taking col-
elctions and offerings that var-
ied from $.05 to $.25 per family.
When a total of $402.10 had
been collected two lots were pur-
chased and then sold in order to
purchase land on Olive Street,
between Huron and Grace,
where the present church, school
and rectory are located. The
parish also held many socials,
bazaars and picnic fundraisers.
In the fall of 1909 the founda-
tion for the combination church
and school building was laid.
St. Adalbert’s first pastor,
Father John Kubacki, was greet-
ed by a huge delegation waiting
to follow his car in a huge pro-
cession, carrying banners. More
church societies were formed
before the church building was
even completed, including the
Young Ladies Holy Rosary
Society, The Children of Mary,
The St. Joseph Young Man’s
Society, the Women’s Holy
Rosary Society and more. The
first baptism was performed in
the rectory on Aug. 4, 1910.
A dedication for the new
church/school took place on
Sept. 4, 1911, with Bishop Paul
Rhode, the first Polish bishop
in the U.S. and auxiliary bishop
of the Chicago diocese, presid-
ing. The church was on the
first floor, eight classrooms on
the second and the parish hall
on the third. The following fall
the Felician sisters from Detroit
came to open the school. The
sisters had living quarters in the
school until the new and present
rectory was built at the rear of
the church. The three-story brick
rectory — the largest in the city
— was completed in June 1915.
Although not in the recorded
history, St. Adalbert pastor
Father Paul Ybarra, CSC, said
the rectory was built so grandly
— with stained glass windows,
even — in the hope it would
become the seat of the bishop.

A new church

The large gothic church that
is St. Adalbert today was built
in 1926 at a cost of $230,000.
Bishop John Francis Noll offici-
ated at the church’s dedication
Mass on April 25, 1926 — the
feast of St. Adalbert. According
to the history book, 9,000 peo-
ple, including 32 local and out-
town priests, societies from
all four Polish churches, the
mayor and other city officials
joined in the procession and cel-
boration.
The church building has
changed little since that time.
Numerous stained glass win-
dows tell the story of the
Catholic faith. The seven sacra-
ments are represented on the
windows surrounding the altar,
and the two largest windows on
the north and south side depict
the Feast of Cana and Christ
with the little children. Statues
of saints circle the entire church,
each in its own niche. Murals
of saints and Bible scenes are
painted on the walls in the
front of the church. Many of
the stained glass windows and
murals in the parish feature
Polish inscriptions.
Father Ybarra said it is a
“beautiful space to celebrate
Mass,” and added that he often
feels the angels are watching
him, as a mural facing the altar
has angels looking at that direc-
tion.

St. Adalbert today

St. Adalbert is still an immi-
grant church, but now Masses
are celebrated in Spanish and
English instead of Polish and
English. When St. Stephen
Church was closed in 2003, its
Hungarian and Spanish parish-
ioners were divided between St.
Casimir and St. Adalbert. Father
Ybarra was assigned to the now-
combined parishes in July 2016.
Linda Zakowski Shaw grew

MATTHYS FARM MARKET

Your one stop shop for:
Homegrown & Local Produce | Animal Feed | Seasonal Petting Zoo
Lawn and Garden Supplies | Seasonal Events | and much, much more!

www.matthysfarmmarket.com | (574) 287-1935
57754 Crumstown Hwy, South Bend, Indiana 46619

The beautiful sanctuary altar at St. Adalbert Church has statues of St. John
the Evangelist on the left and St. Adalbert on the right. The murals on the
walls surrounding the sanctuary depict different saints and Biblical scenes.

We can save SJC for future generations

Staff members and alumni of Saint Joseph’s College, Rensselaer, which is slated for closure, hope to raise $20 million to keep the school open. Jordan Leising, ’11 and professor of political science, hopes SJC will continue to be an attractive place that ministers and educates the marginalized, the disenfranchised and those who would not otherwise be able to attend college but got a chance at SJC. Visit www.involvedforlife.net/fundraising to donate by April 1, and follow the school on Facebook at Involved for Life or Twitter @Involved4Life.

