



THE CARPENTER

ST JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

VANDEBURGH COUNTY EVANSVILLE, INDIANA ESTABLISHED IN 1841

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MAY 2026



UPHOLDING DIGNITY

Fr. Gene Schroeder

Pastor

What made gospel message of Jesus so attractive to people was that there was a place for everyone. The good news was that it did not matter if you were rich or poor, male or female, slave or free. Each person was given a dignity by God as a beloved son or daughter. In a world where there were many divisions among people as to who was counted, who was considered holy, who was considered worthy, Jesus preached a simple message—you are all worthy, you all belong. Jesus prayed for them at the Last Supper, “that they may all be one.” (John 17-21). St Paul would echo these sentiments in words he spoke to the Galatians: “There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.”

Recognizing the dignity of all people is at the heart of being a Catholic. That doesn't mean that we have always done that. Even in the early church, St. Paul would admonish the people of Corinth, who, when they gathered to celebrate the Eucharist, would fall back into dividing people into groups of people that they would want to be part of and groups of people that they would not want to associate with.

And so it should come as no surprise that even today, when there is so much fear and anxiety present, we end up doing the same thing. How do we move beyond this? Recently I came across the The Dignity Index Project. This group of people are responding to the divisions that are present in so much of our lives and our politics today, and asking the question: Is there anything that can bring us together? One of the things they have discovered is that many people think that the problem is that there are too many differences among people and that is what causes divisions. But what they have found out is that the problem is not that there are people with differing points of view, the problem is that we hold others with contempt. And they discovered that this “contempt” can be shown in how we talk with and about others.

They developed the Dignity Index, an eight-point scale for measuring how we talk to each other when we disagree. It is grounded in a few core beliefs:

- Contempt causes division; dignity eases division;
- If we put a spotlight on dignity and contempt, we will use more dignity and less contempt.
- If we show people how they can help ease our divisions, they will jump on it.

Here is what else they discovered. When people first learn about the dignity index, they want to learn more about how it

can be useful in their lives. At first, people treat the Index as a tool for judging others, then they find it is a mirror for seeing themselves. And finally, when people spend time with the Index, they discover that contempt is the problem, that they contribute to it, and they can take action to help solve it.

Here is the eight point scale.

Level one escalates from violent words to violent actions. It's a combination of feeling the other side is less than human and calling for or approving violence. At level one people see others as not even human and believe it is their moral duty to destroy them before they destroy us.

Level two accuses the other side not just of doing bad or being bad, but promoting evil. It sees other people as evil and going to ruin everything if we let them. It's us or them.

Level three attacks the other side's moral character, not just their capabilities or competence. It sees themselves as the good people and others as the bad people. It's us vs. them.

Level four mocks and attacks the other side's background, their beliefs, their commitment, their competence, their performance. Here there is a sense that we're better than those people. They don't really belong. They're not one of us.

Level five listens to the other side's point of view and respectfully explains their own goals, views, and plans. Here there is a sense that the other side has a right to be here and a right to be heard. They belong here too.

Level six sees it as a welcome duty to work with the other side to find common ground and act on it. Here there is a sense that we always talk to the other side, searching for the values and interests we share.

Level seven wants to fully engage the other side - discussing the deepest disagreements they have to see what breakthroughs they can find. Here the belief is that it is important to fully engage with the other side, discussing even values and interests we don't share, open to admitting mistakes or changing our minds.

Level eight says I can see myself in every human being. I refuse to hate anyone, and I offer dignity to everyone. Each one of us is born with inherent worth, so we treat everyone with dignity—no matter what.

So, how would you rate the words you hear? At the Dignity Index website, you will find a “The Dignity Daily” which gives you a quote and asks you to rate it according to the dignity in-

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THE DIGNITY INDEX

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GOT YOUR TICKET FOR THIS EVENING OF FOOD, AND FUN TO SUPPORT OUR FRIENDS IN HAITI?

CARIBBEAN
Nights

Saturday, May 2



MEMORIAL DAY TRIBUTE MONDAY, MAY 25 at 8 AM

On Monday, May 25th, Memorial Day, at 8 am, members of our parish will gather in our parish cemetery to pray for the military veterans who are buried in St. Joe Cemetery. Afterwards, we will gather for Mass in the church. (In case of inclement weather, we will gather in the church.) Listed below are the veterans who are buried in our parish cemetery and in other Evansville cemeteries .

BURIED IN OTHER CEMETERIES

Larry Alsop
1940-2020 ARMY
Frank Arnold
1908-1984 WW II
Lee Askins
1946-2025 VIETNAM
Everett "Bub" Baylor
1954-2025 ARMY
Barthel Bender
1892-1959 WW I
Clarence Botzum
1915-2000 WW II
Victor Brugger
1916-1968 WW II
Judy Cosgrove
1957-2013
AIR FORCE
Gerald Drone
1937-2001 NAVY
George Duncan
1920-1983 WW II
Aloysius Effinger
1926-1945 WW II
Killed in Action
Frank Effinger
1892-1923 WW I
Thomas Effinger
1842-1907 CIVIL WAR
Joseph Eickhoff
1932-1991 KOREA
Charles Elpers
1920-1992 WW II
Joseph J. Elpers
1919-1995 WW II
Joey Elpers
1944-2009 VIETNAM
Bill Elpers
1923-2012 ARMY
Edwin J. Englert
1892-1965 WW I
Frances Englert
1921-1990 WW II
Joe Englert
1923-1984 WW II
Robert Englert
1924-1986
WW II POW
Don Flick
1931-2013 KOREA
Victor Frank
1921-2001 WW II
Dave Fehrenbacher
1945-2025 Navy
Jim Fehrenbacher
1916-2001 WW II
George Folz
1912-1957 WW II
Mac Glaser
1928-2012 KOREA

