THE CHURCH TELLS THE STORY
OF OUR CATHOLIC FAITH

Baptismal catechesis in marble inlay at St. Augustine Parish
HOPE AND HEALING IN THE NEW YEAR

As we begin a new year, each of us is given an opportunity to reflect on the past year and plan for the next. While many events, from NFL playoffs to the normal rhythm of family life, occur in January, the first significant activities on our diocesan calendar are Catholic Schools Week and the Lourdes Novena for Healing held at our cathedral. These events are especially meaningful for me and provide much needed hope for our Church and world.

Catholic education has always been important to me. My parents made many sacrifices to send all seven of their children to Catholic schools. I was blessed to continue my Catholic education through university and even graduate school. As a young priest, I taught in a parish school and was blessed to spend the next 19 years as a teacher, chaplain and president of Marin Catholic. Now I have the privilege to work closely with Katie Rieckers, director of Catholic schools for our diocese. And in November, I began my three-year term as chairman of the U.S. Bishops’ Committee on Catholic Education. At a time of growing secularism and religious indifference, our Catholic schools help provide hope as we see our young people growing in grace and wisdom. God willing, these young men and women are learning and preparing to be leaders and contributors to our Church, nation and world.

The Lourdes Novena for Healing at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes is now in its 11th year. The novena has been a blessing to the cathedral community and beyond; many have shared with me and Father Connall, rector of the cathedral, how they have found healing of physical, emotional and spiritual wounds through this novena. Our diocese is unique; it is the only one in North America dedicated to Our Lady of Lourdes, and in a time when we have seen so much division in our culture, in our politics and, sadly, even in our families, we need a message of healing. As the pandemic continues to affect many, especially the medically vulnerable, we need that message of healing.

In a very clear way, these two events signify so much of what Christ brings to us in his message: hope and healing. The Church seeks to share the hope and healing of Christ in each new age. It is providential, I believe, that our year begins with Catholic Schools Week, celebrating our schools and school communities, and with the Lourdes Novena for healing.

The Church seeks to share the hope and healing of Christ in each new age. It is providential, I believe, that our year begins with Catholic Schools Week, celebrating our schools and school communities, and with the Lourdes Novena for healing.

BISHOP THOMAS A. DALY is the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Spokane.

Inland Catholic • January/February 2022 • www.dioceseofspokane.org
FROM THE EDITOR

I do not often include a note from the editor, but this month I wanted to share a bit of personal news. This issue of the Inland Catholic will be my last at its helm, and I will be leaving the chancery at the end of January. From our launch in 2016 through today many of you readers have shared helpful critiques, excellent story ideas, and kind words of praise. I am so appreciative for all of you and for your help over these past five years. I also want to extend my thanks to the team at FAITH Catholic who assists in the publication of this magazine, especially our designers Rachel Squibbs and Patrick Dally who have done so much to make this magazine shine. Most of all, I am grateful to Christ for the opportunity to launch and edit this magazine for the Diocese of Spokane. I will miss hearing the stories of Catholics throughout the diocese and helping highlight the good works so many undertake.

Thank you and God bless,
Mitchell Palmquist

LITURGICAL CALENDAR

Feast of the Presentation of the Lord Feb. 2 • St. Blaise, bishop and martyr; St. Ansgar, bishop Feb. 3 • Memorial of St. Agatha, virgin and martyr Feb. 5 • St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, virgin Feb. 8 • Memorial of St. Scholastica, virgin Feb. 10 • Our Lady of Lourdes Feb. 11 • Memorial of Sts. Cyril, monk and Methodius, bishop Feb. 14 • The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order Feb. 17 • St. Peter Damian, bishop and doctor of the church Feb. 19 • ‘Synodal process’ began in October

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NO OPTIMISM, MUCH HOPE

While history is always full of surprises, including happy ones, I must confess that I’m not full of Pentecostal joy as I consider the next 12 months.

World politics are likely to be grim. The Russian bear will continue his aggression in Ukraine, perhaps kinetically. China will intensify its pressure on Taiwan after the Winter Olympics (during which the communist regime’s massive human rights violations will not receive nearly as much media attention as the BLM movement did in 2020.) Democracy will erode further in Latin America. Authoritarian and totalitarian regimes will weaponize refugees and migrants, inventing new forms of human trafficking to destabilize the West. The European Union will continue to insist (as it did recently) that limitations on the killing of unborn children constitute “gender-based violence” because abortion-on-demand is a “fundamental human right” that “cannot be subordinated to cultural, religious or political considerations.” The World Health Organization will remain an obstacle to getting at the truth about the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Will life in these United States be calmer? I doubt it. In the run-up to the November midterm elections, each party will demonize the other as a mortal threat to the republic. Crackpot conspiracy theories will flourish on the internet and in social media. The obscene national debt will mount. If the Supreme Court does its constitutional duty and consigns Roe v. Wade and Casey v. Planned Parenthood to the historical dustbin where we find Dred Scott v. Sandford and Plessy v. Ferguson, 51 arguments over providing legal protection to the unborn will unfold across the country; those debates are unlikely to be any more rational than those involving other bitterly contested culture war issues.

And as the president’s cognitive incapacities become more unmistakable, the possibility of a constitutional crisis looms.

What about the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church? The Barque of Peter seems headed into even stormier seas. Roman disaffection for the Catholic Church in the United States (which is based on a grotesque caricature) will express itself in unpleasant ways. Throughout the world Church, liberal Catholic authoritarianism and bullying will intensify; so will apocalypticism at the other end of the Catholic opinion spectrum. “Synodality” will remain undefined, but a “synodal process” of “listening” will continue and the voices of Catholic deconstruction will probably dominate the discussion — as they certainly do in Germany, where a “Synodal Way” that would make Martin Luther cringe voted last September to debate whether the Church needs an ordained priesthood. And the Vatican, one suspects, will continue to disappoint those who pray for its return to a robust defense of the basic human rights of all.

Pondering all this, I recently called a friend and said, “Give me some good news.” To which he immediately replied, “Jesus Christ is Lord.”

