

The Catholic Moment



Sacrament of confirmation: not same old, Page 2.

Serving the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana



Volume 73, Number 47

January 7, 2018

Year in review / 2017



Mosaic of memories reflects life across diocese

By **Jesica E. Hollinger**
The Catholic Moment

There's no other way to say it — 2017 was a tough year. Natural disasters, senseless shootings, terrorist attacks, and unexpected deaths of cultural icons. This also was an especially sad year with the loss of

beloved priests and women religious of our diocese, who left this world to meet their eternal rest. But in the midst of all the darkness, emerged the light that was evidenced by the good works and deeds among the faithful servants of the Lafayette diocese. As we ring in the new year and

reflect on the past, may we strengthen our commitment to pray for our world and nation, as we continue our humble service to Jesus Christ, our Lord.

January

- Eighth-grade students at Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School celebrated the feast of the

Epiphany by chalking their doorway to invite Christ into their lives. The “chalking of the doors,” a centuries-old custom, is a house blessing performed on the feast of the Epiphany, which marks the visitation of the three Wise Men to the baby Jesus.

(Continued on Page 8)



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Cassock Classic

More than 500 parishioners, students and friends of the Lafayette diocese braved the bitter cold to support priests and seminarians at the third annual “Cassock Classic” basketball game, held Dec. 28 at St. Theodore Guerin High School in Noblesville. (Photo by Jesica E. Hollinger)

More photos, Page 4.

Sacrament of confirmation: not same old

Bishop Higi and I will be traveling to many parishes “doing confirmation” this year. First, I want to let you know to whom this column — and this sacrament — are aimed. Second, I will make three suggestions that may help parish and personal preparations to be coherent and effective.

Catechumens and candidates, both adults and young people, will often receive sacramental confirmation at the Easter Vigil. Another grouping will be mostly teens who will experience the sacrament on various dates through the year. The next overall audience that I address here is the parish membership as a whole. No sacramental liturgy is private — if there is a seat available, consider yourself invited. More about this in a minute.

Now for my suggestions. First, being confirmed is a statement that a person is ready to respond to God all the time, not only when the bishop or his delegate anoints foreheads. Believing in God’s action in us entails a commitment to moral living because of who we are. The third Mass preface for the Nativity (Christmas) summarizes nicely a core truth of Christ’s Incarnation: “When our frailty is assumed by your Word not only does human mortality receive unending honor, but by this wondrous union we,

too, are made eternal.” The seven gifts of the Holy Spirit promised by this sacrament enliven our faith so we can assist others to live their own goodness. No spiritual gift comes to life unless it is applied.



Bishop
Timothy L.
Doherty

Second, confirmation seems irrelevant if we imagine that it is something that we ourselves are doing or completing. Any sacrament is about God’s initiative, about God’s prior invitation and then our response. I have mentioned to our pastors that the whole parish should be invited to confirmation. (In a few parishes, the candidates, sponsors and families almost take every seat.) The confirmation Mass should be listed in the Sunday bulletin — its omission implies that we don’t think it is important. Worse, that our young people don’t deserve a turnout for this once-in-a-lifetime event. There is a lot of hand wringing these days about young people not staying with the Church. But have we stayed with them?

There are not enough Sundays in the year to schedule all confirmation Masses on that day of the week. But when they happen, “Mass on Sunday is Sunday Mass” whether you are involved in the confirmation or not.

Third, make a habit of getting your proper amount of sleep. I have a theory that one factor in diminishing religious practice, much less faith compre-

hension, is a lack of sleep. We read about sleep deprivation as it affects health, work and safety issues. There is a growing amount of data that shows that sleep is anything but time lost. Abby Smith Rumsey’s 2016 book “When We Are No More: How Digital Memory Is Shaping Our Future” speaks to this in a secular context. In sleep and dreams, “vast realms of reality normally inaccessible to us take center stage ... the mind sorts the rubbish of the day from the riches we grab and keep forever” (p. 112). Experts tell us that we can’t “bank” sleep and we can’t really “make up for it” on the weekends.

Various books of the Bible portray sleep and dreams as sacred spaces. Many people, including Abraham, Jacob, Daniel, St. Joseph and even the wife of Pontius Pilate, each experienced divine promptings while asleep. Psalm 127 is one of my favorites for telling us, “God gives to his beloved in sleep.”

Now you don’t have to accept my little riff on sleep as some official teaching of the Church. Maybe it has not been formalized because it just seems too obvious. I do not intend to review all of this when I speak at upcoming confirmations. I do hope that parishioners, parents, confirmands and catechists will talk about some of these concerns of mine. And if this column put you to sleep before you reached this ending, I hope you were visited by a refreshing dream.