ADALBERT

Continued from Page 13

up at St. Adalbert, and her parents still live across the street. Her grandfather helped to get the church built, collecting those nickels, dimes and quarters. Her parents spoke Polish, but Shaw didn’t. When she attended St. Adalbert school she said there were about 600 kids — two classes for each grade level, and back then there was no restrictions on the number of students per class. She remembers when St. Adalbert Hall burnt down in the early 1970s, because that was where her parents’ wedding reception was held. Parish leadership decided at the time that rather than rebuild, they would make the parish hall on the first floor of the school.

Shaw started working for the parish part-time and has been full-time office manager for many years. Father Ybarra is the eighth pastor she’s worked for, starting with Father Eugene Kazmierczak. “The parish has evolved and sometimes change is hard,” she admitted, noting it was particularly an adjustment for everyone when the merger happened. But they have a beautiful church, and if something hadn’t happened to increase attendance they might’ve lost it, she said. “I think we’ve progressed a lot;” she added, smiling.

Of the approximately 1,000 families at St. Adalbert, 90 percent are Hispanic. Father Ybarra cites the young, Latino population as one of the parish’s strengths.

The community is growing — we’re able to fill St. Adalbert for the Spanish Masses,” he said. In fact, the Hispanic community is starting to spill over into the English Masses. It’s interesting, he noted, that there are multiple generations at the Spanish Masses, but mostly seniors at the English Masses. Older Polish-Americans are still connected to the parish and make up a good part of the English community: Polish hymns are still sung during Masses, but Mass in Polish is no longer offered. Father Ybarra is “totally open to doing a Polish bilingual Mass again,” though.

Ministries

Ministries in English that have long histories include the Harvest House Senior Group, in which 100 seniors meet once a month for Mass, meals and social times including bus trips. The Felician Sisters Auxiliary is still very active and helps support the Polish community as well, as do the Felician Sisters. St. Adalbert also has a large St. Vincent de Paul Society.

A bilingual youth group recently restarted, led by Deacon Ryan Pietrocarlo, and has about 30 kids, 18 of whom took part in the Right to Life March in Washington, D.C. in January. There’s also an 18-35 year adult team.

Christ Renews His Parish started in English at the parish, but is now being held only in Spanish. A few of the largest Spanish ministries include Grupo de Oracion, a charismatic prayer group carried over from St. Stephen, and Grupo de Matrimonios, a charismatic group focused on marriage and family. There are about 100 members in each.

Bishop Luers students receive art accolades

Bishop Luers High School art students participated in the Scholastic Awards program held at the Fort Wayne Grand Wayne Center on Feb. 12. Four Bishop Luers students won awards at this year’s program. They are: Apolonia Edwards, a Scholastic Gold Key in painting; Yolanda Linan, a Scholastic Silver Key in photography; Marissa Wigent, a Scholastic Honorable Mention in printmaking; and Riley Mintch, a Scholastic Honorable Mention in mixed media.

We can save SJC for future generations

Staff members and alumni of Saint Joseph’s College, Rensselaer, which is slated for closure, hope to raise $20 million to keep the school open. Jordan Leising, ’11 and professor of political science, hopes SJC will continue to be an attractive place that ministers and educates the marginalized, the disenfranchised and those who would not otherwise be able to attend college but got a chance at SJC. Visit www.involvedforlife.net/fundraising to donate by April 1, and follow the school on Facebook at Involved for Life or Twitter @Involved4Life.
Libby O’Brien played Suite in A Minor by Telemann for flute and piano. She has played flute for six years and this is the second year she has earned Gold in Group I. Miguel Enriquez played “Csárdás” (“Hungarian Dances”) by V. Monti with the alto saxophone. He has played the alto saxophone for eight years and earned Gold at the state level in Group I in 2015. He also played clarinet for two years and earned a Silver in 2015 and 2016 at regional for clarinet.
**The Johnson Amendment**

At the National Prayer Breakfast this month, President Donald Trump promised to “totally destroy” the Johnson Amendment “and allow our representatives of faith to speak freely and without fear of retribution.” I must confess that, on the list of things I hope the new administration will accomplish this year, this one is fairly far down.