Exactly. It’s always good for the Church to make that basic confession of faith, but especially when the shadows are lengthening across the historical landscape. A good way to root ourselves in the first Christian proclamation — “Jesus is Lord” — is to revive the ancient custom of announcing the date of Easter and the other moveable feasts of the Church year immediately after the Gospel is read or sung on the Solemnity of the Epiphany. Here’s the formula that the priest-celebrant or deacon would use this year, taken from the Roman Missal:

“Know, dear brethren, that, as we have rejoiced at the Nativity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, so by leave of God’s mercy we announce to you also the joy of his resurrection, who is our Savior.”

- Epiphany Proclamation

GEORGE WEIGEL is distinguished senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C. His column is distributed by the Denver Catholic.
YOUNG WOMAN FROM THE DIOCESE ENTERS RELIGIOUS LIFE

STAFF REPORTS  ■ Last summer, Abby Hanson, daughter of Rich and Karen Hanson from Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in north Spokane, entered religious life as a postulant. Hanson is discerning with the Daughters of Holy Mary of the Heart of Jesus. Please keep her in your prayers.

If you have a relative entering religious life and would like to share that news with the diocese, please email inlandcatholic@dioceseofspokane.org. Please continue to pray for vocations to religious life and diocesan priesthood.

IMMIGRANT COMMUNITY BRINGS MASS IN SWAHLILI TO ST. ANN’S PARISH

BY MITCHELL PALMQUIST  ■ On the first Sunday of each month, something new is happening at St. Ann Parish in east-central Spokane: a Mass in Swahili. Many know the parish for its commitment to social justice work. As the neighborhood around St. Ann has changed, the church has strived to keep serving its neighbors and attracting new parishioners. Some of the new parishioners, immigrants from East Africa, proposed to the pastor that a Mass in Swahili be offered at the parish. Father Patrick Baraza, a native of Kenya and a professor at Gonzaga University, happily agreed. “It came from the people; I had no idea actually,” he said.

The Mass is the first in Swahili in Eastern Washington. Father Baraza said he is excited for the opportunity to celebrate Mass in his native language at his own parish. Prior to the parishioners approaching him about adding this Mass to the schedule, he said, “I never thought I would say Mass there in Swahili.”

A choir composed of parishioners and volunteers provides music for the liturgy. “They worship in the way they worship back home, because the Church in Africa is a vibrant church,” Father Baraza said. “Singing, praising God, with all your strength, with all your mind, with everything.”

All those interested in experiencing the Mass celebrated in a uniquely East African style are welcome to attend on the first Sunday of every month at 11 a.m. The Mass is the same Mass as is celebrated elsewhere, but the music, forms of participation and experience will be something new for many Catholics. “It is a singing church,” Father Baraza said. “This is not acting; it is their way of life.”

St. Ann Catholic Church is located at 2116 E. 1st Ave. in Spokane.

To watch a short video put together by St. Ann’s Parish documenting the first Swahili Mass, visityoutu.be/S_gNnK-KNrM.
Gonzaga Haven Supportive Housing Community Welcomes Families

By Catholic Charities of Eastern Washington

Catholic Charities welcomed its first residents to the Gonzaga Family Haven (GFH) supportive housing community in the fall of 2021. A new chapter begins for the 73 families that will join this community in the coming months. GFH is the 17th tax credit property that Catholic Charities Eastern Washington (CCEW) has developed since 2012 and it comes with its own unique attributes embedded within the property that will serve its residents. Through hard work and collaboration with our community partners at Gonzaga University and Gonzaga Preparatory School, a full range of supportive services for community residents is available on site to help families overcome the trauma of intergenerational poverty and grow as a family together. These services include an early learning center, child care, after-school programs, homework help, a medical clinic, personal health and wellness classes, and integrated case management.

One of the families benefiting from the GFH includes a mom of three who has struggled with homelessness and instability over the last two years. Gina, pictured above, reflected on her experience finding a place to live, saying, “The biggest challenge of being homeless is trying to find housing that is affordable in Spokane.” When asked about her own children’s experience during tumultuous times, she said the kids were worried “because they didn’t know when they were going to have a place to live” and “they weren’t close to their friends.” Since September, Gina and her children have gained stability, community, and a little more certainty through the GFH housing project.

The family expressed gratitude for the opportunity to share their experience at the housing property. Gina said, “The day that we got keys to Gonzaga Family Haven was an amazing day. It was a special day. It was a very happy day.” The family is glad to be doing simple things together again. The children revel in their daily walk to the mailbox to collect letters addressed to their forever home, while mom prepares delicious meals for her family once again. It is these simple activities, which we often take for granted, that make a difference in family lives each day.

GFH encourages a stable, supportive environment to build resilience in local families that have experienced homelessness. The complex provides a safe place to live and access services to improve overall wellness and stability. CCEW’s focus in maintaining this nurturing environment includes addressing the need for families experiencing homelessness to acquire stable housing, food security, and behavioral health services while in transition.

GFH is one of 29 properties operated by CCEW. In total, we serve more than 2,500 people including seniors and the disabled, children and families, single people experiencing chronic homelessness, farmworkers, and veteran families. Each and every property that we run is designed to give residents a community where they can build the relationships and skill sets needed to live a healthy, happy, and stable lifestyle while breaking up intergenerational cycles of poverty and homelessness. CCEW is dedicated to serving its most vulnerable and underrepresented populations. Our permanent supportive housing projects are just one of the ways that we serve in our community.

For more information on other Catholic Charities’ programs and services, please visit our website at WWW.CCEASTERNWA.ORG.
Bishop Thomas A. Daly invites you to attend the 11th annual

**Lourdes Novena for Healing**

to be held at The Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes

**Thurs., February 3rd – Fri., February 11th**

Each novena service lasts 45 minutes and confessors will be available for those who wish to celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation. All are welcome to the Mother Church of the Diocese of Spokane as we pray for healing and as we honor the Blessed Virgin Mary under the title of Our Lady of Lourdes. For a complete schedule of days and times, log on to www.SpokaneCathedral.com or call (509) 358-4290.

*His Excellency*
The Most Reverend Thomas A. Daly
Bishop of Spokane

Anointing of the Sick
Grotto of Our Lady
Eucharistic Procession
Distribution of Lourdes Water
Clear and ardent vision inspires results

Thanks to the generosity of the Catholic community at St. John Vianney School and Parish — as well as families beyond the Valley and state — the Marian Fuchs Endowment has reached $300,000, exceeding our preliminary five-year goal of $250,000. The photos on this page show third graders at St. John Vianney School holding their new math textbooks in the same classroom that Marian Fuchs taught in for 20 years.