January 7 The Epiphany of the Lord Cycle B Readings:

- 1) *Isaiah 60:1-6*
- 2) *Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6*
- 3) *Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12*

Monday, Jan. 8 The Baptism of the Lord

- 1) *Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7 or Isaiah 55:1-11 or Acts 10:34-38 or 1 John 5:1-9*
- 2) *Gospel: Mark 1:7-11*

Tuesday, Jan. 9

- 1) *1 Samuel 1:9-20*
- 2) *Gospel: Mark 1:21-28*

Wednesday, Jan. 10

- 1) *1 Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20*
- 2) *Gospel: Mark 1:29-39*

Thursday, Jan. 11

- 1) *1 Samuel 4:1-11*
- 2) *Gospel: Mark 1:40-45*

Friday, Jan. 12

- 1) *1 Samuel 8:4-7, 10-22a*
- 2) *Gospel: Mark 2:1-12*

Saturday, Jan. 13

- 1) *1 Samuel 9:1-4, 17-19; 10:1a*
- 2) *Gospel: Mark 2:13-17*

The Catholic Church in the United States will celebrate **National Migration Week 2018** on Jan. 7-13. The theme for this year’s celebration is “Many Journeys, One Family.” For nearly half a century, the Church in the United States has celebrated National Migration Week as an opportunity to reflect on the circumstances confronting migrants, including immigrants, refugees, children, and victims and survivors of human trafficking. This year’s theme draws attention to the fact that each family has a migration story, some recent and others in the distant past. Regardless of where one is and came from, all remain part of the human family and are called to live in solidarity with one another. For more information about National Migration Week, visit the U.S. bishops’ Web site at www.usccb.org.

The **Muncie tri-parish St. Vincent de Paul Society**

PEOPLE & PLACES



recently presented 67 local families in need with Christmas gifts, blankets, hats, gloves, holiday groceries including donated turkeys, and toiletries during its **annual Christmas Giveaway**. More than 68 volunteers, 67 parish families and teacher Kathy Crabtree’s class at Pope John Paul II Middle School were involved in the holiday project.

Franciscan Health facilities in Crawfordsville, Lafayette and Rensselaer have enacted **visitor restrictions**. Among the restrictions, visitors who have flu-like symptoms, such as fever, cough, chills or muscle aches, will not



A drive-through Living Nativity was presented recently at Our Lady of Grace Parish in Noblesville. About 50 participants from the parish’s youth ministry program (grades 6-12) and many parent volunteers presented the Nativity. (Photo provided)

be allowed. Patients with flu-like symptoms will be asked to wear a surgical or isolation mask. (Masks will be available at the various entrances to the health

facilities.) For more information, including the full list of restrictions, visit FranciscanHealth.org/diseases-and-conditions/flu.

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How to report an incident of sexual abuse of a minor

If you or someone you know has been a victim of child sexual abuse by a person working for the Roman Catholic Church in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana (such as a priest, deacon, sister, brother, lay officer, lay employee, lay volunteer, etc.) you are requested to report the incident in the following manner:

- 1) Make a report to Child Protective Services by calling 800-800-5556.
- 2) Call the Office of the Vicar General (800-942-2397) or the Office of Assistance Ministry (800-533-7018) for the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana.
- 3) Compose in writing a detailed description of the facts/incidents of the abuse and send it as soon as possible to: Mr. Max Layden, P.O. Box 909, Lafayette, IN 47902.
- 4) Thereafter, an investigation will be undertaken by or on behalf of the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana.

Cómo denunciar un incidente de abuso sexual contra un menor

Si usted o alguien que conoce ha sido víctima del abuso sexual infantil por parte de una persona que trabaje para la Iglesia Católica-Romana en la Diócesis de Lafayette en Indiana (tal como un sacerdote, diácono, religioso, funcionario laico, empleado, voluntario, etc.) se le pide que denuncie el incidente de la siguiente forma:

- 1) Realice una denuncia ante la organización de protección para menores llamando al 800-800-5556.
- 2) Llame a la Oficina del Vicario General (800-942-2397) o a la oficina del ministerio de asistencia (800-533-7018) de la Diócesis de Lafayette en Indiana.
- 3) Redacte una descripción detallada de los hechos e incidentes de dicho abuso y envíela tan pronto como sea posible a: Mr. Max Layden, P.O. Box 909, Lafayette, IN 47902.
- 4) Posteriormente, la Diócesis de Lafayette en Indiana o un representante de ésta, llevará a cabo una investigación.

Cassock Classic



More than 500 parishioners, students and friends of the Lafayette diocese gathered to cheer on priests and seminarians participating in the third annual "Cassock Classic," played at St. Theodore Guerin High School in Noblesville on Dec. 28. The family-friendly event also provided entertainment during game breaks, including a half-court shoot-off for students, a "balloon bust" with cash prizes, and a contentious game of musical chairs between the priests and seminarians. Though the priests rallied to narrow the seminarians' lead in the final quarter, they were eventually defeated 47-37.