Ray Hamner
1940-2026 MARINES
Earl Happe
1919-1987 WW II
Fran Happe
1936-2025 ARMY
Ron Hartmann
1947-2017 ARMY
Paul Hasselbrinck
1933-2016 KOREA
William Helfrich
1931-1993 KOREA
Francis Hillenbrand
1921-2018 WWII
Leo B. Hillenbrand
1911-1975 WW II
Leo J. Hillenbrand
1921-2003 WWII
Merl Hoefling
1923-1985 WW II
Larry Hoefling
1945-2021 NAVY
Leroy Jochum
1934-2013 ARMY
Keith Jones
1949-2023 ARMY
Henry Kares
1911-1983 ARMY
Greg Kempf
1925-2005 WW II
Ron Kempf
1938-2021
NATIONAL GUARD
Tom Kempf
1933-2014 ARMY
William Kempf
1935-2001 ARMY
Albert Kissel
1936-1986 NAVY
William Kissel
1932-1971 KOREA
Dick Klausmeier
1930-2022 KOREA
John Kraft
1894-1964 WW I
Marlon Kroeger
1924-2021
NATIONAL GUARD
Nick Lannert
1976-2019 ARMY
Charles Lewis
1917-2002 WWII
Leo Mayer
1893-1975 WW I
Kenneth Maurer
1945-2013
NATIONAL GUARD
Olen Metz
1921-1994 WW II

Clarence Miller
1923-2011 WWII
Francis Niemeier
1921-1944 WW II
Killed in Action
Buried in Holland
Hank Preske
1923-2016 WW II
Barthel Rexing
1917-1987 WW II
Carl Rexing
1924-2013 WW II
Joe Rexing
1919-2005 WW II
Clem Ritter
1912-1973 WW II
Gene Ritter
1927-2024 ARMY
Ralph Ritter
1971-1991 WW II
Elmer Schapker
1928-2011 KOREA
Paul Schapker
1921-2001 WWII
Ken Schapker
1951-2015
NATIONAL GUARD
Joe Scheller
1919-1986 WW II
Joseph Schneider
1894-1978 WW I
Vernon
Sidenbender Jr.
1921-1973 WW II
Guy Smyth
1947-2015 VIETNAM
Eddie Spaetti
1951-2016
NATIONAL GUARD

Russell Stratman
1929-2024 KOREA
Dave Tieken
1942-2005 ARMY
Floyd Titzer
1927-2017 NAVY
Cyril Ubelhor
1930-2015 KOREA
Larry Ubelhor
1929-2012
NATIONAL GUARD
Hubert Unfried
1923-1991 WW II
KOREA
Ray Voelker
1917-2007 WW II
Albert Vollman
1944-2021 Navy
Walter Weis
1920-2018 NAVY
Leroy Weiss
1921-2015 WWII
Tony Weiss
1924-2020 WWII
Talmadge Wells
1923-2018 WWII
Bud Werner
1929-2020 KOREA
Curtis Will
1941-2009
AIR FORCE
Urban Will
1916-2002 WW II
Daniel Woods
1939-2000 ARMY
Robert
Woodward
1952-2001
VIETNAM

Robert
Angermeier
1928-2019 ARMY
Synatius
Baumgart
1916-1993 WW II
Brenda Bergwitz
1942-2021
MARINES
John Bergwitz
1938-2015
MARINES
Charlie Bergwitz
1979-1992 NAVY
Cyndi Conaway
1961-2022
MARINES
Elmer Debes
1939-1982 NAVY
Frank Eckart
1923-2009 WWII
C. Merel Effinger
1937-2014
MARINES
Ray Fisher
1926-2007 WW II
Robert Gentry
1927-2006 WW II
KOREA, VIETNAM
Norbert Happe
1896-1919 WW I
Buried in France
Edgar Hartz
1933-2012 ARMY
Joseph Johnson
1928-2000 KOREA
Bill Knight
1943-2014 AIR FORCE

Art Logel
1918-2007 WW II
Jack Lannert
1927-1985 WW II
Joseph D. Mayer
1893-1963 WW I
Robert McIntosh
1938-2017
AIR FORCE
Harold Niemeier
1923-2019 WWII
Scottie Pace
1934-2021 ARMY
Bernie Scheller
1951-2002 ARMY
Don Schroeder
1931-2019 NAVY
Joe Schu
1911-1999 WW II
Don Singleton
1927-2014 WW II
Bob Straub
1934-2018 ARMY
Joe Sudholt
1950-2010 ARMY
Donald Titzer
1936-2003
AIR FORCE
Richard Torres
1945-2019 ARMY
Eugene Wargel
1940-1999 NAVY
Allen Wargel
1946-2005 ARMY
Harry Woods
1950-2025 ARMY

Today we remember these men and women for their service to our country. Help us to treasure the gift they have given of serving a cause greater than themselves. As we honor and give thanks for their service, help us also to remember the millions of innocent people who have also died because of our failure to live together as brothers and sisters in Christ. Hold them all, O God, in the tender compassion of your heart. Help us keep the memory of these departed brothers and sisters alive in our hearts. Help us dedicate ourselves again and again to building a world of peace by being makers of peace in our own lives. Give us courage to be instruments of forgiveness and healing in our world.





REMEMBERING
Margaret Kafel

August 9, 1928—March 4, 2026

“She made you feel special.” That’s the way the people in her family described her. Margaret (Seibert) Kafel was born on August 9, 1928, the fourth of ten children born to August and Marie Seibert. She grew up in the city of Ludlow in northwest Kentucky

across the river from Cincinnati, Ohio. Margaret’s strong connection to the Catholic faith began when she was baptized in the church of St. James. It was there that she attended grade school and later went on to high school. Her schooling got cut short when she had to quit school to begin working to help support the family. Among the jobs she worked at was her job at Gibson Art Card Company.

Margaret was introduced to her husband, Donald Kafel through a blind date. Love blossomed and they were married on January 24, 1948. They would welcome four children in their lives—Leslie, Donna, Timothy and Michael. Four would become her “lucky” number. She was the fourth child, she had four children, two of her four children had four children themselves, she was married on January 24, and she died on March 4. So, of course, when, in later years Margaret was playing bingo, she would always look for cards with “4” on them.

Margaret had a great sense of compassion for others and so it was a natural fit for her to work as a nurses aide in the local hospital. Caring for others became one of the hallmarks of Margaret’s life. And that care extended to praying for people and their needs. She was truly a “prayer warrior,” and the rosary was her “go to” prayer. She would make prayer shawls and knit hats for the little babies who would be in the Neo Natal Intensive Care Unit of the hospital. Margaret always seemed to know who, in the family, was in need of prayer. Margaret would also use her talents as a cook and baker to share all manner of “goodies” with family members. Her banana bread was a favorite.