Marian was a beloved teacher at St. John Vianney School for two decades. Almost six years ago, she was struck with a debilitating disease that took her life. A few months after Marian’s death, Mark, Marian’s husband, and some friends met with Bob Hailey, then-chair of the Catholic Foundation Board, and me to explore the possibility of establishing a memorial endowment for Marian. The fund would benefit the school, the teachers, and the students whom she loved. For Marian, teaching was her vocation. Mark shared stories of weekends they spent working on classroom projects. In the photo, you can see the bookcase he built for her classroom.

The group we met with became the core of an Endowment Committee that has been working steadfastly for five years. (See the photo above.) Our new goal is a $500,000 endowment. A donor committed $15,000 this last year, so every gift contributed through June 30 or until the match has been spent will be matched dollar for dollar.†

Marian’s spirit lives on through her endowment. If you’d like to participate, here are the ways. Every gift is important. Contact Sister Mary to discuss any detail: metracy@dioceseofspokane.org; 509.385.7697.

- **MONTHLY GIVING:** Authorize any amount to be charged on your credit card or deducted from your bank account.
- **ONLINE GIVING:** Go to Catholicfoundationspokane.org. Marian’s Endowment is a highlighted program.
- **BY CHECK:** Payable to Catholic Foundation. Send to PO Box 1484, Spokane, WA 98112.

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SISTER MARY TRACY, SNJM
is the senior manager of major and planned gifts.

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[Images of students holding math textbooks and a group photo of the Marian Fuchs Endowment committee members.]

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Dr. Jennifer Brandel, Joan Olson, and the St. John Vianney grade 3 class pose with their new math workbooks.

(From left) Father Kevin Oiland, Steve Venner, Bob Hailey, Nick Senger, Valerie Fuchs McDonald, Mark Fuchs, Mark Hartley, Dave Carson, Janelle Turcotte and Sister Mary Tracy.
Quality alone time is not only a good thing for our mental and spiritual health, but it also helps us to be better, more available companions to those with whom we are in relationships. It’s a human paradox, and Jesus was the very best example of it.

He was no doubt the most self-outpouring, other-focused person who ever lived, and yet he also “would withdraw to deserted places to pray.” (Lk 5:16) His solitude was not an impediment to his love for us. It was a prerequisite for it. And so it is for each of us. We need time alone like we need time for sleep.

This isn’t to say we don’t have differing individual needs for alone time. Introverts typically need more and extroverts less, and when an introvert marries an extrovert, as appears to be the case here, there can be some adjustment challenges.

For starters, and most importantly, don’t take your differences personally. You each have unique needs and so your shared goal should be to help one another make sure your needs are met. Her needs are apparently easier: just let her have the solitary time and space she asks for. And try to understand that it’s about her, not you. If he needs more companionship time, are there some solid friends or family members he could spend more time with?

Second, be aware there could be some deeper, more problematic issues going on, and that it’s OK to do an honest check-in about them. For her: Are there qualities of his that you haven’t told him about—or even admitted to yourself—that make you want to withdraw from him?

For him: Are there some underlying insecurities about yourself and about your relationship that make you afraid to ever be apart from her, or even to be alone at all? If it’s yes to any of the above, consider some individual or marital counseling.

The bottom line is, regardless of how much or what type of alone time each of you needs, try to dedicate yourselves to becoming more aware and supportive of the other’s particular needs. †

GETTY IMAGES/FLY VIEW PRODUCTIONS/E+

SHE SAYS:

I need my “alone time”
It recharges me to simply read or be quiet. It doesn’t mean I don’t want to be with him, just not every second.

HE SAYS:

I feel rejected when she goes off by herself
If she loved me enough, she wouldn’t need to go into another room to be by herself.
ESPERANZA Y SANACIÓN
EN EL AÑO NUEVO

A
l comenzar un nuevo año, cada uno de nosotros tiene la oportunidad de reflexionar sobre el año pasado y planificar el próximo. Si bien muchos eventos, desde los playoffs de la NFL hasta el ritmo normal de la vida familiar, ocurren en enero. Las primeras actividades significativas en nuestro calendario diocesano son la Semana de las Escuelas Católicas y la Novena de Sanación de Lourdes que se lleva a cabo en nuestra Catedral. Estos eventos son especialmente significativos para mí y brindan experiencias de esperanza muy necesarias para nuestra Iglesia y el mundo.

La educación católica siempre ha sido importante para mí. Mis padres hicieron muchos sacrificios para enviar a sus siete hijos a escuelas católicas. Tuve la bendición de continuar mi educación católica a través de la universidad e incluso de la escuela de posgrado. Como joven sacerdote, enseñé en la escuela parroquial y tuve la bendición de pasar los siguientes 19 años como maestro, capellán y presidente de Marin Catholic. Ahora tengo el privilegio de trabajar de cerca con Katie Rieckers, directora de escuelas católicas de nuestra diócesis. Y en noviembre, comencé mi mandato de tres años como presidente del Comité de Educación Católica de la Conferencia de Obispos de E.E. UU. En un momento de creciente secularismo e indiferencia religiosa, nuestras escuelas católicas ayudan a brindar esperanza al ver a nuestros jóvenes crecer en gracia y sabiduría. Si Dios quiere, estos hombres y mujeres jóvenes están aprendiendo y preparándose para ser líderes y contribuyentes a nuestra Iglesia, nación y mundo.

La Novena de Sanación de Lourdes en la Catedral de Nuestra Señora de Lourdes está ahora en su undécimo año. La novena ha sido una bendición para la comunidad de la catedral y más allá de ella; muchos han compartido conmigo y con el Padre Connell, rector de la Catedral, cómo han encontrado sanación de heridas físicas, emocionales y espirituales a través de esta novena. Nuestra diócesis es única; es la única en América del Norte dedicada a Nuestra Señora de Lourdes, y en un momento en que hemos visto tanta división en nuestra cultura, en nuestra política y, lamentablemente, incluso en nuestras familias, se necesita un mensaje de sanación. A medida que la pandemia continúa afectando a muchos, especialmente a los delicados de salud, necesitamos de este mensaje de sanación.

