



# The MESSAGE

Southwestern Indiana's Catholic  
Community Newspaper

September 2, 2022

Volume 53, Number 1

www.evdiomessage.org

## 'What a community!'

BY TIM LILLEY  
The Message editor

Benedictine Sister Jane Michele McClure, who serves as major gifts officer for Habitat for Humanity-Evansville, stepped to the microphone at the edge of a sun-bathed lot in Poseyville and began speaking with the words that serve as the headline of this story.

"What a community! There is no stopping you," she added. Sister Jane Michele was one of scores of people who turned out for the Aug. 26 groundbreaking for the first Habitat build in northern Posey County — a six bedroom house that will become home for Jessica and Mario, and their six children.

Beth Folz, who serves as executive director of Habitat-Evansville, spoke just before Sister Jane Michele, and she thanked everyone who had



The Message photo by Tim Lilley  
**Deacon Mark McDonald, left, speaks to new Habitat of Humanity homeowners Mario and Jessica during the Aug. 16 groundbreaking for their home in Poseyville.**

worked on the project over the past two years. She said, "Congratulations to all who have worked on this. The progress to date is amazing. Thank you for all you have done for the family."

Jessica and Mario, Poseyville Town Councilman Bruce Baker, Father Ed Schnur and Deacon Mark McDonald turned the first shovels of dirt at the location of the couple's

See [HABITAT](#), page 16

## Diocese hosts annual Formation Day



The Message photos by Tim Lilley  
**Keynote speaker Steve Angrisano visits with an attendee after his presentation during Formation Day. At right, Bishop Joseph M. Siegel speaks to a large group from across the Diocese of Evansville during the Aug. 27 Formation Day at the Catholic Center.**



BY TIM LILLEY  
The Message editor

Catechists from across the Diocese of Evansville attended the annual Formation Day on Aug. 27 at the Catholic Center in Evansville. The Diocesan Office of Catechesis focused the event on the ongoing Eucharistic Renewal in the diocese. Keynote speaker Steve Angrisano talked about it a lot, and breakout sessions throughout the day highlighted various elements.

Bishop Joseph M. Siegel welcomed attendees, who filled the Catholic Center's Celebra-

tion Hall to capacity. Noting that Aug. 27 is the feast of St. Monica, mother of St. Augustine, the bishop prayed that we all look to the example and intercession of St. Monica, whose prayers undoubtedly played a major role in her son's turn from heathen to, ultimately, saint.

The bishop explained that the Eucharistic Renewal is intended to encourage everyone to return to the roots of our faith. And with that in mind, he suggested that the catechists — and all across the diocese — should make this a time to invite our family home

to Jesus in the Eucharist.

Bishop Siegel assured all of his admiration for them and his ongoing support.

Although keynote speaker Steve Angrisano is based in Texas, he is no stranger to southwest Indiana. He earned a master's degree in theology at St. Meinrad Archabbey's School of Theology, and he served on the staff of the Archabbey's "One Bread, One Cup" summer program for young people.

Steve, an internationally known Catholic musician and composer, adeptly mixed his

See [FORMATION DAY](#), page 5

## Flaget Elementary selected as Get Your Teach on Collaboration School



The Message photo by Megan Erbacher  
**On Aug. 26, Flaget Elementary School principal Samantha McClure surprised her staff when she announced that Flaget was one of only eight schools in Indiana selected as a Get Your Teach On Collaboration School.**

BY MEGAN ERBACHER  
The Message assistant editor

Flaget Elementary School teachers and staff were a little confused why they were asked to stay late on Aug. 26, a Friday afternoon, but they quickly learned that principal Samantha McClure had a surprise to share with them.

McClure excitedly announced that Flaget is one of only eight

schools in Indiana selected as a Get Your Teach On Collaboration School, which is a partnership between the Indiana Department of Education and GYTO founders Wade and Hope King. To help make the surprise announcement special, GYTO sent a personalized video, sweet treats overnighted from New York City, balloons and banners.

See [GRANT](#), page 6

## Annual Right to Life Banquet stands up for life



The Message photo by Megan Erbacher  
**Abby Johnson, shown on the big screen and on stage, a former Planned Parenthood facility director from Texas turned pro-life advocate, served as the keynote speaker for the annual Right to Life of Southwest Indiana Banquet on Aug. 25 at the Old National Events Plaza. She spoke to a crowd of 2,400 people.**

BY MEGAN ERBACHER  
The Message assistant editor

A crowd of 2,400 offered a standing ovation to Abby Johnson, the keynote speaker for the annual Right to Life of

Southwest Indiana Banquet on Aug. 25 at the Old National Events Plaza.

Johnson is a former Planned Parenthood facility director from Texas turned pro-life

See [BANQUET](#), page 12

# Seminarian profile: Deacon Stephen McGinnis

Maybe tomorrow, next month or next year . . .

I had thought about becoming a priest since the age of 13. However, it was always something to be put off until the next major milestone: After I graduated from Notre Dame, after I defended my dissertation, after my business was established, etc. It was always something to be considered down the line.

Then, years ago, as I sat before the Blessed Sacrament mentally preparing for teaching fourth-grade religious education, I became aware of the Real Presence of Jesus at that specific moment, in that specific place. Not someone who was abstract, not something ephemeral, but very real. Then I realized that if Jesus was really and truly present in that moment, then the call to serve him — my vocation — must also be present at that moment. It was then that it became clear that God,

who was calling me, knew me better than I knew myself. He knew my fears and anxiety, and yet he still called.

I then became a seminarian for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston and was ordained a deacon. However, as a result of a serious illness shortly after my ordination, I knew that I would be unable to be ordained a priest. The risk of being unavailable due to illness was too great. So I was assigned to several parishes as a resident deacon.

When my father retired from the Air Force, he decided to move to Rockport, Indiana. And after several years, I moved here as well. While I was very happy serving these parishes as a deacon, the idea of moving forward to the priesthood was always there.

**Seminary, Class:**  
St. Meinrad Seminary  
and School of Theology,  
4th Theology

**Home Parish:**  
St. Bernard in Rockport,  
St. Martin I in Chrisney

**Birthday: Oct. 22**



Again, it was something to consider in the future, and again, my time before the Blessed Sacrament reminded me that just as Jesus was present right then and there, my call, my vocation, was also present right there and then. With the assistance of Father Ron Kreilein, Father Tyler Tenbarge and Bishop Joseph M. Siegel, I was incardinated in the Diocese of Evansville and was assigned to St. Meinrad Seminary.

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**Vincennes Wisdom Day**  
Monday, September 12, 2022  
9 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.  
(Registration begins at 8 a.m.)  
at the Green Activity Center  
Vincennes University Campus

**Speakers**  
Bishop Joseph M. Siegel, Fr. Jim Sichko,  
Dean Happe and more!

This event is free!

Register with Judy Ruppel at 812-882-6891. Please give your name, cell phone number and the church you attend. **DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2022.** Please register early!!

**East Deanery Wisdom Day**  
Thursday, September 22, 2022  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
St. Joseph Church  
Parish Activity Center  
Jasper, Indiana

Emcee **Mrs. Pat Koch**  
Presiding **Father Tim Tenbarge, senior priest**  
Speakers **Bishop Joseph M. Siegel, Dean Happe, Joel Padgett and Candy Neal**  
Entertainment **Sister Anita Louise Lowe, harpist**

Lunch by Sander Catering  
This event is free!

Registrations are needed. Please call Cindy Lampert (812-482-2897), Mary Lampert (812-639-0669) or Sandy Miller (812-482-3725) by Monday, September 5.

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# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## Catholics for Habitat BBQ benefit order deadline is Sept. 2

Catholics for Habitat is hosting its annual BBQ benefit for Habitat for Humanity of Evansville.

Orders are being taken now, and pick up will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. CDT Sept. 10 at four locations: St. Boniface Parish, 418 Wabash Ave., Evansville; St. Philip Parish, 3500 St. Phillips Rd, Mt. Vernon; CVS, 3900 Oak Hill Rd. (Corner of

Oak Hill Rd. and Lynch Rd.), Evansville; and St. Benedict Cathedral, 1328 Lincoln Ave., Evansville.

Prices are \$30 for a slab of ribs or a pork butt, and \$10 for one pound of shredded pork.

Order online by Sept. 2 at [www.evansvillehabitat.org](http://www.evansvillehabitat.org), or call in an order to Billy Thompson at the Habitat office at 812-423-5623, ext. 227. Please contact Craig or Tara Blessinger with the Catholics for Habitat Committee at [ctblessinger@gmail.com](mailto:ctblessinger@gmail.com) for more information.

## Happy Birthday!

Retired Deacon Donald Yochum celebrates his birthday Sept. 7.

Ann Stoffleth-Martin, parish catechetical leader at Holy Redeemer Parish in Evansville, celebrates her birthday Sept. 11.

## Reitz Memorial Class of 1977 reunion Sept. 9-10

Reitz Memorial High School Class of 1977 will hold its 45th reunion Sept. 9-10. The Sept. 10 event coincides with Steak Night. The 1977 alumni will host Mass at 4:30 p.m. CDT in

the auditorium for all Steak Night attendees. For details, contact [jim@josstaffing.com](mailto:jim@josstaffing.com), [alicia.lachowecki@gmail.com](mailto:alicia.lachowecki@gmail.com), or [skmelchoirs@gmail.com](mailto:skmelchoirs@gmail.com).

## Bonifest is Sept. 10

Bonifest will be from 5:30 to 11 p.m. CDT Sept. 10 at Westside Catholic School, 2031 W. Michigan St., Evansville, IN 47712. Pulled-pork dinners will be available for \$10 each from 5:30 p.m. until the food runs out. There also will be a bierstube; admission is \$10 and includes a koozie and one drink ticket. Live entertainment will feature the Tim and Joe Acoustic Show.

## 'Iron Sharpens Iron' men's conference is Sept. 10

St. John the Baptist Parish in Newburgh will hold its men's conference from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. CDT Sept. 10. This year's theme is based on Proverbs 27:17, "Iron sharpens iron so one man strengthens another." Learn how to reconnect to your faith so that you can be the spiritual leader you are called to be. The event includes Mass and talks by St. John the Baptist pastor Father Dusty Burns ("Becoming Strong Men with Hearts of God") and Father Alex Zenthoefer, rector of St. Benedict Cathedral, pastor of Sts. Mary and John Parish, and diocesan Vicar General ("Men Without Chests: Lessons from C.S. Lewis on Being Men"). Cost is \$10 per person and includes breakfast and lunch. For more information, contact St. John the Baptist Parish at 812-490-1000.



## Golden Jubilarians

John and Kathleen (Koressel) Brendel of Evansville, Indiana, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Aug. 19. They were married Aug. 19, 1972, at Corpus Christi Church in Evansville.