Proceeds from admission and concession sales support the event's organizer, The Frassati Society of Young Adult Catholics, a fellowship and community service group for 18- to 35-year-olds based on the life and teachings of Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati. Father Coady Owens, associate pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Fishers, was the game's announcer; Louis Paiz, director of the Frassati Society, served as the event's emcee. Guerin Catholic Principal James McNeany, Vice Principal Tim Fletcher and Brad Sponhauer, theology teacher, were the referees. (Photos by Jesica E. Hollinger)



The priests' coach was Deacon Paul Lunsford, with team members including Father Derek Aaron, Father Michael Bower, Father Brian Dudzinski, Father Thomas Haan, Father Jeff Martin, Father Adam Mauman, Father Kyle Neterer, Father Alejandro Paternoster, Father Christopher Roberts, Father Clayton Thompson and Father Mark Walter. The seminarians' coach was Sean Aaron, with other team members including Michael Block, Jordan Boone, Jason Diebolt, Brian Farrell, James Shaw, Liam Thompson, Andrew Thornton and Elliot Zak.



Annual collection benefits Retirement Fund for Religious

The annual Retirement Fund for Religious collection will be held the weekend of Jan. 13-14 in parishes across the Lafayette diocese.

Now in its 30th year, the collection is coordinated by the National Religious Retirement Office (NRRO) and benefits 32,000 elderly Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests whose religious communities lack adequate retirement funding.

The Lafayette diocese contributed \$156,509 to the last collection.

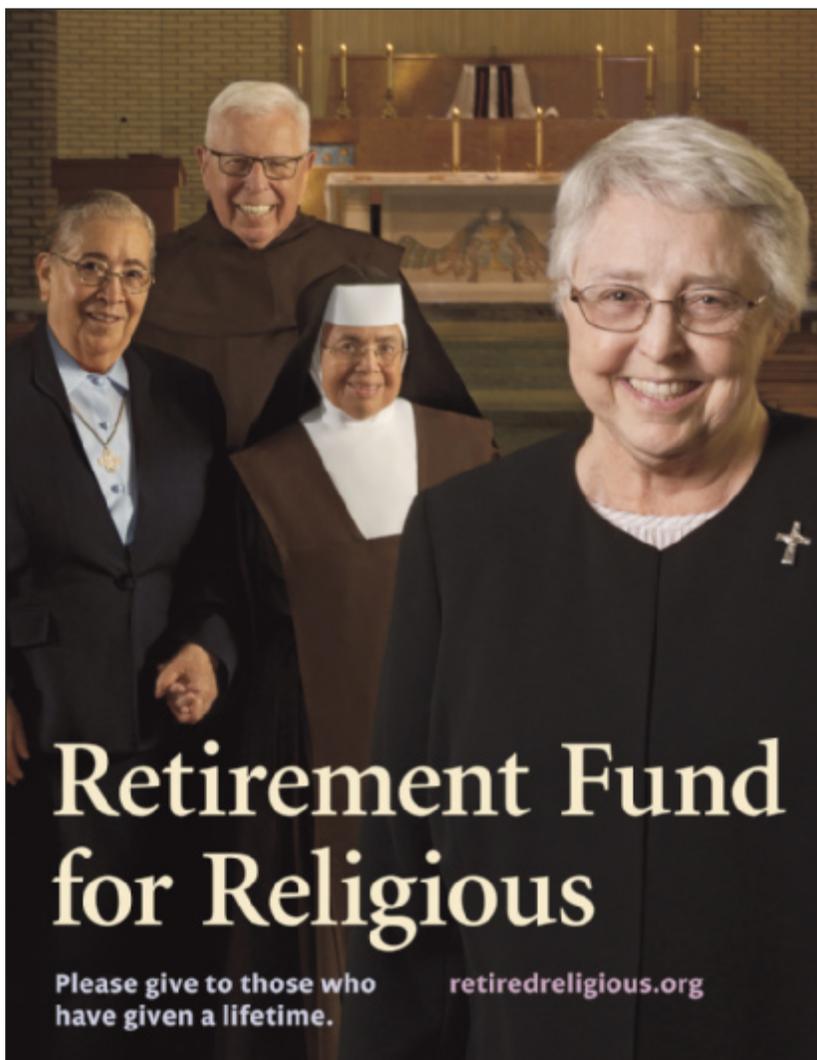
Women and men religious who serve or have served in the diocese, but whose communities are based elsewhere, may benefit from the Retirement Fund for Religious.

The last collection raised almost \$30.7 million nationwide. Roughly 94 cents of every dollar aids senior religious.

In June 2017, the NRRO distributed \$25 million to 390 religious communities across the country.

Communities utilize these funds to bolster retirement savings and subsidize expenses, such as prescription medications and nursing care.

Throughout the year, additional funding is allocated to assist religious communities with the greatest needs and to promote ongoing education in retirement planning and eldercare



delivery.