De manera muy clara, estos dos eventos significan mucho de lo que Cristo nos trae en su mensaje: esperanza y sanación. La Iglesia busca compartir la esperanza y la sanación de Cristo en cada nueva era. Es providencial, creo, que nuestro año comience con la Semana de las Escuelas Católicas, celebrando nuestras escuelas y comunidades escolares, y con la Novena de Sanación de Lourdes. “La Iglesia busca compartir la esperanza y la sanación de Cristo en cada nueva era. Es providencial, creo, que nuestro año comience con la Semana de las Escuelas Católicas, celebrando nuestras escuelas y comunidades escolares, y con la Novena de Sanación de Lourdes.”

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Estoy agradecido por sus continuas oraciones por mí y la diócesis, y les pido que se unan a mí para apoyar a nuestras escuelas esta primavera durante la Semana de las Escuelas Católicas y al mismo tiempo les pido que juntos participemos en la Novena de Sanación de Lourdes, ya sea en persona o a la distancia.

OBISPO THOMAS A. DALY
es el séptimo obispo de la Diócesis de Spokane.
PADRE: “ME HICIERON SENTIR QUE NO VALGO”

DESDE HACE UNOS DÍAS, he tenido situaciones difíciles por problemas de salud y me di cuenta de que necesito pasar más tiempo con Jesucristo en el Sagrario y me encontré con el siguiente pasaje de la Biblia: “Vengan a mi todos los que están afligidos y agobiados, y yo los aliviare. Carguen sobre ustedes mi yugo y aprendan de mí, porque soy paciente y humilde de corazón, y así encontrarán alivio. Porque mi yugo es suave y mi carga ligera” (Mateo 11, 28-30). Yo mismo me sentía así, cansado, agobiado, necesitaba alivio.

Mientras estaba de rodillas, lo único que le pedía a Dios era que me ayudara a aceptar su voluntad, que me diera la fe que me faltaba para saber que, a pesar de que no estaba bien con lo que me estaba pasando, Dios lo había creado para ser feliz. Le recomendé orar mucho para poder darse cuenta como es que Jesús lo mira con ternura y que es una persona que vale mucho. También le pedí que rezara por la conversión de sus agresores.

Finalmente, esta persona comprendió el valor de no sentirse con baja autoestima, sino que debe de confiar mas en Dios, incluso en situaciones en las cuales no se siente valorado o que se siente que lo menosprecian. Uno se da cuenta de que el cansancio y el agobio que sentimos debe dejarse en las manos de Dios para poder salir reencontrados y poder animarnos a vivir nuestra vida mas llenos de felicidad. ¡Dios los bendiga!
OFTEN, I ARRIVE TO MY PEW just seconds before the priest reaches the altar for Mass.

Seldom are the times I arrive early to sit quietly in the church. But when I am allowed such time, I find treasures, treasures that reveal the beauty of the Catholic faith. Each church has a story to tell, the story of our Catholic faith.

There are many treasures found within the walls of St. Augustine Church, such as the jewels that are the stained-glass windows. One prominent window depicts the 4th-century baptism of a catechumen from Africa by the venerable bishop of Milan. The bishop’s name was Ambrose; the catechumen’s name was Augustine. Each would eventually be named a doctor of the Church; each would be canonized a saint. As a catechumen, Augustine frequently listened to Ambrose’s teaching on baptism. That teaching is part of the story told at St. Augustine Church.

Recently a new baptismal font was installed; the font is surrounded by an octagonal mosaic inspired by the writings and theology of St. Ambrose and St. Augustine. Each marble figure in the mosaic is a piece of the puzzle that tells the story of baptism; some pieces represent the light that is Christ, while others represent the darkness of sin. Together, the pieces depict the victory of light over darkness.

One such figure in the mosaic is the rooster. St. Ambrose would ask his congregation, “who is that gallus mysticus (mystical rooster) that crowed on the night that Peter denied Christ three times?” St. Ambrose responds by saying that mystical rooster is none other than Christ—He who calls us out of the darkness of sin; He who heralds the dawning of the New Creation.
Baptismal imagery:

The hope is that the imagery found in the baptistry floor at St. Augustine will provide a baptismal catechesis for many generations. It is the hope that every person who crosses the mosaic floor will reflect for a moment upon the figures found there and, in doing so, glimpse St. Ambrose’s and St. Augustine’s understanding of baptism and come to a deeper love and appreciation of their own baptism.

The rooster and the tortoise:

St. Ambrose asked his congregation: Who was the rooster that crowed on that first Holy Thursday night when Peter denied Christ three times? Ambrose responded: the true gallus, the gallus mysticus, that mystical rooster who calls out in the darkness is Christ calling us out of the darkness of sin into His light and life. The tortoise, on hearing the call of the rooster, sticks his head out of the darkness of his shell. The tortoise represents each of us being called forth by Christ out of the darkness of our personal doubts and sin.

The raven and the dove:

In the story of Noah’s Ark, we hear of the raven and the dove. St. Ambrose uses the story of the flood in the Book of Genesis in his baptismal catechesis. He notes that at the flood the raven that represents sin is sent out and does not return. So, it is for one who goes through the baptismal waters—sin is washed away, not to return.

In the story of Noah’s flood, the dove alone was not swept away by the storm but returned to the ark bearing an olive branch—the symbol of peace established through baptism between heaven and earth. The seven leaves of the olive branch represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit given through baptism and strengthened in confirmation. The dove represents the Holy Spirit. It was as a dove that the Holy Spirit appeared above Christ at His baptism in the Jordan River.
The Church as a Textbook: St. Augustine Parish Religious Education

If one were to wander into St. Augustine Catholic Church between Sunday Masses, they may wonder if it’s a church or a classroom. The parish has created an engaging religious education course that brings children and their families into a deeper understanding of the Catholic faith. A team of volunteers, many of whom are professional educators, recognize the church building—with its stained-glass windows, statues, and symbols—as a worthy textbook for teaching the Catholic faith.

The students learn much about the church, beginning with the design of St. Augustine as the shape of a cross. They discuss the tabernacle, the altar, and the sanctuary lamp—those items they may notice at Mass but not appreciate their significance. When would one find the sanctuary lamp dim and the altar bare? And in learning these things, they come to understand the importance of reverence in the church.