Margaret was always proud to claim the name “Catholic.” One of her special memories was writing to Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict, and Pope Francis. She treasured the responses she got from each of them. And while she was ecstatic when Pope Leo was elected, she was not able to write to this first Pope from the United States.

In time, Margaret moved with her husband to Lafayette, Indiana to be close to their daughter Donna (Kafel) Blankenberger. After her husband, Donald died, she again moved to be with her daughter Donna whose job brought her to Evansville. While Donna remained her chief caregiver especially in the last years of her life, Margaret remained a very independent person, taking care of herself while she lived at Solarbron Pointe Retirement Village and then Leisure Living.

In time, Margaret became a welcome presence with her favorite son-in-law, Alan Blankenberger’s family. Wherever she went, Margaret had a profound influence on her family and friends. One of her granddaughters remembers her as the best grandmother ever. “She gave me a sense of being completely loved. She loved watching her family grow and

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JOIN US DURING THE MONTH OF MAY AS WE PRAY THE ROSARY BEFORE ALL THE WEEKEND MASS



taught us all how to sew and to bake. And she became a role model for me now that I have my own grandchildren. Her memory lives on each time I gather with my grandkids to bake cookies and cupcakes.”

Even in the last years that Margaret was a resident at Bethel Manor, her life impacted not only the other residents there but also their families. One of the resident’s family members recalled, “I first met Margaret at Bethel Manor . She was a good friend of my sister Shirley. We immediately became dear friends with our love for the Catholic Church. I was amazed by her knowledge and the letters she received by past popes. She was always grateful for everything I did for her especially her Funyuns and White Chocolate she won in Sunday Bingo. I know Margaret was so ready to meet her Heavenly Father. She asked me often to pray for this.”

Margaret died peacefully on March 4. On March 21, her family gathered to celebrate the Mass of the Resurrection. She was buried next to her husband at the church cemetery of St. Boniface in Lafayette, Indiana. We give thanks for the gift that Margaret was to her family and to our parish. We pray that she might cherish now the words of Jesus, “Well done, good and faithful servant. Come share in the kingdom that has been prepared for you.”

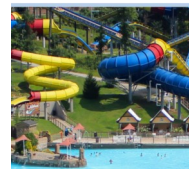
HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

To the Moms who are struggling,
to those filled with incandescent joy.
To the Moms who are remembering children
who have died, and pregnancies that miscarried.
To the Moms who decided other parents
were the best choice for their babies,
to the Moms who adopted those kids
and loved them fiercely.
To those experiencing frustration
or desperation in infertility.
To those who knew they never wanted kids,
and the ways they have contributed to our shared world.
To those who mothered colleagues, mentees,
neighborhood kids, and anyone who needed it.
To those remembering Moms no longer with us.
To those moving forward
from Moms who did not show love,
or hurt those they should have cared for.
Today is a day to honor the unyielding love
and care for others we call 'Motherhood,'
wherever we have found it
and in whatever ways we have found
to cultivate it within ourselves. *Hannah Kardon*



**EVANSVILLE WEST SIDE CATHOLIC YOUTH
HOLIDAY WORLD TRIP WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3**

Incoming 6th-outgoing 8th Graders
\$65 per Student Ticket \$50 Chaperone Ticket. Price
includes ticket, bus ride, and all you can eat lunch buffet
Last day for registration is May 13.
Contact Jessica Reckelhoff for registration
information. 812-598-1151



A CATHOLIC VIEW FROM THE US-MEXICAN BORDER



Bishop Mark Seitz

Since 2013, I have been the Bishop of the Diocese of El Paso, one of the “border dioceses” on the U.S.-Mexico border that has been for many years the focus of rhetorical and sometimes physical conflict over the issue of migration. As such, I am often asked to offer my view of the current situation at the border. In addressing that important issue, I try to take inspiration from the pontificate of Leo XIV and gesture a bit beyond the current news cycle to bring light on some deeper issues that I believe are at stake in the contemporary debate on immigration in our country and are urgent for our consideration. Finally, I also try to offer some reasons for which I think we can have hope, even in these challenging times.

Let me start with the reality at the border. For 396 days—that is, since Day One of the current presidential administration—our nation’s very carefully crafted system of protection at the border for receiving those fleeing threats to life and liberty, a system crafted in the aftermath of the horrors of the Second World War, has been effectively dismantled. This tracks, too, with the gutting of our nation’s obligations to international refugees. This is not to ignore the many challenges posed by migration at the border in recent years, or the outmoded nature and inflexibility of our asylum system, but the persistent rhetoric once emanating from the fringes of the political right—which demonized those arriving to the border and characterized them as existential threats to the homeland—has now migrated to the political center and had its intended effect. Asylum and international protection are over.



Aerial view of Camp East Montana

But the logic and mechanisms of patrol that have long been a reality of life at the southern border have now been extended to the entire nation. Let me offer an example.

Only several months ago, the Trump administration opened a very large detention center in El Paso called Camp East Montana. This immigrant detention center, now the largest in the country with a daily population well over 3,000, is located on an installation of the U.S. Army, Fort Bliss, one of the largest military installations in the world. As a historical point of curiosity, refugees fleeing the Mexican Revolution in the 1910s were also interned at Fort Bliss.

On most Sunday afternoons, I celebrate Mass at the camp. My office regularly receives phone calls from detainees at the camp asking me for help and to intervene for them. I won’t speak to my personal observations of the conditions there, but suffice it to say that in just the past couple of months, three people have died there, an extraordinary number. One of those deaths, that of Gerardo Lunas Campos, a 55-year-old Cuban gentleman, was ruled a homicide by officials of the El Paso coroner’s office. It appears he was asphyxiated in an altercation with guards. The most recent to die, Victor Manuel Diaz, a 36-year-old gentleman

from Nicaragua, was determined by the facility to have died of suicide. The problem, however, is that following the determination of homicide in the case of Gerardo Lunas Campos by the El Paso coroner, the detention center moved to have the body of Victor Manuel Diaz autopsied by the U.S. Army, rather than the coroner, and the U.S. Army will not release a public report.