## St. Mary, Ireland, annual picnic is Sept. 11

St. Mary Parish in Ireland will host its annual picnic beginning at 10 a.m. EDT at the parish, 2829 N. 500 W, Jasper, IN 47546. Chicken dinners will be available beginning at 10 a.m. EDT for indoor or outdoor dining, and for drive-through pickup. Drive-through service will end at 1 p.m. EDT. Priced at \$14 each, dinners will include ¼ fried chicken, dressing, green beans and coleslaw. Outdoor diners also will find hamburgers, chicken noodle soup by the bowl, soft drinks

and ice cream available. Raffles, pull tabs, a flower wheel and a ham wheel will be available (Indiana Gaming License No. 002548). A huge country store will also offer a large selection of homemade items and other merchandise.

## Vatican II Council series begins Sept. 13

A 10-week video series on The Documents of Vatican II will be held from 12 to 1:30 p.m. CT Tuesdays from Sept. 13 through Nov. 15 in the Zachary Room at St. John the Baptist Parish in Newburgh. Diocese of Evansville senior priest Father Henry Kuykendall and Charlotte Monconduit will lead the series. Explore the documents, spiritual theology of, and changes resulting from Vatican II. A reference book is optional and available online. Please call 812-490-1000 to sign up.

## Save the date!

Father Mitch Pacwa from EWTN is coming to Jasper! Father Mitch hosts two programs on EWTN-TV and is a weekly guest on the EWTN Radio Open Line broadcast heard on WTJW 93.1 FM Catholic radio in Jasper. Father Mitch will appear Oct. 8 at the St. Joseph Parish Activities Center in Jasper. Please mark your calendar; this will be a great event with limited seating! It's part of the seventh anniversary observance for WTJW radio. The Message will publish more details as the event draws closer.

Please send information for AROUND THE DIOCESE to Tim Lilley, The Message, P.O. Box 4169, Evansville, IN 47724. The e-mail address is [tlilley@evdio.org](mailto:tlilley@evdio.org).

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# Retreat brings healing to adult children of divorce

The Dioceses of Evansville and Owensboro recently partnered to host the first Life Giving Wounds retreat



## THE CATHOLIC KITCHEN

ERIC GIRTEN

for adult children of divorce. It was a weekend filled with tears, laughter and God's grace. For three days, strangers from many areas came together to walk this Christian path side-by-side in order to begin to — or continue to — find Christ's healing in the wounds brought about by their parents' divorces.

I was humbled by the raw honesty of those gathered as they delved into the shadows of their past, and I was equally taken aback by the compassion that arose to fend off those shadows. When I would happen upon those who were, only days earlier, unknown to one another and yet tending to each other's spiritual and emotional trials, I couldn't help but think of the spirit of the human person imitating, in its highest form, the Holy Spirit of God.

The Life Giving Wounds team, led by Daniel Meola (who co-founded LGF with his wife Bethany), dropped in from various parts of the country at almost midnight the night before the retreat; poured themselves out for others for three days; and moved on the morning after the retreat. I have always held in high esteem those apostles and disciples of Christ who have, throughout the ages, traversed the globe spreading the Gospel message, leaving no stone unturned. And now, when I reflect on the travels of those early evangelizers, I will add these sojourners to that list.

From the LGW website: "Divorce or separation can and does affect a person's sense of identity, their faith life and rela-

*tionship to God, their mental and physical health, their view of marriage, their own relationships and so much more." Admitting this as a very real possibility is an important step toward reclaiming one's true identity as beautiful, loved, unique and wonderful children of our God, who wants only to bring His children ever closer to Himself.*

Depending on a variety of factors, some might feel a minimal long-term impact on their lives from the divorce of their parents; others may feel abandoned, confused, ostracized, identity-less. Some may push away from God who, in their minds, did not answer their prayers for intervention in their parents' relationship; may find their only solace in God. It is the complexity of the human person that makes each of us an artistic masterpiece, and it is this same complexity that makes each of us complicated to understand.

Sometimes, we must simply say "I don't know," and allow our wounded Redeemer into our own wounded-ness.

We all bear wounds that can push us away from our true selves as children of God, and I wish there was a quick cure for each — but knowing there is not. I do know, however, that healing took place for those who attended the Life Giving Wounds retreat on this weekend. I do know that God was



Submitted photos

This is the group who participated in the recent Life Giving Wounds retreat for adult children of divorce, which was co-sponsored by the Dioceses of Evansville and Owensboro.



This team presented the three-day Life Giving Wounds retreat for adult children of divorce. Shown are Father Christopher Droste, Dr. Mike Flaherty, Jennifer Cox, Alex Wolfe, Danny May, Dr. Daniel Meola, Eric Girten and Deacon Chris Borowiecki.

present in a very real way on this weekend.

Let us all take a moment each day to pray for those who have wounds in their lives. Let us ask our wounded Redeemer to enter into those wounds

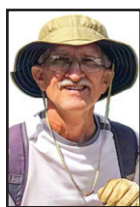
in order to create healing. If we do this, we will eventually find that we have been praying for ourselves all along.

*Eric Girten is director of Family and Life for the Diocese of Evansville.*

## Method of the magnetism

"I will draw everyone to myself" (John 12:32).

Let's say you wanted to start an organization with one simple goal: to introduce everyone on the planet to Jesus. Jesus did start that organization and called it The Church. Everyone ever baptized has the seemingly impossible job to bring every person to Jesus. Fortunately, He gave us a secret, invisible force to use — magnetism. Know how to make a magnet? Take a piece of steel and rub a strong magnet across it several times — and like magic — that piece of steel becomes a magnet. OK, it's not magic; but it sure looks like it. Normal metal has electrons pointing in all different directions; but when you rub a magnet over it, the steel takes on the properties of that magnet. All of the electrons get pointed in one direction, which creates poles on either end of the metal. This means if you hold one end of a magnet against another



## CONNECTING FAITH AND LIFE

DEACON MIKE SEIBERT

er magnet, it will attract it — and the other end will repel it.

Same theory for us. You and I are all like that piece of steel with all of our electrons pointing all over the place; but when we come close to a Saint, for example, their magnetism draws us in. As we spend time with them, pray with them and study their lives, our lives get re-directed, re-focused and re-aligned. If we spend enough time with them, we take on their properties. In short, we become magnetized. We become magnets for Jesus.

Now, magnetism only works because of the magnetic field of the earth. Basically, the electrons in the metal all point toward the south pole or north pole of the earth. Similarly, the magnetism of saints only works because there is a greater magnetism at work — Jesus.

So, if there are over two billion Christians walking the planet, why isn't everyone drawn to Christ?

Unfortunately, the culture is also a magnet. Everyone, including us, is drawn in by this megamagnet, which gets us to focus on anything other than Jesus — work, sex, technology, politics, vacations, food. It's easy to become magnetized toward these and similar things. But if our attention is not on Jesus, we are not drawing people to Christ, but doing the opposite.

How do we break the hold that the culture has? We have to get them to turn their heads — to refocus their energy. See, their electrons are all pointed

to the negative — or at least, they're all pointed away from Jesus. Our actions need to get them to spin; to turn their heads. Like taking a magnet and pushing slowly against the negative pole of another magnet all at once, it spins around as the positive pole overpowers it.

What's that look like in non-metaphorical terms? I heard a quote (can't remember the Saint): "The World needs signs of Faith that don't require Faith to believe." In other words, our actions need to turn heads — like a magnet forcing another magnet to spin.

Whenever we go out of our way for someone, we make them do a reality check — to question their view of what's most important in life. A simple example is the random act of kindness; for example, where you pay for someone else's meal you don't know. The question that has to arise in their mind is, why would somebody do that? In most peoples' minds, there is no payoff to doing something like that — so why? The best personal example for me was when people drove all the way from Celestine to Newburgh to visit me when my Mom died. It was above-and-beyond. It tugged at my heart.

A perfect example was when John Paul II went to prison to forgive the man who shot him. That's a sign of faith that doesn't take faith to believe. The world said, What?! Why?! They recognized that there must be a higher power at work here. When people experience that kind of forgiveness, they realize there's something supernatural going on.

They don't understand it; they can't see it. But it tugs at their heart; like a magnet.

*Deacon Mike Seibert serves at St. Isidore the Farmer Parish, which includes St. Peter Celestine Church in Celestine and St. Raphael Church in Dubois.*

## The Message

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## Formation Day

Continued from page 1

music with his passion for ministry during his presentation. He talked about his first trip to the Holy Land with a story that was as humorous as it was enlightening. He said, "My biggest take-away from that trip and all that happened was that, no matter where we are, God is there with us."

He also talked about writing a song that many readers of **The Message** know and have sung, "My Soul is Thirsting." He said, "I had the music for years, but I could never come up with lyrics. One night, my wife told me it was time to finish that song or just stop playing the music. When I told her I could not come up with lyrics, she gave me a Bible and said to just open it.

"I did . . . to Psalm 63: 'O God, you are my God, it is you I seek! For you my body yearns; for you my soul thirsts, In a land parched, lifeless, and without water' (Psalm 63:2). So I wrote the music, but David wrote the words thousands of years ago."

Steve also talked about encountering the Franciscan order of Sisters known as the Disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, whose convent is in Amarillo, Texas. He described how they pray for everything — literally everything — in



Steve Angrisano, left, leads a group that filled the Catholic Center's Celebration Hall to capacity in a song during Formation Day on Aug. 27.

The Message photos by Tim Lilley

the moment, using the example of encountering people in a restaurant where they took him to dinner on his way to the airport after an appearance.

He offered quotes from St. Bernard and St. Pope Paul VI regarding our ability to take St. Augustine's words to heart: "Let us live our life so all much see that our hearts are restless until they rest in thee."

Steve said, "St. Bernard tells us that we cannot be conduits of grace, but reservoirs — so filled that we're overflowing. And St. Pope Paul VI said that people listen more readily to

witnesses than teachers. If they listen to teachers, it's because they also are witnesses."

Steve encouraged the catechists to work toward being those reservoirs of grace, and to be witnesses to all they encounter.

The Diocesan Office of Catechesis scheduled a group

of morning and afternoon breakout sessions following Steve that centered on the Eucharist and its celebration. Presenters included Father Benny Alikandayil Chacko, pastor of Annunciation Parish in Evansville; Father Chris Forler, pastor of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Daylight and St. Bernard Parish in

Snake Run; Benedictine Father Godfrey Mullen, former rector of St. Benedict Cathedral in Evansville who recently began serving as rector of the Cathedral of St. Peter in the diocese of Belleville, Illinois; Father Juan Ramirez, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Hope Parish in Washington; and others.



Benedictine Father Godfrey Mullen, now serving as rector of the Cathedral of St. Peter in Belleville, Illinois, leads a breakout session during Formation Day. His presentation was entitled "The Significance of the Sights, Sounds, Symbols and Smells that Surround Our Experience in Liturgy."



Father Juan Ramirez, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Hope Parish in Washington, leads a breakout session in Spanish entitled "A Walk through the Mass."



Jeremy Goebel, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry for the Diocese of Evansville, leads a Formation Day breakout session on how the liturgy touches lives.

## Bishop's Schedule

Thursday, Sept. 8.

