

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Unmask violence posing as holy, pope tells religious leaders in Egypt

BY CAROL GLATZ

CAIRO (CNS) — Calling his visit to Egypt a journey of “unity and fraternity,” Pope Francis launched a powerful call to the nation’s religious leaders to expose violence masquerading as holy and condemn religiously inspired hatred as an idolatrous caricature of God.

“Peace alone, therefore, is holy, and no act of violence can be perpetrated in the name of God, for it would profane his name,” the pope told Muslim and Christian leaders at an international peace conference April 28. Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople was in attendance.

Pope Francis also warned of attempts to fight violence with violence, saying “every unilateral action that does not promote constructive and shared processes is, in reality, a gift to the proponents of radicalism and violence.”

The pope began a two-day visit to Cairo by speaking at a gather-



CNS/Paul Haring

Pope Francis greets Sheik Ahmad el-Tayeb, grand imam of al-Azhar University, at a conference on international peace in Cairo April 28. The pope was making a two-day visit to Egypt.

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Jerome Lejeune Foundation receives Evangelium Vitae Medal

BY JILL A. BOUGHTON

Special guests at the April 29 presentation of the Evangelium Vitae Medal to the Jerome Lejeune Foundation included a former ambassador, major donors, a priest celebrating the 17th anniversary of his ordination and the founder of the Notre Dame William P. and Hazel B. White Center for Ethics and Culture. However, the guests of honor were those Dr. Lejeune affectionately called his “little ones:” people living with Trisomy 21, more commonly known as Down Syndrome.

These special guests ranged from infants to Down Syndrome adult David DeSanctis, who proudly introduced himself as a movie star because of his role in “Where Hope Grows.” O. Carter Snead, director of the Center for

Ethics and Culture, commended these guests’ “gift of self, the beautiful ways they enrich all of our lives.”

When the French physician began seeing patients like these in his country, “mongolism” as Down Syndrome was called at the time, was widely believed to be contagious and the result of the mother’s syphilis. By discovering in 1958 that it’s actually the result of an extra, 21st chromosome, Dr. Lejeune became the founder of modern genetics. More important to him, his discovery enabled families to shed their shame and help their beloved children live a fuller life. One of his patients gave this powerful testimony at his funeral: “Because of you, I’m proud of myself.”

Even though he was the father of five children, the humble Lejeune was always available to

his precious patients and their families — 9,000 of them. One of his disappointments, however, was not to be able to find an ethical way to repair the genetic abnormality during his lifetime.

A faithful son of the Catholic church and close friend of St. John Paul II, he was named President of the new Pontifical Academy for Life only a month before his death on Easter 1994.

Dr. Lejeune was deeply grieved when his discovery began to be utilized as a test that contributed to the abortion of countless human beings prenatally diagnosed with Trisomy 21. His strong pro-life stance also hurt his professional career and the respect of many peers. In 2012 he was recognized as a “Servant of God,” however, and many people pray for his beatification.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades began the evening’s events

by celebrating a Saturday vigil Mass at Notre Dame’s Basilica of the Sacred Heart. In his homily, he called the Jerome Lejeune Foundation “a powerful witness to the joy and hope of the Gospel, the Gospel of life, a group which is living the mission of bringing the hope of the Gospel to our society and culture.” Just as the disciples on the road to Emmaus came to recognize Jesus in the breaking of the bread, “may we recognize His presence in children with Down Syndrome, both born and unborn,” he said.

At the banquet that followed, Dr. Pilar Calva from the Pontifical University of Mexico recalled her internship under Dr. Lejeune, who helped her learn to treat people rather than illnesses. He led her to understand that faith couldn’t be left at the church door on

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PUBLISHER: Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Editorial Department

PUBLICATIONS MANAGER: Jodi Marlin

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

BRAND SPECIALIST: Molly Gettinger

SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER: Emily Mae Schmid

NEWS SPECIALIST: Mark Weber

Business Department

BUSINESS MANAGER: Stephanie A. Patka

BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION: Geoff Frank
gfrank@diocesefwsb.org

Advertising Sales

Jackie Parker

jparker@diocesefwsb.org

(260) 399-1449

Web site: www.todayscatholic.org

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MAIN OFFICE: 915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Telephone (260) 456-2824. Fax: (260) 744-1473.

BUREAU OFFICE: 1328 Dragoon Trail, Mishawaka, IN 46544. Telephone (260) 456-2824. Fax (260) 744-1473.

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editor@diocesefwsb.org

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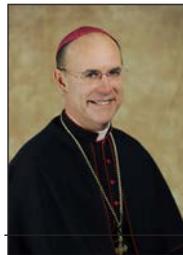
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May, the Month of Mary and the Easter Season



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

For centuries, Catholics throughout the world have honored the Blessed Virgin Mary with special devotion during the month of May. At the same time, the month of May largely corresponds with the Church's liturgical season of Easter, the 50 days between Easter Sunday and Pentecost Sunday. The popular Marian piety encouraged by the Church in the month of May is not at odds with the liturgical season of Easter. There is a wonderful connection that I would like to reflect on in this column.

First of all, it is good to reflect on Mary in the Easter season and her joy at the Resurrection of her Son. In fact, the Church highlights this joy in the Easter prayer that is called the "Regina caeli." We sing or say: "Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia. For He whom you did merit to bear, alleluia. Has risen as He said, alleluia. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia. Because our Lord is truly risen, alleluia."

Mary had stood at the foot of the cross as the sorrowful Mother, joined with the suffering of her Son. She stood by Jesus in His agony on the cross. We can only imagine her great pain as she witnessed the suffering and death of her beloved Son. It was during this agony that Our Lord gave us Mary as our Mother. In His great love for us, through St. John, Jesus entrusted His mother to us and entrusted us to His mother.

As Mary shared in the Passion and Death of her Son, it is reasonable to believe that she had a particular share in the mystery of His resurrection. Pope St. John Paul II taught that "the Blessed Virgin was probably a privileged witness of Christ's resurrection." Though we don't have any mention in the Gospels of the Risen Jesus appearing to His Mother, St. John Paul II asks: "How could the Blessed Virgin, present in the first community of disciples (cf. Acts 1:14), be excluded from those who met her divine Son after He had risen from the dead? It is legitimate to think that the Mother was probably the first person to whom the risen Jesus appeared. Could not Mary's absence from the group of women who went to the tomb at dawn indicate that she had already met Jesus?"

In the Easter season and during this month of May, we celebrate with Mary the resurrection of the Lord. Truly, Mary's heart was filled "with joy beyond all telling" at the Resurrection of her Son. We share in her joy and we ask for her prayers, that we may obtain the joys of everlasting life. We think of this lowly handmaid who was raised up by God the Father to reign as queen in glory in the presence of her Son, and we pray: "Queen of heaven, rejoice, for He whom you did merit to bear, has risen as He said!"

It is also good in the Easter season and in this month of May, to reflect on Mary's presence in the community of the first disciples waiting for Pentecost. We will celebrate Pentecost this year on June 4th. As we approach the feast of Pentecost, especially in the latter part of May, we can reflect on that



Provided by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

A student from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton places a crown on the head of the Blessed Mother during a May Crowning in 2016.

first community of disciples praying together in the upper room after Jesus' Ascension into heaven. Mary was with them in prayer, awaiting the descent of the Holy Spirit. Mary had already been overshadowed by the Holy Spirit at the Annunciation, when she conceived the Son of God in her womb and became the Mother of Christ. At Pentecost, she would again be overshadowed by the Holy Spirit, filled with His grace to fulfill her new role as Mother of Christ's Body, the Church.

I encourage devotion to Our Lady of the Cenacle, to our Mother who sustained the disciples in the upper room with her love and the example of her prayer. She is our model of prayer as she prayed with the apostles in the cenacle and was united with them in prayer when they were filled with the Holy Spirit at Pentecost. She helped the community to be well disposed for the coming of the Holy Spirit. She helps us to be open to the Holy Spirit and intercedes for us that we may receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit in greater abundance. In the cenacle in Jerusalem, Mary was the spiritual mother of the first disciples. She is our spiritual mother who teaches us to follow her Son and to be guided by the Holy Spirit.

In light of our Blessed Mother's joy at her Son's Resurrection and of her loving and prayerful presence with the disciples in the upper room at Pentecost, we can celebrate this Marian month of May with deeper meaning. I especially recommend praying the holy rosary during this month. In the beautiful prayer of the rosary, we meditate on the mysteries of Jesus, the key moments of His life. As Pope Francis reminds us, when we pray the rosary, Mary helps us to put Jesus at the center of our attention, our thoughts, and our actions. The Holy Father invites us to pray the rosary together in the family or with friends or in the parish. Praying the rosary together strengthens family life, friendships, and parish life.

On May 13th, we will be celebrating the 100th anniversary of the first appearance of Mary to the children of Fatima. On that day, Pope Francis will be canonizing Blessed Jacinta and Blessed Francisco. Here in our diocese, I will be celebrating Mass on Saturday, May 13th, the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, at 8:00 AM at St. John the Baptist Church in Fort Wayne. I invite you to attend this Mass in which we will begin our diocesan celebrations of this centennial year of the Fatima apparitions. Providentially, May 13th will also be the day of the New Evangelization Summit that all are invited to attend at St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne, and St. Monica Parish, Mishawaka.

In her first appearance at Fatima, on May 13, 1917, the Blessed Mother said to the children: "Pray the rosary every day to obtain peace for the world, and the end of the war." She repeated this request that they daily pray the rosary for peace in all six of her apparitions to the children. Given the situation in the world today, it is good for us to put into practice Our Lady's request to pray the rosary daily for peace in the world today.

Finally, I wish to mention the pious custom of crowning an image of Our Lady during the month of May. This act of love and devotion can take place in our churches and schools and also in our homes. What does it mean? It is an action that expresses our devotion to Mary our Mother as also our Queen. We believe that she reigns in glory with her Son, interceding for us and all God's children. In this Easter season, it is a reminder that Mary, the humble handmaid of the Lord when she was on earth, now shares in the glory of her Son's resurrection and has been exalted by God as the Queen of all creation. The May crowning reminds us that the lowly shall be exalted, as Mary sang in the Magnificat. We honor Our Lady as our Mother and our Queen and we pray that she will help us to follow her Son and one day receive the crown of glory in heaven.

Pope, Coptic patriarch honor martyrs, urge unity for peace

BY CAROL GLATZ

CAIRO (CNS) — Placing flowers, lighting a candle and praying at the site where dozens of Coptic Orthodox Christians were killed by an Islamic State militant last year, Pope Francis and Coptic Orthodox Pope Tawadros II paid homage to those who were killed for their faith.

Pope Francis and Pope Tawadros walked in a short procession to the Church of St. Peter, where 29 people died and 31 were wounded Dec. 11. The faithful chanted a song of martyrs, and some clashed cymbals under the darkened evening sky.

Inside the small church, the leaders of several other Christian communities in Egypt as well as Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople sat before the congregation, which included family members of the victims.

A portion of one wall of the complex was splattered with blood, and pictures of those killed — many with bright smiles to the camera — were hung above. Some of the church's stone columns were pock-marked from the debris or shrapnel sent flying from the explosion.

Each of the eight Christian leaders seated before the congregation, beginning with Pope Francis, read a verse from the beatitudes in the Gospel of St. Matthew. Pope Francis and Pope Tawadros then each said a few words in prayer, and everyone shared a sign of peace.

Led by Pope Francis, the eight leaders went to the back of the church, where each lit a small candle and placed white flowers beneath the photos of the martyrs. Pope Francis leaned low to touch the blood-stained wall and made the sign of the cross.

Earlier, in a historic and significant move toward greater Christian unity, Pope Tawadros and Pope Francis signed an agreement to end a longtime disagreement between the two churches over the sacrament of baptism.

The Coptic Orthodox Church had required new members joining from most non-Coptic churches — including those who had previously been baptized as Catholic — to be baptized again.

The Catholic Church recognizes all Christian baptisms performed with water and in “the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.” Orthodox who enter the Catholic Church are received as full members, but not baptized again.

In the joint declaration, the two leaders “mutually declare that we, with one mind and heart, will seek sincerely not to repeat the baptism that has been administered in either of our churches for any person who wishes to join the other.”



CNS/Paul Haring

Pope Francis, accompanied by Coptic Orthodox Pope Tawadros II, lights a candle outside St. Peter's Church in Cairo April 28. The pope lit the candle in remembrance of victims of a December 2016 bombing inside the church.

The document was signed during a courtesy visit with Pope Tawadros at the Coptic Orthodox Cathedral April 28.

In his speech to Pope Tawadros and other Coptic Orthodox leaders, Pope Francis said, “The innocent blood of defenseless Christians was cruelly shed.” He told them it was that innocent blood “that united us.”