"We are humbled and profoundly grateful for the love and support of Catholics across the nation," said Sister Stephanie Still, a member of the Sisters of the Presentation of San Francisco and NRRO executive director.

Despite this generosity, many religious communities still struggle to provide for aging members.

Only 41 of the 539 communities submitting data to the NRRO in 2016 were adequately funded for retirement.

Religious communities are financially autonomous and thus responsible for the care and support of all members. Income, earnings and expenses are managed separately from the parish and diocesan structures of the Catholic Church.

Traditionally, Catholic sisters, brothers and religious order priests — known collectively as religious — served for small stipends that did not include retirement benefits. There were no 401(k) plans or pensions.

Today, hundreds of religious communities lack sufficient retirement savings. Compounding the funding shortage are the rising cost of care and the decrease in income that has resulted from the declining number of religious able to serve in compensated ministry.

Since 2009, the total cost of care for religious past age 70 has exceeded \$1 billion annually and, according to NRRO data, there are more than twice as many religious past age 70 as under.

By 2027, it is projected that religious past age 70 will outnumber those under age 70 by more than three to one.

In addition to providing assistance for day-to-day needs, proceeds from the annual collection underwrite initiatives to help religious communities address the factors underlying their retirement shortfalls.

These efforts have facilitated solutions such as collaborative care facilities,

strategic partnerships with health-care providers and numerous cost-saving measures.

"I visit many religious communities and see the good works that members young and old provide," Sister Still said. "Generosity to the annual collection ensures our office can furnish support to help these communities care for older members while continuing their ministries and witness."

The U.S. bishops initiated the Retirement Fund for Religious in 1988 to address the significant lack of retirement funding among religious communities in the United States. Since the collection began, Catholics have contributed more than \$816 million.

Since 1989, more than \$775 million has been distributed to support the day-to-day care of elderly sisters, brothers and religious order priests. An additional \$91 million has been allocated toward self-help projects initiated by religious communities, including collaborative health-care facilities.

More information is available at www.retiredreligious.org.

Information provided by the National Religious Retirement Office. The NRRO is sponsored by the Conference of Major Superiors of Men, the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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11:00 AM - 1:30 PM

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COMING EVENTS

JANUARY 2018

- 10 — Principals meeting, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo
 18-25 — Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
 19 — March for Life, Washington, D.C.
 20 — Ecclesial Lay Ministry (ELM) pastoral skills workshop "Leadership III: Conflict Resolution and Consensus Building," 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Ann, Lafayette
 22 — Indiana March for Life, Indianapolis
 28 - Feb. 3 — National Catholic Schools Week

FEBRUARY 2018

- 2 — World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life
 3 — "Encounter," a Catholic middle-school event organized by the diocesan Office of Catechesis, noon to 9 p.m., St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Carmel
 — Pre-Cana marriage preparation conference, 10 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., St. Thomas Aquinas, West Lafayette (registration required; limit: 20 couples)
 5 — ELM pastoral skills workshop "Ministry III: Assessment and Intervention Skills," Part 1, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., St. Patrick, Kokomo
 6 — ELM spiritual formation workshop "Theological Reflection," 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Carmel
 8-9 — Principals Prayer Retreat, The Seasons Lodge, Nashville, Ind.
 10 — ELM pastoral skills workshop "Communications III: Diversity," 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Our Lady of Grace, Noblesville
 11 — World Marriage Day
 12 — ELM pastoral skills workshop "Ministry III: Assessment and Intervention Skills," Part 2, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., St. Patrick, Kokomo
 14 — Ash Wednesday
 17 — Pre-Cana marriage preparation conference, 8:45 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., St. Alphonsus Liguori, Zionsville (registration required; limit: 20 couples)
 18 — Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion for Carmel and Fowler deaneries, 2:30 p.m., Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Lafayette
 24 — ELM pastoral skills workshop "Leadership IV: Team Building, Problem Solving, Planning Changes," 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., St. Ann, Lafayette
 25 — Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion for Lafayette, Logansport and Muncie deaneries, 2:30 p.m., Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Lafayette

MARCH 2018

- 3 — Pre-Cana marriage preparation conference, 8:45 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Lafayette (registration required; limit: 20 couples)
 5 — ELM pastoral skills workshop "Ministry IV: Supervision Skills for Ministry," Part 1, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., St. Patrick, Kokomo
 6 — ELM spiritual formation workshop "Social Justice," 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Carmel
 10 — ELM pastoral skills workshop "Communication IV: Group Dynamics and Facilitation Skills," 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., Our Lady of Grace, Noblesville
 — Pre-Cana marriage preparation conference, 7:45 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., St. Joan of Arc, Kokomo (registration required; limit: 20 couples)
 12 — ELM pastoral skills workshop "Ministry IV: Supervision Skills for Ministry," Part 2, 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., St. Patrick, Kokomo
 25 — Palm Sunday
 27 — Chrism Mass, 7 p.m., Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Lafayette
 30 — Good Friday, Bishop's Office/Catholic Pastoral Center closed