**Mass**, Men's Cursillo 96, Sarto Chapel, Evansville, 7:15 a.m. CDT, Friday, Sept. 9.

**Invocation**, Knights Hunger Bowl Football, Mater Dei vs Reitz Memorial, at Reitz Bowl, Reitz High School, Evansville, 7 p.m. CDT, Friday, Sept. 9.

**Mass**, Sarto Chapel, Evansville, 11:30 a.m. CDT, Thursday, Sept. 8.

**Meeting**, Department Heads, Catholic Center, Evansville, 1:30 p.m. CDT,

## Grant

Continued from page 1

McClure is elated that Flaget was chosen to participate in this collaboration.

"The GYTO educators are dynamic and high-energy," McClure said. "Thus, receiving on-site professional development that is individualized to our staff and student needs is going to have such a positive impact on our school."

Get Your Teach On will provide Flaget administrators intensive support throughout the school year through two-day in-school training sessions. These sessions will include quarterly professional-development experiences provided on the Flaget campus. Over the course of the school year, each of the eight Indiana schools will receive guided instructional walkthroughs with GYTO leadership and school-based administration, instructional coaches and a custom school acceleration plan.

Lydia Jones, music teacher for Flaget Elementary and Rivet Middle/High schools, is eager for the collaboration to begin.

"I'm so excited to learn and just grow as an educator," she said.

The IDOE said that the collaborations with GYTO will:

- Provide additional professional-development opportunities designed to ignite educators' passions for teaching and education;
- Expand on current IDOE initiatives to support and elevate the educator profession, and
- Make students want to come to school and learn while developing relationships. These opportunities promote positive educational outcomes to develop the whole learner.

In addition to founding and operating GYTO, Wade and Hope are authors of the 2018 book "The Wild Card: 7 Steps to an Educator's Creative Breakthrough."

Michelle Priar, interim superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Evansville, is



Flaget Elementary School teachers and staff pose for a photo after the surprise announcement. Shown in the picture are Amy Sponn, front row left, Kristie Fisher, Andrea Hostetler, Sammie Vaughn, Dana Greenwood, Dani Nowaskie, Michelle Sexton, Julia Stevenson, back row left, Tonya Dunn, Amanda Oakes, Morgan Schutter, Kacey Barmes, Father Garrett Braun, parochial vicar of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Vincennes and St. Philip Neri Parish in Bicknell, Lydia Jones, Cathy Wilson, Flaget Principal Samantha McClure, Melissa Allen and Father Tony Ernst, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Vincennes and St. Philip Neri Parish in Bicknell.

thrilled that Flaget was selected to receive this "amazing opportunity."

"Administrators in all 26 of our diocesan Catholic schools are always exploring opportunities to improve their abilities to form the whole person — intellectually, physically and spiritually," she said. "We congratulate Samantha and her staff for Flaget's selection as one of only eight Indiana schools in this top-flight collaboration with Get Your Teach On."

At the surprise announcement, Priar said GYTO is a national program and it's a big deal to be selected to participate in it. She hopes it will remind teachers and staff of the joy of being an educator, and give them renewed passion.

"These people are very passionate about education," she said. "I hope this will give you a chance to remember why you went into education because it's been a tough couple of years to be an educator. You all

have gone above and beyond . . . You work hard every day.

You deserve some outside support, and you deserve some

recognition for it. Thank you for what you're doing."



Michelle Priar, interim superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Evansville, said she hopes the collaboration will remind Flaget teachers and staff of the joy of being an educator and give them renewed passion.



Flaget Elementary School Principal Samantha McClure smiles as she watches a video from the Get Your Teach On team.



Flaget Elementary School teachers and staff listen as they learn more about being a Get Your Teach On Collaboration School, which is a partnership between the Indiana Department of Education and GYTO founders Wade and Hope King.

# St. John Daylight hosting Sept. 15 presentations by Jason Evert

## SPECIAL TO THE MESSAGE

Catholic author and chastity speaker Jason Evert will offer a double feature — two talks in one evening — Sept. 15 at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Daylight. Jason founded Totus Tuus Press and the Chastity Project, an organization that promotes chastity primarily to high school and college students. Beginning at 5 p.m. CDT Sept. 15,

Jason will offer “Purified,” a family-based talk that invites parents and teens to learn about God’s plan for love. It combines Jason’s presentation on chastity for the family with a time of prayer, adoration and the sacrament of reconciliation. The parish will distribute free resources to every attendee so that every member of the family can take items home to help them live out this lifestyle. There will be a break from 6:30 p.m.

to 7 p.m. Beginning at 7 p.m., Jason will offer “Gender and the Theology of Your Body,” a family-based talk that invites parents and teens to learn about the meaning of sex, gender and the human body. It combines Jason’s presentation, Gender and the Theology of Your Body, with a time of prayer and adoration for everyone. The parish also will distribute free resources to every attendee so

that every member of the family can take items home to help them discover how their body as a man or woman reveals their identity and calling. Tickets are \$30 per person, and they are available online at [www.chastity.formstack.com/forms/evansville\\_in](http://www.chastity.formstack.com/forms/evansville_in) or from St. John the Evangelist Parish by contacting parish catechetical leader Mary Shetler at 812-867-3718 or email [mshetler@evdio.org](mailto:mshetler@evdio.org).

# NCEA, other faith-based groups fight efforts to broaden scope of Title IX

BY JULIE ASHER  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A number of Catholic and other faith-based associations and groups, including dioceses, have joined in supporting an amicus brief filed in a court

case on how the Biden administration’s proposal to broaden the interpretation of Title IX provisions could affect nonprofit organizations, including private schools. “Although Title IX has received the most attention for its impact on athletics, special-

ly regarding women at the college level, it applies to a variety of K-12 educational programs and has been adapted by most other federal agencies to govern workplace policies,” the National Catholic Educational Association said in an Aug. 23 statement.

“If schools are recipients of federal financial assistance, the obligations of institutions that receive this assistance are addressed in several civil rights laws and employment regulations,” the NCEA said.

“New interpretations of these laws and regulations have raised questions and concerns about the applicability of such to Catholic schools that received equitable services, not funds,” it said.

The NCEA has joined the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Council of American Private Education, Association of Independent Schools, Christian Schools International, National Association of Episcopal Schools and National Council of Islamic Schools, as well as various dioceses, international associations and nonprofit organizations in a letter of support for a friend-of-the-court brief filed by the National Association of Independent Schools.

In two recent court decisions, the judges decided that federal tax-exempt status constitutes federal financial assistance, which in turn affects how Title IX is applied to schools and other tax-exempt nonprofits. The association’s brief calls for reconsideration of those decisions.

Title IX is the most commonly used name for the federal civil rights law in the United States that was enacted as part of the Education Amendments of 1972. It prohibits sex-based discrimination in any school or any other education program that receives funding from the federal government.

The Department of Education under the Biden administration has issued a proposed rule change to Title IX to combat sexual discrimination in schools by boosting victim protections and modifying language to include sexual orientation and gender identity for LGBTQI+ students.

One of the two recent court rulings came in a lawsuit brought by Concordia Preparatory School, a coeducational parochial secondary school serving grades 6-12 in Towson, Maryland.

The U.S. District Court in Maryland rejected the school’s arguments that it was not subject to Title IX and agreed with the plaintiffs that the school’s

tax-exempt status represented federal financial assistance sufficient to subject the school to Title IX.

On Aug. 4, Concordia Preparatory School filed a motion to reconsider the District Court’s ruling or alternatively appeal to the 4th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which is based in Richmond, Virginia. The circuit includes Maryland.

In the second case, the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California reached the same result as the Maryland court July 25.

This case involves a female student who played football for a public school that competed against an independent school, Valley Christian Academy.

The female student claimed Valley Christian Academy had violated her rights under Title IX because the academy prohibited her from participating in football competition against the independent school.

The plaintiff argued the Christian school was subject to Title IX because it was a 501(c)(3) institution and because it has accepted a loan under the federal Paycheck Protection Program.

The loans, backed by the Small Business Administration, helped businesses and other employers, like schools, keep their workforce employed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“This new interpretation triggers obligations, in those jurisdictions, not only under Title IX, but also Title VI, which has no religious exemption,” the NCEA said. “These (regulations) contain many burdensome requirements, including personnel to administer compliance, that would be nearly impossible for small or modest-sized private schools in terms of time, finances and paperwork.”

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin in any program or activity that receives federal funds or other federal financial assistance.

“Historically, most independent schools have not been subject to Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 because they do not accept federal funds,” said McGuireWoods, an international law firm with headquarters in Richmond. Among its many clients are nonprofit entities.

## Director of Stewardship Diocese of Evansville



### Summary:

The Director of Stewardship, as a primary advisor to the Bishop of Evansville, coordinates and manages stewardship efforts to support the diocesan mission. The director reports to the bishop and the chancellor/chief operating office of the diocese.

### Essential Job Functions:

- Strive to foster an attitude of stewardship in all aspects of diocesan life.
- Advise parishes and schools regarding weekly stewardship, capital campaigns, annual giving programs and offertory enhancement.
- Identify and initiate contact with major gift prospects and coordinate meetings with the bishop.
- Serve as a member of the Diocesan Leadership Team and work closely with team members (i.e. the bishop and other diocesan directors) to set and communicate priorities.
- Maintain data and generate reports reflecting progress in areas of annual giving and major gifts.
- Work collaboratively and collegially with the Catholic Foundation of Southwest Indiana, Catholic Education Foundation and other groups to maximize options for donors.
- Oversee diocesan stewardship event planning (e.g. Brute Society)
- Collaborate with diocesan staff, parish staff and third parties as necessary.
- Oversee diocesan appeal – Catholic Parishes Campaign (CPC).
- Assist with the collection and processing of donor records and associated database.
- Oversee the research, preparation and submission of grant proposals to foundations.
- Manage departmental budget.
- Perform other duties as assigned.

### Required Skills:

The successful candidate must be a practicing Catholic in full communion with the Church, and be familiar with Church structure and teaching.

- Ability to communicate and interact comfortably with diverse groups
- Superior written and verbal communications skills
- Knowledge of successful communications, development and marketing strategies, including all forms of social media
- Ability to work some evenings and weekends
- Reliable transportation to enable travel throughout the 12 counties of the Diocese of Evansville

The Diocesan Stewardship Office is located in the Diocese of Evansville Catholic Center, in Evansville, and this position requires travel to other diocesan offices, parishes, schools and/or client homes as necessary.

### Education Requirements:

A bachelor’s degree is required, with a minimum of five years’ experience in fundraising, marketing or related field preferred. Applicants holding a CFRE endorsement and those with parish and/or diocesan experience will receive priority. Individuals who can read, write and speak in Spanish will receive special consideration.

Applicants shall exhibit in behavior and lifestyle values compatible with Catholic beliefs in particular as well as being a practicing Roman Catholic. All employees shall abide by the laws of the Church and the state. All employees must comply with the provisions of the Safe Environment Program of the Diocese of Evansville.