“Your sufferings are also our sufferings,” he said, the first day of a two-day visit to Egypt's capital.

“How many martyrs in this land, from the first centuries of Christianity, have lived their faith heroically to the end, shedding their blood rather than denying the Lord and yielding to the enticements of evil or merely to the temptation of repaying evil with evil?”

“How many martyrs in this land, from the first centuries of Christianity, have lived their faith heroically to the end, shedding their blood rather than denying the Lord and yielding to the enticements of evil or merely to the temptation of repaying evil with evil,” he said.

He encouraged Catholic and Orthodox to work hard to “oppose violence by preaching and sowing goodness, fostering concord and preserving unity, praying that all these sacrifices may open the way to a future of full communion between us and peace for all.”

Pope Tawadros, in his speech, said Pope Francis was following in the footsteps of his namesake, St. Francis of Assisi, who came to Egypt nearly 1,000 years ago to meet Sultan al-Kamel and engage in “one of the most important experiences of intercultural dialogue in history — a dialogue that is renewed today

with your visit.”

Calling Pope Francis one of the symbols of peace “in a world tormented by conflicts and wars,” the Orthodox leader underlined that the world was thirsting for sincere efforts of spreading peace and love, and stopping violence and extremism.

Pope Tawadros said Pope Francis' visit “is a message for the rest of the world,” showing Egypt as a model of mutual respect and understanding.

Despite Christianity's deep roots in Egypt, which was evangelized by St. Mark, Christians have lived through some difficult and turbulent periods, he said. But that only made people's desire to love even greater, showing that “love and tolerance are stronger than hatred and revenge and that the light of hope is stronger than the darkness of desperation.”

“The criminal minds” behind all the violence and threats hurting Egypt will never be able to break or weaken the hearts of its citizens who are united and showing an example for future generations.

Later in the evening, Pope Francis was scheduled to go to the apostolic nunciature, where he was staying, and greet a group of children who attend a Comboni-run school in Cairo. After dinner, he was expected to greet some 300 young people who came from outside Cairo to see him.

The majority of the 82.5 million Egyptians are Sunni Muslims. Most estimates say 10-15 percent of the Egyptian population are Christians, most of them Coptic Orthodox, but there are Catholics, Protestants and other various Christian communities in the country as well.



Public schedule of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Sunday, May 7: 3 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, St. Jude Church, Fort Wayne

Monday, May 8: 11 a.m. — Mass and Blessing, Mary's Glen, Fort Wayne

Tuesday, May 9: 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass, Immaculate Conception Church, Kendallville

Wednesday, May 10: 1 p.m. — Meeting of Diocesan Finance Council, Franciscan Alliance Building, Mishawaka

Thursday, May 11: 10:30 a.m. — Meeting of the Presbyteral Council, Sacred Heart Rectory, Warsaw

Friday, May 12: 6:30 p.m. — Talk for Couples' Date Night, Immaculate Conception Church, Auburn

Saturday, May 13: 8 a.m. — Mass for 100th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima at New Evangelization Summit, St. John the Baptist Church, Fort Wayne

Call to prayer for life, marriage and religious liberty Holy Hours

• St. Joseph Church, 1300 N. Main St., Bluffton: Prayer for Life, Marriage and Religious Liberty takes place at 5 p.m. and ends with Mass at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday monthly.

• St. Charles Borromeo Church, 4916 Trier Rd, Fort Wayne: A Holy Hour all Fridays at 7 p.m. in the chapel.

• Queen of Peace Church, Mishawaka: Adoration and Exposition every Saturday prior to Mass at 5:30 p.m.

• St. Mary of the Assumption Church, Decatur: Eucharistic exposition on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday from 4:30-6 p.m. and on Thursday from 9-10 a.m. and 4:30-8 p.m.

• Our Lady of Good Hope Church, 7215 Saint Joe Rd., Fort Wayne: A holy hour for religious liberty beginning with a rosary at 9:30 a.m. every Tuesday.

Keep fit by moving forward, reaching out, pope tells Catholics

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A healthy Christian life is one that treasures a memory of the past, but is always moving forward and reaching out to others, inviting them to join the journey, Pope Francis said.

“Don't walk with your eyes on what is behind you or you'll bump into something,” the pope told some 70,000 members of Italian Catholic Action April 30. “Don't stare in the mirror; many of us are ugly so it's better not to look!”

Most of all, he said, “don't sit comfortably in an armchair; that makes you fat and it's bad for your cholesterol!”

The morning after returning from a two-day trip to Egypt, Pope Francis spent more than an hour in St. Peter's Square with people celebrating the 150th anniversary of Catholic Action in Italy. The organization, which is structured on a parish and diocesan level, emphasizes faith formation and social involvement.

Pope Francis told the group that his father and his grandmother both were members of Catholic Action, which helps Christians “proclaim with their lives the beauty of God's love” and find ways in their daily lives to build “a society that is more just, more fraternal and marked by more solidarity.”

The vocation of laypeople, he said, is to live holy lives through their daily activities, which involves adopting “welcome and dialogue as the style with which you make others your neighbors.”

Following the example of famous members who went before them, the pope urged Catholic Action members to be involved in politics — “with a capital ‘p’” — by working for the common good of their communities and country.

“Stay open to the reality that surrounds you,” he said. “Without fear seek dialogue with those who live alongside you, even those who think differently than you do, but want peace, justice and brotherhood.”

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Dedication of Mary's Prayer Glen

A Spiritual Oasis for Prayer
Monday, May 8

2514 Reynolds Street, Fort Wayne

11 a.m. Mass.
Celebrant Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades

Blessing of Mary's Glen
and Pot Luck to follow

All invited!

Visitors are welcome to Mary's Glen daily from 9 am to 5 pm. The Glen is a project of the Confraternity of Penitents (www.penitents.org)

Simple truths, relevance take center stage at New Evangelization Summit

BY JODI MARLIN

Building on St. John Paul II's call for a "new evangelization" of the world, the third annual New Evangelization Summit hopes to inspire and train Catholics in two countries to speak their faith joyfully, effectively and with knowledge and conviction.

At sites across the U.S. and Canada, the Ottawa-based conference will be livestreamed to participants who would like to identify decisive encounters that lend themselves to evangelization, and learn how to evangelize from the heart, speak the faith in an understandable way, bring young people back to the church and more.

"The fruit of the summit can be life-changing for the individual, as well as individual parishes," said Mary Glowaski, director of the Office of Evangelization for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. "We are privileged to live in a diocese that offers us many opportunities for personal, spiritual enrichment. NES will offer us new ways, new approaches to consider for sharing the gifts, the joy and the sustaining love we experience in our relationships with Jesus Christ. NES will teach us new and effective ways to share our very Good News."

Fort Wayne-South Bend offers two participation sites: St. John the Baptist Church, 4500 Fairfield Ave., Fort Wayne, and St. Monica Church, 222 W. Mishawaka Ave., South Bend. Each will host the broadcast from 7-9:30 p.m. Friday, May 12, and from 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday, May 13.

Scheduled speakers for the New Evangelization Summit include:

• **Bishop Robert Barron**, founder of Word on Fire Catholic Ministries and auxiliary bishop of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles



• **Sister Miriam James Heidland**, missionary with the Society of Our Lady of the Most Holy Trinity and author of "Loved As I Am"



• **Father Michael White**, priest in the Archdiocese of Baltimore and co-author of "Rebuilt" and "Tools for Rebuilding"



• **Tom Corcoran**, associate to the pastor of the Church of the Nativity in Maryland and co-author of "Rebuilt" and "Tools for Rebuilding"



• **Peter Herbeck**, TV and radio host and author



• **Meghann Baker**, mom, catechist and active parishioner



• **Michael Dopp**, founder of Mission of the Redeemer Ministries and the New Evangelization Summit



• **Patrick Sullivan**, founder of Evango Catholic Ministries.



The weekend will begin with a welcome, opening prayer and introduction by Peter Herbeck on Friday. Two 40-minute sessions by Herbeck and Sister Miriam, interrupted by a break and video, will make up most of the evening. On Saturday, following a brief, 9 a.m. welcome, participants will hear from Father White, Corcoran, Sullivan and Baker before lunch. Talks by Bishop Barron, Herbeck and Dopp, interspersed with a break and a rosary, will take place before the day wraps up at 4:30 p.m.

There is a ticket price of \$35 to attend, which includes lunch. For more information or to purchase tickets visit newevangelization.ca.

ND students received into full communion with the church



Matt Cashore/University of Notre Dame

Bishop Kevin Rhoades, Father Matthew Hovde, CSC, newly confirmed University of Notre Dame students and their sponsors and instructors pose for a group photo following a confirmation Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on April 30.

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Continued from Page 1

Sunday, she said, but that a Christian must wear a cross and a white coat at the same time.

According to the award citation, "The Foundation is the largest sponsor of ethically conducted genetic research in France today: In the last 20 years, it has funded 570 research projects in more than 18 countries across the globe, dedicated to better understanding and treating a variety of genetic disorders. ... Perhaps most importantly, the Jerome Lejeune Foundation continues to speak out on behalf of society's disinherited via public advocacy that helps the world to see with the eyes of Professor Lejeune, to love with his radical hospitality, to appreciate the beauty in our differences — and above all, to recognize in each unique individual the reflection of the Creator, which unites us all with equal dignity."

After the citation was read, Lejeune's widow, Birthe, accepted the medal on behalf of the foundation.

"I'm proud and happy to be



Kevin Haggengos

Birthe Lejeune, widow of Dr. Jerome Lejeune, accepts the Evangelium Vitae Medal from the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture. The Jerome Lejeune Foundation was established in 1996, having grown out of Lejeune's pioneering work in genetics and lifetime of care and advocacy on behalf of those with intellectual disabilities, born and unborn.

here," she said, blowing kisses to the crowd. She admitted that it's very difficult to be pro-life in France today.

Thierry de la Villejegu, executive director of the foundation, also spoke briefly. With the \$10,000 Evangelium Vitae award, he said, the foundation hopes to establish a clinic like the Jerome Lejeune Institute in the United States so that people with Trisomy 21 can have "a

much better life." He pointed out that the most important task of Catholics isn't medical or scientific but the work of changing hearts and minds to "defend the dignity of the human being, especially the weakest among us. It is they who enable all of us to be most fully ourselves."

The Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture believes that the truth the church affirms about the human person is the foundation for freedom, justice, human dignity and the common good. Its mission statement is "to share the richness of the Catholic moral and intellectual tradition through teaching, research and dialogue, at the highest level and across a range of disciplines." Every year on Respect Life Sunday the center announces a new recipient of the Evangelium Vitae award, "the nation's most important lifetime achievement award for heroes of the pro-life movement, honoring individuals whose efforts have served to proclaim the Gospel of Life by steadfastly affirming and defending the sanctity of human life from its earliest stages." The Jerome Lejeune Foundation is the seventh medal recipient.



Peter Ringenberg/University of Notre Dame

Bishop Kevin Rhoades poses with representatives of the Jerome Lejeune Foundation and the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture following a Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, on Saturday, April 29.

True faith means loving others to the extreme, pope tells Egypt's Catholics

CAIRO (CNS) — The only kind of fanaticism that is acceptable to God is being fanatical about loving and helping others, Pope Francis said on his final day in Egypt. "True faith," he told Catholics, "makes us more charitable, more merciful, more honest and more humane. It moves our hearts to love everyone without counting the cost." The pope celebrated an open-air Mass April 29 in Cairo's Air Defense Stadium, built by the anti-aircraft branch of the Egyptian armed forces. The pope concelebrated with Coptic Catholic Patriarch Ibrahim Isaac Sedrak of Alexandria and leaders of the other Catholic rites in Egypt. After spending the first day of his visit in meetings with Muslim leaders, government officials, diplomats and members of the Coptic Orthodox Church, the pope dedicated the second day of his trip to Egypt's minority Catholic community. Arriving at the stadium in a blue Fiat, the pope was slowly driven around the stadium's red running track in a small and low golf cart, far from the estimated 15,000 people seated in the stands high above. Yellow balloons and a long chain of blue balloons tied together like a rosary were released into the sky as a military helicopter circled high above the venue.

Catholic leaders decry fourth Arkansas execution in eight days

WASHINGTON (CNS) — After Arkansas executed its fourth death-row inmate in eight days April 27, Sister Helen Prejean, a longtime opponent of capital punishment, said "future generations will look back upon the events unfolding in Arkansas tonight with horror. The barbarity is overwhelming." Sister Prejean, a Sister of St. Joseph of Medaille, tweeted that message 30 minutes after Kenneth Williams was pronounced dead. His lawyers unsuccessfully petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court for a stay, saying the inmate should not be executed because three health care professionals had determined he was "intellectually disabled." Relatives of a man killed by Williams in a crash during his 1999 escape from prison also pleaded with the governor to call off his execution. "There is nothing pro-life about the state-sanctioned killing of an intellectually disabled man," was just one of the many messages Sister Prejean tweeted during Williams' final hours. Catholic Mobilizing Network in Washington, an advocacy group seeking to end the death penalty, similarly sent Twitter updates the night of the execution and each of the eight days when other inmates were executed, including two execu-

Papal visit to Egypt



CNS/Paul Haring

Priests react as Pope Francis arrives to celebrate Mass at the Air Defense Stadium in Cairo April 29.

tions April 24. The social media messages urged people to pray for those facing execution, their families, the victim's families and even the prison guards.