In recent months, many of those detained at Fort Bliss have come from Minnesota. Our diocese and our partners regularly receive urgent pleas from relatives in Minnesota: In one case, a detainee needed lifesaving medication and could not access it. Other people are receiving substandard medical care, or looking for their relatives (but the government won’t publicize their locations), or seeking pastoral care but can’t access it. Some are in need of attorneys or have already signed their voluntary deportation orders but for some unknown reason are languishing in detention, unsure when they will ever get out.

This is all happening on a military base, at a distance from the community. I am convinced we built the border wall and have sequestered these places of mental and physical torture on military bases or in faraway rural counties not so that immigrants stay away, but so that we don’t have to see them. Our tax dollars subsidize this luxury of sequestering human pain, clinically cordoning it off, just like the biblical scapegoats in Leviticus who were sent off into the barren wilderness, where some were even pushed off the cliffs to their deaths. Now, in El Paso, there are plans to open an additional detention facility, this time with capacity for 8,000 persons.

But you see the connection: The gross enforcement actions which all of us witnessed in Minnesota are linked to the migration of human pain from the Twin Cities to places like Camp East Montana in El Paso.

THE BORDER IS EVERYWHERE NOW

There are more connections. You may have noticed in the Twin Cities—and not only there but in Chicago, in Los Angeles, in North Carolina and other places—the presence not just of ICE agents executing the administration’s mass deportation agenda, but also uniformed Border Patrol agents. Border enforcement agents are helping to carry out the country’s immigrant removal agenda.

Now, in my time at the border, I have met many honorable Border Patrol agents and personnel. (As a matter of fact, I recently ordained one as a permanent deacon.) There are many good ones. Yet there are some pertinent facts to lay on the table. Without even getting into the historically radicalized dynamics of border enforcement (and these are important), the Border Patrol is an agency that has struggled significantly with corruption, the violation of civil liberties, a lack of accountability and issues surrounding the use of force.

I think the following is instructive. In the decade following Sept. 11, the Border Patrol doubled in size as a result of efforts to strengthen homeland security, from about 10,000 to about 20,000 agents. Budgets and infrastructure grew. This high growth of expansion led to a frightening reduction in hiring standards and the cutting of corners in training. Many of those who were recruited

(Continued on page 5)

ST. ANNE ALTAR SOCIETY SPRING DINNER

The Altar Society is inviting all the ladies of the parish to their **SPRING PIZZA DINNER** on Thursday, **MAY 8th** at 6 in the school cafeteria. Make your reservation now by calling Donna Dippel at 812-963-5911, or Susie Schapker at 812-483-4799.

Reservations need to be made by May 6th.

COMING...THURSDAY, MAY 8



(Continued from page 4)

came from theaters of war in the Middle East and returned with a mentality that they were protecting the country from existential threats. This attitude collided with the need to process an increasing number of asylum seekers; what was needed was

**Who counts? Do the unborn count?
Does the sick person or the poor
person count? Does the foreigner count?
Because at the end of the day,
everybody counts or nobody counts.**

care, compassion and respect for constitutional law and international asylum law, for which the average agent was poorly equipped.

One can understand why, in the heat of this collision, there were so many frustrations on the part of agents, abuses, question-

able deadly weapons discharges and a troubling pattern of skirting the rule of law.

Now consider what has been happening in Minneapolis and across the country. Following historic increases in funding for immigration enforcement with the “Big Beautiful Bill” last year, and a consequent hiring surge, we are seeing the same post-9/11 dynamics that we witnessed at the border play out nationwide. The administration has sidelined many of those in ICE leadership because they were not executing the deportation agenda quickly enough, complementing and supplanting ICE with Border Patrol personnel who have demonstrated a willingness to play fast and loose with the rule of law and with due process.

Many of those now being recruited into ICE are being recruited with the dangerous mentality that by detaining and deporting brown people, they are protecting America from existential threats. Sanctioned at the highest levels, abuse now risks going mainstream. When someone is an existential threat, anything is licit. In this sense, the border now really is everywhere. And this should wake us all up.

POPE LEO XIV

Now let me turn to Pope Leo, with a slight detour via Pope Francis. I was blessed to have many occasions during his papacy to be with Pope Francis, who was a giant on the world stage and who I think was uniquely suited to our times. He offered the world joy, simplicity, credibility and an incisive call to moral coherence. He offered the world the Gospel and Jesus Christ.

For Francis, the moral challenge of our time was expanding the circle of people who count. He called us to build a wider we, *un nosotros cada vez más grande*. Who counts? Do the unborn count? Does the sick person or the poor person count? Does the foreigner count? Because at the end of the day, everybody counts or nobody counts. The mission territory of our time for



Bishop Seitz meeting with Pope Leo on October 8, 2025

Francis was the building up of human fraternity according to the mind and heart of God.

It is already clear that Pope Leo assumed his predecessor’s call as his own. In October of last year, I brought Pope Leo a box of letters from immigrants across the

country, many terrified of ICE, terrified for their families, terrified for their lives. He took it from me and he told me the church in the United States had to act, to speak up. Those are the marching orders he gave me. I brought that message back to the bishops, and they responded with a national message in November, condemning mass deportations.

That is a message I think needs to be read from every pulpit

2026 FISH FRY REPORT



Another successful fish fry in the books. It takes a great deal of work by a great many people to make all this happen. Thanks to the slaw sisters: Jessica and Natalie Kassenbrock and Imogene Baehl and their crew for taking care of the slaw. Thanks to Randy Fehrenbacher and Sis Jarboe for putting together the German Potato Salad. And thanks to all the folks who helped prepare all the vegetables. Thanks to Cheri King, Beth Spaetti, and Keri Hartz for putting up with all the disruptions to the school lunch program, and making some great baked beans as well. Thanks to Gary Fehrenbacher for overseeing the fish frying efforts, and to Jessica Reckelhoff and her crew for making the corn bread. Yummy on both counts!

Thanks to Tom Elsner and his crew for selling tickets, and to Shari Kempf for organizing our fish dinner sales at Leisure Living. And, of course, we had great help with all the other folks who came to prepare all the food, got the dinners ready, and then made sure everything got cleaned up and put away at the end of the evening. Thanks to our 8th graders for the great cookies they made and sold. Great leaders make things look easy! All in all, another great parish effort!