To apply, please send a cover letter, resumé, salary history and list of three professional references to:

[humanresources@evdio.org](mailto:humanresources@evdio.org)

# Preaching lecture and workshop set at St. Meinrad

## SPECIAL TO THE MESSAGE

Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology in St. Meinrad will present the 31st annual John S. and Virginia Marten Lecture and Workshop in Homiletics on Oct. 5 on the St. Meinrad campus.

The lecturer for this year's program is Dr. Richard Stern, professor emeritus of homiletics at St. Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. His lecture is titled "Preaching for Today, Tomorrow . . . and Yesterday." The lecture will begin at 9:15

a.m. CDT in St. Bede Theater. The corresponding workshop will follow.

Richard earned his bachelor's degree at Saint Olaf College, followed by a Master of Divinity from Luther Theological Seminary, and Master of Arts and Doctor of Education degrees, both from Northern Illinois University.

He taught homiletics for nearly 30 years before retiring in 2018. He also produced a six-part videotape series, "Preaching for Today . . . and Tomorrow," and, among numerous articles and papers, co-authored

the book "Savior on the Silver Screen" with two other St. Meinrad faculty members.

He is a past president of the Catholic Association of Teachers of Homiletics and has been a board member of the Academy of Homiletics and the Catholic Coalition on Preaching.

This lecture/workshop series is made possible by an endowment established by the John S. Marten family of Indianapolis.

Parking is available behind St. Bede Hall, as well as in the Guest House and student parking lots.



DR. RICHARD STERN

## 'We will BEE here for you'



Corpus Christi School in Evansville welcomed students back to classes with a special theme for their first Day: "We will BEE here for you." A variety of activities were available. The first photo shows kindergartener Josie Eickhoff having her face painted. In the other photos, Matteo Mallory attempts to dunk teacher Nolen Goebel in the dunking booth — and succeeds! Shown with Matteo are Grady Hartz, left, Hank Willett, Joe Jankowski, Kaleb Wagner, Sydney Schiff, Mia Schaefer and Adelyn Decamps.

Submitted photos



Submitted photo

## University of Evansville incoming freshmen

Father Eugene Schmitt, parochial vicar of St. Benedict Cathedral and Sts. Mary and John Parish in Evansville, stands with a group of incoming University of Evansville freshmen after Mass Aug. 21 at the cathedral. Standing with them at left is Sister of Providence Jessica Vitente, campus minister at UE.

## Abbey Caskets open house, tours set for Oct. 2

### SPECIAL TO THE MESSAGE

Abbey Caskets, a division of St. Meinrad Archabbey, will host a public open house from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. CDT Oct. 2. The workshop is located in St. Meinrad, Indiana, along State Route 545, just south of the Archabbey Gift Shop.

Tours of the workshop will be given; caskets and urns will be on display; and refreshments will be available. Take advantage of a 10-percent discount when you prepay for an Abbey Casket during the open house through Oct. 28.

The public is also welcome to join the Benedictine monks of St. Meinrad for Mass at 9:30 a.m., visit the Gift Shop, and attend the 2 p.m. CDT rosary pilgrimage at the nearby Monte Cassino.

Abbey Caskets was started in 1999 to offer handmade wooden caskets and cremation urns directly to consumers. The business revenue supports the work of St. Meinrad Archabbey.

For more information, call Jenny Keller during business hours at 800-987-7380.



## Sixth annual Hunger Bowl is Sept. 9

SPECIAL TO THE MESSAGE

The 6th Annual Friday KNIGHTS Hunger Bowl is scheduled for 7 p.m. CDT Sept. 9 at the Reitz Bowl at Reitz High School. This project raises funds for the St. Vincent DePaul Food Pantry. The Hunger Bowl game annually pits Mater Dei High School against Reitz Memorial High School.

Benedictine Sister Donna Marie Herr, director of the SVdP food pantry, appreciates the generosity displayed by supporters Mater Dei and Reitz Memorial. In the first five years, the Hunger Bowl has raised over \$36,000 for the food pantry. This year's goal is to raise \$15,000 and move the total contributions over \$50,000.

The idea for the Hunger Bowl surfaced six years ago in a conversation between Knights of Columbus Mark Hackert and John Sandwell, Mark is a member of Council 7544 at St. Benedict Cathedral Parish, and John is a member of Auxilio Council 16454 of Corpus Christi Parish in Evansville and St. Philip Parish in Posey County. As they shared pizza, the two discussed ways that Evansville-area K of C councils could work together toward a worthy goal.

Their talk ultimately turned to the SVdP Food Pantry, where former Mater Dei teacher Sister Donna Marie serves as direc-



tor. Just like that, the Hunger Bowl was born.

Each year, the student bodies of Mater Dei, Memorial and their respective feeder elementary schools participate in fundraising activities. They're joined by the Evansville-area K of C councils, and local Knights work the game itself collecting donations. Mark told **The Message** that the goal every year is to get even more people involved in the effort. He also noted that anyone who can't attend the game can make donations directly to the SVdP food pantry.

The Catholic grade schools, the area K of C Councils and the attendees of the game itself are involved in the fund raising. Each year we have worked to involve more people to increase the amount of support we can offer the St. Vincent dePaul Food Bank. We again ask for your support in promoting this event with the goal of promoting the gift of giving to those in need. Donations can be made directly to St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry.

You can donate securely online by visiting [www.svdpevansville.org/donate-now/](http://www.svdpevansville.org/donate-now/).

## Project Rachel active here

SPECIAL TO THE MESSAGE



Project Rachel is a ministry of the Diocese of Evansville that operates through the Office of Family and Life. From the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops:

"Project Rachel is an ongoing ministry of the Catholic Church in the U.S. to those who have been involved in abortion. It is a diocesan-based network of specially trained priests, religious, counselors and laypersons who provide a team response of care for those suffering in the aftermath of abortion.

In addition to referring for Sacramental Reconciliation, the ministry provides an integrated network of services, including pastoral counseling, support groups, retreats and referrals to licensed mental-health professionals."

Remember . . . there is hope after abortion. For more information, please visit [www.hopeafterabortion.com](http://www.hopeafterabortion.com).

All inquiries are confidential.

## St. Clement Conference welcomes new members

At the Aug. 16 meeting of the St. Clement Conference of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Boonville, Jim and Peggy Harpenau, seated, who have served the conference for over 50 years, led the induction ceremony for new members Angie McVey, standing at left, and Jeanne Wilhite.

Submitted photo



## Card party Sept 14 at

St. Boniface – St. Agnes campus

SPECIAL TO THE MESSAGE

The St. Agnes Altar Society of Evansville's St. Boniface Parish will hold its annual fall Card Party Sept. 14 in Ryves Hall on the St. Agnes Campus. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. CDT. Included are a tasting table, snacks and drinks, a quilt raffle, a chance auction, a Script raffle, a theme basket raffle, a half-pot, attendance prizes and table prizes with a goody bag for each table. Admission is \$3 per person. For reservations or more information, call Beth Ann Murray at 812-760-1247 or Rita Steinkamp at 812-455-6090. Indiana Gaming License No. 002410.

## All Saints Parish hires justice minister

SPECIAL TO THE MESSAGE

Earlier this year, Evansville's All Saints Parish hired Brenda Meyer to serve as its Justice Minister. When Brenda, retired after a 44-year career as a mental-health provider, was approached about the position, she responded that it should be a "justice saint" — someone she could follow like Gandhi, Martin Luther King or Mother Theresa.

After some thought and encouragement, she realized that she had always been interested in how people work — and work together in the larger community. She had participated in many justice activities because "people brought me along" on issues relating to voting, women's issues and housing. Brenda had been active as an All Saints team leader for Congregations Acting for Justice and Empowerment, and is currently serving on the CAJE board; she had also participated in several Just Faith groups sponsored by the parish.

Brenda began serving as Justice Minister in April and now sees her job as bringing people along in the work of justice. Brenda's energy and dedication are evident in several initiatives begun in the past year. Believing that all work begins with prayer, Brenda and the justice committee prepared and distributed a justice prayer card, reminding all parishioners that they can be involved in the work for justice. Brenda initiated a group discussion of Pope Francis' book "Let Us Dream." After the successful conclusion of two groups, more are planned. Brenda is working to increase team leaders for All Saints' CAJE involvement and has joined the core team of Building Respect and Integrity in Diverse Greater Evansville in its work for racial equity.

Brenda is currently collaborating with Rev. Floyd Edwards of Mt. Olive Galilee Baptist Church to sponsor a faith and justice pilgrimage to St. Louis. The pilgrimage involves a visit to St. Alphonsus Liguori Catholic Church, stops at places at the center of the struggles for racial and civil liberty that call

See **JUSTICE**, page 13

## Birthright of Evansville celebrates 50 years



The Message photo by Megan Erbacher

Shown in the picture with the certificate they received are Lucie Hayden, front row left, volunteer; Regina Sisk, volunteer; Toni Askins, back row left, board member; Donna Beuligmann, volunteer; Nancy Duncan, volunteer; Nancy DeCastr, volunteer; Betty Marcheschi, director of Birthright of Evansville; Greg Head, board member. Not present for the photo were Wilen Halter, volunteer; Gretchen Miller, volunteer; Dan Hayden, board member; Debbie Hayden, board member; Marty Horning, board member; Laura McKenzie, board member; and Cris Goldbach, board member.

Birthright of Evansville was recently recognized by Birthright International for 50 years of service. The certificate reads, in part, "We are deeply grateful to each of you for the years of dedication to helping mothers and babies. Many lives have been touched, and babies saved, through your countless hours of selfless service."

Marcheschi said, "Birthright of Evansville is so happy to have been able to provide pregnancy tests, maternity clothes, diapers, wipes, baby clothing and resource counseling for moms and their babies for 50 years! Thank you to all our donors who support the Birthright Mission: 'It is the right of every pregnant woman to give birth and the right of every child to be born.'"

# What does God want to happen?

Sometimes, gold flakes surface along the periphery. The first or last picture in a photo shoot is the winner. The opening or final page of a book delivers the line that you hold to your heart. Or the wind-down of an interview — right after the formal conversation has wrapped up — produces a comment that stops you in your tracks.

Recently, I interviewed a Catholic counselor — focusing on the nature of his work. Once we'd covered my final question, I asked how he likes his job.

"It's been a joy," he said. "My manta is, 'What wants to happen today?' In the guidance of the Holy Spirit, things are always trying to happen. And once in a while, we pay enough attention to join our energy to what God wants to happen."

What a thrilling prospect! God is always at work, but in mostly hidden ways. If we can attune ourselves to his promptings, we can actually assist him. We can accelerate his cause; we can connect the dots; we can be his hands and feet.

Immediately, I thought of my aunt Jan, an empty nester whose generosity and availability flows from a deep prayer life. She trusts in God; she trusts the stranger in her midst; and she jumps at any chance to somehow connect the two.

Because Jan is paying attention and always in conversation with God, she sees these opportunities more than the rest of us. She joins her energy to God's, as the counselor put it.

Take her morning walk to Mass — which begins at 7:30 a.m. three miles from her home — at St.



