

# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

## Immigration reform advocates protest House bill

### News conference discusses 'punitive immigration restrictions'

BY ANN CAREY

SOUTH BEND — Several advocates for immigration reform held a press conference Jan. 4 to protest what they called "punitive immigration restrictions" in a bill passed by the U.S. House of Representatives last month and being considered by the Senate next month.

One of the speakers, Holy Cross Father Christopher Cox, told *Today's Catholic* that H.R. 4437, known as The Border Protection, Antiterrorism, and Illegal Immigration Control Act of 2005, will disrupt families, individuals and the economy. Priests are particularly concerned, he said, about a provision of the bill that provides jail and/or fines for anyone who assists a person who is in this country illegally.

Father Cox is pastor of St. Adalbert and St. Casimir Parishes in South Bend and has a large Latino congregation. He said at the press conference that the United States bishops oppose the bill, and he distributed a statement from Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino, chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Migration. That statement called the bill "extremely punitive" and said, if enacted, it would "unduly harm immigrants and their families, even those who are currently lawful residents."

Before the House had voted on the bill, Bishop Barnes had pointed out that current federal law

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ANN CAREY

Jesusa Rodriguez was one of five advocates for immigration reform who spoke at a Jan. 4 press conference in South Bend called to protest an immigration bill being considered in the U.S. Congress. Other speakers included Holy Cross Father Christopher Cox, pastor of St. Adalbert and St. Casimir Parishes, at left, and Allert Brown-Gort, associate director of Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame, in the center.

### ALITO HEARING BEGINS



CNS PHOTO/JIM YOUNG, REUTERS

U.S. Supreme Court nominee Judge Samuel Alito Jr., center, arrives at his Senate confirmation hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington Jan. 9 with Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., left, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, and Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.

## Bishop, pastors and seminarians talk about the priesthood

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Twelve pastors brought young men to the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne for the annual Andrew Dinner. With 50 in attendance, after dinner, Father Paul Bueter, Father Mark Gurtner and seminarians Jacob Runyon and Andrew Budzinski told their stories. Bishop John M. D'Arcy joined the conversation and asked the men what the diocese could do to promote vocations.

Many, who were Mass servers, said that they liked that their pastors would say "thank you" after they served Mass. That made an impression. Seminarian Matt Coonan suggested a weekend retreat for those considering the vocation to the priesthood. For those studying at the seminary, the Andrew Dinner seemed to be a good effort.

Father Paul Bueter, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Diocesan Shrine in Warsaw, told those at the dinner that God was working naturally through him. His

parents never pushed either way, but his family served as a good example of the faith. After attending a military high school, he went to seminary at Our Lady of the Lake in the diocese and then to St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. He encouraged the men always to be open to God.

Father Bueter has had a special missions ministry. He spent 16 years in Panama. "It was a wonderful growing experience in my life," Father Bueter said.

Father Mark Gurtner grew up in Auburn. His mother is Catholic; his father is Methodist but attends Mass with his wife. At 8, Father Gurtner learned to play the guitar. By 13, he was playing at Mass. In high school, Father Gurtner said he had his life planned out. He was going to attend Notre Dame, go to law school, get married, have children and join the country club.

But during midnight Mass in his senior year of high school, while the priest was incensing the altar, Father Gurtner said he had a very clear thought: "That (the priest-

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## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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PUBLISHER: Bishop John M. D'Arcy

EDITOR: Tim Johnson

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Don Clemmer

STAFF WRITER: Kay Cozad

## Editorial Department

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

FREELANCE WRITERS: Joan Bobay,

Ann Carey, Elmer J. Danch, Michelle Donaghey, Bonnie Elbersson, Denise Fedorow, Sr. Margie Lavonis, CSC, Theresa Thomas, David A. Wemhoff

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BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION: Kathy Voirol

## Advertising Sales

Carol Eifert (Fort Wayne area)

(260) 456-2824

Judy Kearns (South Bend area)

(574) 234-0687

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

BUREAU OFFICE: 114 W. Wayne St., South Bend, IN 46601. Telephone (574) 234-0687. Fax: (574) 232-8483.