As the children stand before the icon of the Blessed Mother, they learn the symbolism of the art. Why is it that the Virgin Mary holds Jesus at her left side, rather than her right? Why is the Virgin Mary dressed in red and Jesus in blue? What is the significance of the gold background? While the children have their lesson, parents gather to discuss the same topics and socialize.

This parallel lesson provides a catalyst for families to discuss in the home what is learned in class.

When the children stand before the large window that depicts the life of St. Augustine, they learn that a small child was used by God to teach a great saint a valuable lesson. Just opposite, they stand before the window of St. Augustine’s devoted mother, St. Monica. They learn the important lessons and events in her life as they relate to her son. The young scholars retain much of what they learn—one young student reminded her fellow students, “St. Augustine’s mom followed him everywhere he went!”

In addition to learning the symbols revealed in the church, the children learn prayers and devotions of our Catholic faith. They recite familiar prayers such as the Our Father, the Hail Mary and Glory Be, as well as less familiar prayers such as the Guardian Angel Prayer, the Fatima Prayer and the Memorare. The children walk the Via Dolorosa in the church and pray the Seven Sorrows of Mary outside in the grounds. They make rosaries and pray the rosary.

The religious education lessons allow children and families to discover the hidden treasures within the walls of the church—and, in this, the treasures of our faith. They come to know that our faith is all around us.†
“Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven.”

These are well-known words spoken by Jesus to his disciples. As parents brought their children to meet our Lord, the disciples reprimanded them. Jesus made clear that the young need to meet and to know him. This duty has served as the foundation for the Church’s support of faith formation, particularly the construction of Catholic schools, for centuries.

The Catholic School Collection was started by Bishop Thomas Daly in 2019. The collection invites the 82 parishes in Eastern Washington to engage in a diocesan-wide effort to provide additional financial support to the 13 parish schools during Catholic Schools Week.

Catholic schools provide solid academics, form children to be community-minded, and build their faith life in a community that knows the importance of a relationship with our savior Jesus Christ.

Every Catholic in the diocese is encouraged to support our schools, as the entire body of Christ in Eastern Washington benefits from a robust Catholic education system. Catholic schools are a force for good; your support will help the schools continue to strengthen and grow.

Bishop’s Collection for Catholic Schools supports the 13 parochial schools in Eastern Washington

SPOKANE
- All Saints Catholic School – Est. 1972
- Assumption Catholic School – Est. 1959
- Cataldo Catholic School – Est. 1915
- St. Aloysius Gonzalez Catholic School – Est. 1916
- St. Charles Catholic School – Est. 1950
- St. John Vianney Catholic School – Est. 1953
- St. Mary Catholic School – Est. 1960
- St. Thomas More Catholic School – Est. 1962
- Trinity Catholic School – Est. 1905

WALLA WALLA
- Assumption Catholic School – Est. 1955

TRI-CITIES
- St. Patrick Catholic School – Est. 1951

CLARKSTON
- Holy Family Catholic School – Est. 1921

COLTON
- Guardian Angel/St. Boniface Catholic School – Est. 1893

13
K-8 Schools
2,903
Students
223
Teachers
13:1
Students to Teachers

Catholic schools now more than ever
Support online at
WWW.DIOCESEOFSPokane.ORG/CSC
Many have heard of FOCUS, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students. This magazine has featured missionaries who have worked on campuses in Eastern Washington and beyond. Many have seen in these pages or in their parishes—maybe even from college students—the impact of FOCUS on campus. Some of you may have even wondered if FOCUS could do in our parishes what it has been able to do in our Newman Centers.

Over the last two years, FOCUS has quietly been piloting a new parish program here in the Diocese of Spokane. In many ways, the collaboration between FOCUS and the diocese is breaking new ground as FOCUS’ local and national leadership look to adapt their model to support parish ministry.

You won’t see recent college graduates working as missionaries in the vestibule after church. The plan here in Spokane is not to bring in outside missionaries, but to train priests and lay people in the parishes to be missionaries.

This discipling process is happening through small groups led among families at parishes. A priest is involved in helping the
organizing couple get things up and running. From there, the small group works somewhat independently.

FOCUS supports the parish ministry groups in a variety of ways. One of the most prominent of these is the Upper Room. This gathering happens in a parish setting and welcomes those already involved in small groups to spend a day in prayer and to participate in retreat-style conferences offered by clergy or FOCUS missionaries.

FOCUS is currently partnering with clergy, families, and individuals at St. Mary in Spokane Valley, Cathedral of Our Lady of Lourdes, and St. Francis Xavier. It is exploring connections with additional parishes.

To learn more about FOCUS Parish Life efforts, keep an eye on upcoming issues of the *Inland Catholic* for interviews with families and clergy involved in this exciting new collaboration between the diocese and FOCUS.†
Fanning the flames of faith
In-person diocesan conferences return

“WE KNOW AN EVENT provides an incredible catalyst to fan the flame of faith,” said Brian Kraut, director of evangelization for the Diocese of Spokane. Throughout the pandemic, the question of gathering in person has been fraught. First, we worried if it was safe, then who was vaccinated, and then if people were masking. Everyone had a different approach, a different tolerance for rules around “respiratory hygiene.” For us as Catholics, communal worship of God in the Mass is essential, and we returned to in-person Mass more than a year ago. Every Catholic who has felt safe to return to Mass knows what a blessing it is to gather for worship.

Up until now, the diocese has not had many large regional gatherings. That will hopefully change this spring, with plans to host several conferences to fan the flames of faith in the diocese.

Throughout the pandemic, the diocese has had the opportunity to host a remote men’s conference, with small gatherings taking place in homes and parish halls, and to host our first ever middle school summer camp. As the weather turned colder during the fall, we began to wonder if we could gather in person indoors for conferences this winter. “I think we know we’re at a time where we yearn to gather, more than ever, because we’ve had to be put on pause for the last 18 months,” Kraut said. This extended pause has forced our parishes to be creative, and the diocesan Evangelization Office, the new summer camp and the growth of small, in-person youth ministry efforts have paid off. For the first time in many years, some parishes are relaunching middle school youth groups. “For us to have nearly 100 gathered for a week of summer camp was transformative for them,” Kraut said. “The joy for us is to see people back together, being able to celebrate Christ in the mystical body of Christ evident and present in those around them. [It’s joyful] to see and have a conference experience that isn’t limited to the computer screen, where you can enjoy the laughter of a room and you can be on your knees with your brothers and sisters in Christ before the Blessed Sacrament or even just joyfully gathered to pray the Mass.”