## 20-SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

Odilia Catholic Church in Shoreview, Minn.

One morning, she was passed by an 81-year-old man in a motorized scooter. They struck up a long conversation. Soon, Jan was serving Dale lunch at a nearby park and giving him flashers and a reflective visor for safer night-time scooting.

His life story spilled out. Dale had studied under Ansel Adams and befriended Jack Kerouac. He'd been widowed. And most recently, he'd lost the right to drive a car.

Jan checks in with Dale regularly and plans to help with his next camping trip.

Another morning, Jan relieved a biker who had been chased by two lost dogs on his way to work. She assumed reign of them, keeping the wilder one from the highway and finally securing her collar in order to call the owner.

Then, there was the time a priest friend from Indiana called about Craig, a parishioner who had gone into cardiac arrest right before his flight made a layover at the St. Paul-Minneapolis airport. Jan zoomed into action. She and her husband, Rick, hosted Craig and his wife for three weeks.

"I pray for the people who God puts in my path," Jan said. "And I ask God to remove all the obstacles keeping me from him."

Spending 10 minutes in silence every day listening to God has been crucial for Jan. If God can work through a donkey carrying Mary to Bethlehem, she figures, He can work through her. "I believe I'm right where God wants me to be — and if I'm not, He will direct me."

Her generosity is fueled by gratitude. "Look, look, look! God has been so incredibly generous. I can't possibly not return that generosity."

Every day in service to God is an adventure. It's also a source of abiding peace.

"Something is happening in my life recently," she said. "I just cannot believe how God is so generous in showing us his ways: 'Don't be afraid, don't be frustrated. I've got it under control.'"

As the seasons shift and a new school year clicks into gear, may we pay attention to openings from the Holy Spirit. May we rise each morning with holy curiosity, asking, "What does God want to happen?"

*Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.*

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for Sunday, September 4, 2022

Luke 14:25-33

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

CALCULATE	ANYONE	FATHER
OPPOSE	DELEGATION	GREAT
KING	TOWER	CHILDREN
MOTHER	CROWDS	WIFE
LIFE	FOUNDATION	LAUGH
FINISH	BATTLE	DISCIPLE
CONSTRUCT	JESUS	CROSS

G E R D E L E G A T I O N V F  
 D R L E H E N O Y N A S J U I  
 I E E T H G N I K H K I C X N  
 S S F A T T C H I L D R E N I  
 C O P O T A A T Z N O R S N S  
 I P O O U L B F X S J E E B H  
 P P S K S N M K S R O H H O C  
 L O H D J E D D R V Z T R L R  
 E W M E L R N A S R W O D O O  
 Q K S I B I E L T A J M D E W  
 H U K C L W F W K I N U F E D  
 S Z W A Z G P E O Y O I S F S  
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# 40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

## Prayer Vigil

### Tuesday, September 27

### 6:00 p.m.

**Together We Will March Prayerfully and Peacefully from the Front Steps of Reitz Memorial High School to Planned Parenthood to Kick Off the 40 Days for Life Fall Campaign**

- Brief overview of 40 Days for Life
- Knights of Columbus to lead Prayer Walk to Planned Parenthood
- Silent prayer in front of Planned Parenthood
- Sign up to pray at <https://40daysforlife.com/evansville>
- Bus available for transport back to Reitz Memorial H.S.

*\* Note: Parking is available in the East lot off of the front circle at Reitz Memorial High School located at 1500 Lincoln Ave, Evansville, IN*

*Social distancing protocols of at least 6 ft. will be in place during the event and face coverings will be required. Please monitor your health before attending.*

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# Film based on Indiana woman's true story 'reclaims beauty of adoption'

BY NATALIE HOEFER  
Catholic News Service

Coles knew the 2018 YouTube documentary well — she was one of its subjects.

"It's three powerful stories wrapped into one," said Coles: the story of her decision against abortion; the story of the son she offered for adoption; and the story of the couple who adopted him.

Cameron told Coles he saw the documentary and "fell in love with it." He told the Kendrick brothers about the documentary and asked their thoughts on him making it into a movie.

"They said, 'Not only do we like it, we love it and we want to be part of it,'" Coles told The Criterion, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

EDINBURGH, Ind. (CNS) — Melissa Coles received a call in the late summer of 2019. She didn't listen long before she figured it was a prank call and hung up. When the person called back, she hung up again.

"On the third call, they had all the producers on the line — Kirk Cameron and the Kendrick brothers," she said, referring to Alex, Shannon and Stephen Kendrick, producers of Christian films such as "Fireproof," "War Room" and "Courageous." "They said they wanted to make (the documentary) 'I Lived on Parker Avenue' into a movie."

Three years after that call, their vision has become reality. The film, "Lifemark," will show in select theaters throughout the country Sept. 9-16. A novel of the same name will be available sometime in August.

Coles calls "Lifemark" "a meaningful, faith-based film that reclaims the beauty of adoption. You're going to laugh, you're going to cry, there's drama, there's four-wheel driving and skydiving — I'm an adrenaline junkie," she admitted.

But Coles, born and raised in Columbus, Indiana, was hesitant to say "yes" to the film at first — unlike her instant "yes" in 1993 when something told her to get up from an abortion table.

Coles was 18 when she experienced an unplanned pregnancy. As revealed in "I Lived on Parker Avenue," she and her boyfriend knew they did not have the means to raise a child. They decided to abort the baby.

Soon, Coles was on a table in an abortion facility in Indianapolis with a doctor seated in front of her. As he was selecting a tool to start the abortion, an extraordinary thing happened: She heard a voice.

"It said, 'Get up, get up. It's not too late,'" she recalled. "I said, 'I can't do this,' and I literally ran out the door."

Through a private adoption agency, she selected a couple from Louisiana, Susan and Jimmy Scotton, to raise her son, whom they named David.

The documentary records the emotions of Coles, David and the Scottons in 2013 as they all meet for the first time nearly 20 years after David's birth. It was the first time Coles held her son since the day he was born.

She doesn't deny the pain of giving a child for adoption.

"It's still hard," she said, even after being in touch with her son for 10 years. "I think, 'If I'd been better off when I had him, he'd still be with me today.'"

"Even though I knew I was doing the right thing for David — not me, but David — I'm always going to miss him. There's always going to be this void," she said.

But then she considers her son's life. He is now 29, a law school graduate and newlywed who works as an attorney in Louisiana.

Coles eventually had another child, Courtney. She loves her daughter with all her heart and loves being a mom.

Despite that joy, Coles said she was "angry with God, bitter. My whole life has been a struggle. Why did I have to give up my son? Why didn't



CNS photo/lifemarkmovie.com, via The Criterion  
**Rebecca Rogers Nelson and Kirk Cameron are shown in a scene from the movie "Lifemark."**

(God) give me what I needed to keep him?"

Then she met Shawn Coles, her husband now of 16 years.

"On date number one he called me out on where I stood with the Lord," said Coles, a nondenominational Christian. "I realized I wasn't living for God. I just needed something to wake me up — hence my husband. I didn't give my life to God until I met Shawn."

He helped her learn to trust God. Shawn also was the one who encouraged his wife to say "yes" to the "Lifemark" film.

"I had a whole list of reasons not to do it," she said. "I didn't want people to see me at my weakest. I didn't want to be used."

"Then my husband said, 'What if it helps just one person?' So, I agreed to do it."

Working with Cameron and the Kendricks was "just amazing," said Coles. "They allowed me to be involved, read the script and make changes and suggestions."

They even sought her input on the cast, sending her paperwork for the women who applied to play young Melissa and "current" Melissa — "I just don't like saying 'old Melissa,'" she joked.

Marissa Hampton and Dawn Long, respectively, were cast as her then and now.

Coles and her husband were invited to spend a week on set at the studio in Georgia so she could offer support while emotional "Melissa" scenes were filmed.

"When you approach the studio building, you feel the Holy Spirit hit heavy and hard," Coles recalled. "It's even more powerful when you go inside. When we were with them, we could see the Holy Spirit at work."

There were roadblocks to making the film as well, she said. The pandemic caused delays, and the producers struggled to find a company to distribute the film "because Kirk Cameron and the Kendricks don't support abortion," said Coles.

But those same pro-life values permeated the project, leading to the saving of one unborn baby before "Lifemark" was even released.

A pregnant woman on her way to an abortion center stopped to investigate a large crowd she saw gathered near the studio, said Coles.

"Raphael (Ruggero), the actor playing David, was giving a talk," she explained. "She was invited to be an extra in the movie. She decided not to go through with the abortion."

That story alone fulfilled Coles' conviction that if the movie helped "just one person," it would be worth the time and sacrifice.

Still, she hopes for more.

"I hope the film will help more people see the beauty of adoption and understand how important adoption is," said Coles, adding that she hopes it will help those facing an unplanned pregnancy or a forced abortion know "they have plenty of options."

She said she knows the documentary "saved at least 11 babies from abortion." "If the documentary did that, how much more will the film do?"

Coles also looks forward to the film "expanding the platform" for her pro-life efforts.

In addition to speaking nationally in support of adoption, Coles works with women in unplanned pregnancies, has finished one unpublished book and is writing another as well as a script while "dipping my feet in acting."

She also hopes to create a nonprofit organization to help fund education for students — both women and men — who choose life for their unexpected, unborn child.

"I still feel the void of losing David," she said. "But I think my heart is healing. When I see how I help others by letting God use me as his tool, it increases my healing."