2026 FISH FRY	
INCOME:	\$23,391.00
EXPENSES:	\$7,307.80
PROFIT:	\$16,084.20
MEALS SERVED	1559
2025 FISH FRY	
INCOME	\$27,264.00
EXPENSES	\$ 7,720.85
PROFIT	\$19,543.15
MEALS SERVED	1947

across the country. It should be printed in every parish bulletin in the country. I think Pope Leo sees his task as implementing his predecessor’s social vision, a Gospel-inspired claim to human fraternity in a world increasingly unmoored from political, social, economic and moral stability. That’s a challenging task.

Today, we can no longer count on truth-telling. Although we are drowning in information, we are in the midst of a famine of knowledge and wisdom. Our institutions are collapsing and we are driven by insecurity. Politically, the ascendant ideology is one of “might makes right.” Socially we are divided, even in the midst of instant communication, and when we are together, we are at each other’s throats. A new generation of robber barons, buttressed by the power of artificial intelligence, is now at the gates, threatening to overtake our entire political economy, not to mention our natural resources and common home, subordinating it to the interests of the elite.

All of this taken together represents a formidable challenge to the common good, and perhaps an unprecedented moral challenge as well.

This is precisely why the pope took the name Leo. Taking the name Leo was an important step, because all of these elements are the contemporary challenges which we must face and face down with the inspiration of the Gospel today, just as Pope Leo XIII did when the world faced the brutal realities of industrialization and the concentration of capital in the hands of a few in the 19th century and wrote his famous encyclical, “Rerum Novarum.”

This is why the new pope needs our prayers and our support. He is addressing the Gospel to these new realities and

(Continued on page 6)

trying to do so, as Francis did, with joy, simplicity, credibility and an incisive call to moral coherence. He is pleading with us to rebuild on surer foundations of human dignity, justice and mercy.

THE MIGRANT VICTIMS OF INSTABILITY

In our world today, these sources of instability produce forced migration. It is immoral to make the victims of forced migration pay the price of our political, social, economic and moral crisis. Mass deportation is a campaign of scapegoating. It is a gross distraction. And taking place as it does against the ideological bunting of “might makes right,” I’m sorry to say that it is also violent.

How can we not recoil before the violence that is at the heart of this campaign? It is not accidental but structural. When enforcement agents patrol our streets and neighborhoods decked out with more military kit and equipment than our soldiers who patrolled the streets of Fallujah and Kabul, when women are ripped from their cars, when tear canisters are fired into automobiles with infants, when playgrounds become battlegrounds, when people are slammed into walls with concussive force, when people are gunned down on our streets, when detainees are choked to death—at what point do we say enough is enough? At what point

Every migrant is a person and, as such, has inalienable rights that

must be respected in every situation.

do we recognize that this is not just a bug, but a feature? Are we so incapable of moral discernment? Have we lost our spiritual equilibrium?

Pope Leo, of course, is an Augustinian. At the heart of St. Augustine’s social theory was not violence, but an original peace: the idea that we and the world were created for peace. That peace is ultimately more fundamental, more credible, more generative of the common good and a just order than violence. To the notion that “might makes right,” St. Augustine famously opposes the *tranquillitas ordinis*. That is, every law and policy must be in the service of peace and human dignity. As the Second Vatican Council taught, the order of things must be subservient to the order of persons, not the other way around. The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath. St. Augustine and Pope Leo propose a different vision of the human person and society. And for this reason, Leo has insisted that “every migrant is a person and, as such, has inalienable rights that must be respected in every situation.”

REASONS FOR HOPE

In the Letter to the Romans, Paul calls God “the God of hope.” In 1 Peter, we read that we should always be ready to offer an account regarding our hope. That’s the task of our Christian community today and at all times.

Hope can be found even in situations and circumstances that seem hopeless. One example is part of the story of Alex Pretti, who was shot and killed by Border Patrol agents on Jan. 26. It is hard to know the totality of the circumstances that led to Mr. Pretti’s death, so I am hesitant to make a judgment or assume anything. What I will say is this.

Following Alex Pretti’s death, a Mass was celebrated by a priest chaplain who worked with Alex for 10 years in the hospital and said that he was “known for his kindness and gentleness to patients.” That’s what it means to be a caregiver.

What happened in Los Angeles, in Chicago and in the Twin Cities ICE surge was hard to stomach. It was brutal and it was violent. People died. Kids were traumatized. Women and elderly persons, those to whom we owe care and gentleness, were brutalized. And it’s still happening. We’re not solving anything. We’re not fixing our immigration laws. We’re not making our streets safer. We’re not shoring up the rule of law. We’re not solving poverty or hunger or meeting human need.

But there are people like Alex Pretti who decided to put their

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS
MAY 23--JUNE 14 2026**

ARE YOU WILLING TO SERVE? We are always looking for new people to help serve at Mass by being a Minister of Communion or a Lector. Call/text us (812-499-9074) and we will provide all you need to serve our parish in this way.

DATE	EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS	READERS
Saturday May 23, 2026 5 PM	Diane Woods Eric Reffett Mary Loehrlein Carolyn Hutchinson	Sis Jarboe
Sunday May 24, 2026 8 AM	Brian and Ann Craney Marcia Frey Terry Drone	Chick Duncan
Sunday May 24, 2026 10:30 AM	Sally Kempf Cecelia Koch Kitty Deig Paul Hillenbrand	Jane Scheller
Saturday May 30, 2026 5 PM	Mary Kay Fehrenbacher Donna Niemeier Eric and Karen McDonald	Susie Schapker
Sunday May 31, 2026 8 AM	Rodney and Paula Baehl Lisa Cook Darlene Appler	Tom Folz
Sunday May 31, 2026 10:30 AM	Amy Cody Rachael Schanus Jena & Shane Wessel	Shane Wessel
Saturday June 6, 2026 5 PM	Butch and Linda Feulner Sis & Katie Jarboe	Jim Hermann
Sunday June 7, 2026 8 AM	Randy and Kathy Fehrenbacher Tom and Dolores Folz	Terry Drone
Sunday June 7, 2026 10:30 AM	Sally Kempf Cecelia Koch Kitty Deig Paul Hillenbrand	Chad Martin
Saturday June 13, 2026 5:00 PM	Peter and Jodi Fehrenbacher Donald & Brandon Werner	Toni Askins
Sunday June 14, 2026 8:00 AM	Imogene Baehl Michael Elpers Chick Duncan Marcia Frey	Jalene Weber
Sunday June 14, 2026 10:30 AM	Becky Doshier Steve Jung Debra Baumgart Al Debes	Jane Scheller

bodies, their lives, on the line. There are priests and sisters and pastors and rabbis and imams who are saying enough is enough. It’s time for a change. There are ordinary people across this country who are watching what is happening with moral revulsion, who care about the Constitution, who care about the moral fabric of the country, who care about their immigrant neighbor, who care about our common future.