The Johnson Amendment is named for President Lyndon Johnson, who inserted the provision as a floor amendment to the 1954 tax code. Johnson was then a freshman senator, engaged in an unpleasant primary election fight with a young conservative Catholic state representative from Bexar County, Texas.

The peak of Joe McCarthy’s anti-communist witch hunt, and several right-wing nonprofits had supported Johnson’s opponent. Johnson worried that their funding of liberalm would hurt him.

So he proposed a prohibition on political activities by nonprofits. Organizations exempt from tax under section 501(c)(3) should not “participate in, or intervene in...any political campaign.” It applies to all kinds of nonprofits (my university, the Open Society Foundation, not just churches. What it means for churches, though, is that they can’t make campaign contributions, and they can’t endorse (or oppose) candidates from the pulpit.

They can still take positions on issues like abortion, family life, immigration and health care. The Catholic Church does this all the time. And the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Office of General Counsel offers elaborate guidelines for parishes and dioceses so they can observe the distinction between permitted and prohibited political interventions.

Though the Johnson Amendment is not uncontroversial in 1954, there have been a lot of complaints about it lately. The Pew Research Center reported last year that 1 in 4 Black Protestants heard their clergy endorse Hillary Clinton during the election campaign.

The Alliance Defending Freedom has worked for almost a decade to provoke a legal challenge to the rule. The Alliance Defending Freedom’s Pulpit Freedom Initiative asks pastors to preach about the moral qualifications of candidates seeking office.

The day before the National Prayer Breakfast, Sen. James Lankford and Rep. Jody Hice introduced a bill, the Free Speech Fairness Act, to amend the ban on endorsements, though not the one on contributions.

I’m not sure this is a good idea, though my reasons are probably predictable: that we want to preserve a church-based understanding of church and state. But repealing the Johnson Amendment would also free the Open Society Foundation to do political campaigns. When the government is giving out subsidies, it should be allowed to treat churches the way it treats other, secular institutions.

I might go even further. The idea that the government can confer a benefit on churches when it declines to tax them — the “tax benefit” argument — rubs me the wrong way. It assumes that everything we have really belongs to the government (like whales and surrogates belong to the queen), and anything we’re allowed to keep is a matter of grace. This kind of omnivorous statism is what got Trump elected.

But looking at the matter from the church’s point of view, rather than the government’s, I see a good deal of wisdom in the principle the Johnson Amendment expresses. The Catholic Church does not align very well with either Republicans or Democrats, as the week before the National Prayer Breakfast reminded us. Vice President Mike Pence spoke at the annual March for Life, that same day President Trump issued an order banning travel from seven Muslim-majority countries.

Political endorsements really aren’t ‘mission of the church’ — not of our church, anyway. When it comes to voting, better to leave it to the people, not to the government. After all, the Gospel requires and leave it to us to figure out how to comply.

---

**John Garvey**

President of The Catholic University of America.

---

**We are guilty of sin, but acquitted through Jesus**

**The Sunday Gospel**

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

First Sunday of Lent

Matthew 4:1-11

The first reading for this first weekend of Lent is from the Book of Genesis. Few passages in the Scriptures are as effective in literary technique, and in theological message, as is this reading from Genesis. Bluntly confronting paganism and the tendency of all humans to avoid accusing themselves of fault, it goes to the heart of sin.

The heart of evil is that it is the result of a freely chosen act by humans. While in this reading the role of the tempting devil is clear, it also is clear that the devil only tempts. The devil does not force the first man and woman to sin. They sinned of their own will.

The temptation in itself is a lesson. Rebellious against God, the perfect and perfectly just, was foolhardy. Yet, imperfect even in their pristine state of holiness, the first man and woman listened to bad advice and trusted not God but another. It is a process that has been repeated untold number of times in the lives of us all.