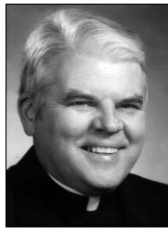
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# Laypeople take a role in the new evangelization



## NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

### The new evangelization: Not new in content, but new in ardor, method and expression

Those were the words of Pope John Paul II about the new evangelization. The original expression, I believe, comes from Pope Paul VI in his classical "Evangelii Nuntiandi." I thought of this as I blessed the studio of the new Redeemer Radio, 1450 on the Fort Wayne dial, and the first effort of Catholic radio in our diocese.

At the same time, some explanation is required. This new venture is not under the diocese, nor under the bishop in the same way as our Office of Religious Education or Catholic Schools Office. This is the way it has to be, and this is the way Catholic Radio is developing around the country. Why is this so? It must be remembered that almost all of the material that will be broadcast does not come from the bishop. It is written and prepared elsewhere. That does not mean there is anything wrong with it. Some of it is by very distinguished scholars and preachers; for example, Scott Hahn, the noted evangelist and apologist and distinguished biblical scholar will make presentations. So will other worthy people. The point is that the presentations, the people who answer questions in the call-up programs, are neither chosen by the bishop or delegated by him.

As far as all those doing work in the diocese, all are chosen and sent by the bishop in their local posts. This is true of our priests, who are chosen carefully after many years of study. In fact they are missioned and delegated by the bishop. The same can be said of our diocesan department heads. The bishop has responsibility for all ministries in the diocese and works in close communion with his staff, whom he appoints.

Radio is different. Laypeople have the right, according to canon law, to form groups for apostolic work. I have been quite

impressed by those seeking to make this effort present in our diocese, and that is why I blessed the studio.

Similar initiatives are being formed in South Bend. I met recently with two excellent men from the South Bend area, one from St. Mary, Bristol, and one from St. Vincent, Elkhart. They had been involved in Disciples in Mission, a diocesan and parish program, which leads toward evangelization. They had heard about Catholic Radio on EWTN and other places and are anxious to start it in their area. The gentleman from Bristol came up with his idea during his time of eucharistic adoration, founded years ago by Father Seculoff and continued with Father Van Kempen.

How could anyone be anything but positive towards these initiatives in each end of our diocese. Our priests are encouraged to give presentations on air, as well as the religious and laity who are involved in diocesan apostolate and ministries on the diocesan or parish level. Such people have been chosen by the bishop or their pastor, but we cannot be held responsible for those from other parts of the country who are making presentations.

So I want to show my support of the exemplary laity; and my prayers go with them in the hope that we can use the airwaves, which have been taken over by members of many other faiths and also by the secular media. We hope to have a presence, and I hope to do my part to give talks and presentations if requested. I hope this is helpful to those who have questions. Also, in light of our recent Legacy of Faith and Annual Bishop's Appeal, we have not approved any fundraising.

### Andrew Dinner

Nothing is more important than the pastoral initiatives, which are going forward constantly and under the expert guidance of Father Bernard Galic, assisted by Fathers Glenn Kohrman and Dave Voors, and in fact assisted by all the priests of the diocese and many laity. I am so grateful to all those who are praying rosaries and visiting the Blessed Sacrament and praying before exposition of the Blessed Sacrament in the Chapel at St. Jude, Fort Wayne, as well as St. John, Fort Wayne, and Corpus Christi, South Bend. Such adoration and prayer for vocations is also taking place at our cathedrals and various parishes, which have regular exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Many are also praying quietly for vocations from home.

I wish to share about our recent Andrew Dinner. We had about 18 young men come to the event in South Bend, while the next night in Fort Wayne, there was a group of 50, and I think 35 of them were young men interested in talking about the priesthood. Some are in high school, others in college and some have graduated from college.

Several of our seminarians were there. There were excellent presentations given by Father Paul Bueter, Jake Runyon and Andy Budzinski. I was privileged to say some words. Indeed, it had been a long evening drive from South Bend to Fort Wayne before arriving at our wonderful new building in Fort Wayne, parking the car in the attached garage and going to this dinner. Imagine seeing the hall full with young men and a few seminarians and priests, who wanted to hear about the priesthood.