The diocese is working to support or host men’s, women’s, and diocesan youth conferences in 2022. The questions, of course, will be: Who will feel comfortable gathering? What can people expect? “Our desire is to have gatherings that will still meet people’s needs where they’re at, for those who are comfortable with gathering,” Kraut said. “But, COVID has given us an incredible ability to have all the tools and resources to stream. So, if you can be in person and you’re comfortable gathering in person, then we invite you. But if you’re still not to that place where you feel like you can be out at an event, we still want you to participate through other means, and so virtual opportunities will continue.”

Upcoming Spring Conferences
- Catholic Women’s Conference – Jan. 29, 2022
- Catholic Youth Conference – March 5, 2022
- Catholic Men’s Conference – March 19, 2022

See www.dioceseofspokane.org for more information

BY MITCHELL PALMQUIST
‘SYNODAL PROCESS’ BEGAN IN OCTOBER

ON MAY 21, 2021, Pope Francis surprised the Church by announcing that the Synod of Bishops postponed due to the pandemic will be preceded by a synodal process that includes “listening to all of the baptized” in every local diocese before the bishops gather again in 2023.

In comments made to Vatican media, Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary-general of the Synod of Bishops, said the change “from an event into a process” was chosen because “the time was ripe for a wider participation of the people of God in a decision-making process that affects the whole Church and everyone in the Church.

“The Second Vatican Council teaches that the people of God participate in the prophetic office of Christ,” Cardinal Grech said. “Therefore, we must listen to the people of God, and this means going out to the local churches.”

Cardinal Grech explained, “The governing principle of this consultation of the people of God is contained in the ancient principle ‘that which touches upon all must be approved by all.’” He added, “This is not about democracy or populism or anything like that. Rather, it is the Church that, as the people of God, a people who, by virtue of baptism, is an active subject in the life and mission of the Church.”

Cardinal Grech emphasized the importance of allowing everyone to have their voices heard. “God willing, one of the fruits of the synod is that we might all understand that a decision-making process in the Church always begins with listening, because only in this way can we understand how and where the Spirit wants to lead the Church.”

The theme of the Synod of Bishops concluding the synodal process is: “For a synodal Church: Communion, participation and mission.” It will convene in Rome in the fall of 2023.

Timeline for the Synodal Process

- OCT. 9-10, 2021: Pope Francis opened the three-phase event from the Vatican.
- OCTOBER 2021-APRIL 2022: Phase 1: The synodal process is held in Catholic dioceses. Each diocese undertakes consultation meetings with local Catholics and hosts its own “pre-synodal” gathering to produce a summary to submit to the national bishops’ conference. In “a period of discernment,” the national conference reviews the texts received from the local dioceses and composes its own document to submit to the Vatican’s office for the Synod of Bishops. Vatican officials will create a first draft of the synod’s “instrumentum laboris,” or working document, from the submitted texts by September 2022.
- SEPTEMBER 2022-MARCH 2023: Phase 2: Bishops meet at the continental level. Each diocese undertakes consultation meetings with local Catholics and hosts its own “pre-synodal” gathering to produce a summary to submit to the national bishops’ conference. In “a period of discernment,” the national conference reviews the texts received from the local dioceses and composes its own document to submit to the Vatican’s office for the Synod of Bishops. Vatican officials will create a first draft of the synod’s “instrumentum laboris,” or working document, from the submitted texts by September 2022.
- OCTOBER 2023: Phase 3: The bishops meet in Rome for the final phase. The theme of the final phase is: “For a synodal Church: Communion, participation and mission.”

The history of synods

According to Cardinal Mario Grech, secretary-general of the Synod of Bishops, “Synods were a typical practice of the first millennium Church, a practice that continued in the Orthodox Church. The theme of synodality weakened in ecclesial practice and ecclesiological reflection over the course of the second millennium in the Catholic Church.

“Pope (St.) Paul VI made it clear that the synod can be improved like any ecclesial body. It was a start. Without that beginning, we probably would not be here talking about synodality and the Church as constitutively synodal. The novelty in the Catholic Church is that synodality re-emerges as the crowning of a long process of doctrinal development.

“Synodality helps advance and clarify our understanding of Petrine primacy at Vatican I, collegiality at Vatican II and, today, through a progressive reception of conciliar ecclesiology, especially Chapter II of ‘Lumen Gentium’ on the people of God, expressing the way which synodality is a modality for everyone to participate in the journey of the Church.”

To participate in the Spokane Diocesan Synod, ask your pastor about a parish listening session or participate virtually at WWW.DIOCESEOFSPokane.ORG/SYNOD
DEAR FATHER JOE:

EVERY YEAR, LENT COMES AND GOES AND I ALWAYS FEEL LIKE I SOMEHOW MISS IT OR BLOW IT.

HOW CAN I MAKE LENT BE WHAT IT IS SUPPOSED TO BE THIS YEAR?

Praise God for your hunger. This is the key to the whole thing! Remember Jesus’ words in Matthew: “Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness, they shall have their fill.” I also urge you to remember God’s words through the Apostle Paul: “He who started this good work in you will see it to completion.” (Phil 1:6)

Father Joe Krupp
is a former comedy writer who is now a Catholic priest.
@Joeinblack

ASH WEDNESDAY IS MARCH 2, 2022

This is a reminder that the hunger in you for holiness came/comes from God and he will finish this!

Even with God’s promises, it is important that we cooperate. It’s not a matter of simply trusting God will get it done, we need to help God help us! So now, I’d like to walk us through some ideas about how to let God transform us in this Lenten season.

I’d like to begin with this marvelous quote from a holy bishop in Canada, Bishop Scott McCaig. Here is what he wrote:

“Don’t just choose. Pray first. Ask the Lord where you are most vulnerable to the enemy — your greatest vice. Then identify the opposing virtue and embrace a discipline that will strengthen it. God doesn’t want your chocolate … He wants you. He wants your heart. He loves you!”