Hoefler is a staff writer at The Criterion, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

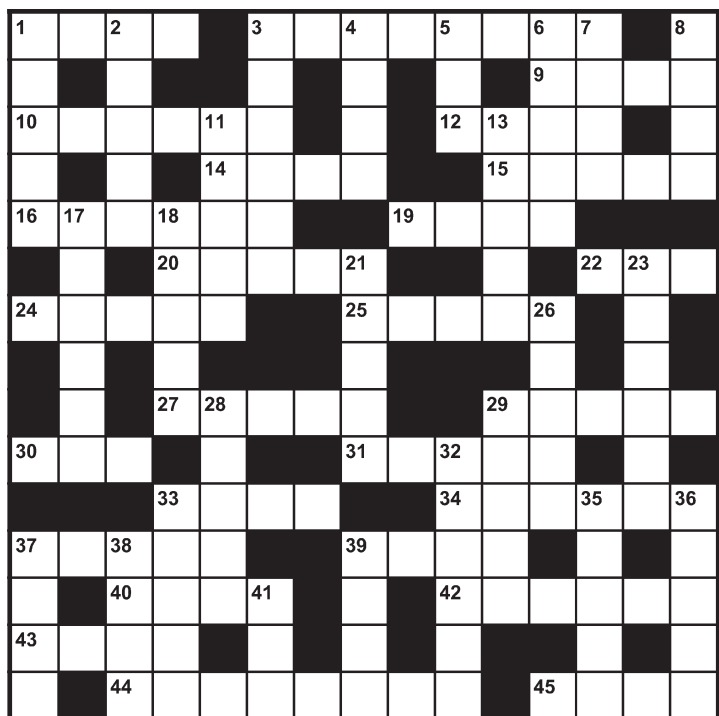
## CROSSWORD

### ACROSS

- 1 Convert who was the maternal grandmother of Prince William
- 3 The Eucharistic Prayer
- 9 "Turn Back, \_\_\_" ("Godspell" song)
- 10 "I will raise you up on \_\_\_ wings"
- 12 "For my \_\_\_ is easy, and my burden is light." (Mt 11:30)
- 14 Catholic actor/comedian Murray
- 15 Peter's \_\_\_
- 16 Miracle of the \_\_\_ and fishes
- 19 OT historical book
- 20 Notre Dame nickname, "The Fighting \_\_\_"
- 22 Mon. of St. Pat
- 24 What you do not use in unleavened bread
- 25 Worship
- 27 Day on which Jesus rose
- 29 Possible Easter month
- 30 There was no room here
- 31 Commandment word
- 33 Lectern
- 34 \_\_\_ on of hands

### DOWN

- 1 "Let us \_\_\_ before the Lord who made us" (Ps 95:6)
- 2 Most important teaching
- 3 Italian city of St. Clare
- 4 Son of Eve
- 5 Mattress for the Baby Jesus?
- 6 Catholic "Today Show" weather anchor
- 7 Last word
- 8 An end to repent?
- 11 Movie reviewer/film critic who was a former altar boy
- 13 Wealthy biblical land
- 17 The Diocese of Baker is here
- 18 Catholic custom of dropping into the Church for a few minutes to say a quick prayer
- 21 The priest's are anointed during ordination
- 23 Paul VI's "A Call to \_\_\_"
- 26 "... and the rich he has sent away \_\_\_" (Lk 1:53)
- 28 One of the two natures of Jesus
- 29 Mission to remember
- 32 The Diocese of Fairbanks is here
- 33 Administer extreme unction
- 35 This Netherlands princess' conversion to Catholicism caused something of a national issue
- 36 Archdiocese in northern Italy
- 37 Long cloak-like vestment
- 38 NT epistle
- 39 Angelus call
- 41 St. Frances Cabrini is buried here (abbr.)



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See answers on page 14.

# Without forgiveness, humility, pope says, then injustice, wars will rage

BY CAROL GLATZ  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The world will keep witnessing wars, violence and injustice as long as people fail to understand that true freedom comes from seeking God's will, love and mercy, Pope Francis said.

Only when one's heart is filled with mercy can life be lived with joy, and when life is lived by humbly serving others can there be peace, the pope said in a homily during Mass celebrated in the central Italian city of L'Aquila Aug. 28. The Vatican broadcast the visit live online.

Christians are asked to live like Christ, who came to serve,

not be served, the pope said, and in this way, they will also find true freedom.

As long as people fail to understand "that the revolution of the Gospel lies completely in this kind of freedom, we will continue to witness wars, violence and injustice, which are none other than an external sign of a lack of inner freedom," he said. It is this lack of inner freedom that leads to "selfishness, individualism, self-interest, abuse of power."

The pope arrived in the early morning by helicopter from Rome and visited the city's cathedral, which still has not been rebuilt after a deadly earthquake in 2009. He met with and

gave an address to the city's residents to provide encouragement and comfort. The quake killed 309 people as they slept, severely damaged thousands of buildings and left more than 65,000 people homeless.

The pope's visit was also to help celebrate "the Celestine Pardon," which is held Aug. 28-29 every year and was established by St. Celestine V in 1294.

The 13th-century pope, who abdicated just a few months after his election, issued a papal bull on the granting of a plenary indulgence to everyone who visits the Santa Maria di Collemaggio basilica, goes to confession, receives Communion and prays for the intentions of the

pope. The rituals and traditions of the celebration, recognized by UNESCO as part of the "Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity," underline the importance of forgiveness and peace.

Pope Francis opened the basilica's holy door as part of the annual penitential rite and was the first pope to do so since 1294. He also prayed before the relics of St. Celestine, whose tomb lies inside the basilica.

In his homily at the Mass, Pope Francis said St. Celestine's abdication was a sign of him saying "yes," not "no," as he was a humble servant who was seeking to choose to follow

God's will.

"In fact, there is no other way to carry out God's will than by taking on the strength of the humble," he said.

The humble may appear "weak" or as "failures," he said, but "in reality, they are the real winners, because they are the ones who completely trust in the Lord and know his will."

In a world that is dominated by pride, "the Word of God invites us to be humble and meek," Pope Francis said.

Being humble does not mean destroying or ignoring one's sense of self-worth, it is having a "healthy realism" that understands one's abilities and limitations, he said.

## Banquet

Continued from page 1

advocate and founder and CEO of And Then There Were None, a nonprofit organization that helps abortion workers leave the industry. The event also welcomed special guest speaker, former Vice President Mike Pence.

Bishop Joseph M. Siegel offered the invocation at the start of the evening. Bishop Siegel said it was with much joy and hope that the group gathered to celebrate the great progress that has been made in our nation and our state to promote and defend the rights of the preborn. The bishop thanked God for the Dobbs Supreme Court decision that again gave states like Indiana the ability to protect the preborn and support their mothers.

Bishop Siegel asked God to continue to guide and bless the efforts of all, including the Right to Life of Southwest Indiana, in defending the sanctity and dignity of human life, from the moment of conception until natural death.

During her keynote address, Johnson said she is often asked what changed her mind about leading a Planned Parenthood facility. She explained her change of heart and mind when she assisted in an ultrasound-assisted abortion and saw what happened. Johnson said she watched in horror as a 13-week-old baby fought for its life.

Johnson ultimately left her job at Planned Parenthood and began working in defense of the preborn. She wrote a book about her experience, titled "Unplanned," and she eventually converted to Catholicism.

Did the abortion she assisted with change her? Yes, Johnson answered. But, she said, so did prayer. No one is beyond conversion, she explained, because no one is beyond the power of Jesus Christ. Our society is incredibly lost, she said, and the only way back on track is through Jesus Christ.

Johnson, who lives in Texas



The Message photos by Megan Erbacher  
**Abby Johnson, shown in a close-up on the big screen, is the founder and CEO of And Then There Were None, a nonprofit organization that helps abortion workers leave the industry. Johnson left her job at Planned Parenthood and began working in defense of the preborn after she was asked to assist in an ultrasound-assisted abortion and saw what happened. She wrote a book about her experience, titled "Unplanned," and she eventually converted to Catholicism.**

with her husband and eight children, said while she is pleased the Dobbs Supreme Court decision overturned Roe v. Wade, she said the fight is not over for the preborn; it is just beginning. Johnson said we must fight harder, louder and never stop sharing Jesus Christ with the world.

Other featured speakers for the event included Mary Ellen Van Dyke, executive director of Southwest Indiana Right to Life; Mike Fichter, CEO and president of Indiana Right to Life; Dr. Christina Francis, who received the 2022 Life Achievement Award; and Lainey Browning, the 2022 oratory speech winner.

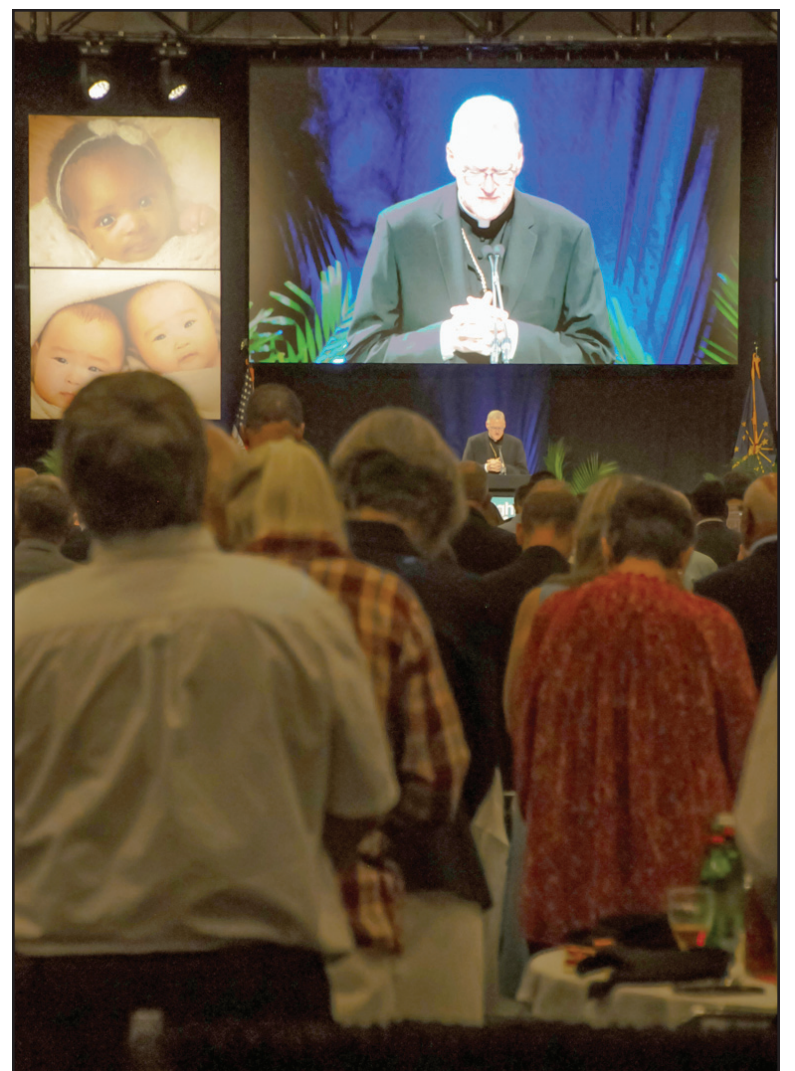
Van Dyke explained the annual banquet serves as the organization's primary fundraising event, which helps with its major programs and projects such as providing and maintaining four Safe Haven Baby Boxes at local Fire Departments, providing thousands of diapers to local pregnancy care centers, empowering students, and a recently unveiled Go Mobile Clinic which will provide free services to women such as ultrasounds and pregnancy testing for those who are

in underserved areas within Southwest Indiana.

"With the fall of Roe v. Wade, our organization is moving to expand its reach to help moms facing unplanned pregnancies through tangible means such as the Go Mobile Clinic, support of local pregnancy centers and programs that support those who have had abortions," Van Dyke said.



**A section of the 2,400 people who attended the annual Right to Life banquet to stand up for life. Former Vice President Mike Pence, shown on the big screens and at the podium, served as special guest speaker for the evening.**



**Bishop Joseph M. Siegel, shown on the big screen and at the podium, offers the invocation at the beginning of the 2022 Right to Life of Southwest Indiana banquet on Aug. 25 at the Old National Events Plaza. Bishop Siegel said it was with much joy and hope that the group gathered to celebrate the great progress that has been made in our nation and our state to promote and defend the rights of the preborn.**

# Indianapolis Catholic leading pope's global plan to care for the earth

BY JOHN SHAUGHNESSY  
Catholic News Service

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — John Mundell considers it “an incredible honor” that he was recently chosen as the director of the worldwide effort to put Pope Francis’ encyclical “Laudato Si’, on Care for Our Common Home” into action.