Excellent, practical questions were raised in both cities. "How does one resist the pressures of the time, so you hear the voice of Christ?" "How do you as a priest see yourself, what do you see as your identity?" "How does one hear the voice of Christ, especially in today's culture, and how did you personally hear it?"

I remember when these Andrew Dinners started; I think there were about five or six people at St. Charles in Fort Wayne with Father Galic. It has grown over the years. It was also special to hear what had prompted them to consider the priesthood and come to the gathering that evening. One young man said that he notices after Mass every Sunday, Father Tom Shoemaker, pastor at St. Jude, Fort Wayne, standing at the back of the church listening and greeting people. "There is always a long line," he said, and he also waits until the end so he can give Father Tom the question of the day. It is our priests, living their lives so devotedly who are drawing these young men, and it was a joy to be among them just before a little vacation.

### Vacation

So, I am off to New England to visit my family and to check on the Red Sox. I expect that I will be contacted to pitch batting practice during spring training. It depends if they meet my price.

My prediction on the Fiesta Bowl was wrong, but my heart was in the right place. We look for great things at Notre Dame in the years ahead. I hope to see you next week. If not, two weeks from now. I hope to read a bit, visit my sisters and relax. What a beautiful Advent and Christmas.

## ANDREW

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

hood) is something I would like to do."

His first year of college, finding it difficult to be away from home, brought him to Mass every day and praying the rosary. After a transfer to Indiana University his sophomore year, he became involved at St. Charles Parish in Bloomington. That is where the vocations seed was nourished.

His first assignment was at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne as associate pastor and the chaplain at Bishop Dwenger High School. Since being assigned as pastor at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish in Fort Wayne last year, he said he feels more and more like a father.

As for that lawyer dream, Father Gurtner will finish this summer at Catholic University in Washington, D.C., to be a canon lawyer.

"What a great life," he told the guests.

Seminarian Jacob Runyon started to give serious concern to the priesthood when he was an RCIA sponsor for his brother-in-law. With Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor of St. Patrick Church in Fort Wayne at the time, Runyon said he learned a lot about the faith.

"If you know the faith," he said, "you've got to live it."

Runyon had a fun job for five years traveling for Tippmann Pneumatics all over North America, but he felt he wanted something more. He started to pray about his career. Although priesthood kept coming up in his thoughts, he kept saying no.

During Lent one year, he decided to go to Mass every day and ask God, "What do you want me to do?"

He e-mailed Father Bernard Galic, anticipating a brochure about the priesthood, but instead received a dinner invitation.

"Every day since has been amazing," Runyon said. He is a first year theology student at Pontifical College Josephinum.

The gentle pastoral concern of Father Galic brought Andrew Budzinski to the seminary. Father Galic was Budzinski's pastor at Holy Family Parish in South Bend for 20 years. He recalled, as a senior-year student at the University of Notre Dame, getting a call from Father Galic that Budzinski's mother was near death from a sudden heart attack. Father Galic picked Budzinski up and took him to the hospital where Budzinski's mother died surrounded by family. Father Galic's concern and care made Budzinski think, "I'd like to do that."

But first, Budzinski had other plans. With a great career in radio, he was making a lot of money and liked the work. Father Galic invited him to an Andrew Dinner but he turned down the first invitation: "Absolutely not," he said.

The invitation "got me thinking," he added. He became more interested in the faith. He realized something in his life was missing. One day, he told Father Galic he was interested in attending an Andrew Dinner. Budzinski is a pre-theology seminarian at Pontifical College Josephinum.

# Priesthood is 'a wonderful, beautiful life, a life of love'

BY ANN CAREY

SOUTH BEND — Studies have found that young men are more inclined to consider a vocation to the priesthood if they are invited to do so by a priest. So, just like the disciple Andrew — who brought his brother, Simon, to meet Jesus — several local priests invited



ANN CAREY

young men they believe would be good candidates for the priesthood to the annual "Andrew Dinner" in South Bend on Wednesday, Jan. 4, at Holy Family Parish. In Fort Wayne, a dinner was held Thursday, Jan. 5.

The young men enjoyed dinner and conversation in the parish hall with Bishop John M. D'Arcy and several area priests and diocesan seminarians. After dinner, two priests told the stories of their vocations, and then the young men were invited to ask questions about the priesthood.