In Minneapolis, neighbors showed up for neighbors. Priests organized their parishes to support those who were missing from the pews, and they ensured access to the sacraments was made available to all. Truthful information was shared. People showed up to witness and document what was happening in order to protect the vulnerable. These moral acts need to be multiplied. In Massachusetts, in Texas, in every state in the country. And so there are seeds of hope.

**BElieve THEre
is GOOD
in the world**

Up Close and Personal



Cameron Lappe

High school has gone by pretty fast for Cameron Lappe, a senior at Mater Dei. “It seems like it was only yesterday when I graduated from St. Joe Grade School.” Cameron is the son of Dave and Kristin (Campbell) Lappe, and older brother to Alison, a freshman at Mater Dei and Grayson, a third grader at St. Joe. He gets the chance to be a “big brother” to them, a role he likes. “I like hanging out with my little brother. Now that Alison is in high school I’ve discovered that she is a great person to talk to.”

His years at Mater Dei have been filled with a lot of classes. One of the interesting classes he is taking now is a PE class entitled Lifetime Sports. “It’s a chance to learn about different sports that you can continue to play once you are out of school—disc golf, pickleball, badminton and wiffle ball are among the choices.”

Entering high school was a little challenging for Cameron. “It was a whole different world for me and it took me a little time to adjust.” The “fresh beginnings” program which introduces incoming freshmen with other people in the school was a big help. In the ensuing years, Cameron has been a part of the team that put this program on.

One of the other things that helped Cameron get adjusted to high school was the chance to participate in sports. During his freshman year he was a member of the track team. But the biggest thing he has been involved in is being part of the boys soccer team. He’s been on the team all four years and this year served as the captain of the team. He played the center back position. Being captain required him to develop some of his leadership skills. “Soccer involves a lot of hard work and practice, and there are a lot of times when going to practice is the last thing you want to do. But you go and set a good example for others to follow. Soccer is a team sport so you have to learn how to get along with everyone and be willing to do your part. You spend a lot of time together during the season at practice and games and sharing in team meals, so it’s pretty natural that some of your best friends are the people on the team.”

This year, the team made it to the sectional finals where they faced their arch rival, Heritage Hills. “We ended up losing 3-1 but it was a pretty hard fought game. In fact there were 14 yellow cards and 1 red card given out in the game, so it was a pretty physical game.”

Next year Cameron plans on attending USI and possibly pursuing a degree in business. “I might try out for the men’s soccer team as a walk on.” Where will he be in the future? Perhaps joining the family business, Lappe Heating and Air. If so, he would be the fourth generation to carry on the business.

Cameron attended grade school here at St. Joe since preschool. “There were some good times through the years. I remember especially the different Christmas Programs I was part of. Recess was pretty good too. Our class was very competitive, so we always had some good games going on during recess.”

Family is a pretty big thing in Cameron’s life. “My mom and dad are probably the biggest influences in my life. What I have learned from my dad is how important it is to show up and do what you say you are going to do. You have to be willing to work for things in life. Mom’s the one who reminds me that caring for others is pretty important. It’s all about learning how not to be self centered in life.”

INTRODUCING OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

Holiday times are great opportunities to get together with extended family. “My Grandmother, Lori Lappe, talks about how important it is to have God in your life. When I was little she taught me a simple German prayer *I am little, my heart is pure. No one may live in it but Jesus alone.* When we gather at their house at Christmas, she leads us in the tradition of telling the Christmas story. The youngest grandchild is chosen to play the part of Jesus.”

Gathering with all the grandparents always involves the chance to enjoy a lot of great food. My dad is a pretty good cook. We also like to have our family meals as well. Getting some pizza from Azzip Pizza is one of their favorite places to go.

During the summer, Cameron worked as a life-guard at Burdette Park. If you go there this summer you may find him watching over things. Over the years he has been credited with rescuing four people who were in trouble in the pool. This year he hopes to be one of the head life guards.

WORDS OF WISDOM: “I think one of the biggest things I have learned is that you can’t take things for granted. It is easy to forget how much parents do for you. Be thankful for the friends you have and lean to appreciate the little things like hanging out with your friends. Sometimes you can get pretty stressed out thinking about what you are supposed to do in life, so learning how to relax is pretty important. Part of life is learning from the hard times that are a part of everyone’s lives. I remember when my great grandmother died. I got to be there with her. When I was in second grade I remember that we went out to eat at a restaurant and at the end of the meal, I got the chance to win a prize from a special game they had at the restaurant. My prize was two blue bouncing balls. My great grandmother took one and I took one and I have kept it all my life. When she was dying, I held her hand and asked if she still had her blue ball. She couldn’t talk but when she squeezed my hand I knew she knew what I said. That was really a special moment for me.”

THE DIGNITY INDEX HOW DID YOU DO?

Here are the answers and the reasons for them from the quotes (which are found on page 12 of this newsletter) that you were invite to rate.

1. This is a SIX because the speaker believes they have a duty to talk to the other side
2. This is a FIVE because it challenges the other side and shares views with no contempt so it is easier to hear.
3. This is an EIGHT because the speaker responds to contempt by treating the other side with dignity, and wants to solve problems without demanding a particular approach.
4. This is a ONE because it calls for violence of another group of people
5. This is an EIGHT because the speaker recognizes inherent worth in everyone and has no sense of moral superiority.
6. This is a TWO because those people are not just evil, they are an existential threat.

Check out more at “The Daily Dignity” at dignity.us

ENJOY A GREAT CHICKEN DINNER

THURSDAY, MAY 21

CARRYOUT ONLY 5-6:30

ON THE MENU: Fried Chicken, Corn, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Roll

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God's Work
Our Hands

Be an island of mercy in
a sea of indifference.
Pope Leo

Not all of us can do great things,
but we can do small things with great
love. *Mother Teresa of Calcutta*



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OUR BLOOD DRIVE
WAS A SUCCESS!