I found this to be one of the most succinct, powerful summaries of Lent that I have read.

What’s the first step? Prayer.

I know, I know, I always type this, but it’s so important. There is nothing that defines the Christian experience like prayer. Prayer is how the soul breathes. Prayer is how we hear the voice of God. Prayer is everything.

So, our first step is to take time and make a simple prayer to God, asking him to guide our thoughts and reveal to us where the biggest gap in our coverage is. One of the interesting things that I experienced as I pondered this revolved around fasting. Fasting is hard for me, as you might be able to tell by looking at me. I get frustrated with my eating and I get embarrassed about how big I am.

As soon as I started thinking about Lent, that’s where my thoughts took me immediately and so I really didn’t think more about it until I read Bishop McCaig’s quote. My priorities might not be God’s priorities and, as important as it is for me to reject gluttony, I need to ask God what he wants me to focus on this Lent.

So, take some time today and offer God this prayer or some prayer like it:

“God, I love you. Because I love you, I want to be like you, but that is impossible without your help. As I approach this Lenten season, I am asking you to guide me. Show me where you want to work in me so that I can be holy. Let me hear your voice and respond with love.”

Once you sense God leading you, either through circumstances or thoughts, follow that lead. Maybe God wants to work on your temper. Maybe he wants to work on your gossip. Perhaps he wants you to not be so uptight about getting everything right … Who knows? He will show you if you let him.

When you see where God wants you to go, then prayerfully and consistently pursue the virtue that will tame that beast. If lust is your struggle, pray for purity and commit to being pure in word, thought and deed. If greed is your struggle, pray for the grace of generosity and sacrifice until it hurts.

This is the way to live Lent well.

A couple things to keep in mind: There really is no substitute for tenacity. When you and I commit to the fight for holiness, we need to cowboy up because it is going to be a fight. Holiness is not for those who get easily discouraged. When we ask God to help us and we commit to changing, then we need to be ready for the distinct possibility that we will strike out more times than we get on base. We need to be absolutely relentless in our pursuit and not focus so much on our performance as the
Spokane volunteer touched many lives in Guatemala

BY JERRY MONKS

MOST OF US WOULD PROBABLY CONSIDER it a lifetime achievement to complete a single project that significantly improved the lives of others. But Spokane native David Dodroe didn't stop with one accomplishment. Prior to his recent passing, he used his many talents to enhance the lives of thousands of the poor in Guatemala in myriad ways.

The mountainous terrain at 7,000 to 11,000 feet became almost a second home for Dave when he began his service in the Guatemala Mission of the Diocese of Spokane in the 1980s. A quiet, humble, and talented individual, Dave started as a cement worker by trade.

Dave then used his broad construction skills not only to build vital structures, but also to enhance the lives of many others who learned from him. He learned from them as well. The Quiche language is not easy to learn, but Dave could read and speak it like a native.

Here is a list of a few of Dave’s mission activities, which reveal the diversity of his talents and his devotion to the Guatemalan people:

- **Hydrostation and electricity**: Constructed dam and installed power equipment to bring electricity to the remote village of Chisibel in Guatemala.
- **Community Center construction**: Managed cement work for construction of two-story building, named the Marian Center, in the central mission area.
- **Road building/surveying**: Did surveying for construction of road through the mountains near Ixtahuacan to the coastal area.
- **Solar power installation**: Installed solar power for trout hatchery and provided guidance for food for managing fish production.
- **School construction**: Built elementary school and training center in remote village of Tzamjuyub.
- **Bakery/training center**: Constructed a large complex for food production and training in the mission center of Ixtahuacan.

Any of the above could be considered a major accomplishment for someone serving in the remote mission area of Guatemala, and each project presented difficulties. For example, the working conditions for building the school in Tzamjuyub (#5) were not quite the same as one would encounter in Spokane. The very steep road down into Tzamjuyub was not yet complete, so supplies had to be carried part of the way down. The bags of cement weighed about 94 pounds each, and the local men carried them (two bags per man) part of the way down the mountain, across a stream, and up a 45-degree incline to the school site. Screening sand for the cement and mixing it by hand were also difficult. And the beams for the roof were cut (also by hand) from large trees in the Tzamjuyub area.

Dave was not a “recognized” missionary of the Diocese of Spokane. But like others who went before him, and those who serve and contribute to the Guatemala mission today, our individual efforts add up and do make a difference.
YOUR COMMUNITY
RETREAT CENTER EVENTS

MOVING TOWARD GOD WITH ST. IGNATIUS OF LOYOLA

Reflect back Father Michael Maher, SJ, who will be leading a silent Ignatian weekend retreat titled “Moving Towards God with St. Ignatius of Loyola” on Feb. 4-6. The retreat will begin on Friday at 6 p.m. and conclude on Sunday at 1 p.m. Moving toward God in our daily life frequently presents several challenges. St. Ignatius noted that we all have desires to deepen our spiritual life, but, at times, the means to this goal can seem evasive or confusing. During this retreat, we will examine the ways St. Ignatius suggested to help men and women move toward the Lord in daily life. Cost for individuals is $235, couples $380 (includes lodging and five meals). Cost for commuters $145. Please register by calling 509.448.1224, ext.100 or visit www.ihrc.net.

Father Maher was born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He entered the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits) in 1975. Father Maher followed a typical course of Jesuit formation that included humanities, philosophy, and theology, interspersed with various teaching assignments, including teaching grade 7-8 science to Native Americans in Pine Ridge, South Dakota; English at Sogong University in South Korea; religion to boys in Omaha, Nebraska and service at Marquette University and Saint Louis University.

A few years after ordination, he began doctoral studies at the University of Minnesota, majoring in early modern European history, with additional studies in Chinese history. Father Maher has co-edited a book on confraternities and written several articles and book chapters dealing with the implementation and influence of Jesuit practices on various groups. In recognition of his scholarship, Father Kolvenbach, then superior general of the Jesuits, appointed Father Maher to the Jesuit Historical Institute. Father Maher holds this membership and held former positions as associate professor of history at Gonzaga University and chair of the department of history and the director of Catholic studies.

Father Maher now teaches and resides at Marquette University. For periods of one to five days, $117 per day (includes three meals and one night’s lodging); eight-day or 30-day retreat rates depend on length of stay. Please register by calling 448.1224, ext.100 or visit www.ihrc.net.