At the same time, the member of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Indianapolis feels a great responsibility to help people from around the globe understand the urgent need to care for the world that God has created — the central theme of the papal encyclical issued seven years ago.

“The world and the Catholic Church as a whole have not responded adequately to Pope Francis’ core message, which calls for an ‘ecological conversion’ to change our lifestyles and our economy,” Mundell said.

“During this same period, we have witnessed firsthand the increasing effects of climate change and biodiversity loss — more intense storm events and flooding, wildfires and record temperatures,” he continued.

“While there are positive signs of progress in some areas and increased engagement with the faithful, much more is needed if we are going to make any positive impact,” he said.

Mundell is hoping to help create that positive impact as the director of the Laudato Si’ Action Platform, which offers concrete plans for a “seven-year journey toward healing in our relationships with God, our neighbors and the earth itself.”

Mundell views that journey as essentially Catholic. It’s also a journey that has marked more than 50 years of his life.

He said his goals now “are to do as much as possible to put into action Pope Francis’ vision of how we should all be responding to our environmental crisis.

“The challenges we face are immense, but it doesn’t mean we should give up on our individual and collective abilities to make a positive impact,” he told The Criterion, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.

“Although we still need to continue to talk, think, pray and discuss during our seven-year LSAP journey, we can no longer be satisfied with mere words. Now is the time for our global Catholic community to respond with a sense of urgency,” he said.

Care for creation has become “an ever-growing concern for humanity and an integral part of Catholic social teaching”

over the last 50 years, Mundell said, pointing to the writings and speeches of St. Pope Paul VI to Pope Benedict XVI on the issue.

“Only in the last few years has it become politicized as some kind of ‘right or left’ issue,” he said. “Our faith calls us to respond differently. Care for our common home is a moral issue for all of us. I believe that we are truly more authentically Catholic when we realize and practice our universal calling to the common good and to caring for all of creation.”

He explained that the Laudato Si’ Action Platform is an online digital space — [laudatosiplatform.org](http://laudatosiplatform.org) — “developed by the Vatican in collaboration with hundreds of Catholic organizations to inspire and empower everyone to take decisive actions to support care for our world. It offers planning guides and resources, a planning process and a place for connecting with others taking action,” Mundell said.

Everyone is invited “to embark on a seven-year journey toward healing in our relationships with God, our neighbors and the earth itself,” he said, including individuals and families; parishes and dioceses; educational institutions; healthcare and healing facilities; businesses; and religious congregations and communities.

“The development of local Laudato Si’ plans that contain

concrete actions is the primary focus,” he added.

Mundell said he hopes individuals, families and parishes will sign up on the site and “put a simple Laudato Si’ Plan together to begin following.

“We have to start with ourselves and do a little daily ‘examination of conscience’ with how we are living our lives and our Catholic faith,” he said. “It’s sometimes easy to ignore those things our faith is calling us to live that are more difficult than others — simpler lives, less consumerism, less wastefulness.”

He recommended people start “with something easy and doable — perhaps focusing on only one thing each month that you could consider changing for the better. And if you fail? Just remember you can start over again the next day.”

Growing up, Mundell “always felt a strong connection with the land and the earth,” he said. “My family helped settle the state of Indiana and were farmers for several generations.”

He participated in his first Earth Day in 1970. That, along with his Purdue University education in civil engineering and geology, led to his becoming one of the first environmental consultants in Indiana. Mundell has spent the past 43 years investigating and cleaning up thousands of contaminated sites across Indiana, the United States and the world.

He worked with the U.S. Conference of Catholic

Bishops and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the late 1990s on several environmental justice projects.

Mundell has been working with the Vatican’s Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development and the Laudato Si’ Movement to develop the idea of the Laudato Si’ Action Platform.

Pope Francis designated Sept. 1 as World Day of Prayer for the Season of Creation, which extends to Oct. 4, the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. “Listen to the Voice of Creation” is the theme of the season.

“The Season of Creation gives us a chance to stop, listen and feel our interconnection to everyone and everything, and to experience a deep sense of responsibility toward our global community and our common home,” Mundell said. “This can only lead to positive action.”

He said that, in his message, Pope Francis “asks us to not only listen to the ‘sweet song’ in praise of our beloved Creator, but also to hear the ‘cries of anguish’ from our sister, Mother Earth, from the poor, from Native peoples and from our children, and respond with action and with deeds ‘so that we and future generations can continue to rejoice in creation’s sweet song of life and hope.’”

*Shaughnessy is assistant editor at The Criterion, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis.*

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## St. Mary Church Picnic

Ireland, Indiana

### September 11, 2022

#### Begins at 10:00 am EDT

Weekend Mass Times: Saturday 4:30 pm • Sunday 7:00 am / 9:00 am  
Father Luke Hassler and the St. Mary's Parishioners invite you to attend.

**Beautiful, Handmade Quilts!**  
Quilt Wheel begins at 10:30 am

<b>Food!</b>	<b>Outdoor</b> Chicken dinners starting at 10:00 am <i>Also Available:</i> Hamburgers • Ice Cream Chicken Noodle Soup by the Bowl Soft Drinks • Lemonade	<b>Drive-Thru</b> Chicken 10:00 am - 1:00 pm <i>Also Available:</i> Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup by the Gallon - \$20
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Chicken dinners include 1/4 fried chicken, slaw, dressing, green beans - \$14

**Raffles!**

**Grand Raffle: Top Prize \$3,000**  
(drawing at 3:30 pm)  
Plus additional cash prizes and other great prizes

**Other raffles include:** Fancy Quilt Raffle...Merkley Meat Certificates... Handcrafted Items...Arctic Cooler...Theme Baskets...TV Raffle...1/2 Pot

**Plus...Bingo | Pull Tabs | Flower Wheel | Ham Wheel**  
(Indiana Gaming License #002548) - must be 18 years of age or older for raffles & games of chance

**Plus...**  
Vintage Costume Jewelry • Kids' Games  
Vintage Christmas Ornaments  
Huge Country Store with Lots of Homemade Items!  
*(Hand Sanitizing Stations Will Be Available)*

*Shaded Grounds • Spacious Parking • Free Shuttle Service*

## Justice

Continued from page 9

us to examine our own social justice actions. The pilgrimage is scheduled for Sept. 11. Anyone interested can contact Brenda at 812-457-5529 or email [bmeyer@evdio.org](mailto:bmeyer@evdio.org).

All Saints Parish has a long history of involvement in works of justice and charity. The former St. Anthony School was used for a family shelter for homeless (Ozanam Family Shelter), as the early Echo Clinic, the UCC day shelter and this summer, as a cooling shelter. When he served as pastor of All Saints Parish, Father Jay Davidson, now administrator of the parish, and other ministers in the area were instrumental in creating a covenant to address social issues in the community. This was the beginning of CAJE and led to its first action in 2003.

In April 2020, All Saints Parish initiated a listening session to determine strengths and needs in order to plan for the future. A survey sought input from parishioners. Responders highlighted the parish’s commitment to justice and charity as one area that attracted them to the parish. This became the basis for a focus group to determine ways to strengthen and coordinate this work in the parish. Subsequent meetings of the Justice Focus Group led to discussion about a possible parish justice minister and filing of a grant application to the Welborn Foundation to fund this work and the coordinator position. While the Foundation typically funds projects and not positions, All Saints was awarded a TWO-year, \$70,000 grant in the summer of 2021 that included the hiring of a part-time Justice Minister. Welborn stressed the importance of work to develop leadership in addressing racial issues in the community. The Justice Minister’s role is “to advance and facilitate parish justice and charity ministries. The Justice Minister serves as a staff support person for the parish Justice Ministry committee and serves as a liaison between the parish, justice and charity volunteers, and other community justice organizations and partners.”

# Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

First Reading: Wisdom 9:13-18b; Response: Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17; Second Reading: Philemon 9:10, 12-17; Gospel: Luke 14:25-33

The author of the Book of Wisdom makes use of a convention that allows one to attribute one's writings to some heroic figure of the past. In this case, the unknown author of Wisdom, writing sometime between 100-50 B.C., attributes to King Solomon, 961-922 B.C., a long prayer. The king is praying for wisdom. Part of that prayer is our first reading of this Sunday. What does the author mean by wisdom? The Books of Proverbs and Sirach identify wisdom with the revelation, which is the Torah (the teaching, the law). This author identifies wisdom with the Spirit of the Lord, as we see in today's reading, "Who ever knew your counsel, unless you had given wisdom from on high, and sent your holy spirit from on high?" Wisdom and holy spirit are parallel nouns; synonyms.

The first line of our reading is as follows. "Who can know God's counsel? Or who can conceive what the Lord intends?" These questions find an echo in St. Paul's famous closing of his three-chapter deliberation about why Israel, as a whole people, did not accept Jesus as their Messiah. Since his discussion comes up with no satisfactory answer, he breaks out in praise of Divine Wisdom: "O the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God. How incomprehensible his judgments. How unsearchable his ways. For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" The author of our reading compares the uncertainty of human deliberations with the absolute surety of God's counsel. Human conclusions are timid. We are unsure of our plans. "The corruptible body burdens the soul" is not the best way to describe coordination of flesh and spirit in a human being. The author continues, "Since we can barely understand earthly things, how much more we need divine guidance for heavenly things." The solution: God sent his spirit from on high. "Thus were the paths of us earthlings made straight." This is not a revelation about the third Person of the Holy Trinity. That revelation accompanied the incarnation of Jesus Christ.

The Jerusalem Bible names Psalm 90 "The



## SUNDAY SCRIPTURE

FATHER DONALD DILGER

Human Condition." It is an appropriate response to the weakness of the human condition described in the first reading. The psalmist sounds pessimistic. The Lord turns people back into dust. Their lives can end during their sleep. Humans are like grass; fresh in the morning, fading by evening. (Day lilies would have been a better comparison!) Because of the frailty of human nature, the psalmist turns to God with a plea to help us recognize the brevity of our day. It is a plea for compassion. What should we do with the days allotted to us? He leaves that to the Lord, asking God to fill us with kindness and "Prosper the work of our hands."

Here is the situation of St. Paul's Letter to Philemon. While Paul was in prison for the faith, he shared imprisonment with a runaway slave of Philemon. The slave's name was Onesimus. Desertion of a slave meant economic loss to Philemon. Paul addresses his letter to Philemon; to Apphia (perhaps Mrs. Philemon); to another fellow Christian, Archippus; and to the church that meets in Philemon's house. A home large enough for Christian gatherings, and ownership of a slave, indicates wealth. Paul converted Onesimus in prison, becoming a father substitute to him. Onesimus is freed from prison. Paul is bound by Roman law to help return the slave to his owner. Penalties for fugitive slaves were severe — whipping, branding, death. Paul pleads with Philemon to receive Onesimus, now a Christian, as a brother. He (Paul) hints that he would appreciate if Philemon would send Onesimus back to him, "that he might serve me in your behalf." In the meantime, "If you think of me as your partner, welcome him as you would me."