"Being a priest is just an awesome thing," Father Glenn Kohrman told the gathering. Father Kohrman, who was ordained in 1992, is pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Parish in Culver and chaplain to the Catholic students at Culver Academy.

Father Kohrman explained that he had attended public schools, including Purdue University, where he obtained bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering. He even had a serious girlfriend, but kept ask-

DINNER SB, PAGE 5

**Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor of St. Mary of the Lake at Culver and chaplain to the Culver Academy Catholic students, shared the story of his priestly vocation with young men attending the South Bend Andrew Dinner at Holy Family Parish on Jan. 4.**

## ANDREW DINNER IN FORT WAYNE



TIM JOHNSON

Father Bernard Galic, director of the diocesan Office of Vocation, greets dinner guests at the Andrew Dinner in Fort Wayne before inviting Father Paul Bueter, Father Mark Gurtner and seminarians Jacob Runyon and Andrew Budzinski to discuss their journey to the seminary and priesthood.

## PROTEST

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

does not require humanitarian groups to determine legal status of individuals prior to providing assistance.

"However, in our view," Bishop Barnes said in a statement, "the provisions in Section 202 of the legislation would place parish, diocesan and social service program staff at risk of criminal prosecution simply for performing their job. ... It also could apply to health care personnel or U.S. citizens who provide urgent or lifesaving assistance to an undocumented individual."

At the press conference, Father Cox also read a letter from Bishop John M. D'Arcy, who wrote that the presence of millions of people in the country who don't have access to basic human rights and necessities is a great injustice.

"Surely such a great country can do better, and must do better, than the restrictive and harsh legislation contained in this act," Bishop D'Arcy wrote.

Speaking for himself, Father Cox said he opposed the bill for many reasons. It expands expedited removal, mandates the detention of aliens, makes it more difficult for long-term residents to obtain citizenship, makes "unlawful presence" a criminal offense rather than the civil offense it currently is, bars refugees and asylum seekers from legal permanent residence and citizenship for relatively minor offenses, and criminalizes service providers who assist the undocumented.

"People — physicians and clergy and social workers — will be sent to prison for doing their vocation," Father Cox cautioned.

Also addressing the press conference were Jesusa Rodriguez, an immigrant advocate; Rodolfo Monterrosa, an attorney who specializes in immigration; Allert Brown-Gort, associate director of Latino Studies at the University of Notre Dame; and Leonora Battani of the Hispanic Coalition.

All of the speakers acknowledged that immigration law needs reform, but they all criticized H.R. 4437 and called upon the U.S. Senate to work in a bipartisan manner to devise a more realistic, humanitarian and acceptable immigration bill.

## STATEMENT FROM BISHOP D'ARCY ON VOCATIONS

# Jesus asks apostles, 'What are you looking for?'

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

"What are you looking for?" This question, which is in the Gospel, was addressed by Christ to the apostles who seemed to be attracted to him and followed him when he was pointed out to them by John the Baptist.

The Scriptures, however, are never only a past event, but speak to us now. In fact, if we are really listening, they cut to our heart. Has not the church said to us that when the Scriptures are read in the church, Jesus Christ is speaking to his people.

This Scripture has been read to you today. This question of Christ is put to all our people; to parents and grandparents, to priests and to me, as your bishop. We know it is put to young people as well; but let us put that aside for the moment.

It is a question that comes from Jesus Christ, God made Man: God in human flesh made present to the church. It relates to the vocation of everyone and to the lack of sufficient vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life in our diocese.

### To parents

"What are you looking for?" What are you looking for for your children and your grandchildren? To put it more accurately, what are they looking for as a result of life in your home? Has success and achievement in a sense approved by the world become more significant for them than the pursuit of a relationship with Christ?

Have you made it possible, and even likely in your home, that Jesus Christ could touch their hearts and help them live in a certain way? Have you made it possible for them to hear the voice of God if he should want one of them to be a priest or a religious? Is your great goal in life to make your home a place where Jesus Christ is present, where there is prayer, where his voice can be heard? Or has the goal of financial and economic advancement for your children becomes so prominent that the voice asking for sacrifice, unselfishness and the joy of a relationship with God cannot be heard?