NEXT BLOOD DRIVE--SUNDAY, AUGUST 23




Each year from Mother's Day to Father's Day we have a tradition of collecting items to help unwed mothers and fathers through Birthright.


We will have diaper bags in church which can be filled with powder, lotion, ointment, bottles, wipes, etc. and then brought back to the gym, or dropped off at the rectory. Get on board and help unwed mothers and fathers by filling a diaper bag for Birthright. Packages of diapers can also be donated. You can also make a cash donation to "Birthright." Put your contribution in an envelope marked "Birthright" and put it in the collection. If you have questions please contact Toni Askins at 812-457-3214.

GET ON BOARD THE DIAPER BAG EXPRESS





We accept donations for the
St. Vincent dePaul Food Pantry
at church each weekend



NEWS FROM MARY MOTHER OF GOD MISSION IN RUSSIA




Fr. Myron Effing, a son of our parish has been working with the Catholic community in eastern Russia. Four times a year we have a special collection to pay for the costs of educating priests to serve with the Mary Mother of God Mission Society. Here is Fr. Myron's latest report


Sunday, December 21, 2025 was a great day for us in Russia. Our Bishop Kirill came to ordain three of our C.J.D. brothers to the priesthood! And it happened just in time for Christmas masses at all the parishes in our state, the size of Wisconsin.


Here are details for you! Fr Edwin Intan, C.J.D. is the oldest of the three new priests. Here is a photo taken at his 50th birthday party in the Philippines. He is also the most experienced! He lived and worked in Japan, Korea, and Russia, and speaks all those languages, including his native Cebuano and Tagalog—and English, of course. He even said the Spanish Mass here for Christmas. He was the founder of a charitable organization in the Philippines which cares for homeless and street people. His passion to care for the poor was fueled by his childhood when his parents died in an automobile accident, and he was the eldest child and felt responsible for his orphaned siblings.

Father Peter Nsamba, C.J.D., came to us from Uganda in Africa. He is known for his congeniality and laughter, but that didn't keep him from completing his bachelor's degree in Theology at the Jesuit's Ateneo De Manila University's Loyola School of Theology. He has been on demand in Uganda, too, especially with ministry to those seeking to join the Church, and doing many baptisms as a deacon. Besides parish work, he will be invaluable here in Vladivostok working with the many foreign university students.

Fr Pradeep Chand Mulupuri, C.J.D. is from Andhra Pradesh, India. During his diaconate with us he has been especially helpful as a car driver and purchasing agent. But more important, as a deacon, he has often taken care of our parishes in Arsenyev and Ussuryisk when the pastor was absent. When he has to be in his native India, he often works with his uncle who is the founder and operator of an orphanage for children who are very poor and needy.







NEXT COLLECTION FOR MARY MOTHER
OF GOD MISSION SOCIETY--MAY 31

Special National Collection This Month CATHOLIC COMMUNICATIONS CAMPAIGN



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The Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) serves millions of parishioners around the world and in our community through podcasts, newspapers, television, satellite radio and more. Your financial support helps fund programs that inspire and help people through the challenges of life.

INTERNET CCC provides blogs, live streaming videos, articles, audio, and daily Scripture readings. They are available for listening or download at www.usccb.org. 7 million people listened to these readings from January-June.

RADIO *Live at Large* tackles real-world issues facing Catholic young adults on his weekly program, available on the Catholic Channel (159) on Sirius Satellite Radio and on a downloadable podcast at www.usccb.org

Support our Church's efforts to remain a strong voice
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RUMMAGE SALE

Friday, June 5
3 pm until 7 pm
Saturday, June 6
7 am until 1 pm

COME ON FRIDAY and GET THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY AT SOME GREAT BARGAINS

Friday Shoppers pay double

Special Bag Sale beginning at 10:30 am Saturday

Our annual rummage sale is right around the corner—June 5-6. With everyone’s help and cooperation this has become a very successful fundraiser for the church. Over the years we have raised over \$165,000 to help our parish! We encourage everyone to dig into their closets, basements, attics and garages and donate no-longer needed items to the sale. All useable, saleable items will be gratefully accepted.

NEED SUGGESTIONS?

- FURNITURE & HOUSEHOLD ITEMS CHILDREN’S TOYS, BOOKS, PUZZLES TRICYCLES, BICYCLES, WAGONS
- TOOLS—LAWN EQUIPMENT—EXERCISE EQUIPMENT
- RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT
- ANTIQUES AND COLLECTIBLES—JEWELRY
- BABY ITEMS: Clothing, blankets, strollers, high chairs, furniture
- CHRISTMAS & HOLIDAY DECORATIONS
- CLOTHING: (*clean and in good condition*),

KUCHENS FOR SALE Friday and Saturday



FOOD AND DRINKS AVAILABLE ON FRIDAY AND SATURDAY
 We regret that we will NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT Console TV’s, Computers, Electronic Devices, tires or mattresses.
RULE OF THUMB: If you wouldn’t buy it, don’t bring it.

Bring your items to the gym after all Masses on May 30 & 31 AND 9 am to 7 pm June 1, 2, & 3. Help is needed every day June 1-3 to sort, price and arrange merchandise. Help is also needed on the day of our sale as well.

We need to receive all rummage sale items by WEDNESDAY NIGHT, June 3

We’ll also be collecting medium size Target bags to be used at the sale. Drop them off in the containers in the gym or bring them the week of our rummage sale.

Questions? Call Imogene – 812- 963-5221

COME HELP US ON SATURDAY JUNE 6 BEGINNING AT NOON

AND WE CAN USE A LOT OF HELP TO CLEAN UP EVERYTHING FROM THE RUMMAGE SALE.



MAY 2026

SUMMER SOCIAL SUNDAY, JULY 26

Let's Do It Again!