APRIL 2018

- 1 — Easter
 2 — Easter Monday, Bishop's Office/Catholic Pastoral Center closed
 3-5 — National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) annual convention and expo, Cincinnati
 7 — Spanish Pre-Cana marriage preparation conference, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Carmel (registration required; limit: 25 couples)
 8 — Divine Mercy Sunday

FROM BISHOP DOHERTY'S JANUARY SCHEDULE

Monday, Jan. 1 — Mass, noon, St. Ann, Lafayette
 — 3 p.m., meeting/video conference, *Our Sunday Visitor*, Chancery

Saturday, Jan. 6 — Mass/Epiphany, 4:30 p.m., Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Lafayette

Wednesday, Jan. 10 — 1 p.m., meeting with Carmel Women's Group about "Love and Mercy," Carmel

— 3:15 p.m., meeting, Ascension-St. Vincent Health, Indianapolis

Thursday, Jan. 11 — Leadership Development Workshop, 8:30 a.m., Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception, Lafayette

Sunday, Jan. 14 — Mass, 8 a.m., St. John the Baptist, Earl Park

— Mass, 8:30 a.m. CST, St. Joseph, Kentland

Monday, Jan. 15 — Carmel Deanery priests' meeting, noon, St. John the Baptist, Tipton

Tuesday, Jan. 16 — Christian Unity Service, 7 p.m., Evangelical Covenant Church, Lafayette

Thursday, Jan. 18 — Leadership Development Workshop, 10 a.m., Lafayette

— Bishop's Christmas Season Staff Dinner, 6 p.m., Lafayette

Thursday, Jan. 25 — Serra Club Annual Reception, 5:30 p.m., Bishops Residence

Saturday, Jan. 27 — St. Theodore Guerin High School annual fund-raiser event, 6 p.m., Noblesville

Sunday, Jan. 28 — Confirmation class, sacraments, 2:45 p.m., Holy Spirit, Fishers

Wednesday, Jan. 31 — Mass for Catholic Schools Week, 9 a.m., Central Catholic Junior-Senior High School, Lafayette



REST IN PEACE



Please pray for the repose of the souls of our departed brothers and sisters in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana.

Donald I. Lemen, 80, died Dec. 3. He was a member of Blessed Sacrament in West Lafayette.

John Riggle Jr., 73, died Dec. 21. He was a member of St. Charles Borromeo in Peru.

Names of the deceased are provided at the request of parishes in the diocese desiring to provide this information.

Margaret "Peggy" Gray, 62, died Dec. 28. A member of St. Boniface in Lafayette, she was the wife of Deacon D. Michael Gray.

HAPPENING ... IN THE DIOCESE OF LAFAYETTE-IN-INDIANA

Contributions to "Happening ... in the Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana" are most welcome. Send items in writing to: P.O. Box 1603, Lafayette, IN 47902 or e-mail: moment@dol-in.org. Please send information at least two weeks before the event to ensure timely notice. The listing is free.

Eucharistic adoration

DEMOTTE — All are invited to join in Eucharistic adoration from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 5, at St. Cecilia Church, 334 15th St. SW. Refreshments and the opportunity for conversation will follow. The evening is sponsored by St. Cecilia's Young Adults.

Legion of Mary

LAFAYETTE — All are invited to join the Legion of Mary for the celebration of Mass at 9 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the chapel at Franciscan Health Lafayette Central. The Mass will be followed by Legion of Mary prayers and recitation of the rosary. All are invited to also join in a holy hour for America at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month in the chapel.

Family bingo

ZIONSVILLE — St. Alphonse Liguori Parish will host an evening of family bingo on Saturday, Jan. 13. Food

KIDS' PAGE ANSWERS

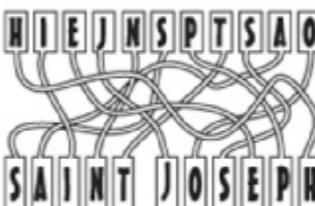
First: JOHN NEUMANN

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Patron Saint:

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Three in One:

T	H	I	S	I	S		
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JAR 5 IS DIFFERENT.

Kids' Page on Page 16

will be available starting at 6:30 p.m.; bingo will begin at 7 p.m. Proceeds from the event will benefit St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Croix Fer, Haiti. All are welcome to attend.

Christian unity prayer service/Lafayette

LAFAYETTE — The Week of

Prayer for Christian Unity is celebrated worldwide every year from Jan. 18-25. The fifth annual prayer service for Christian unity will gather area faith leaders to celebrate our common witness to Jesus Christ. All are encouraged to attend this year's service at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 16, at Evangelical Covenant Church, 3600 S. Ninth St., Lafayette. Refreshments will be served after the service. For more information, e-mail Deacon Jim Rush at deacon.rush@dol-in.org or call 765-586-3922.