CRS book about Muslim-Christian cooperation in peacebuilding unveiled

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Religion matters but relationships among people of different beliefs matter most when it comes to peacebuilding efforts, said a group of panelists at the introduction of a new Catholic Relief Services publication about Muslim-Christian cooperation around the world. "People who identify as Muslim or Christian have had a history of 14 centuries and they have been marked by periods of great turbulence but also by periods and places where there has been considerable mutual thriving," Tom Bamat, an independent consultant and former CRS senior adviser for justice and peacebuilding, who was moderating the April 26 discussion at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Aid agencies as well as development organizations have realized the importance of religion and the role it plays in development and peacebuilding efforts, and in its "Interreligious Action for Peace: Studies in Muslim-

Christian Cooperation" publication, CRS seeks to share what it has learned through its work in various parts of the world. The book showcases lessons learned in bringing about cooperation between Christians and Muslims in some places where CRS has projects, such as Bosnia-Herzegovina, Central African Republic, Kenya and Mindanao, the second largest island in the Philippines. The publication emerged from a 2015 workshop in which CRS project teams and expert advisers gathered to reflect on lessons learned out of those projects and to talk about the future direction for interreligious action and social cohesion, says the book.

Pope: U.S., North Korea need diplomatic solution to escalating tensions

ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT FROM CAIRO (CNS) — A diplomatic solution must be found to the escalating tension between North Korea and the United States, Pope Francis told journalists. "The path (to take) is the path of negotiation, the path of a diplomatic solution," he said when asked about U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to send

Navy warships to the region in response to North Korea's continued missile tests and threats to launch nuclear strikes against South Korea, Japan and the United States. "What do you say to these leaders who hold responsibility for the future of humanity," the pope was asked, during a Q&A with journalists on the flight to Rome April 29 after a 27-hour trip to Cairo. "I will call on them. I'm going to call on them like I have called on the leaders of different places," he said. There are many facilitators and mediators around the world who are "always ready to help" with negotiations, the pope said. The situation in North Korea, he added, has been heated for a long time, "but now it seems it has heated up too much, no?"

Catholic leaders warn against changes to health care bill

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Catholic leaders are warning that proposed changes to the American Health Care Act will harm poor people. "It is deeply disappointing to many Americans that, in modifying the American Health Care Act to again attempt a vote, proponents of the bill left in place its serious flaws, including unacceptable modifications

to Medicaid that will endanger coverage and affordability for millions of people," said Bishop Frank J. Dewane of Venice, Fla., chairman of the bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development. Sister Carol Keehan, president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, similarly said an amendment to the legislation was "a giant step backward that should be resisted," noting that it would "take significant funding allocated by Congress for health care for very low-income people and use that money for tax cuts for some of our wealthiest citizens." The proposed amendment to the health care legislation was approved by the House Freedom Caucus April 26, a group of conservative representatives who rejected the House plan to repeal President Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act in March when it was withdrawn by House Republicans because it fell short of the necessary votes for passage. Changes to the bill were introduced by Rep. Tom MacArthur, R-New Jersey, who co-chairs the Republican caucus known as the Tuesday Group, along with Rep. Mark Meadows, R-North Carolina, Freedom Caucus chairman.

Cardinal Dolan slams DNC pledge to support only pro-abortion candidates

WASHINGTON (CNS) — New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan described the recent pledge from the Democratic National Committee's chair to support only pro-abortion candidates "disturbing" and "intolerant." The cardinal, who is chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, urged members of the Democratic party to "challenge their leadership to recant this intolerant position." The cardinal's April 26 statement was in reaction to recent comments by DNC chair Tom Perez who said: "Every Democrat, like every American, should support a woman's right to make her own choices about her body and her health. That is not negotiable and should not change city by city or state by state." Perez went on to say in an April 21 statement: "At a time when women's rights are under assault from the White House, the Republican Congress, and in states across the country, we must speak up for this principle as loudly as ever and with one voice." Perez's statement came after a DNC "unity tour" rally in Nebraska, where another DNC leader and Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vermont, appeared April 20 with a former state senator, Heath Mello, the Democratic mayoral candidate in Omaha. The DNC tour was sharply criticized by pro-abortion groups for joining forces with Mello, who sponsored a 2009 state Senate bill requiring that women be informed of their right to request a fetal ultrasound before having an abortion.

Together for the Long Run track meet planned

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph High School, in partnership with the South Bend Community School Corporation and “Together for the Long Run,” will host a special track meet on Friday, May 5, at 6:30 p.m. for students with disabilities and Special Olympians at Leighton Stadium on Father Bly Field.

The evening will be one of competition, food, fun and friendship. Participants and volunteers will have a unity walk around the track with glow sticks after dark.

Admission is \$5 for adults and \$3 for students with proceeds to benefit “Unified Track” and Special Olympics.

Database examines intersection of CST and human rights

NOTRE DAME — The University of Notre Dame Center for Civil and Human Rights, in partnership with Hesburgh Libraries, unveiled Convocate — the first online research tool for simultaneous searching of Catholic social teaching documents and the instruments of international human rights law — April 21. Convocate is a free online database designed to help scholars, students, practitioners, advocates, public officials, diplomats, ministers, pastors and concerned citizens compare documents from Catholic social teaching and international human rights law for the purpose of investigating the convergences and divergences between the two fields.

Consultants on the project included Notre Dame faculty in law, theology and political science, as well as experts from other universities. Developers also engaged with sources at the Vatican, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, the United Nations, the International Labour Organization and others to compile documents from both disciplines.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton school fundraiser surpasses \$100,000

FORT WAYNE — St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School's largest social and fundraising event, Seton Night Live, was renamed and revamped this year and grossed over \$100,000, all of which will be put directly into the school.

St. Elizabeth Home and School Association plans on using the funds to expand the current Blended Learning program into more grades, purchase additional laptops and laptop carts, and improve and add to the school's Wi-Fi. Other funding will be directed toward a new school sign and by HASA for various projects.

This year's theme, “Escape to Neverland,” was unveiled Feb. 2

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Seminarians installed as lectors, acolyte



Jay Horning

On Friday, April 21, Daniel Koehl and Stephen Felicichia, seminarians of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, were installed as lectors at Mount St. Mary's Seminary in Emmitsburg, Md. Pictured are, left to right, Dan Koehl; Bishop J. Douglas Deshotel of Lafayette, La., who presided; Msgr. Andrew Baker, rector of Mount St. Mary's; and Stephen Felicichia. Koehl attends St. Vincent de Paul Church, Fort Wayne, and Felicichia attends St. Therese Church, Fort Wayne. At right, Seminarian Daniel Niezer was installed as an acolyte on Saturday, April 22. Niezer attends St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Fort Wayne.

and coincided with the school play, “Peter Pan Junior.” Aligning the two allowed for extravagant props and decorations to be utilized by both events.

Radio personalities visit Our Lady of Hungary

SOUTH BEND — The third-grade class at Our Lady of Hungary School, received a visit from local radio station U93 FM Thursday, April 13. Station representatives presented teacher Ashley Armendariz with a goody bag and featured her, her class and the school on the radio in their Teacher of the Week segment. Armendariz was nominated for the honor by third-grade student Jaytin Snavelly.

Prayer space to be blessed

FORT WAYNE — On Monday, May 8, Bishop Kevin Rhoades will be the celebrant at an 11 a.m. Mass of Dedication of Mary's Glen, a spiritual oasis for prayer located at the rear of 1702 Lombard St., Fort Wayne. A blessing of Mary's Glen and a potluck luncheon will follow.

Mary's Glen is a quiet spot for prayer. It includes a prayer chapel, Stations of the Cross, rosary walk, grottos and a miniature “Holy House.” The Glen, which has been developed by the Confraternity of Penitents, will welcome visitors from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. For more information call the confraternity at 260-739-6882.

Ninth annual USF Formula for Life 5K



Patrick Murphy

A run/walk and silent auction took place on the campus of the University of Saint Francis April 23 to raise money for the construction of an orphanage in Haiti. Above, Lauren Walda, 13, a student at Memorial Park Middle School, warms up with her mother, Julie Walda, before the event.

In the footsteps of a shepherd, saint



Provided by Heather Taube

Principal Jane Sandor and the staff of St. Mary of the Assumption School in Avilla hosted an evening of family fun in April. The event carried the theme, “Following in His Footsteps” with Pope Francis and St. Teresa of Kolkata. Families in pre-K through eighth grade enjoyed a potluck meal, book fair, art gallery, St. Teresa activity, a kindergarten reading and writing restaurant and a mini-walk to support diabetes research.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, we thank you for calling men and women to serve in your Son's Kingdom as priests, deacons, and consecrated persons. Send your Holy Spirit to help others to respond generously and courageously to your call. May our community of faith support vocations of sacrificial love in our youth and young adults. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

Source: USCCB

Led by the Spirit for Mission

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS
FOR THE 54TH WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the last few years, we have considered two aspects of the Christian vocation: the summons to "go out from ourselves" to hear the Lord's voice, and the importance of the ecclesial community as the privileged place where God's call is born, nourished and expressed.

Now, on this 54th World Day of Prayer for Vocations, I would like to reflect on the missionary dimension of our Christian calling. Those who drawn by God's voice and determined to follow Jesus soon discover within themselves an irrepressible desire to bring the Good News to their brothers and sisters through proclamation and the service of charity. All Christians are called to be missionaries of the Gospel! As disciples, we do not receive the gift of God's love for our personal consolation, nor are we called to promote ourselves, or a business concern. We are simply men and women touched and transformed by the joy of God's love, who cannot keep this experience just to ourselves. For "the Gospel joy which enlivens the community of disciples is a missionary joy (Evangelii Gaudium, 21).

Commitment to mission is not something added on to the Christian life as a kind of decoration, but is instead an essential element of faith itself. A relationship with the Lord entails being sent out into the world as prophets of his word and witnesses of

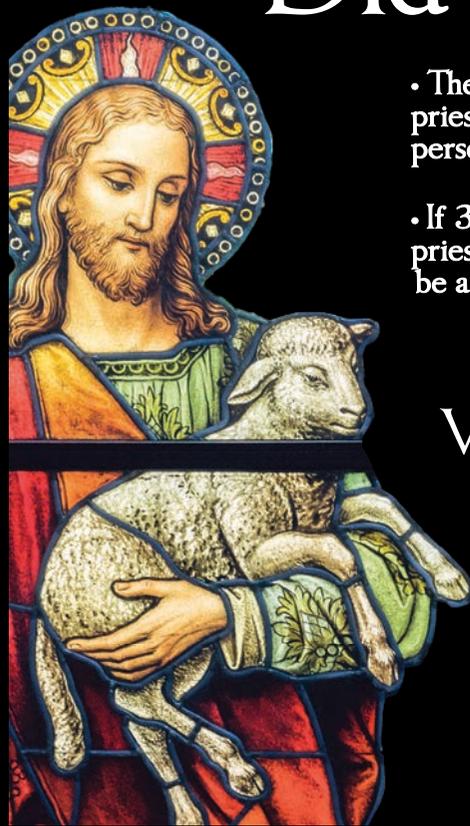
his love.

Even if at times we are conscious of our weaknesses and tempted to discouragement, we need to turn with God with confidence. We must overcome a sense of our own inadequacy and not yield to pessimism, which merely turns us into passive spectators of a dreary and monotonous life. There is no room for fear! God himself comes to cleanse our "unclean lips" and equip us for the mission: "Your guilt has departed and your sin is blotted out. Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I, send me'" (Is 6:6-8).

In the depths of their heart, all missionary disciples hear this divine voice bidding them to "go about", as Jesus did, "doing good and healing all" (cf. Acts 10:38). I have mentioned that, by virtue of baptism, every Christian is a "Christopher", a bearer of Christ, to his brothers and sisters (cf.

Catechesis, 30 January 2016). This is particularly the case with those called to a life of special consecration and with priests, who have generously responded, "Here I am, Lord, send me!" With renewed missionary enthusiasm, priests are called to go forth from the sacred precincts of the temple and to let God's tender love overflow for the sake of humanity (cf. Homily at the Chrism Mass, 24 March 2016). The Church needs such priests: serenely confident because they

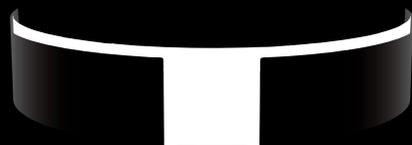
Did you know...?