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BEFOREHAND
CARRYOUT ONLY



\$15,000 in prizes
TICKETS \$25 5/--\$100

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Mother's Day thru Father's Day to support Birthright				1 Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 AM MASS Communion to the Homebound
3 Mass at 8 10:30 am Coffee, Food & Fellowship 9 am RCIA and Family Religion Class Food Pantry And Haiti	4 Boot Camp 5 am 7 AM-6:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration Mass 6:30 pm	5 7:30 AM MASS Spring Musical 6 PM	6 Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 AM MASS Parish Staff Meeting Noon	7 NO MASS	8 Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 AM MASS Senior Citizen Gathering 1 pm Communion to the Homebound	9 Food Pantry Collection Sacrament of Reconciliation 4 pm Mass 5 pm
10 Mass at 8 10:30 am Food Pantry And Haiti Collection	11 Boot Camp 5 am 7 am-6:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass Knights of St. John Meeting 7 pm	12 7:30 am Mass School Spring Musical 6 pm	13 Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 am Mass Parish Staff Meeting Noon Pre-School Graduation 5:30 pm	14 NO MASS LAST DAY FOR PRE-SCHOOL Altar Society Spring Dinner 6 pm Haiti Ministry Meeting 6:30 pm	15 Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 AM Passing of the Light Mass Communion to the Homebound	16 Food Pantry Collection Sacrament of Reconciliation 4 pm Mass 5 pm
<p>JOIN US DURING THE MONTH OF MAY AS WE PRAY THE ROSARY BEFORE ALL THE WEEKEND MASS</p>						
17 Mass at 8 10:30 am Food Pantry Mater Dei High School Graduation RCIA and Last Family Class	18 Boot Camp 5 am 7 am-6:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass Men's Club Meeting 7 pm	19 7:30 am Mass School Field Day Early Dismissal	20 Boot Camp 5 am Last day of school Early Dismissal 8th Grade Graduation Mass 6:30 pm Reitz High School Graduation	21 NO MASS DRIVE THRU CHICKEN DINNER 5-6:30 PM	22 Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 AM Mass Communion to the Homebound North Posey High School Graduation	23 Food Pantry Collection Sacrament of Reconciliation 4 pm
24 Mass at 8 10:30 am Food Pantry Collection Last RCIA CLASS	25 Memorial Day Remembrance & Mass 8 am	26 7:30 am Mass	27 Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 am Mass WE CAN STILL USE VOLUNTEERS FOR OUR LAWN MOWNG TEAMS. CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE (812-963-3278) IF YOU CAN HELP		28 NO MASS	29 Boot Camp 5 am 7:30 AM MASS Communion to the Homebound
<p>PRAYER DAY FOR VOCATIONS TUESDAY 6 AM-WEDNESDAY 6 AM</p>						
31 Mass at 8 10:30 am Food Pantry Collection	1 7 am-6:30 PM Eucharistic Adoration 6:30 pm Mass	2 7:30 am Mass	3 7:30 am Mass Last Day to Bring Items for our Rummage Sale	4 NO MASS ALTAR SOCIETY MAKING KUCHENS THURSDAY AT NOON AND FRIDAY AT 9 AM	5 7:30 AM MASS RUMMAGE SALE	6 Haiti & Food Pantry Collection Confessions 4 pm Mass 5 pm
<p>RUMMAGE SALE PREPARATIONS MONDAY--THURSDAY 9 AM -- 7 PM</p> <p>RUMMAGE SALE FRIDAY 3 - 7 PM SATURDAY 7 AM -- 1 PM</p>						

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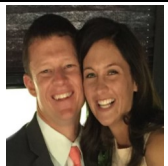
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Mrs. Kelsey Meier—Principal
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Mrs. Julie Kempf—Secretary
 email jkempf@evdio.org

Mrs. Jessica Reckelhoff
 email jreckelhoff#@evdio.org
 Coordinator of Religious Education

WEEKEND MASSES: Saturday 5 pm
Sunday 8 am and 10:30 am



Megan and Chip Altstadt
 812-453-7933



Britt and Patrick Fehrenbacher
 812-480-9702

SUMMER SOCIAL--SUNDAY, JULY 26

It's time to get ready for our summer social. So we'll be sending everyone a packet of tickets toward the end of this month for them to buy/sell. We're confident that the 375 families who bought/sold their raffle tickets last year will be willing to do that again this year. Our hope is that the other 145 families will be in a position to help us out as well. We know that people feel good when they are doing their part in this parish effort.

We'll be doing our chicken dinner also as we did last year: Drive Thru only. Last year we sold over 2600 tickets. Price for dinner tickets will \$15/person. We'll give every family a chance to buy tickets for their family as well. Look for more information in the weeks to come! For the past couple of years, we've had some folks who sold dinners to the folks at Leisure Living. Perhaps there are other places where folks work that they could be selling dinner tickets as well. Could this be your special way to help out? In the meantime, here are some dates to note

Monday, July 13

Dumpling Making Day 7 am

Friday, July 24

Chicken Dinner Preparations 7 am

Saturday, July 25

Carryout Set-Up

Sunday, July 26

Prepare Dinners For Pickup, Clean Up

Raffle Drawing 3 pm



\$15,000 in prizes
TICKETS \$25
5 / \$100

 **\$15**
CHICKEN
DINNER
TICKETS
PURCHASED
BEFOREHAND
PICK-UP JULY 26
10 AM -- 1 PM

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UPHOLDING DIGNITY (cont)

dex. Here are a few examples. How would you rate them?

1. "We are not enemies but friends. We must not be enemies. Though passion may have strained, it must not break our bonds of affection." (President Abraham Lincoln, inaugural Address, March 4 1861.)

2. "We know through painful experience that freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor, it must be demanded by the oppressed. They will not give it up until we make them" (Martin Luther King, Letter From a Birmingham Jail, April 16, 1963)

3. "I ask nothing of you. I want nothing from you. Why can't we be friends?" (Nephew of Ebenezer Scrooge in "A Christmas Carol" who has just extended his yearly Christmas dinner invitation and is responding to Scrooge's insulting response.)

4. "Go in there aggressively, close with the enemy, and wipe them out for good." (Brigade Commander of the troop that conducted the Mi Lai massacre in Vietnam in 1968)

5. "I am human because you are human. My humanity is caught up in yours. And if you are dehumanized, I am dehumanized" South African Archbishop Desmond Tutu referring to forgiveness in light of the atrocities committed on all sides during the apartheid years.

6. "I have a master's degree in international terrorism; I've spent years studying Islam, the history of Islam. It is a threat to the human race." (Constitution Party Presidential Candidate Randall Terry referring to the religion of Islam, July 12, 2024)

To find out how you did, check the answers and the reasons for them on page seven of this newsletter.

HOW WOULD YOU SCORE IT?