The second reading is from the Epistle to the Romans. In this reading, the epistle looks back on the temptation described in Genesis. It reminds us that by the original sin the first humans introduced sin, and resulting chaos and trouble, into earthly existence.

Thus, death and hardship are not God’s designs for us. They are the result of the first man and woman’s sin. We all bear the mark of the original sin. It is a process that has been repeated untold number of times in the lives of us all.

As was the case with Genesis, this reading is heavy in its symbolism. For example, bread in the world is a symbol of Jesus, which means much more obviously represented survival than bread would be today. Modern refrigeration and quick transportation of food products have given us, in our day, a great selection as to what we will eat. In the time of Jesus and the world several days could go without a meal. There was no refrigeration. Few foodstuffs could be transported at any distance without spoiling. But grain and flour could be stored. Bread was a principal food. So the devil tries to convince Jesus that the devil can give true life.

In another example, the devil takes Jesus to the top of the temple. Even the earth, created by God, can be contaminated by evil. The final and most powerful message is that Jesus can command even the devil. Jesus is God.

---

**Reflection**

This weekend is the first weekend of Lent. The church uses the opportunity of this weekend to teach us one of the most basic facets of our faith. Sin removes us from God. Sin is not thrust upon us. We are not captured by sin against our will. We are not forced to sin.

Perhaps, ultimately, the deadlest effect of original sin was the human tendency to minimize the damage of sin and deny personal responsibility.

In these readings, the church calls us to awake and then turn away from sin. It reminds us of our own personal role in sin. It pleads with us not to under estimate temptation. It reassures us that, although temptations may be strong, Jesus is our Redeemer and our strength. His strength is enough to overcome any temptation. But we must fortify ourselves by asking for the Lord’s strength. This is the purpose of Lent.
What does it mean to be a part of God’s global family?

Each week of Lent, this reflection series will provide ways to incorporate global solidarity and the struggles of our brothers and sisters throughout the world into your Lenten journey. Here is this week’s installment.

Nation focus: India

Catholic social teaching principle: Preferential option for the poor

What does it mean to be a part of God’s global family?

Scripture quote: “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of Mine, you did for Me.” — Matthew 25:40

Catholic Relief Services: Rice Bowl

Melissa Wheeler is the diocesan director for Catholic Relief Services.

Photo by Jennifer Hardy/Catholic Relief Services

Priyanka Balar Singh, age 12, cooks outdoors with her mother, Megharnani (Megha) Balar Singh. The Singh family lives in Deipur Village in Black Bana, Purig district, Odisha state in Eastern India. They receive assistance through CRS’ Community-Based Disaster Preparedness program.

CAPECCHI

Continued from Page 16

... decline, if not endangered. A lot of that is because we’re not planting the right plants that bring the right insects that these birds want to eat. It’s all interconnected. As a society, we’re also interconnected. What I do affects you, what you do affects me. We are all in this together. It really is our common home."

This month, as winter melts into spring, she’s joining in the fourth annual celebration of National Catholic Sisters Week, March 8-14, an official component of Women’s History Month, by hosting an event in her eco-village called Sisters and Sisters. She’ll be teaming up with other women religious and lay people to install a bat house and a bee house and plant Missouri-native plants to help support pollinator populations and increase soil fertility.

To me, it embodies what women religious do best and why we salute them this month: They tend to their neighbors and our common home. They practice the simple living Pope Francis called for in “Laudato Si’,” resisting the “constant flood of new consumer goods” in order to “be serenely present to each reality” and open to “greater horizons of understanding.”

“Is it not a lesser life,” he wrote. “On the contrary, it is a way of living life to the full.”