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have discovered the true treasure, anxious to go out and joyfully to make it known to all (cf. Mt 13:44).

Certainly many questions arise when we speak of the Christian mission. What does it mean to be a missionary of the Gospel? Who gives us the strength and courage to preach? What is the evangelical basis and inspiration of mission? We can respond to these questions by meditating on three scenes from the Gospels: the inauguration of Jesus' mission in the synagogue at Nazareth (cf. Lk 4:16-30); the journey that, after his resurrection, he makes in the company of the disciples of Emmaus (cf. Lk 24:13-35) and, finally, the parable of the sower and the seed (cf. Mt 4:26-27).

Jesus is anointed by the Spirit and sent. To be a missionary disciple means to share actively in the mission of Christ. Jesus himself described that mission in the synagogue of Nazareth in these words: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Lk 4:18-19). This is also our mission: to be anointed by the Spirit, and to go out to our brothers and sisters in order to proclaim the word and to be for them a means of salvation.

Jesus is at our side every step of the way. The questions lurking in human hearts and the real challenges of life can make us feel bewildered, inadequate and hopeless. The Christian mission might appear to be mere utopian illusion or at least something beyond our reach. Yet if we contemplate the risen Jesus walking alongside the disciples of Emmaus (cf. Lk 24:13-15), we can be filled with new confidence. In that Gospel scene, we have a true "liturgy of the street", preceding that of the word and the breaking of the bread. We see that, at every step of the way, Jesus is at our side! The two disciples, overwhelmed by the scandal of the cross, return home on the path of defeat. Their hearts are broken, their hopes dashed and their dreams shattered. The joy of the Gospel has yielded to sadness. What does Jesus do? He does not judge them, but walks with them. Instead of raising a wall, he opens a breach. Gradually he transforms their discouragement. He makes their hearts burn within them, and he opens their eyes by proclaiming the word and breaking the bread. In the same way, a Christian does not bear the burden of mission alone, but realizes, even amid weariness and misunderstanding, that "Jesus walks with him, speaks to him, breathes with him, works with him. He senses Jesus alive with him in the midst of the missionary enterprise" (Evangelii Gaudium, 266).

Jesus makes the seed grow. Finally, it is important to let the

Gospel teach us the way of proclamation. At times, even with the best intentions, we can indulge in a certain hunger for power, proselytism or intolerant fanaticism. Yet the Gospel tells us to reject the idolatry of power and success, undue concern for structures, and a kind of anxiety that has more to do with the spirit of conquest than that of service. The seed of the Kingdom, however tiny, unseen and at times insignificant, silently continues to grow, thanks to God's tireless activity. "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep or rise night and day, and the seed should sprout and grow, he knows not how" (Mk 4:26-27). This is our first reason for confidence: God surpasses all our expectations and constantly surprises us by his generosity. He makes our efforts bear fruit beyond all human calculation.

With this confidence born of the Gospel, we become open to the silent working of the Spirit, which is the basis of mission. There can be no promotion of vocations or Christian mission apart from constant contemplative prayer. The Christian life needs to be nourished by attentive listening to God's word and, above all, by the cultivation of a personal relationship with the Lord in Eucharistic adoration, the privileged "place" for our encounter with God.

I wish heartily to encourage this kind of profound friendship with the Lord, above all for the sake of imploring from on high new vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life. The People of God need to be guided by pastors whose lives are spent in service to the Gospel. I ask parish communities, associations and the many prayer groups present in the Church, not to yield to discouragement but to continue praying that the Lord will send workers to his harvest. May he give us priests enamoured of the Gospel, close to all their brothers and sisters, living signs of God's merciful love.

Dear brothers and sisters, today too, we can regain fervour in preaching the Gospel and we can encourage young people in particular to take up the path of Christian discipleship. Despite a widespread sense that the faith is listless or reduced to mere "duties to discharge", our young people desire to discover the perennial attraction of Jesus, to be challenged by his words and actions, and to cherish the ideal that he holds out of a life that is fully human, happy to spend itself in love.

Mary Most Holy, the Mother of our Saviour, had the courage to embrace this ideal, placing her youth and her enthusiasm in God's hands. Through her intercession, may we be granted that same openness of heart, that same readiness to respond, "Here I am", to the Lord's call, and that same joy in setting out (cf. Lk 1:39), like her, to proclaim him to the whole world.

The Vatican, 27 Nov., 2016

Fatima at 100: Story of apparitions continues to attract attention

BY JUNNO AROCHO ESTEVES

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While conversion and prayer are at the heart of Mary's messages at Fatima, Portugal, the miracles and unexplained phenomenon that accompanied the events 100 years ago continue to intrigue believers and nonbelievers alike.

The apparitions of Mary at Fatima in 1917 were not the first supernatural events reported there.

Two years before Mary appeared to the three shepherd children — Lucia dos Santos and her cousins, Jacinta and Francisco Marto — they saw a strange sight while praying the rosary in the field, according to the memoirs of Sister Lucia, who had become a Carmelite nun.

"We had hardly begun when, there before our eyes, we saw a figure poised in the air above the trees; it looked like a statue made of snow, rendered almost transparent by the rays of the sun," she wrote, describing what they saw in 1915.

The next year, Francisco and Jacinta received permission to tend their family's flocks and Lucia decided to join her cousins in a field owned by their families.

It was 1916 when the mysterious figure appeared again, this time approaching close enough "to distinguish its features."

"Do not be afraid! I am the Angel of Peace. Pray with me," Sister Lucia recalled the angel saying.

The three told no one about the angel's visit and received no more heavenly visits until May 13, 1917. While the children tended their sheep and played, they were startled by two flashes of lightning.

As they made their way down a slope, the children saw a "lady all dressed in white" standing on a small tree. It was the first of six apparitions of Mary, who gave a particular message or revelation each time:

— May 13, 1917. When asked by the children who she was and where she came from, the lady said she was "from heaven" and that she would reveal her identity later. She asked the children to come back to the Cova da Iria on the 13th day of the month for the next six months, and she asked them to pray the rosary every day "in order to obtain peace for the world" and the end of World War I.

— June 13, 1917. The lady said she would take Francisco and Jacinta to heaven, soon while Lucia would remain on earth for "some time longer" to establish devotion to the Immaculate Heart.

— July 13, 1917. The lady said she would reveal her identity in October and "perform a miracle for all to see and believe."



NS photo/Paulo Cunha, EPA

A statue of Mary is carried through the crowd in 2013 at the Marian shrine of Fatima in central Portugal.

After telling the children to make sacrifices for sinners, she revealed three secrets; two of the secrets were not shared publicly until 1941 and the third secret, written down by Sister Lucia and sent to the Vatican, was not released until 2000.

The first secret involved a vision of hell in which the children saw "a sea of fire" with demons and human souls shrieking "in pain and despair." In her memoir, Sister Lucia said people nearby, who had begun gathering around the children on the 13th of the month, heard her "cry out" during the frightening revelation.

The second secret was that while World War I would come to end, a "worse one will break out" if people continued offending God.

The children were told that calamity would be prevented if Russia was consecrated to the Immaculate Heart. Although Sister Lucia confirmed that the consecration was done properly by Pope Pius XII in 1942 and by St. John Paul II in 1984, some Fatima devotees continue to argue that it was not.

The third and final secret, published 83 years after the Fatima apparitions, was a vision of a "bishop dressed in white" shot down amid the rubble of a ruined city. The official Vatican interpretation, discussed with Sister Lucia before its publication, was that it referred to the persecution of Christians in the 20th century and, specifically, to the 1981 assassination attempt on the life of St. John Paul II.

Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the future Pope Benedict XVI, was prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith at the time of the third secret's publication in 2000. Presenting the secret and the interpretation to the press, he said the vision's purpose was not to show an

"irrevocably fixed future" but to "mobilize the forces of change in the right direction."

— Aug. 19, 1917. The lady again said she would perform a miracle in October and asked that the money given by pilgrims be used to build a chapel on the site of the apparitions.

— Sept. 13, 1917. The lady asked them to continue to pray the rosary "to obtain the end of the war," and she said that Jesus, St. Joseph, Our Lady of Sorrows and Our Lady of Carmel would appear during the miracle in October.

— Oct. 13, 1917. Despite the pouring rain, tens of thousands of people went to the Cova da Iria to witness the long-awaited miracle.

The lady identified herself as "Our Lady of the Rosary" and said the war would end and the soldiers would return home. After asking that people cease to offend God, she opened her hands, which reflected a light toward the sun.

Sister Lucia recalled crying out, "Look at the sun!" As the crowds looked on, the sun appeared to "dance," spinning and changing colors. The children also saw the promised figures of Jesus, St. Joseph and Mary.

Amazement at the "dancing sun" turned to panic when the sun seemed to hurl toward earth. Fearing the end of the world, some people screamed and ran, some tried to hide and others remained on their knees, praying for mercy. Then the sun returned to its place.

Thirteen years after Mary's final apparition at Fatima, the bishop of Leiria declared the visions of the three shepherd children "worthy of belief" and allowed the veneration of Our Lady of Fatima. However, the bishop did not recognize the "dancing sun" as miraculous.

Centenarian's hobby benefits Coats for Kids program

BY PATRICK MURPHY

For almost a century, Jo Russo has been fascinated by needlework.

As a youngster in Bristol, R.I., she remembers being mesmerized by two neighbor ladies who knitted and crocheted on a front porch, talking about happenings in their scenic seaport town, or possibly about Prohibition and the evils of alcohol.

Using lollipop sticks for hooks and string instead of yarn, the youngster, one of five in an Italian family, developed a hobby that has intrigued her for almost nine decades. As she approaches her 104th birthday she continues to enjoy that hobby, which for the last several years has been to the benefit of needy children.

Russo knits scarfs — lots and lots of them — to be distributed by the Christ Child Society's annual Coats for Kids program. Coats for Kids is one of the programs the national society has sponsored ever since a chapter was established in Fort Wayne in 1997; other programs include distributing layettes for expectant or new mothers, providing backpacks with toiletries and other essentials to children in crisis situations, parenting and counseling for mothers-to-be and tutoring

for young students.

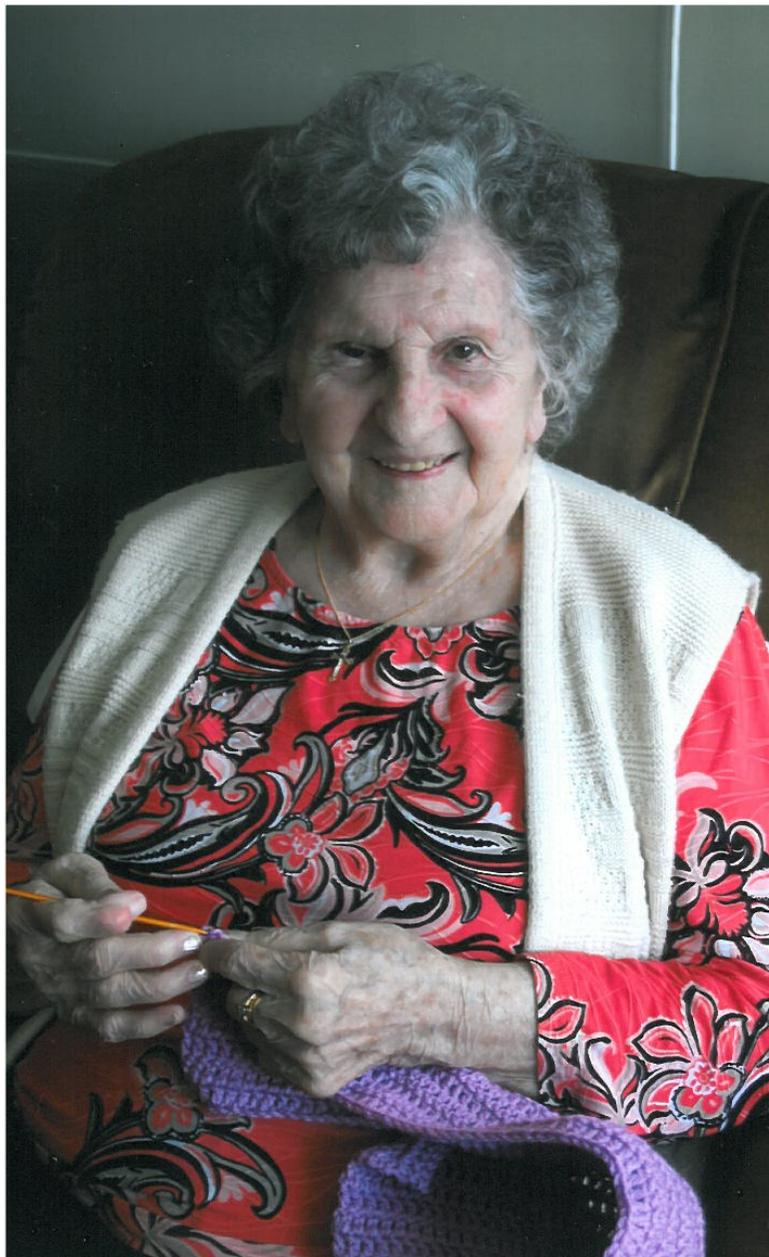
"They bring me the yarn," said Russo, "and I make the scarfs."