Christian unity prayer services/Muncie

MUNCIE — Area Christian congregations will come together for an ecumenical celebration in observance of the annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Services will be held at two locations: 12:05 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 18, at the Church of the Living God, 1120 E. Washington St., with Pastor Dr. Kevin Woodgett hosting, and 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 24, at St. Mary Church, 2300 W. Jackson St., with Father Andrew Dudzinski, pastor, hosting. The People of Praise Ecumenical Christian Community is sponsoring the events. For more information, e-mail Jim Schenkel at jims.popmuncie@gmail.com or call 765-289-8645. All

are welcome to attend.

Trivia Night

MARION — St. Paul School will host a Trivia Night on Saturday evening, Jan. 27, in McCarthy Hall, located behind the school on Kem Road. Doors will open at 6 p.m., with trivia starting at 7 p.m. Teams of up to eight members will compete to see who can answer the most questions correctly in a variety of categories. Cost is \$10 per person. Bring yourself or a team of up to eight, snacks for yourself or your table, and your beverages of choice. Participants are encouraged to book early; only 16 tables will be available. Reservations are requested by Tuesday, Jan. 23, by calling 765-662-2883, ext. 110, or e-mailing kscher@stpaulcatholicmarion.com.

Chili supper

CICERO — Knights of Columbus Council 14476 will hold a chili supper at 5:30 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 27, at Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish. Proceeds from the supper will help support a local seminarian in the diocese. The fund-raiser is part of RSVP — Refund Support Vocations Program — that allows councils and assemblies to "adopt" one or more seminarians or postulants and provide them with

financial assistance and more support. The Jan. 27 chili supper is open to the community. Free-will offerings will be accepted. All are invited to attend.

Spaghetti dinner

LAFAYETTE — The Lafayette Fourth-Degree Knights of Columbus will host their fifth annual spaghetti dinner from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 28, at St. Ann Parish. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Knights' annual college scholarship(s) for high-school seniors of the Catholic faith. Over the past four years, the event has helped provide more than \$8,000 to assist local students in continuing their education. Tickets will be sold after weekend Masses on Jan. 13-14, 20-21 and 27-28; cost in advance is \$8 for adults, \$6 for children and \$20 for families. Tickets sold at the door will be \$10 for adults, \$7 for children and \$25 for families. Meals will include spaghetti, salad, bread and beverages. Raffle tickets also will be available for a 55-inch LG UHD 4K Smart TV; raffle tickets are \$5 each. For more information, call Glenn Blahnik at 765-479-4383. All are welcome to attend.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Carmel, invites all to experience Alpha

By Peter Doane

CARMEL — "The Joy of the Gospel" fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus, Pope Francis says. The title of his apostolic exhortation reveals how contagious a joyful encounter with Jesus can be.

Joy is at the heart of the experience of Alpha: in welcoming others, eating together, friendship, simple prayer, the warmth and humor of the talks, and in people sharing their own stories.

Whether you are a cradle Catholic, a new Catholic or a Catholic desiring to rediscover the faith, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish invites you to take part in 10 Thursday evenings that can change your life.

Alpha will take place from

6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. beginning Thursday, Jan. 11, and continue weekly for 10 weeks.

Each evening will begin with a meal served at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall.

Alpha is a tool for evangelization at the service of the local parish. It is not a movement; no one joins Alpha. Alpha helps develop parishes into "communities of missionary disciples," initiating a renewal for the Christian community that desires to be transformed by evangelization.

Nothing is more robust, profound, secure, meaningful and wisdom-filled than that initial proclamation of the Gospel, called the *kerygma*. All Christian formation consists of entering more deeply into the *kerygma*, which is reflected in and continually illumines the

work of catechesis, thereby enabling us to understand more fully the significance of every subject which the latter treats.

As its name suggests, Alpha introduces people to the initial proclamation of the Christian faith. It speaks to the whole person — mind, heart, will and conscience — and invites them to respond to this proclamation through a decision to follow Jesus.

One encounters, re-encounters or deepens his or her encounter with Jesus Christ through Alpha. When we adopt a pastoral goal and a missionary style which would reach everyone without exception or exclusion, the message must concentrate on the essentials, on what is most beautiful, most grand, most appealing and at the same time most neces-

sary.

Everything in Alpha is done with sensitivity and simplicity. In concentrating on the person of Jesus Christ and his death and resurrection, Alpha is both "forceful and convincing."

It is designed to reach the present generation beginning where they are and does not seek to propose answers to questions that are not being asked. A non-judgmental and non-threatening approach is at the heart of the Alpha methodology.

Alpha is based on welcome and hospitality. The 10-week process is essentially dialogic. Guests are welcomed to a meal. They listen to a short talk on the Christian faith, and then they talk, and the Church listens.