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn., and editor of SistersStory.org.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for March 5, 2017
Matthew 4:1-11

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Lent, Cycle A: the time after Jesus fasted for 40 days. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

BY THE SPIRIT
BREAD
ALONE
HOLY CITY
DASH
WORSHIP ME

TEMPLED IT IS WRITTEN
EVERY WORD
A STONE
SATAN

DEVILO TES STONES
NOT LIVE
MOUTH
ANGELS
TEST
SERVE

AFTER FORTY DAYS

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

March 5 and 12, 2017

© 2017 Tri-C-A Publications www.tri-c-a-publications.com

ACROSS
1 Dove's call
4 A deadly sin
9 Moose relative
12 Scientist's office
13 Jeweled headdress
14 Fled
15 Adam and Eve did wrong
16 James & John
17 Jim
18 Animal kingdom division
20 Tempted Adam and Eve
22 Father who art

24 Sun's name
25 Puzzle
29 Eve
33 Sculls
34 Farm credit administration (abbr.)
36 Made cloth
37 Rumormonger
39 Eyelid
41 London Cathedral
43 Certified public accountant
44 Alcohol
45 Apostle to Gentiles
46 Line ___ veto
48 Done
52 Cereal
53 Devil
55 Poem of praise

26 Caviar
27 Posses
28 Microgram
30 Mother
31 Bail Mary
32 Peter used
35 St. Joan of ___
38 Stands up
40 Adam and Eve's eyes were
42 Dickens’ ___ of Two Cities (2 wds)
44 Adey
45 Apostle to Gentiles
46 Line ___ veto
47 Pack
49 Medicine amount
50 Adam and Eve lived here
51 Jesus rose from
52 Regret
55 Poem of praise
56 Regret
57 Run away and marry
58 Galliue water
59 Tree
60 Stitched
61 Fins

DOWN
1 Thunder __
2 Curse
3 Jesus did to God
4 London Cathedral
5 Bear false witness
6 Makes hot cereal
7 Two in the middles of the Garden
8 Breaks up soil
9 Canal
10 Grass
11 Our Lady undoes
12 Boiled crustacean
21 Use 9D
23 Official
25 Nose
26 Caviar
27 Posses
28 Microgram
30 Mother
31 Bail Mary
32 Peter used
35 St. Joan of ___
38 Stands up
40 Adam and Eve's eyes were
42 Dickens’ ___ of Two Cities (2 wds)
44 Adey
45 Apostle to Gentiles
46 Line ___ veto
47 Pack
49 Medicine amount
50 Adam and Eve lived here
51 Jesus rose from
52 Regret
55 Poem of praise

Based on these readings: Gn 2:7-9, 3:1-7; Mt 4:1-11 and Gn 12:1-4; 2Tim 1:8b-10; Mt 17:1-9

March 5, 2017
Late exorcist’s words lift the veil on the demonic, Satan

BY ALLAN F. WRIGHT


The world-renowned exorcist, Pauline Father Gabriele Amorth, who died this past September, has left his wisdom and experience in dealing with evil forces through this lucid and insightful compendium gleaned from interviews published in Credere magazine over the past few years.

Father Amorth founded the International Association of Exorcists and performed tens of thousands of exorcisms in his life. He is refreshingly direct when it comes to his life. He is refreshingly direct.

In addition, his writing conveys a sense of comfort and hope for those suffering from physical and spiritual ailments such as possession, vexation, obsession and infestation, all believed to stem from demonic forces.

Father Amorth attributes the rise of demonic activity to the decline in faith in God. “When faith in God declines, idolatry and irrationality increase; man must then look elsewhere for answers to his meaningful questions,” he writes. The principle of total and complete liberty apart from God and the denial of truth itself are indeed seductive in appearance but ultimately fail to satisfy the “desires of the human heart.”

Young people in particular, he states, “are easily deluded and are attracted to these ‘seductions’ which has been the desire of Satan since the beginning.” Extreme danger arises when these demonic spirits are invited into a person’s life and Father Amorth goes into detail on specific cases he has personally encountered.

While we are all victims of seductions or temptations, not everyone is a victim of what the late priest calls an “extraordinary action of Satan.” Nor are extraordinary actions of Satan or evil spirits the fault of those who are victim of these attacks, he affirms.