Needlework wasn't the only interest of the youngster, growing up in Bristol. She eventually noticed Jerry Russo, a good-look and friendly young man in the neighborhood. "We married early," she said, "and our early life was happy." Russo then began to crochet hats, scarfs and other items for the immediate family and close friends.

Circumstances in Rhode Island were not particularly bad, she remembered. But her husband yearned for a better life for his growing family, and shortly after the end of World War II the family became one of many attracted to higher paying jobs in the Midwest. They moved to Fort Wayne after Jerry was recruited by the Phelps Dodge Corp.

After settling in, and although her husband's wages were adequate, Russo decided she wanted to expand her horizons. "I didn't have to work," she said during a recent interview at Woodview Health Care facility. "But I wanted to meet new people." She went to work first at a tailoring company, then at a ladies' dress-making facility, where she made money doing something she enjoyed.

Since learning of the coat program, Russo has crocheted as many as 300 scarfs in a year.



Patrick Murphy

Knitting has been Jo Russo's on-again, off-again hobby since she was a child. Now she enjoys the pastime to the benefit of Christ Child Society's Coats for Kids program, which gives the scarves knitted by the 103-year-old to needy Fort Wayne-area children.

Although she engaged in her hobby less often, Russo never forgot the pleasure of crocheting. Years later she retired and her husband died, and she again took it up. "I just enjoy crocheting," she said.

It was a friend from her family's former North Sherwood Terrace home who belonged to the Christ Child Society and linked Russo up with Coats for Kids. "I saw how well she crocheted," said Mona Penisten, and she realized her friend could really help youngsters.

Since learning of the coat program Russo has crocheted as many as 300 scarfs in a year.

A few months ago, she fell ill — too ill to continue with her hobby — and didn't cough a hook for a while. Then one day when she felt better, Russo picked up a skein. "It felt good," she said, "so I started up again."

She doesn't know how long she will be able to keep going, or how strong she will remain. She has outlived two of her four children; her remaining son resides in North Carolina, and a daughter is living in the North Sherwood Terrace home. Russo remains a member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish and often receives Communion during visits from Father Fernando Polycarp. She also enjoys watching some soap operas on television. She isn't sure how she'll observe her upcoming 104th birthday, or how she'll commemorate the milestone — except maybe to crochet another scarf.



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Catholic filmmaker engages children through the arts

BY BARB SIEMINSKI

There was one brief, shining moment in 1976 that left its seal on Fort Wayne resident Michael Floyd's heart. He was in Philadelphia for a Eucharistic Congress, where he encountered Archbishop Fulton Sheen.

"What an amazing man: His eyes were a prism to his powerful soul," said Floyd, a cinematographer and schoolteacher. He then saw a second person in Philly who took his breath away.

"I met Mother Teresa in an alley behind a building, where she walked over and sat down by a homeless man, with her bodyguards. He was bewildered by this little nun from Calcutta. She was amazing! She walked

without fear and touched the hearts and lives of even those who many consider to be the 'untouchables' in life.

"I was close by, when she got up from sitting next to the homeless man. She looked at me, I gave her a smile and she smiled back. That is an instant replay I see over and over in my mind, and it meant far more than any words could ever express. It was a great blessing."

From an early age, Floyd, one of seven siblings, was instilled with and inspired by the ongoing philanthropy and compassion of his family as well.

"Both my grandmothers helped people during the Great Depression," he said. "People would come to their back door, and they would have a sandwich and cup of coffee for them. My maternal grandfather was a teacher who realized he could not feed his family during those

difficult times on a teacher's salary, so he opened a grocery store in Oshkosh, Wis. He fed his family ... and 50 others, pro bono.

My parents followed in that tradition of helping others, and I was involved with Sons of Mary, a community service organization, at Central Catholic High

School. In 1966, I began working with and helping Miss Virginia Schrantz, and I have been engaged in leading food drives since then."

Floyd and Georgia, his wife of 48 years, have been blessed with three children: Tonya, Jessica and Michelle, and a son they lost at birth. They have seven grandchildren.

A member of St. Mary Mother of God Church, Floyd

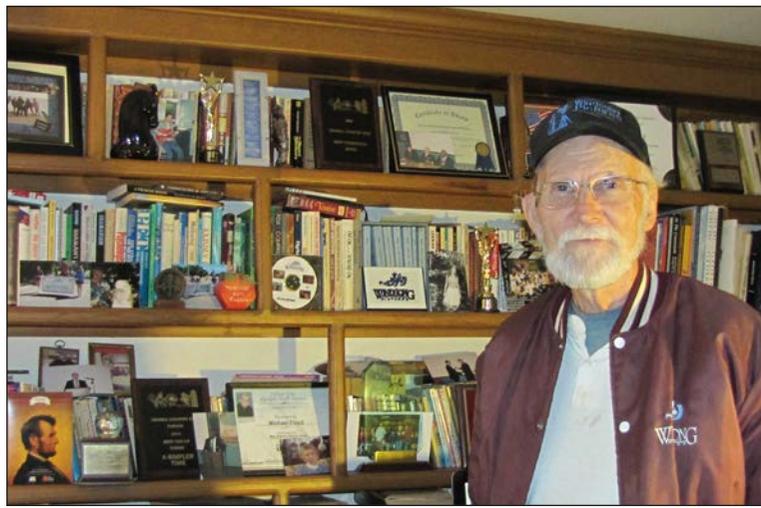
"I love humor and use it daily.

When people are laughing, they

are drawn to love one another

rather than to hate."

MICHAEL FLOYD



Barb Sieminski

Michael Floyd, director, president, executive producer and founder of Windsong Pictures, is photographed in his Fort Wayne home studio, where many of the awards from the past four decades are displayed.



Floyd and his sister, Patty Floyd, who often helps with garden work and is a Windsong photographer, check the fruits and vegetables in the Windsong Pictures Gardens. The fresh vegetables are grown for such charities as St. Mary's Soup Kitchen and Miss Virginia's Mission House in Fort Wayne.

earned his bachelor's degree in secondary English and history at St. Francis College (now USF) and his master's degree in educational administration at Central Michigan University. He has taught in Fort Wayne Community Schools and in Michigan, and was a Catholic school principal in Wisconsin.

His enthusiasm for charity work grew hand in hand with another lifelong passion. When he was 5 years old his parents took him to see a Hopalong Cassidy film, where he fell in love with the silver screen.

"For the next three days, kids around the neighborhood re-enacted every detail of the movie at my direction," recalled Floyd, who many years later gave birth to Windsong Pictures, now in its 43rd year. Combining his love for kids, charity and filmmaking,

Floyd is still living the dream with his family-friendly, philanthropic motion picture endeavor, a nonprofit 501(c)(3) youth organization impacting young people through the arts.

Many of Floyd's 300 original films tie into his Catholic faith.

"Our films are always family-friendly and very ecumenical, in keeping with the precepts of Vatican II," he said. For example, the film "Ripple" is about social injustice around the world, a direct spin-off of the work of Catholic Charities to release people from camps in Africa and Asia and from other situations in Latin America and eastern Europe.

Windsong's charity efforts over the course of four decades include collecting and distributing more than 1 million food items to the needy and raising fresh vegetables for St. Mary's Soup Kitchen and Miss Virginia's Mission House from April to October. It supports the Christmas Food Box Program, which feeds more than 1,000 families at Christmastime, the Ave Maria House and St. Vincent's Village for the Homeless. It provides tutoring for students in need and secures more than 1 million dollars' worth of scholarships for college students. Windsong also has programs to comfort of students who come from challenging home situations and help them work through hardships, including abuse and abandonment. The company has also created promotional DVDs for other nonprofits such as Cancer Services, Old Historic Fort Wayne, Habitat for Humanity, MDA Summer Camp and more, pro bono.

"I work side by side with an all-volunteer staff of professionals. Students experience real life, hands-on learning situations, and through this the dreams of children come true," he said.

Diversity is a key element in Windsong Pictures. "We engage students and their families from many ethnic, racial, international and religious backgrounds. We also serve students who come from dysfunctional and indigent families, along with students who are homeless, abused, physically challenged, victims of violence, medically homebound and bullied," Floyd said. "Something that sets Windsong Pictures apart from other arts programs is that students never pay to participate; hence, the playing field is leveled. Everyone makes the team, and students of all ages feel accepted, safe and comfortable. How we care for others defines who we are.

God undoubtedly has a great sense of humor," Floyd surmised. "We see examples of it all around us. I love humor and use it daily. When people are laughing, they are drawn to love one another rather than to hate. I always look for the beautiful goodness that exists in people."

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In MY diocese

Queen of Peace, Mishawaka

St. Joseph County

Queen of Peace, a welcoming family of faith

BY MOLLY WYNEN

Queen of Peace Parish, Mishawaka, was established in 1957 by Bishop Pursley. Father Milford Bell, its first pastor, celebrated the first parish Mass at Twin Branch School for 40 families. Sixty years later, the Queen of Peace Church continues to serve Catholics in eastern St. Joseph County and is now the home parish of approximately 900 families. More than a dozen of its members have been a part of the parish since its beginning.



FATHER JOHN EZE

The school opened in 1958, and the children were taught by the Franciscan Sisters of Mishawaka. It started as just a few classrooms and doubled as a worship area for parishioners. As attendance increased, mobile classrooms were added: In 1970 the parish joyously dedicated a new church building and opened a gymnasium. Unfortunately, that same year the sisters found themselves no longer able to provide staffing for the school and it was forced to shut down.

God, however, had plans for the parish. In 1988, Father Elden J. Miller became the fourth pastor. He had a great passion

for education and dreamed of making Catholic education free for everyone. Although he was not able to achieve that grand goal, Father Miller was successful in reopening the school in 1998. The first year a preschool alone was offered, but grades K-2 were added in 1999 and after that, one grade was added per year. When he passed away in 2008 Miller bequeathed half of his estate to the parish, primarily to be used for student scholarships.

"We have never forgotten our past," said longtime parishioner and current parish administrator Laurie Haverty as she recalled Father Miller's ministry. The closing of the school was difficult, but it is something that parishioners will always remember. A great effort has been made, therefore, to continue Father Miller's vision and ensure that the school continues to grow.

Today, Queen of Peace School is "a place where Christ is loved, excellence is expected, character counts, and traditions thrive, as its website says." It has grown to include pre-K through eighth grade and currently has about 250 students enrolled. In 2015 it was named a Four Star school by the Indiana Department of Education, meaning it was ranked in the 25th percentile of schools in two ISTEP-based categories and rated an "A" in



Photos provided by Judi LaViolette

A confirmation Mass takes place at Queen of Peace Church, Mishawaka, in 2016.

Indiana's accountability system.

Principal Jill Patrick helps students achieve both academic and spiritual excellence by promoting technology in classrooms. Queen of Peace School is a Google school and is hoping to implement a One-to-One

QUEEN, page 15



The Queen of Peace eighth grade religious education class is pictured in front of a school mural painted by parishioner and artist Charlie O'Neil.

Queen of Peace
 4508 Vistula Rd.
 Mishawaka, IN 46544
 574-255-9674
www.queenofpeace.cc

Mass Times:
 Sunday: 7:30, 9:30, 11:45 a.m.
 Saturday: 5:30 p.m.
 Weekday: 8:15 a.m. M-F

Reconciliation:
 Weekdays T, W, Th, 7:30-8 a.m.;
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Eucharistic Adoration:
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In MY diocese

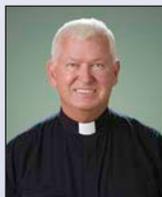
Sacred Heart of Jesus, South Bend

St. Joseph County

Sacred Heart of Jesus: a 'country parish' with a servant heart

BY CLAIRE KENNEY

Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish serves the southern South Bend and Lakeville communities. It's known to be a welcoming parish, or as one couple who are members of the parish describe it, Sacred Heart is filled with "just good folk."



FATHER JOHN DELANEY

Father John Delaney, pastor, cherishes the communities that comprise Sacred Heart and St. Jude Parish, of which he is also pastor.