Christ respects your freedom. He does not force himself upon you. Consequently, the "yes" given to making your home a place where Jesus Christ is present is all the more beautiful because it is free.

### Young people

Jesus puts this question to you also. "What are you looking for?" Soon, I will begin my 50th year as a priest. This has been a life of great meaning and joyfulness despite my own failures and unworthiness, of which I am always aware.

Christ is putting this question to you, but he is not forcing the answer. Still, he wants an answer. What are you looking for in life? Maybe your answer at this point to him is, "I am not sure." Perhaps you can say, "I am looking for you. I am looking for a meaning in my life." I hope you can say, "I am looking for my vocation. What is it, Lord? What do you want me to do?" Some might want to build a good Catholic family. "I want to be close to you. I want to resist the things that are pressed upon me, such as drugs and alcohol and false ideas of human love that are demeaning.

Every young person (reading this newspaper) has a call from Christ to live in a certain way and be close to him. Have you heard that call? Have you begun to follow it? Will you follow it when you leave the surroundings of your home? Will you follow it all your life?

Some are being called to offer themselves out of love to be a priest or religious. I give thanks to God that I heard that call in the home of my parents, in my parish church and in my heart, and followed it. You can only hear that call if you pray and talk to him. He is waiting.

### The present situation

We have 84 parishes in this diocese; 15 of them are under the pastoral care of exemplary priests who have come to us from across the world. There are 14 men studying to be priests for this diocese. Several more have made application to enter the seminary next year. This means that, although we are approaching our 150th anniversary, we have not been able to produce enough priests for this diocese. I believe that young people still want to live a life of goodness and beauty, a life of unselfish love.

I call upon parents to talk about this with their children and young people to bring it up to their parents. I call upon our teachers in our schools to speak of vocations to the priesthood and religious life and encourage them. Where would we be in our diocese except for the priests and religious who have done the work of evangelization here for a century and a half?

### Prayer

In one year, we will begin the celebration of our 150th anniversary. I call upon everyone to pray for vocations. Beginning on the first Sunday of Lent, I will have a prayer for vocations sent to every parish and hope that it will be said at every Mass. Copies will be provided so you can pray it individually. This is a prayer the Lord will hear.

We shall be working on a pastoral plan for vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life. Central to that plan and, more important than other worthy initiatives, will be a church at prayer, the local church on its knees begging Christ to send forth laborers into the vineyard.

A blessed new year to you all.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Most Reverend John M. D'Arcy

# Pope John Paul II's would-be assassin to be freed from prison

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Turkish terrorist who shot and seriously wounded Pope John Paul II in a failed 1981 assassination attempt was scheduled to be freed on parole from a Turkish prison Jan. 12.

Since his extradition from Italy to Turkey in 2000, Mehmet Ali Agca served five years of a 10-year sentence for the 1979 murder of a Turkish journalist and two robberies the same year. But a Turkish court said Agca had completed his prison term and could be released, according to reports by the country's semi-official Anatolia news agency.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls, commenting on "the news of the possible freedom of Ali Agca" in a Jan. 8 press release, said the decision to release Agca should be up to the Turkish courts.

Concerning issues of "a judicial nature," the Vatican "submits to the decisions of the tribunals involved in this matter," the statement said.

Pope Benedict XVI is expected to travel to Turkey this fall.

Agca, 48, had served 19 years in an Italian prison for his May 13, 1981, assassination attempt on Pope John Paul in St. Peter's Square.

Just days after the near-fatal shooting, the Polish pope publicly forgave Agca, and in 1983 the pope embraced his would-be assassin in his Rome prison cell.

Though he was sentenced to life in prison for the shooting, Italian authorities granted Agca clemency in 2000 and returned him to Turkey. At the time, the Vatican said the pope personally intervened in the gunman's release from the Italian prison.

After returning to his home country, Agca was sent to prison



CNS PHOTO/REUTERS

**Mehmet Ali Agca, guarded by Turkish police, sits in court for a hearing in Istanbul in this December 2000 photo. Agca, the man who shot and seriously wounded Pope John Paul II in 1981, will be freed from prison this month, the Anatolian state news agency said Jan. 8.**

mentioned this in his Jan. 8 statement, and Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, told the Italian daily *La Repubblica* Jan. 9 that he only heard of the court's decision from news reports.