However, there are an incredible amount of people who declare their allegiance to Satan, the “father of lies.” The casting of spells and “infestations of the demonic” are in fact a reality and chronicled in this book.

In chapter three, “The Cult of Satan and Its Manifestations,” topics such as spiritism, Satanism, occultism, wizards, fortunetellers, magic, piercings, tattoos and satanic music are addressed.

He states that the three rules of Satanism are: “You may do all you wish, no one has the right to command you, and you are the god of yourself.” One doesn’t need to be exposed to the satanic heavy metal band Slayer to see those three elements alive and operating in our culture.

Although “An Exorcist Explains the Demonic” is profoundly disquieting, Father Amorth reminds readers of God’s victory over Satan and the tools for growing in holiness and fighting evil provided by the church in the sacraments, sacramentals and prayer. God loves us as a father and desires to protect us.

The reader will perhaps be surprised by the amount of demonic activity that Father Amorth records in a matter-of-fact manner and yet always with the confidence that God is stronger. He recalls invoking with much success Mary, the mother of Jesus.

Father Amorth also was the exorcist for the Diocese of Rome during St. John Paul II’s pontificate so he has firsthand knowledge of at least three exorcisms that the pontiff performed in his private chapel. The demons are recorded as having a special indignation when his memory is invoked because St. John Paul “ruined their plans.”

Father Amorth believes the reason for this is linked to Fatima and to the consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary by St. John Paul March 25, 1984.

The book also relies on Scripture and the Catechism of the Catholic Church for insights into heaven, hell, purgatory and the rise of exorcism itself.

Father Amorth makes a solid case for the need for many more exorcists and even suggests that every seminarian be exposed to the work of exorcism as an essential course of study.

This compendium is a suitable witness to both the man and his struggle with evil.

Allan F. Wright is an author and academic dean of evangelization for the Diocese of Paterson and resides in New Jersey.
FISH FRIES
St. Patrick plans fish fry
ARCOLA — St. Patrick Church, 12305 Arcola Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, March 10, from 4:30-7 p.m. in the parish hall. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches available for kids. Adults $10, seniors 60 plus $9, children 5-10 $5, children 4 and under free. Drive-through and carryouts available.

Fish fry hosted by Knights
DECANTUR — Msgr. J.J. Seimez
Knights of Columbus Council 864 are hosting a Lenten Fish Fry at their pavilion at 1703 High St., on Friday, March 3, from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are $8 for ages 10 and up, $6 for ages 6-9, and children 4 and under are free. Profits benefit St. Joseph School. For more information visit http://stmarysdecatur.org.

Fish fry
FORT WAYNE — St. Theres Parish will have a fish fry on Friday, March 3, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the parish hall, 2594 Lwr. Huntington Rd. Tickets are $10 for adults, $5 for children under 12 and children under 4 are free. Carryout available.

Boy Scouts fish fry
FORT WAYNE — A fish fry sponsored by the St. Vincent Boy Scouts will be March 3, 17 and 31, from 5-8 p.m. at the St. Vincent School, door No. 9, corner of Walen and Auburn Rd. Tickets are $10 for adults, $5 for children 6-11. Carryout available.

Fish fry
WALKERTON — St. Patrick Parish, 811 Tyler St., will have a fish fry Friday, March 3, from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are $8 for adults, $4 for children 6-10 and children under 6 free. Drive-through carryout available at $9. Fish prepared by Tyner IOOF Lodge.

MISC. HAPPENINGS
Trivia night on agenda
FORT WAYNE — St. Joseph Hessen Cassel School, 11521 US 27 South, will have a trivia night Saturday, March 11, at 6 p.m. Pre-sale cost is $100 per table. Maximum team size is 15 people per table. Snacks available, beverages available for purchase. Must be 21 to attend. For information visit www.stjosehc.org.

Frasatti young adults to gather
FORT WAYNE — The Frasatti Young Adults will meet Saturday, March 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the Our Lady of Good Hope gym for volleyball and cornhole. Young adults ages 18-39 welcome.