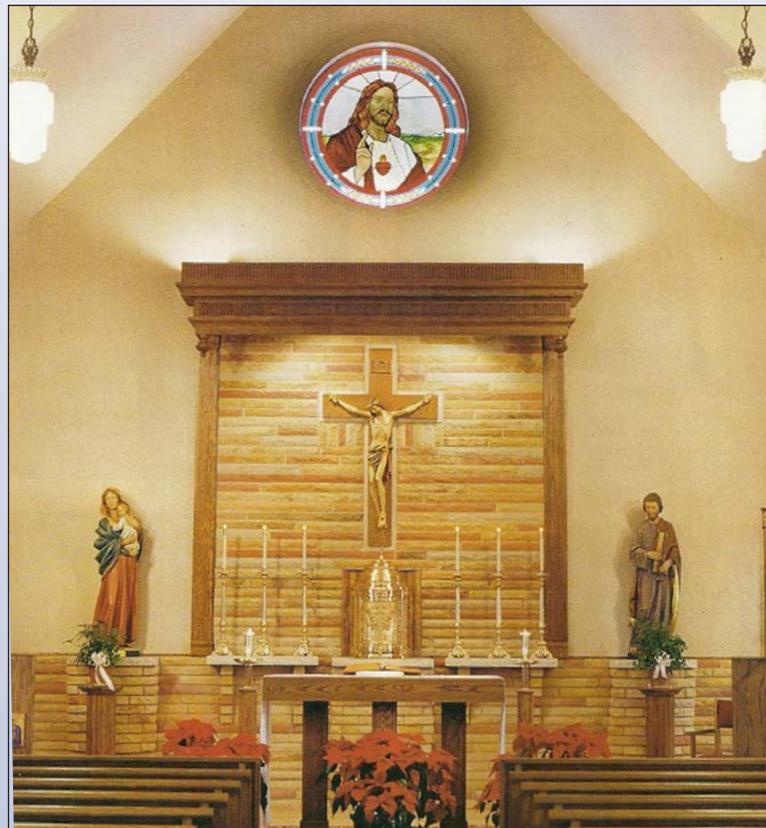
"...in both parishes, there are some very wonderful people. Both have a great 'family' orientation where the people are open and friendly," Father Delaney said.

As for Sacred Heart Parish specifically, he said he believes that the fact that it's a country parish makes it such a welcoming community.

"Though only at the edge of South Bend, and technically with a South Bend address, Sacred Heart has a wonderful rural feeling. People are very down-to-earth, no pun intended. They're unpretentious, simple in their lifestyle and no one makes their importance felt — no matter what their income, education or successes. Everyone treats everyone else with appreciation, respect and as family."

Father Delaney also commented on the tight-knit nature of Sacred Heart Parish.

"(The parishioners) pray together, work together, social-



Photos provided by Tom Padberg

Above the altar at the parish is a stained glass window depicting its name, the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Among the ways in which members of Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish in South Bend show their devotion to their namesake is by coming together joyously to donate their labor to parish activities and fundraising events.

ize together, and many have been connected to the parish for years — a number have been there since they were children and they are now well into their senior years," he said.

Father Delaney believes that the parish's supportive quality is especially palpable when members come together to organize a gathering. This is true no matter what the reason for the gathering, he noted. "One of the best examples is when they host an event, whether it be in the

ministry of a funeral dinner for a bereaved family or one of their famous fish fry dinners during Lent — now also held in the fall, replacing the hog roast they used to do."

Prior to 2010, and after much consideration, a decision was made by Bishop Emeritus John D'Arcy to combine several parishes in the southern St. Joseph County area — namely, St. Jude, Sacred Heart and St. Mary. A new church was to be built on Sacred Heart's property.

The plan had not yet been fulfilled at the time of the transition to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in 2010, however. Bishop Rhoades reassessed the situation and decided to forego merging the parishes. He instead called for an overlap in leadership between St. Jude and Sacred Heart, and installed Father Delaney as pastor of both churches.

Father Delaney's Sacred Heart Parish staff consists of four people: Parochial Vicar

Father Julius Okojie, Music Director Del'Shawn Taylor, Administrative Assistant Mary Ann Padberg and Maintenance Director Steve Miller.

"Each of the staff enjoy one another very much, appreciate what each are doing for the good of the parish and ministry to the people, and share many good laughs as they do so well everything that is needed," he said.



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Sunday: 9 a.m.
Weekday: T-F 7:30 a.m.
Reconciliation:
Saturday 3:45-4:15 p.m.

QUEEN

Continued from Page 13

learning environment with Chromebooks in the upcoming year, which will include students in grades three to eight each being issued a Chromebook device for their school-related use. In addition to keeping learning current with 21st century technologies, Patrick believes the curriculum shift will “open a lot of different doors for students and connect them to the world outside of Queen of Peace.”

The campus has received many upgrades and a large addition since its beginning. Some upgrades include Our Lady’s Garden and grotto, an outdoor education area and an aquaponics building.

One of the areas that stands out to visitors is the recreational area named Father’s Fields. The space includes a basketball court, a baseball diamond and a new playground off the parking lot. Aside from being a place for school children to play and grow in friendship, Father’s Fields also serves as a reminder of the past to students, parishioners, staff and visitors. It is a space dedicated to all the pastors who have served at Queen of Peace, each of whom left their own mark on the faith community.

Many of the renovation and



Father John Eze is pictured before a stained glass window, “Mary, Queen of Peace,” designed by parishioner and artist Charlie O’Neil.

building projects undertaken by the parish, and even the building of the church and gym, were done by incurring little to no debt. Haverty believes the donor support and parishioner volunteerism is so great because of the familial nature of Queen of Peace. “People are consistent in their support of the parish because they feel like a part of the family. We are all family.”

It is no surprise that people connect very easily and feel wel-

comed at Queen of Peace parish, because there is something offered for everyone. From youth groups to Vacation Bible School, garden club to choir, there are opportunities offered for nearly every passion as well as every age group.

“My hope for every member of our parish family and everyone who finds themselves at Queen of Peace Church and school is that they will receive and enjoy the same love and

welcome that I have received, or even more. No parishioner should ever feel alone in this family of faith,” said current pastor Father John Eze.

Father Eze first became familiar with Queen of Peace in 2013 while he was on vacation. After expressing an interest in serving here, he was initially asked to assist the parish during former pastor Father Daniel Scheidt’s recovery from surgery. Queen of Peace quickly became

Father Eze’s new home.

While he likes to credit the welcoming nature of the community for the familial atmosphere at Queen of Peace, parishioners will tell you that it is really because of Father Eze’s genuineness and approachability. At daily Mass, he encourages people to bring their friends and often jokingly encourages this practice by promising shorter homilies. He has a passion for talking with members of the Queen of Peace family and is thus very active among parish groups. Additionally, he holds special office hours where anyone can drop in and have a discussion about anything that is on their mind.

“The great things that happen are because of Jesus,” reflected Father Eze. Each morning when he exposes the Eucharist for daily adoration he says, “Lord, take over.” This devotion to the Eucharist seems to have inspired parishioners to increase prayer in their own lives through daily adoration, Mass and the parish’s monthly novena. A group of students has also begun Adoration Club to pray before the Blessed Sacrament together once a week.

Some events that the parish is looking forward to in the upcoming months include summer religious education classes, Vacation Bible School and the annual parish PeaceFest celebration.

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The Benedict Option and the identity/relevance dilemma

Rod Dreher's "The Benedict Option: A Strategy for Christians in a Post-Christian Nation" has certainly emerged as the most talked-about religious book of 2017. Within weeks of its publication, dozens of editorials, reviews, op-eds and panel discussions were dedicated to it. Practically every friend and contact I have sent me something about the book and urged me to comment on it. The very intensity of the interest in the text in one way proves Dreher's central point, namely, that there is a widely felt instinct that something has gone rather deeply wrong with the culture and that classical Christianity, at least in the West, is in a bit of a mess.

Anyone looking for concrete evidence of the crisis doesn't have to look very far or very long. Twenty-five percent of Americans now identify as religion-less, and among those 30 and younger, the number rises to 40 percent. The majority of people under 50 now claim that their moral convictions do not come from the Bible, and traditional prohibitions, especially in regard to sex and marriage, are being aggressively swept away. In fact, legally speaking, the momentum has shifted so dramatically that now those who defend classical views on sexuality are subject to harassment, even prosecution. For Dreher, the Obergefell Supreme Court decision in regard to gay marriage, which basically unmoored marriage from its Biblical and moral foundations, was the straw that broke the camel's back.

It's important to see, more-

over, that this was not simply due to a quirk or particularly anti-gay prejudice on Dreher's part. That legal determination had such a powerful impact because it expressed, with crystal clarity, the now widespread conviction that morality is essentially a matter of personal decision and self-invention. A reviewer for *Commonweal* commented that Dreher's reaction to the Obergefell decision, though understandable, is disproportionate, given that the 20th century has witnessed moral outrages far beyond the legalization of same-sex marriage. But this is to miss an essential point. To be sure, atomic bombings and genocide are far graver ethical violations than gay marriage, but in regard to the former, there was, among sane people, a clear consensus that these acts were indeed morally wrong. What has changed is that an agreement across the society regarding the objectivity of good and evil has largely disappeared. As G.K. Chesterton put it a hundred years ago, "Men today have lost their way. But this is not surprising, for men have always lost their way. The difference is that now they have lost their address."

And so Dreher recommends the now famous "Benedict Option," named for the sixth-century saint who, at a time of cultural collapse, withdrew to live the Christian life intensely and intentionally. Christians today, Dreher urges, should acknowledge that the cultural war has largely been lost and should stop spending time,



WORD ON FIRE

BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

energy and resources fighting it. Instead, they ought, in imitation of St. Benedict, to rediscover, savor and cultivate the uniquely Christian form of life. This hunkering down is expressed in a variety of ways: homeschooling of children, the creation of "parallel structures," which is to say, societal forms of resistance to the dominant culture, the opening of "classical Christian schools" where the great moral and intellectual heritage of the West is maintained, as are the beautiful and reverent celebration of the liturgy, the revival of a sturdy ascetical practice, a profound study of the Bible, the fighting of pornography, challenging the tyranny of the new media, etc. Only through these practices will Christians rediscover who they are; without them, Dreher fears, Christianity will become, at best, faint echo of the dominant secular culture.

As I was reading the book, I kept thinking of the famously unresolvable "identity/relevance" dilemma. The more we emphasize the uniqueness of Christianity, the less, it seems, the faith speaks to the wider cul-

BARRON page 17

Nurses are the real heroes

May 6-12th is designated National Nurses week. May 6, National Nurses Day, begins the week honoring the dedicated nurses across this country for their exemplary work. The week ends on May 12, which is the birthdate of Florence Nightingale (born 1820). She is the founder of professional modern nursing as we know it today.

I learned very early in my career the importance of the nursing staff. Many years ago, as an intern covering the intensive care unit at night, I figured out quickly how to swallow my pride and ask the nurses for guidance. Some of the nurses had worked in the intensive care setting for decades, and I soon discovered they knew as much or more than my senior resident in charge. During the first months after I received my M.D., I can still remember receiving calls in the middle of the night and having no idea what order to give. The professors in medical school did their best, but not all the various scenarios can be covered. The reality is that there is on-the-job learning. In situations where I needed help, the ICU nurses would tactfully tell me what other experienced doctors would order in that particular situation. This was their way of teaching me without making me feel like a complete buffoon.

Having a well-trained nurse taking care of critical patients may be the most important ingredient for a successful outcome in the hospital. Even now, when I get calls from experienced nurses, they not only describe the problem, but may suggest to me what orders they

THE CATHOLIC DOCTOR IS IN

DR. DAVID KAMINSKAS

are seeking to best treat their patient. Most of the time they indeed receive the orders they ask for, because they are correct.

Nurses are the best patient advocates. If a patient is having pain and the current analgesic prescribed is not controlling that pain, they are quite skilled at lobbying the attending doctor to order something more effective. In my experience, pain control is not the forte of many physicians and our wonderful nurses will remain persistent until their patient has what they need to be comfortable. On so many occasions patients will bond with their nurses and have such a high enough level of trust that they would rather discuss serious decisions about their medical care with them, rather than the doctors. The subject may be as important as end-of-life wishes. I always greatly appreciate the nursing staff guiding me in these critical decisions.

Physicians usually make rounds in the morning and don't see their patient again for 24 hours. It is the nursing staff that is assigned to a patient for 12 hours straight, giving them the care they need. It is usually the nurses who are holding the hand of the patient as they receive bad news from the doc-

DOCTOR, page 17

Those who turn from Jesus, the Good Shepherd, walk into peril



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Fourth Sunday of Easter John 10:1-10

Readings from the Acts of the Apostles frequently occur during the Easter season. They clearly show not just life in general in the first Christian community, but quite expressly reveal the special place of the apostles among the early Christians, as well as the fact that Peter was the head of the apostles.