"No one notified us beforehand," Cardinal Sodano said. At various times since the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul, Agca told different versions of what happened and who was behind it. At one point Agca claimed Bulgarian secret service agents hired him at the bidding of the Soviet KGB, the former Russian secret police and intelligence agency. The allegations resulted in a trial and acquittals in 1986 for the Bulgarian and Turkish defendants implicated by Agca.

Agca later said the Bulgarian connection was a fabrication of Italian intelligence officials who had promised him early release if he went along with their plan.

In recent years, Agca has said he acted on his own in shooting the pope. Agca, a Muslim, had publicly threatened to kill the pontiff in 1979 when the pope visited Turkey; in a letter to several Turkish newspapers, he called the pope a "crusader commander" sent by Western imperialists.

The late pope had offered his own views of the assassination attempt in his book, "Memory and Identity: Conversations Between Millenniums."

He expressed his belief that Agca was a professional assassin and that the assassination attempt was "not his initiative." The pope did not say who he thought was behind the shooting, but described it as an episode in the "last convulsions of 20th-century ideologies of force."

Pope John Paul long credited Mary with saving his life; he was shot May 13, the anniversary of the first of the apparitions in Fatima, Portugal. In 1984, he had the bullet fragment that was removed from his body placed in the crown of the Marian statue at the Fatima shrine.

for the murder of the editor of a liberal Turkish newspaper and two robberies committed in 1979.

New Turkish laws reduced Agca's original punishment from life in prison, or 36 years under Turkish regulation, to a 10-year sentence. Additional penal code reforms led a Turkish court recently to further deduct the years Agca served in Italian prison, thereby completing his sentence, according to The Associated Press.

Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, said his council did not want to interfere with the

Turkish court's decision that determined Agca had "paid his debt to justice."

The cardinal said, however, that Scripture readings during this Christmas season have talked about Christ being sent "to proclaim liberty to captives."

Christ, in his mercy, will not break "a bruised reed" nor snuff out "a smoldering wick," he wrote in a statement sent to journalists Jan. 9.

Cardinal Martino also noted that "John Paul II, who immediately pardoned his attacker, titled one of his messages for the World Day

of Peace: "There Is No Peace Without Justice, No Justice Without Forgiveness."

Pope John Paul's former secretary, Polish Archbishop Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow, said the late pope "would have celebrated" upon hearing the news of Agca's scheduled release from prison.

"The Holy Father had forgiven him from the very first moment, sincerely so, and then when he met him in jail he spoke to him like a brother," he told the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera* Jan. 9.

Archbishop Dziwisz said the pope had once asked, "How could we show ourselves before the Lord if we didn't forgive each other?"

Some Vatican officials noted that Turkish authorities had not informed the Vatican that Agca was to be released. Navarro-Valls

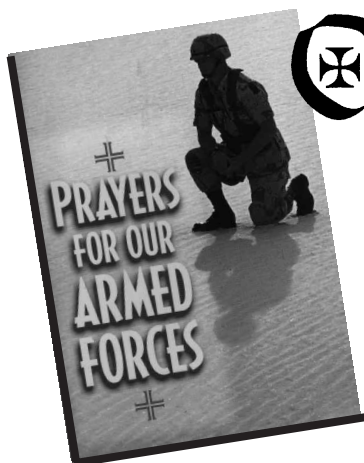
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# Bishop celebrates Mass on 'sad day' as town remembers miners

BY COLLEEN ROWAN

PHILIPPI, W.Va. (CNS) — "Today is a very sad day for the church in West Virginia and for the people of West Virginia," Bishop Michael J. Bransfield of Wheeling-Charleston said to those gathered for Mass Jan. 8 at St. Elizabeth Church in Philippi.

The community was remembering the 12 coal miners who lost their lives after the explosion at the Sago Coal Mine in Upshur County and were praying for miner Randal McCloy Jr., the only survivor.

Philippi lost three of its residents in the incident, and Bishop Bransfield came to celebrate the Mass to help foster healing and to bring comfort to the community.