BYOB and a snack to share.
Babysitting available for $15 per family. Sign up on Facebook at Fort Wayne Frasatti Young Adults.

Card party and euchre tournament
YODER — St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus will have a card party and euchre tournament Saturday, March 4, in the school basement. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., $5 tournament fee. Food and beverages available for a free will offering. Contact Dave Meyer at 260-638-4882 for information.

Spaghetti dinner planned
SOUTH BEND — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a spaghetti dinner Thursday, March 9, from 4-6 p.m. Tickets are $8 for adults, $2.50 for children 5-12.

Book of Revelation topic of series
COLUMBIA CITY — Deacon Jim Fitzpatrick will be giving a talk on the Book of Revelation at St. Catherine Parish, 9989 S State Road 9, at 7 p.m. on Wednesday nights, March 8, 15, 29 and April 5. Bring a Bible. There will be no charge. For more information contact Val at 260-672-2838.

Bishop Luers hosts Show Choir Invitational
FORT WAYNE — The Bishop Luers 43rd annual Show Choir Invitational will be March 10 and March 11, in the gymnasium. The middle school competition is Friday, March 10, at 7 p.m. Tickets are $5. The high school competition is Saturday, March 11, beginning at 7:45 a.m. and running through 7 p.m. The evening competition begins at 8 p.m. Tickets, sold at the door, are $15 for all day, $10 for students.

REST IN PEACE

Submit obituaries to mweber@diocesefwsb.org

OFFICE OF VOCATIONS

March 7
7:00 p.m.
St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel
with Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Please, come and pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.
Help stop war in Ukraine, aid children in need, says church leader

ROME (CNS) — The head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church called on the international community to “stop the aggressor” in Ukraine’s “forgotten conflict” and help the 1 million children in need of urgent humanitarian assistance. “I am appealing to the international community to defend Ukrainian children, victims of war, keeping in mind that in our country we are experiencing a humanitarian emergency in Europe that has not been experienced since the Second World War,” said Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk of Kiev-Halych, head of the Ukrainian Catholic Church.

Despite efforts the past three years, a “stable cease-fire” has never been achieved, “therefore, we ask international organizations to continue diplomatic approaches to stop the aggressor and end the war so that true peace can be reached,” he said in a written statement received by Catholic News Service Feb. 22.

The archbishop made the appeal after UNICEF released report Feb. 17 saying that 1 million children in Ukraine were in urgent need of humanitarian aid — nearly double the number of kids in need the same time last year. The increased numbers were due to the ongoing fighting and deteriorating economic situation of families, loss of housing and reduced access to health care and education, the report said. One in five schools in eastern Ukraine have been damaged or destroyed.

Notre Dame choirs elevate cathedral Mass

Worshippers at the 5 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, Feb. 25 were treated to angelic notes from the choir loft prior to and during the celebration, courtesy of the Notre Dame Handbell Choir and the Notre Dame Celebration Choir from the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades presided at the Mass and welcomed the two groups that filled the cathedral with their refined, musical contribution to the liturgy. Rather than a performance, the choirs’ participated in the planned musical selections, accompanying the Mass from start to finish.

The Mass included a homily delivered by Bishop Rhoades, emphasizing the need to trust in God at all times. He reminded those present that the evening’s Gospel, Matthew 6:24-34, included six references by Jesus to the Disciples, exhorting them to not worry. Rather than stressing over money and material things, the Bishop reminded the faithful to “trust in God our Father, even in the smallest of things.” Jesus instructs us to seek first the kingdom of God, he added. “God is our rock and our refuge. He is truly our loving and merciful Father.”

The choir performed during the Responsorial Psalm, and as the Eucharist was distributed the Handbell Choir rang out the hymn “You Satisfy the Hungry Heart.” This was followed with the Celebration Choir and congregation joining together in the hymn “Eat this Bread.”

The celebration concluded with the song, “Praise the Lord! You Heavens Adore Him.”

The presence of the choirs, who had been invited to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception by the bishop seemed to create a very precious, meaningful and memorable worship experience for those present.