Women’s & men’s Holy Week silent retreats • April 11-13 (w) and April 14-16 (m), 2022 • Father Jeff Puthoff, SJ • $261 per person (includes lodging and six meals).

Daily virtual retreats • Deacon John Ruscheinsky’s daily virtual retreats • www.ihrc.net.

Immaculate Heart Retreat Center is following CDC and the Washington Health Department’s COVID-19 guidelines to maintain a sanitized and safe environment for our retreatants and guests. All formerly occupied bedrooms are completely sanitized before each check in. Your peace of mind and safety are our top concern as you journey with God on our spiritual grounds.

COR CHRISTI BENEFIT DINNER

STAFF REPORTS

On Dec. 4, the Knights of Columbus Council 683 and the Gonzaga Student Knights of Columbus Council 12583 hosted a benefit dinner for the new Cor Christi program being launched by Bishop White Seminary. Supporters of seminary formation filled the Hemmingson Ballroom at Gonzaga University for a dinner and program that explained the need for this new propaedeutic seminary program. Bishop Thomas Daly, Father Daniel Barnett, Chris Kreslins from the diocese, and Knight of Columbus George Czerwonka discussed the compelling need for the new program and invited guests to support Cor Christi, which will be housed in a building named for Blessed Michael McGivney, founder of the Knights of Columbus. Please visit www.ihrc.net or call 509.448.1224 to register for all programs.

PARTICIPATE ONLINE

Participate in one of our daily virtual retreats with Deacon John Ruscheinsky at ihrc.net or facebook.com/immaculatheartrestractcenter

COR-CHRISTI

Visit: www.corchristi.com/CorChristi

WWW.BISHOPWHITESEMINARY.ORG/COR-CHRISTI
LAST YEAR, ON SEPT. 16, there was a celebration at Immaculate Heart Retreat Center honoring Father Felix Lorge on his (almost) 100th birthday. He was going strong on the day itself, Sept. 23. (See November/December Inland Catholic.) Felix is not our first centenarian priest. Moritz Helfenstein (1899-2002) may hold the record for longevity, as he lived until he was 102. His must be an exclusive club — to have lived in three centuries! Moritz had retired around age 55 due to his poor health. He spent his remaining years living a simple, frugal life and investing in annuities from religious institutes. The Diocese of Spokane ultimately profited from his business plan.

Felix’s 100th got me thinking about old-timers from my past, a sure sign that I now am one of them. The first one to come to mind was Cyril Feisst (1903-1990). I had just used his pocket knife to slice an apple. I must have acquired the knife in the process of clearing out his few belongings from his room at the Lourdes rectory.

As a young priest, my connection with several older priests came about during 1977-78 when I was assigned to Our Lady of Fatima in Spokane. Joe Pash (1918-2007) was pastor. He was 60 years old then, lived another 29 years, and never seemed to age. Some of Joe’s pals were Al Austen (1910-1991), Paul Wenning (1918-2003), and Ralph Schwemin (1913-2009). I recall the day we were at Fatima before Norm Triesch’s funeral (1917-1978). Father Triesch had a bad heart, but the heart of a pastor. I remember Joe telling me what an exemplary priest he had been. These guys and others of this cohort golfed on Wednesdays, ate dinner at the Town and Country, played cards Sunday evenings and gamboled to Reno for a winter break. Most of them smoked and enjoyed Scotch. They were the founding pastors of parishes and schools when the diocese grew through the 1950s and ‘60s. Their ecclesial ministry spanned the pre- to post-Vatican II era. As I viewed them through my 29-year-old eyes, these were old men, but every one was younger than I am now.

Father Pash was a great one for hospitality. He hosted a Thanksgiving eve dinner for around 20 priests. I remember it, 44 years later. Another of Joe’s buddies was Msgr. John Fahy (1895-1980). Back in 1977, he was old. Msgr. Fahy had been pastor at St. Joseph in west Spokane, where I served from 1987 to 2003. People remembered the old monsignor. Now, there are not many left who might remember this new monsignor who was once their priest.

To say that the Church has changed is like saying water is wet. Priests have changed. For the better? How do you answer that question? We can look back, but we can’t go back. We wouldn’t want to go back. What I admire most about these men is that I admire them. I hold them in esteem. They were good priests; they were good men. And they were flawed men. If the priest’s job description is “be like Jesus, only better,” they didn’t make the grade. But they made a difference. Two years ago, Bishop Daly gave us a book, The Priests We Need to Save the Church. It’s a good book, but we need a companion volume: “The Catholics We Need to Save the Church.”

“We’re all in the same boat,” as Pope Francis reminds us. No ship has ever been saved by abandoning it. †

MSGR. MARK PAUTLER is the chancellor and judicial vicar of the Diocese of Spokane.
REMEMBERING THE FAITHFUL

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Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord...

Recent Burial Names

Raymond Albert Allen  Carl James Foltz  Joan C. Miller  Thomas J. Schoenberger
Edward Joseph Boyer  Charlotte Franetich  Virgil C. Miller  Billie Eileen Senna
George Bozzo  Violet Mae Franetich  Lynn Miller  Lisa Marie Shimek
Ella May Brown  Stephanie Michelle Galtieri  Rosie New  Andrew Lane Sorenson
Wilburta Campbell  Nancy Groshan  James P O’Rourke  Jeanette Doreen Tate
Traci Anne Cromwell  Gregorio Gufsag  Chi Thi Pham  Jacqualyn N. Tomson
Karen E. Crum  Leo Hansen  Francis & Joann Percy  Roland Gustave Torgren
Helen M. Delay  Chandra Kelly  Dennis Eugene Pohle  Mary Ann Warren
John L. Delay  Faye Killworth  Lloyd D. Rose  Loren Albert Weigelt
Donelle Rosemary Fiore  Robert King  Kitty M. Rushing  David D. Williams
Joseph Patrick Fitzpatrick  Bridget Kirby  Delores Schindler  Robert Raymond Williams
William Albert Zehner

First Saturday Mass
Our next Masses will be held on Sat., Feb. 5 and Sat., March 5 at 9:00 am at the Holy Cross Cemetery Mausoleum Chapel.