The bishop said the black ribbons that draped the front doors of St. Elizabeth "signify the sorrow of all of us for the miners who have perished, the one who remains ill and for their families who continue to suffer through these difficult days."

Concelebrating the Mass with the bishop were Father Andy Kranyc, pastor of St. Elizabeth, and Msgr. Mark Ward, pastor of St. Zita Parish in Masontown.

During the Mass, Bishop Bransfield thanked Father Kranyc for being present to the families of the miners as they waited for news of their loved ones and for consoling them after they learned of their deaths.

"He was the best representation the church in West Virginia could have," the bishop said, receiving a round of applause from Father

Kranyc's congregation in response.

During his homily, Bishop Bransfield said that not long after he became bishop of Wheeling-Charleston last February, his secretary, Father Paul Hudock, took him to Beckley to tour an area coal mine.

"In seeing this, I had to wonder how difficult it was for these men to work under such conditions," he said. "I'm sure that everyone asks, the world asks and our American community asks why people work in these tough places. The answer is their families. These men work so hard to achieve a living — a good living — so that they can be good to their children, grandchildren and extended family."

This is the culture of West Virginia, where family is valued and is given priority, he added. He also talked about the work ethic of the people of the Mountain State in providing for their families.

"I'm sure that when these 13 men went in there, their work ethic was clear," Bishop Bransfield said. "They were going to work very hard for the people they loved and for the achievement of the best life for them."

"When our prayers go out to them, we recognize that their vocation, their drive, their willingness to do this under such difficult conditions were not for themselves," he added. "It was for the love of others, which Christ tells us — with the love of God — the paramount reason that we live."

Concern should now be focused on support for the families of the miners and helping them through their grief, he said.

Through the celebration of the Mass, the church prays that the 12 miners will be cared for by a loving Christ, he added, noting that the greatest reward is resurrection, which God promises to everyone.

"As a faith-filled state with many, many Christians who do believe that these men have gone to the Lord, it is important that our prayers" continue, he said. "It is our obligation as a community to pray for and support the families left behind, that they are not left behind in another sense of community, that our communities are strong, are vibrant and loving, and that will be shown to the world by the people of West Virginia."

Bishop Bransfield ended his homily by saying, "These men worked hard for the people they loved, just as the Lord loves us. Their passage, we pray, will be one as triumphant as our lord and savior Jesus Christ."

Following the Mass, Bishop Bransfield spoke with the people of the parish, who said they appreciated his presence during this difficult time.

"I would like to thank the bishop for coming. That meant a lot to me," said Steve Guire, a coal miner who is also a St. Elizabeth parishioner. "It just strengthened everyone to know that the bishop cares enough to come."

Bishop Bransfield was to celebrate the funeral Mass for miner Terry Helms Jan. 10 at St. Zita Church in Masontown, along with Father Ward and Msgr. Jerome McKenna, vicar general of the diocese who is a former pastor of the parish.



CNS PHOTO/JASON COHN, REUTERS

Betty Casto comforts her husband Earl Jan. 4 inside the Sago Baptist Church in Tallmansville, W.Va., after learning his cousin George Hamner was one of 12 miners who died following a Jan. 2 explosion in the Sago Mine. Joy gave way to grief and anger when the coal town learned that 12 of 13 miners trapped in a mine explosion had died, three hours after friends and family were mistakenly told that all but one had survived.

## DINNER SB

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

ing himself if marriage and a career in engineering were really what God was calling him to do.

He said that his experience in the seminary helped him discern his vocation, and he discovered the value and joy of bringing Christ to other people.

Father Derrick Sneyd, pastor of St. Jude and St. Mary of the Assumption Parishes, was ordained in 1970 in his native India. He told the young men that he had thoroughly enjoyed his years as a priest. He acknowledged challenges in the priesthood, but said that Jesus, the church and the people give strength to a priest. He advised the young men to ask the Holy Spirit to direct their lives and help in discerning their vocation in life.

Bishop D'Arcy told the gathering: "I've never known a time

when there is more hunger for good priests to show the way and give light," a hunger for a shepherd who can lead people to God.

"It is a great moment," he said, for someone "to be a physician of the soul and explain how to find God."

Bishop D'Arcy added that the priesthood is "a wonderful, beautiful life, a life of love," and said he had never had a day when he'd been unhappy in the priesthood.