In today's gospel reading, we meet some of the strangest, harshest sayings attributed to Jesus in the whole New Testament — though others come close. The context is Jesus' journey to Jerusalem, where he would face torture and death.

Appropriately, Luke places his toughest lessons within this tragic journey. As our gospel opens, Jesus is accompanied by crowds moving on toward his goal. He addresses them, "If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers, sisters, even his own life, he cannot be my disciple." One may ask, Isn't there too much hatred among families without what seems to be a divine demand for more? What are we to do with a saying that looks so contrary to the fourth commandment, which says, "Honor thy father and thy mother, etc.?" Jesus himself, in Luke 18:20, quotes with approval the fourth commandment. Is this another example of Luke's need for an editor? Matthew 10:37 has the same saying but in milder form. "He who loves father and mother more than me, is not worthy of me." The same is added of daughters and sons. Matthew's version is easier for us.

The gospels were not composed by eye-and-ear witnesses. They come at the end of decades of oral tradition, which is notoriously subject to changes. So we have two forms of this saying. We cannot be sure which form originates with Jesus. We also know that Luke and Matthew used a lost source for their gospels. When they have similar sayings of Jesus, they used the same source and adapted it to their theology or catechesis. The personalities of these two evangelists can be deduced from their writings. Thus, one would expect the harsher form of the saying in Matthew's gospel instead of vice versa. Not this time. Luke just had a bad day. It is true that one tool of catechesis in both Old and New Testament is exaggeration. This may be an instance of it in Luke's form of the saying.

In the ensuing two parables, Luke does not mitigate the harshness. When you build a house, you first have to know if you can afford to finish it, or your will be ridiculed for not completing it. A king marching into battle calculates whether he can defeat an enemy with twice the number of troops. If not, he must try for a truce. The two parables really don't come to the heart of the matter, so Luke adds another saying — this time about possessions. "Anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple." Tough love? Let's go with Matthew on this one.

## New cardinals feel honored, humbled, ready to promote renewal of church

BY CAROL GLATZ  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Becoming a member of the broad, unique body of the College of Cardinals is both a great honor and an invitation to help promote a renewal of the Catholic Church's mission of evangelization, some new cardinals said.

With 20 newly created cardinals representing 16 countries, and with the entire college of 226 members representing more than 90 countries, some also said they see their elevation as a way to help their home dioceses better comprehend the universality of the Catholic Church.

Several hours before the Aug. 27 ceremony for the creation of new cardinals at the Vatican, a handful of those named by Pope Francis spoke to Catholic News Service about how they see their new roles as a cardinal.

U.S. Cardinal Robert W. McElroy of San Diego said it gives him a chance to "build up unity within the universal church" and to point to the global nature of the church,

"that we are not simply parochial, local churches, but we are part of a communion" that is worldwide.

When asked why he thought Pope Francis wanted the bishop of San Diego to become a cardinal, he said, on the one hand, "we are a border diocese. Fundamentally, our identity is a diocese of immigrants and on the border between Latin America and the United States, and those are issues that are greatly dear to the pope."

On the other hand, he said, it may also be because the diocese has long been working to "plant some of the seeds of the pastoral renewal that Pope Francis has brought into the life of the church."

For example, Cardinal McElroy said, the diocese has already held synods on marriage and family life, and on young adults; now, it is carrying out a three-year process on synodality.

"There is a great emphasis on inclusion and on understanding the work of the church as a field hospital," that everyone "is wounded in various ways, everyone needs healing." This image does not

divide people into different groups, he said; instead, "it's a journey in which we help one another and help one another to heal with God's grace."

The cardinal said it would be wrong to believe a pastoral approach of inclusion and a position of doctrinal rigor were in opposition to each other.

"Inclusion is part of Catholic doctrine" and the Gospel, he said. "This emphasis on reaching out to people at the margins is not something that people just came up with after the Second Vatican Council. It is in the call of Christ, it's in the continuing work of the church and the message of the church."

English Cardinal Arthur Roche, prefect of the Dicastery for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, told CNS it was "unexpected" and "an enormous honor" to be named a cardinal.

Part of a cardinal's role is to help advise the pope, he said. Working in the Roman Curia the past 10 years has given him "a very special insight into the work of the church," which will be very important in offering the pope a broader

view, he said.

With his work at the dicastery, first as secretary, then as prefect, "I have met every episcopal conference in the world, and you begin to build up a picture of what is important, what is problematic,

where . . . there's a need for greater assistance on our part to the bishops," he said.

New cardinals who also work in the curia will "bring a different perspective, I think, which will be important," Cardinal Roche said.

### THIS WEEK'S ANSWERS

K	Y	D	D		A	N	A	P	H	O	R	A		A	
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# Tradition of lighting candles; Better to go to church or be kind?

*Editor's note: This column is being repeated by Catholic News Service. Father Doyle is now retired.*

**Question:** I have asked several people this, but no one seems to know: Why do Catholics light candles in church? When did this tradition start, and what was the reason? (Troy, New York)

**Answer:** The custom of lighting candles as a mark of respect and prayer actually predates Christianity. In Judaism, the Talmud prescribed that there be a perpetual lighted candle at the Ark of the Covenant where the writings of the sacred Scriptures were kept — as a sign of respect for the word of God.

(This may well have contributed to the current practice of Catholic churches in keeping a lighted sanctuary lamp near the tabernacle to mark the presence of the Eucharist and to call believers to special reverence and veneration.)

Today, many Catholic churches contain racks where vigil candles are lighted by parishioners in honor of particular saints or in memory of someone who is deceased.

The word "vigil" refers to keeping watch, and the



## QUESTION CORNER

FR. KENNETH DOYLE

symbolism is that the one who lights the candle desires to remain present to the Lord in prayer even while leaving to attend to other daily obligations. This Christian practice can be traced back as far as the 200s, when lighted candles were kept burning in the catacombs at the tombs of martyrs by Christians honoring them and praying for their intercession.

**Question:** Who is a better person? Someone who attends Mass every Sunday and receives Communion but is not nice to people (rude, insulting, doesn't help the poor)? Or someone who attends Mass sporadically but is a kind, considerate and helping individual? (Gahanna, Ohio)

**Answer:** Is it better to walk on your right leg or your left leg? That question, in my mind, matches your own (whether it's better to go to

church or to be kind). Obviously, we need both legs to walk correctly and well. And similarly, the church is committed to regular sharing in the Eucharist — not only because that was Christ's command to us, but because it is from the strength of the Eucharist that we are enabled to live our lives unselfishly.

Jesus, of course, did say: "I give you a new commandment: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another" (Jn 13:34). He even suggested in Matthew 25 that the final standard on which each of us will be judged is whether we have helped people when they needed it most.

But Jesus also, on the night before he died, gathered the apostles to share his body and blood at the first Eucharist and told them that they should "do this in memory of me." The church, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, has determined that for Catholics this means the obligation of celebrating Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.

In doing so, we are following the example of the early believers who "devoted themselves to the teaching of the apostles and to the communal life, to the breaking of the bread and to the prayers" (Acts 2:42). So church attendance or daily kindness is not an "either-or" proposition. We are not forced into making this false choice.

In fidelity to Jesus, we do both — and, in so doing, make steady progress in the Christian life.

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## Habitat

Continued from page 1

new home, which is just south of the St. Francis Xavier campus. A large crowd looked on. Beth said the turnout was one of the largest for a Habitat groundbreaking that she could recall.

In comments to **The Message** a few days before the groundbreaking, Beth explained that Habitat-Evansville expanded its service area to include Posey County in 2004. Since then, there have been 13 builds in Mount Vernon — a 14th is now underway — and one build in New Harmony. The Poseyville build is the first in northern Posey County.

Beth said, “The housing crisis we are experiencing in our country affects everyone. Whether you live in a metropolitan area or a smaller, rural town, if you don’t have a safe, decent and affordable place to lay your head at night, it affects so many other aspects of life — health, education, employment, financial stability and more. We are excited to walk alongside Mario and his family as they help build the home that they will buy from Habitat through a no-interest mortgage. At Habitat, we say we are a hand-up, not a hand-out; and hard-working families like Mario’s take pride in the fact that they commit 300 hours of sweat equity in helping to build their home, taking homeownership preparation classes, and working alongside volunteers who give of their time, talents and treasure. It is impactful work that changes lives, and Habitat is grateful for the commitment of our friends in Posey Country who are making this home possible.”

Father Ed, pastor of St. Francis Xavier Parish in Poseyville and St. Wendel Parish in St. Wendel, offered the opening prayer for the groundbreaking ceremony. He prayed, in part, “It’s a big task before us, but we know You

bring us to this work.” Father Ed encouraged the original group of local residents who met two years ago and identified housing as an urgent need.

Deacon Mark, who serves St. Francis Xavier Parish and St. Wendel Parish, told **The Message** recently about that meeting, when Poseyville Town Council member Baker said, “We need homes. There are jobs here but nowhere for families to sleep.”

During the groundbreaking, Deacon Mark told the crowd, “Everyone deserves a good, warm, comforting, loving place to live.” He also recognized fifth-generation Poseyville resident Matthew Nix, who helped him find the location of the new home. Matthew heads up the new nonprofit Grow Poseyville. He said, “We formed Grow Poseyville on three pillars — Main Street, housing and promotion of the town.”

Deacon Mark also recognized John Schmidt and Joe Wildeman, volunteers who have trained with Habitat-Evansville and will serve as the hands-on construction managers for Jessica’s and Mario’s home. He noted that, as of the groundbreaking, the Poseyville committee had raised \$224,000 to fund area Habitat builds. He added, “This first home is paid for, and the second home is paid for. We have a lot for it being surveyed right now. And we have enough to partially fund a third home.”

He also highlighted some of the major donors, which include the Knights of St. John, GAF-Mount Vernon, Toyota, the Posey County Community Foundation, and the Men’s and Women’s Clubs of St. Francis Xavier Parish and St. Wendel Parish.

Deacon Mark added that the groundbreaking ceremony served as the celebration of the end of the beginning. “We move on from here to much more.”



The Message photos by Tim Lilley  
Deacon Mark McDonald, left, Poseyville Town Council Member Bruce Baker, Father Ed Schnur and homeowners Jessica and Mario turn over the first shovels of earth during the Aug. 26 groundbreaking ceremony.



Photo credit  
Beth Folz, left, executive director of Habitat for Humanity of Evansville, and Benedictine Sister Jane Michele McClure, who serves as Habitat’s major gifts officer, speak during the groundbreaking ceremony. Beth called the turnout for the ceremony one of the largest in the history of Habitat-Evansville’s 500-plus builds.



Father Ed Schnur offers prayer to open the groundbreaking ceremony in Poseyville.



Matthew Nix of the nonprofit group Grow Poseyville speaks during the groundbreaking ceremony.

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