Inevitably, Peter speaks in behalf of all the apostles. Such is the case in this weekend's first reading. Peter preaches. His sermon goes to the heart of the Gospel message: Jesus is Lord, the Savior. He came among

humans as human, but also as God's own Son. He died. He rose. He reconciled humankind with almighty God.

Humans have an option. They can accept Jesus as Lord. They can follow the Gospel. Or, they can reject Jesus.

The author of Acts, traditionally believed also to have been the author of Luke's Gospel, dates the sermon. It was preached on Pentecost, a Jewish holiday. Jewish holidays celebrated God and his relationship with humans — in particular with the Hebrew people. The holidays, therefore, celebrated the Covenant and God's constant and uninterrupted mercy. In this case, the Jews recalled their special status as the people whom God protected and through whom God was revealed.

The First Epistle of Peter provides the second reading. Jesus died on the cross to bring, forever and without qualification, God and humanity together. Individual persons affirm this reconciliation for themselves by freely accepting Jesus as Lord

and by living as the Lord's true disciples, as children of God.

St. John's Gospel, the last reading, presents a theme that was among the Lord's favorites and that has always been beloved by Christians; namely, the theme of the Good Shepherd.

Today in this country, the imagery may not be as immediately telling as it was in a rural society. Shepherding is not a common livelihood in America, but at the time of Jesus in the Holy Land, everyone would have been familiar with shepherds and sheep.

The nature of sheep is important. They are docile and quiet, vulnerable to predators such as wolves. They need their shepherds. Also, young sheep, or lambs, were the preferred animals for sacrifice in the temple because lambs were gentle and innocent. The meat of lambs was ritually prepared for Passover.

But, sheep may wander. The shepherd does not tie them to himself. He leads them, but they can turn away from him.

The Gospel's message is clear.

All humans are apt to stray, to be in danger, like sheep without a shepherd to guide and protect them.

Jesus is the Good Shepherd, leading us to pastures rich with nutrition and protecting us from the predators that prowl in search of us, predators that literally kill us by succeeding in tempting us to sin.

Reflection

Several weeks have passed since Easter, but the church still rejoices in the risen Lord. He lives! Giving us the words once preached by Peter, the Gospel calls us to repent, to turn away from sin and to turn to the only source of life, the Lord Jesus.

Preparing us for this message, the church frankly reminds us of who and what we are. We are as vulnerable as sheep. Predators lurk on every side, waiting to assail us. The devil is the most vicious and crafty of these predators. The devil draws us to death, since sin is death.

Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

He leads us to the nourishment we need for spiritual health. He guides us to the eternal fields of heaven.

The essence of this weekend's message is clear and simple. We need the Lord. Otherwise, we shall die.

We can follow the Lord, or we can go our own way just as sheep may wander; but if we turn from Jesus, we walk into peril.

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Ps 23:1-6
1 Pt 2:20b-25 Jn 10:1-10

Monday: Acts 11:1-18 Pss 42:2-3; 43:3-4
Jn 10:11-18

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26 Ps 87:1-7
Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: Acts 12:24-13:5a
Ps 67:2-3, 5-6, 8 Jn 12:44-50

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25 Ps 89:2-3,
21-22, 25, 27 Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33 Ps 2:6-11
Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52 Ps 98:1-4
Jn 14:7-14

The power of gentleness

About 15 years ago, when all my children were still at home, I contracted a severe upper respiratory infection. One of the side effects was that I completely lost my voice. Not for a day, but for close to a week I could do no more than whisper, and even that took great effort. Consequently, I did as little talking as possible and tried to communicate in non-verbal ways. I'd point, smile, motion, even write. Sometimes, however, I just had to say something, and I tried to use as few words as possible and spoke the only way I could, softly. In a whisper.

After a few days of communicating this way, whispering, something interesting happened. My children starting whispering back. They weren't sick. They had voices. They just started responding in kind to the way they were spoken to. When I turned the volume down several notches, they all did, almost automatically. They also seemed to pay more attention to what I was saying to them.

That was a revelation to me. There is great power in the way one speaks, and speaking softly and simply had generated a soft and simple response from my own children.

"If you want to capture someone's attention, whisper." That was the slogan of a Coty perfume advertisement in the mid 1970s, and I found it to be true. That week that I lost my voice, I ironically found it.

I've observed family dynamics over the years and discovered that when I behave a particular way, it sets the tone for the entire family. If I am gruff, my

family tends to be gruff. When I am at peace, they are too.

What an amazing power the mother of a family has on the lives of her husband and children. If only all mothers knew this and could harness this gentle power right, how much better everyone in the family would be!

St. Francis de Sales wrote, "Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength."

It's true, isn't it? It's harder to be quiet, sometimes, than it is to be loud. It takes much more strength to respond in gentleness to provocation, for example, than to pop off in anger. Who has more control: a person angrily forcing his or her opinion on another, or one who speaks humbly and sweetly and convinces not by force, but by persuasion?

You've likely heard the old story Aesop's fable of the wind and the sun. The wind, with its brusqueness, could not get a man to take his cloak off. The sun, with his warmth, could do easily.

Father John Hardon, whose cause is up for beatification and canonization, had this to say about the power of gentleness in his "Spiritual Biography":

"Where anger flares up, gentleness calms down. Where anger is a bursting flame gentleness is a gentle rain. Where anger asserts itself and crushes, gentleness embraces and quiets and soothes yet as we hear these and similar descriptions of gentleness we are liable to make the mistake as I dare say so much of the modern world makes the mistake of identifying gentleness with weakness.

tations of the Benedict Option. When Wojtyla was a young man, the Nazis and Communists produced a poisonous, even demonic, cultural context and he was compelled, consequently, to hunker down. With his friends, he formed a clandestine theatre group, which, under cover of darkness and behind locked doors, preserved the great works of Polish drama and poetry, a literature in which the Catholic faith was ingredient. During those dark years, identity was the supreme value. But then, when he became priest, and eventually bishop and pope, he was properly prepared to unleash the energy he had stored. The result was one of the most dramatic transformations of society in modern history. Better than almost anyone in the church at the time, he knew how to make the ancient faith relevant to the culture.

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



EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Theresa A. Thomas

In a column for The Real Presence Association, Father Hardon wrote: "A gentle person is a meek person. So most people think that a gentle person is a weak person. It is just the opposite. In order to be truly gentle, and that does not mean soft or sentimental, one must be strong. Only strong people can be gentle, because gentleness restrains strength by love."

Everyone benefits from being gentle, but gentleness is particularly important for the woman, the wife and mother who is the heart of the home and who sets the tone of the family's mood. A woman's sweetness, her femininity, her holy gentleness can make a huge difference in the demeanor of the family's members.

A woman needn't be afraid that she will lose her voice if she lowers it, if she speaks softly, if she is gentle. On the contrary; in her gentleness there is actually strength and power, the power of love. Gentleness is like an attractive and fertile field where the seeds of truth can take hold. There is great strength, potential and power in gentleness.

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger (Prv 15: 1).

Theresa Thomas is the wife of David and mother of nine children.

DOCTOR

Continued from Page 16

tor. It is the nurses who are there to relieve the patient's pain and provide comfort. It is frequently the nurses who stand vigil in the room with the patient as they are taken into God's hands, and I have witnessed many nurses shedding tears with the family as they mourn the loss.

I cannot adequately express the admiration I have for the nurses I have had the honor to work with over these many years. I ask all of you reading this to not only thank the nurses you know, but to pray for them as well. They are on the front lines of health care, and we need their continued dedication to provide the comfort and love our patients deserve when they are sick and suffering.

Dr. David Kaminkas is a board certified cardiologist and member of The Jerome Lejeune Guild of Northeast Indiana.

BARRON

Continued from Page 16

ture; and the more we emphasize the connection between faith and culture, the less distinctive, it seems, Christianity becomes. This problem is on display throughout church history, as the society becomes, by turns, more or less amenable to the faith. In the era when I was coming of age, the period just after the Vatican II Council, the church was thoroughly committed to relevance; so committed, in fact, that it came close to losing its identity completely. Part of the spiritual genius of St. John Paul II was that he struck such a dynamic balance between the poles. Who was more of an ardent defender of distinctive, colorful, confident Catholicism than the Polish Pope? But at the same time, who was more committed to reaching out to the non-Christian world, to secularism, to atheism, than he?

In point of fact, the career of Karol Wojtyla sheds quite a bit of light on the advantages and limi-

SCRIPTURE SEARCH®

Gospel for May 7, 2017

John 10:1-10

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Cycle A: A lesson about following the Master's voice. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

ENTER OPENS CALLS AHEAD OF THEM JESUS LISTEN TO STEAL	THE GATE HEAR BY NAME FOLLOW HIM OF SPEECH WHOEVER DESTROY	CLIMBS HIS VOICE LEADSTHEMOUT A STRANGER BEFORE ME GO OUT I CAME
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SHEEP GATE

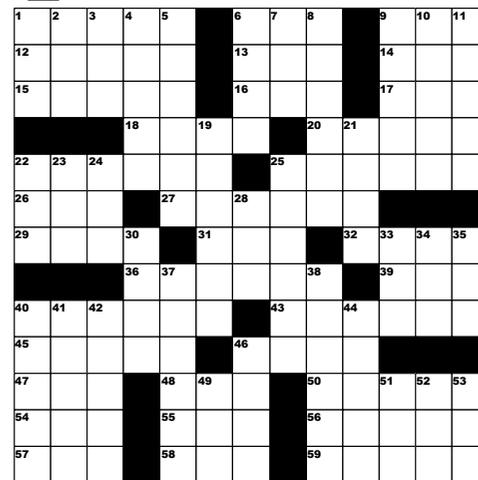
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B Y N A M E N E T S I L
E A R E V E O H W D E W
F O H Y O P E N S A J K
O J U E O G J O D G H F
R E G N A R T S A J I O
E S P T A D T C H O S L
M U E E D H O S D E V L
E S H R E P S F E J O O
I C A M E D T K T D I W
N H O F S P E E C H C H
T U O O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

May 7 and 14, 2017



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Based on readings: Acts 2:14a, 36-41; 1Pt 2: 20b-25; Jn 10:1-10 & Acts 6:1-7; 1 Pt 2:4-9; Jn 14:1-12

ACROSS

- 1 Moses' mountain
- 6 Expression of surprise
- 9 Pouch
- 12 Jesus guards our
- 13 "They were to the heart"
- 14 Sin
- 15 Brings in signal
- 16 British drink
- 17 Pride
- 18 Knocks
- 20 African ground squirrel
- 22 Paschal feast
- 25 Prejudices
- 26 Past
- 27 A cowboy's rope
- 29 Cardinals' colors
- 31 Japanese money
- 32 Soap opera
- 36 Brings ice
- 39 Nervous system
- 40 Main stone: stone
- 43 Shreds (2 wds)
- 45 Burned
- 46 Old world vulture
- 47 Volume (abbr.)
- 48 Protects environment (abbr.)
- 50 Stabs of guilt
- 54 Wrath

- 55 Decay
- 56 S. American animal
- 57 Had five loaves and two fish
- 58 People did with 57A's food
- 59 Tomb was

DOWN

- 1 Supersonic plane
- 2 Note of debt
- 3 Cloistered woman
- 4 Wide awake
- 5 House of
- 6 Luke's second book
- 7 Tint
- 8 Loss of muscle control
- 9 Prophets
- 10 Debate
- 11 Jesus bore sins on
- 19 Disciples focused on this & works
- 21 Consumes
- 22 Malchus lost one
- 23 Grow older
- 24 Grass
- 25 Computer # system
- 28 Eye movement
- 30 These need forgiveness
- 33 American Cancer Society
- 34 African antelope
- 35 Viper
- 37 Et
- 38 Baby bottle topper
- 40 Raise an objection
- 41 Daphne flower (Winter Daphne)
- 42 Reigned
- 44 Sacred song
- 46 Shepherd opens this
- 49 Cooking vessel
- 51 Short sleep
- 52 Time zone
- 53 Utter

Answer Key can be found on page 19

Book review —

'Why the Rosary, Why Now?'

BY GRETCHEN R. CROWE

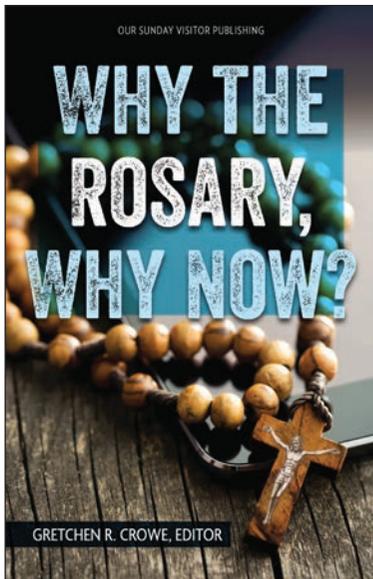
Catholics love their rosaries. We buy them at shrines, give them as gifts, even occasionally hang them from our rearview mirrors. But how often do we reach for them in prayer? Not nearly as often as we should, I'd wager.