A central aspect of the process of Alpha is the expe-

rience of the Holy Spirit. Guests are transformed by the experience of God's love being poured into their hearts and by experiencing the power of the Holy Spirit. Team members are strengthened in their faith by ministering in the power of the Holy Spirit, and a local Church is slowly transformed by this experience.

Alpha is used throughout the world by Christians of many different backgrounds. It is one of the most common "expressions of proclamation, service and witness" to be found among believers.

Please sign up at the Sign-Up Genius: bit.ly/SetonAlphaCat2018 or e-mail Peter Doane at peter.doane@seas-carmel.org.

Doane is director of evangelization at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.

Year in review / 2017



A month-by-month look at some of the stories

(Continued from Page 1)

- Sacred Heart School in Fowler celebrated 125 years of Catholic education in Benton County. The school opened its doors in 1891 with 65 enrolled students. Staffed by the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, the founding principal was Sister M. Ignatia, OSF; founding pastor was Father Anthony Henneberger.

- The March for Life in Washington, D.C., drew record attendance, marking the anniversary of the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision which legalized abortion. Newly inaugurated Vice President Mike Pence spoke at the rally preceding the march, which brought national media coverage.

February

- The Board of Trustees of Saint Joseph's College announced that after months of exploring options to overcome significant financial challenges, all activities located on its Rensselaer campus were to be suspended. The announcement was

declared effective following graduation in May and to continue through the 2017-18 academic year.

- Bishop Timothy L. Doherty issued a message regarding President Donald Trump's immigration order, requesting Catholic leaders and communities maintain an openness and a support for refugees and to uphold the safety of all who live in the United States.

March

- The Indiana Holy Family Catholic Conference at Kokomo High School drew 505 people from 149 families, 25 parishes, six dioceses and three states. Organized by St. Joan of Arc and St. Patrick parishes, the event was made possible with the help of more than 200 volunteers.

- St. Theodore Guerin High School, Noblesville, launched its new Wings Academy designed to meet individual needs of students with cognitive disabilities who are not pursuing a high school diploma. The Wings Academy looks to the needs of students as they graduate

and go out on their own, with weekly peer tutoring from National Honor Society students and an emphasis on providing life skills to help students be successful.

- Father Edward F. Dhondt, 74, a priest of the Lafayette diocese for more than 45 years, died on March 14. Among his years of ministry, he served as pastor of St. Ambrose Parish, Anderson, from 1984 to 2008.

April

- St. Elizabeth School of Nursing in Lafayette announced an educational partnership agreement with the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne that allows for the continuation of St. Elizabeth's cooperative nursing program that currently serves 164 students.

- Father William R. Vath, 73, a priest of the Lafayette diocese for more than 40 years, died on April 6. Among his years of ministry, he served on the diocesan Ecclesiastical Tribunal for more than 30 years.

- Kristy Worthington, a third-grade teacher at St.

Louis de Montfort School, Fishers, was named winner of the 2017 "Lead. Learn. Proclaim. Award" for dedication and commitment to excellence from the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA).

May

- Peg Dispenzieri was named superintendent of schools for the Lafayette diocese, bringing more than 30 years of experience to the position, as both an educator and administrator. Dispenzieri served as assistant principal and director of academics at St. Theodore Guerin High School, Noblesville, and was pivotal in helping the school earn national recognitions for its academics and International Baccalaureate program.

- The O'Connor House in Carmel announced plans to launch a new education and mentoring program for single, pregnant, homeless women. For more than 12 years, The O'Connor House has provided housing, clothing, transportation, life skills classes, counseling and other

resources to help single, pregnant, homeless women and their children.

- Seminarians Christian DeCarlo and James De Ore were ordained as transitional deacons at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception. Transitional deacons are seminarians ordained to the diaconate in the final year of their preparation for priesthood.

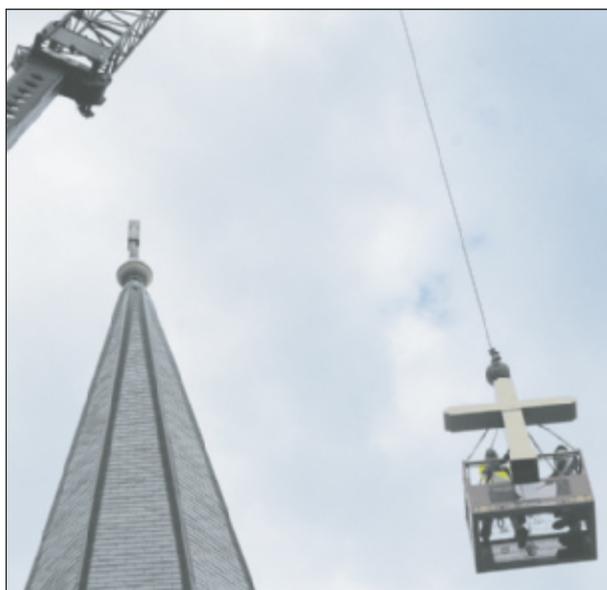
June

- Deacons Michael Bower, Cole Daily, John Nguyen and Coady Owens were ordained to the priesthood by Bishop Timothy L. Doherty. The four new priests were assigned to parishes in Carmel, Fishers, Lafayette and Noblesville.

- Misty Menis-Kyler, a 25-year-old parishioner of St. Joseph, Rochester, shared the story of her two-year commitment to work with the Franciscan Mission Service at the Valle de los Angeles Orphanage in Guatemala City. The orphanage assists more than 200 children who would otherwise go without food, clothing and support.



Year in review / 2017



and highlights of life across the diocese in 2017

July

- More than 40 eager volunteers assisted in a cleanup at St. Joseph Cemetery, Lafayette, which helped restore the historic burial grounds. The cemetery has served as home for more than 2,600 interments, for nearly 160 years.

- A scholarship fund was created in honor of Jody Williams, principal at St. Lawrence School in Lafayette, for her 25 years of service to Lafayette Catholic schools. Jacob Bohan, an incoming sixth-grade student, was the first recipient.

August

- A new steeple cross was installed at All Saints Church in Logansport, replacing the previous cross that was worn and damaged by weather and the elements. Father Dominic Petan, pastor, blessed the new cross before its installation. It is the third or perhaps fourth new cross to be installed on the steeple of what was formerly known as St. Joseph Church, completed in 1886.

- Father John Zahn, 74, a

priest of the Lafayette diocese for 45 years, died Aug. 27. Among his years of ministry, he served at parishes in communities including Kokomo, Anderson, West Lafayette, Union City, Winchester, Rochester, Kewanna, Logansport, Lucerne, Noblesville and Fishers.

- The priests edged out the seminarians at the annual Men in Black softball game, held at the Kokomo Municipal Stadium. Proceeds from the event benefited the seminarian fund and the Monastery of the Poor Clares.

September

- St. Henry Parish in Medaryville celebrated its final Mass on Sept. 24. The parish closed after serving the community for more than 145 years. In recent years, the number of registered families had dwindled to 12, with just 15 individuals.

- The St. Joseph Retreat & Conference Center in Tipton opened for retreats. The longtime motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Tipton

was purchased by the Lafayette diocese in April 2016 to serve as its new retreat and conference center.

- Father Herbert R. "Bert" Woolson, 69, pastor of St. Anne Parish in Monterey and St. Ann Parish in Kewanna, died Sept. 29. Among his years of ministry in the diocese, he also had served at St. Louis de Montfort Parish in Fishers and St. Joseph Parish in Rochester.

October

- More than 200 Catholics and Protestants gathered to listen to Bishop Timothy L. Doherty and the Rev. John Armstrong speak on "The Reformation: Common Ground" at Duncan Hall in Lafayette, an event marking the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation.

- Purdue University President Mitch Daniels led a public discussion on "Food Security: Feeding the World in 2050" with Sean Callahan, president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services (CRS), and Chris Policinski,

president and CEO of Land O'Lakes Inc.

- Sister Mary of the Angels O'Connor, PCC, 87, died at the Monastery of the Poor Clares in Kokomo after suffering a long illness. She had served the community as novice mistress, vicar and abbess.

November

- Nearly 400 Hispanic parishioners of the Lafayette diocese gathered for two V Encuentro evangelization retreats — one for Hispanic youth and one for Hispanic adults — at the St. Joseph Retreat & Conference Center in Tipton. V Encuentro is an initiative launched by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to help the Church in the United States better respond to the ever-growing Hispanic presence, and also to help Hispanic Catholics strengthen their Christian identity.

- The 2017 National Catholic Youth Conference brought 22,000 high-school youth and their chaperones from across the country to Indianapolis, including hun-

dreds of high-school youth and chaperones from the Lafayette diocese.

December

- Jennifer Eileen Joan Sergio, a parishioner of St. Maria Goretti Church in Westfield, joined only 235 other consecrated virgins across the country, as she promised her perpetual virginity to God in her consecration to Christ at the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Immaculate Conception.

- Parishioners of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Peru celebrated the 150th anniversary of their church building with a Mass and reception just one year after a rededication honored extensive renovations of the facility.

- A new bell tower was blessed by Bishop Emeritus William L. Higi at St. Maria Goretti Church and School with more than 200 parishioners, students and friends in attendance. The new tower houses five bronze bells, cast at the Marinelli Pontifical Bell Foundry in Agnone, Italy.



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Our Lady of Grace Parish in Noblesville began its celebration of the Dec. 12 feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe during *Las Mañanitas* at 6 a.m. with songs, flower offerings and a Guadalupano rosary, followed by a breakfast with Mexican bread, coffee and hot chocolate. In the evening,



the rosary was prayed in the church before celebration of a bilingual Mass which included a presentation about Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Juan Diego (above). A reception also was held following the Mass. (Photos provided)