Nearly 100 years ago, Our Lady, in her appearances to three shepherd children at Fatima, Portugal, over the span of six months, implored them in some form or other: "Pray the rosary every day, in order to obtain peace for the world, and the end of the war." This wasn't an abstract suggestion by Our Lady, but a clear directive.

A century later, this request is not only just as relevant as it was in 1917, but just as urgent. While World War I was raging then, today we find ourselves, as Pope Francis has said, in a "piecemeal" third World War. We need the rosary now more than ever.

I was very privileged over the last year to be able to work on a book that makes that case decisively. Some of the words are mine, but mostly the case is made by individuals who were much smarter and much holier.

The book, "Why the Rosary, Why Now?" (OSV, \$14.95), is divided up into eight parts — eight reasons, really, why the rosary is critical to our lives and our world today. These are: to



Provided by Our Sunday Visitor
A century after appearing to three shepherd children in Portugal, Mary's request that we pray the Rosary daily is just as urgent now as it was then. "Why the Rosary, Why Now?" is available at www.osvcatholicbookstore.com.

break through the noise; for a deeper devotion to the church; to strengthen families; for an increase in Christian discipleship; for peace in the world; as a weapon against evil; to combat secularism; and to become saints. Each of the chapters includes an excerpt from a notable Church figure, including Cardinal Albino Luciani (Pope

John Paul I); Venerable Fulton J. Sheen; Father Patrick Peyton, the rosary priest; St. John Paul II; Father Hubert F. Schiffer, SJ; Venerable Pope Pius XII; Pope Leo XIII; and many more. It's my privilege to be able to introduce you to a writing of each of those individuals, and through them to make the case of why we need

the rosary now more than ever. Of course the only way that the rosary can do all of the above is by connecting us, through Mary, more intimately with her beloved son, Jesus. As the late Cardinal Francis E. George, archbishop of Chicago from 1997 until his retirement in 2014, said at the conclusion of the Year of

the rosary in 2003: the rosary "brings us to the heart of the Gospel."

This is so true, and just another reason why we need the rosary — right now. For more information, visit www.osvcatholicbookstore.com and search for "rosary."

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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 260-399-1449 to purchase space.

Spaghetti dinner planned

SOUTH BEND — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a spaghetti dinner Thursday, May 11, from 4-6 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults and \$2.50 for children 5-12.

Catholic Business Network meetings

FORT WAYNE — The next Catholic Business Network meeting will be Friday, May 5, with Mass in the Guerin Chapel at 7 a.m. followed by fellowship in the Cathedral Center at 7:30 a.m. Guest speaker will be Michael Landrigan on the topic "Moving from Grief, Despair and Despondency to Hope." Refreshments provided by the St. Vincent de Paul Society of Fort Wayne.

Knights plan fish fry

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

Theology on Tap to meet

FORT WAYNE — The last Theology on Tap event of the spring will be Thursday, May 18, at 7 p.m. at CS3, 1915 S. Calhoun St. The speaker will be Mary Martin from the Catherine of Siena Institute, who will speak on spiritual gifts (charisms). Contact Jennifer Kopecky at jkopecy@diocesefwsb.org.

Women's retreat planned

ELKHART — Be It Done Catholic Women's Ministry will present "Miracles in the Mundane" a retreat with Rose Averill on Saturday, May 13, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the St. Teresa of Calcutta Center at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1108 S. Main St.

Cost is \$20 and includes breakfast snacks and lunch. Bring your rosary. Space is limited and registration will close on May 5. For information call Lori Massa at 574-293-8071 ext. 310 or email at loriamassa@gmail.com or visit www.beitdone.org to register.

Knights of Columbus Rock 'n' Roll fundraiser

PLYMOUTH — The Knights Council No. 1975, 901 East Jefferson, will have a rock 'n roll fundraiser Saturday, May 13, with Grand Knight Quentin Flagg 50s/60s & More in concert with Elvis and Roy Orbison tribute artist, Matt King. Doors 5:30 p.m., show 6:30 p.m. EDT. Tickets \$15 with food available for purchase. For information call 574-952-2807.

Bike 101 Lakes set

ANGOLA — The ProFed Bike 101 Lakes is set for Saturday, May 13. The eighth annual ride benefits the Humanities Fund of the Steuben County Community Foundation. St. Anthony dePadua parish team will have bandanas for their "Team Catholic" riders. Pre-register and get more details at www.bike101lakes.com or email liatmpeters@gmail.com.

Lourdes Ball planned

SOUTH BEND — The Knights of Columbus Santa Maria Council No. 553 invites you to this year's Lourdes Ball on Saturday, May 20, at 553 E. Washington St. Cost is \$40 per person or a table of 6 is \$220. A table of 8 is \$290. Discounts are available for students and families. Social hour and appetizers begin at 5 p.m., color guard and ceremony begins at 6 p.m. with dinner at 6:30 p.m. Live band and dancing will follow dinner. Dress is casual. Call or email for reservations or questions to 574-243-9467 or pocman5000@aol.com.

First Saturday rosary group announced

ROME CITY — Our Lady, Mother of Mercy Center will begin a first Saturday rosary group at the Victorian, 2730 E. Northport Rd. on the first Saturday of each month at 10:30 a.m. Breakfast will follow praying the rosary.

Pilgrimage with Father Delaney

SOUTH BEND — Join Father John Delaney, pastor at St. Jude Parish, on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in June 2017. For information contact Tekton Ministries at 317-574-4191 or email pilgrimage@tektonministries.org.

REST IN PEACE

Angola

Laura J. Gallogly, 61 St. Anthony of Padua

Fort Wayne

Judith A. Fetzer, 70, St. Patrick

David E. Howard, 80, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Berniece K. Bott, 100, Most Precious Blood

Barbara R. Erb, 84, St. Vincent de Paul

Sally A. Hake, 82, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Lester T. Sorgen, 60, St. Joseph Hessen Cassel

Matthew A. Nyman, 40, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Gloria Jean McCann, 71, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Larry Alan Davies, 71, St. Joseph Hessen Cassel

Frank K. Helmsing, 88, St. Peter

Granger
Donald J. DeShano, 72, St. Pius X

Mishawaka
Patricia J. Cukrowicz, 75, St. Joseph

Stefania H. Wetzel, 92, St. Monica

Angela Stanisci, 88, St. Bavo

Monroeville

Dorothy Alice Gromeaux, 93, St. Rose of Lima

South Bend

Patricia A. Karaszewski, 90, Sacred Heart of Jesus

Loretta R. Klimek, 90, St. Joseph

Josephine Kotowski, 96, St. Hedwig

Maria Elena De La Rosa, 59, Our Lady of Hungary

Warsaw

Joseph Verteramo, 87, Sacred Heart

Yoder

William H. Quackenbush, 73, St. Aloysius

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Jonathan Harber- Human Resources Director
jharber@diocesefwsb.org

The Crossword
May 7 and 14, 2017

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

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EGYPT

Continued from Page 1

ing organized by Egypt's al-Azhar University, Sunni Islam's highest institute of learning.

He told reporters on the papal flight from Rome that the trip was significant for the fact that he was invited by the grand imam of al-Azhar, Sheik Ahmad el-Tayeb; Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi; Coptic Orthodox Pope Tawadros II; and Coptic Catholic Patriarch Ibrahim Isaac Sedrak of Alexandria.

Having these four leaders invite him for the trip shows it is "a trip of unity and fraternity" that will be "quite, quite intense" over the next two days, he said.

Greeted with a standing ovation and a few scattered shouts of "viva il papa" (long live the pope), the pope later greeted conference participants saying, "Peace be with you" in Arabic.

He gave a 23-minute talk highlighting Egypt's great and "glorious history" as a land of civilization, wisdom and faith in God. Small olive branches symbolizing peace were among the greenery adorning the podium.

Religious leaders have a duty to respect everyone's religious identity and have "the courage

to accept differences," he said in the talk that was interrupted by applause several times.

Those who belong to a different culture or religion "should not be seen or treated as enemies, but rather welcomed as fellow-travelers," he said.

Religion needs to take its sacred and essential place in the world as a reminder of the "great questions about the meaning of life" and humanity's ultimate calling. "We are not meant to spend all of our energies on the uncertain and shifting affairs of this world, but to journey toward the absolute," he said.

He emphasized that religion "is not a problem, but a part of the solution" because it helps people lift their hearts toward God "in order to learn how to build the city of man."

Egypt is the land where God gave Moses the Ten Commandments, which include "Thou shalt not kill," the pope said. God "exhorts us to reject the way of violence as the necessary condition for every earthly covenant."

"Violence is the negation of every authentic religious expression," he said. "As religious leaders, we are called, therefore, to unmask the violence that



Pope Francis, Coptic Orthodox Pope Tawadros II and Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, spiritual head of the Eastern Orthodox churches, and other Orthodox leaders attend an ecumenical prayer service at the Church of St. Peter in Cairo April 28. The pope was making a two-day visit to Egypt.

masquerades as purported sanctity and is based more on the 'absolutizing' of selfishness than on authentic openness to the absolute."

"We have an obligation to denounce violations of human dignity and human rights, to expose attempts to justify every form of hatred in the name of religion and to condemn these attempts as idolatrous caricatures of God." God is holy, the pope said, and "he is the God of peace."

He asked everyone at the al-Azhar conference to say "once more, a firm and clear 'No!' to every form of violence, vengeance and hatred carried out in the name of religion or in the name of God."

Not only are faith and violence, belief and hatred incompatible, he said, faith that is not "born of sincere heart and authentic love toward the merciful God" is nothing more than a social construct "that does not liberate man, but crushes him."

Christians, too, must treat everyone as brother and sister if they are to truly pray to God, the father of all humanity, the pope said.

"It is of little or no use to raise our voices and run about to find weapons for our protection," he said. "What is needed today are peacemakers, not fomenters of conflict; firefighters, not arsonists; preachers of reconciliation and not instigators of destruction."

The pope again appealed for

people to address the root causes of terrorism, like poverty and exploitation, and stopping the flow of weapons and money to those who provoke violence.

"Only by bringing into the light of day the murky maneuverings that feed the cancer of war can its real causes be prevented," he said.

Education and a wisdom that is open, curious and humble are key, he said, saying properly formed young people can grow tall like strong trees turning "the polluted air of hatred into the oxygen of fraternity."

He called on all of Egypt to continue its legacy of being a land of civilization and covenant so it can contribute to peace for its own people and the whole Middle East.

The challenge of turning

today's "incivility of conflict" into a "civility of encounter" demands that "we, Christians, Muslims and all believers, are called to offer our specific contribution" as brothers and sisters living all under the one and same sun of a merciful God.

The pope and Sheik el-Tayeb embraced after the sheik gave his introductory address, which emphasized that only false notions of religion, including Islam, lead to violence. The grand imam expressed gratitude for the pope's remarks in which he rejected the association of Islam with terror.

The sheik began his speech by requesting the audience stand for a minute's silence to commemorate the victims of terrorism in Egypt and globally, regardless of their religions.

"We should not hold religion accountable for the crimes of any small group of followers," he said. "For example, Islam is not a religion of terrorism" just because a small group of fanatics "ignorantly" misinterpret texts of the Quran to support their hatred.

The security surrounding the pope's arrival seemed typical of many papal trips even though the country was also in the midst of a government-declared three-month state of emergency following the bombing of two Coptic Orthodox churches on Palm Sunday. The attacks, for which Islamic State claimed responsibility, left 44 people dead and 70 more injured.

Egypt Prime Minister Sherif Ismail and other Egyptian officials warmly greeted Pope Francis on the airport red carpet after the pope disembarked from the plane.

They walked together, chatting animatedly, to the VIP hall of Cairo International Airport, then the pontiff was whisked off to the presidential palace to meet el-Sissi at the start of his brief 27-hour visit.

Pope Francis repeated his calls for strengthening peace in his speech to hundreds of officials representing government, the diplomatic corps, civil society and culture.

"No civilized society can be built without repudiating every ideology of evil, violence and extremism that presumes to suppress others and to annihilate diversity by manipulating and profaning the sacred name of God," he said.

History does not forgive those who talk about justice and equality, and then practice the opposite, he said.

It is a duty to "unmask the peddlers of illusions about the afterlife" and who rob people of their lives and take away their ability to "choose freely and believe responsibly."

"History does not forgive those who talk about justice and equality, and then practice the opposite."

POPE FRANCIS



Pope Francis waves to people from the Apostolic Nunciature overlooking the Nile River in Cairo April 28.

CNS/L'Osservatore Romano