One of the young men asked the priests how to reconcile a deep desire for marriage and a family with thoughts of a vocation to the priesthood. Father Kohrman replied that "If you're not attracted to marriage, you're probably not a good candidate for the priesthood."

He explained that priests come to realize what it means to be a father to many people whose lives they touch. The seminary experience helps a man discern whether he has a vocation to marriage or to the priesthood, he continued. "The seminary is a gift for any human

life," he said, even if a man determines he is not being called to the priesthood.

Father Bernard Galic, diocesan director of vocations, added that, just as a married man loves his family, a priest loves his people, and the people give back that love. After 20 years as pastor of Holy Family Parish, Father Galic said he has been involved in the lives of countless people and thrives on the "intangible reward" of being there for the people.

Another young man asked how to keep God central in his life when the culture stresses other values.

"You swim against the current and be a leader, not a follower," Father Galic said, explaining that the job of every Christian is to show the way to others.

"We have the truth on our side, and that's a powerful gift," Father Kohrman added, saying that sin is self-destructive, and God wants us to be holy so that we don't destroy ourselves.

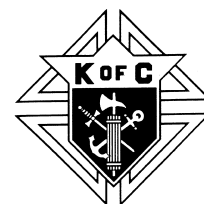
## Holy Cross Midwest Province has three brothers make final profession in Ghana

NOTRE DAME — The Midwest Province of the Brothers of Holy Cross at Notre Dame had three of their members from the District of Ghana, West Africa, make final vows of poverty, celibacy and obedience in the Congregation of Holy Cross on Saturday, Dec. 31. Brothers making their final vows include: Brother Benjamin Biney Mensah, CSC, Brother Matthew Sabogu, CSC, and Brother Patrick Adu Baah, CSC.

The profession of final vows

took place at St. Paul's Pro-Cathedral, Sekondi. The celebrant was Bishop John Martin Darko, bishop of the Sekondi-Takoradi Diocese. Brother Robert Fillmore, CSC, Provincial of the Midwest Province, received the vows of the three brothers. A reception followed at the brother's school, St. John's School, Sekondi.

The three brothers prepared for their final profession by making a retreat at the Kizito Retreat Center in Apowa.



### Knights of Columbus ANNUAL SOUTH BEND Respect Life Program

Sunday, January 15, 2006

You know the reason; you know the numbers -  
Pray for Life!

RTL March starts from Council #553 at 553 East Washington Street at 2:00 PM with march to St. Joseph's Church for Prayer Service. March returns to Council 553. Respect Life Program begins at 3:00 PM.  
FATHER GLENN KOHRMAN - Guest Speaker

Bob Zielinski - Master of Ceremonies

You are invited to stay for hot soup, bread, fellowship, and Celtic Instrumental Music.

PLEASE BRING ANY NEW BABY/MATERNITY ITEMS

for donation to Women's Care Center & Hannah House.

Sponsored by St. Joseph Valley Chapter of the Knights of Columbus



- Downtown
- Time Corners
- East State
- Lima Road
- Glenbrook
- Maysville Road

## Masses for Life scheduled in Fort Wayne and South Bend

Masses for Life are scheduled Sunday, Jan. 22, at the cathedrals in both Fort Wayne and South Bend. The Masses take place on the actual anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy will be celebrating the 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. Father Robert Schulte will celebrate the 5 p.m. Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. An hour of adoration follows the Mass with benediction at 7 p.m. in Fort Wayne and 7:30 p.m. in South Bend.

## Knights to host respect life program in South Bend on Sunday

SOUTH BEND — The annual respect life program, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus, will take place Sunday, Jan. 15, in South Bend.

The program will begin with a short march from the Santa Maria Council #553 located at 553 East Washington St. in South Bend to St. Joseph Church, 226 North Hill St.

There will be a brief prayer service with Father John DeRiso, CSC, at approximately 2:20 p.m. at the church followed by a march back to the Knights of Columbus hall.

A respect life program will be held at the Knights' hall beginning at approximately 3 p.m. Father Glenn Kohrman will provide the talk. Bob Zielinski will serve as the master of ceremonies.

Hot soup and bread, Celtic instrumental music and fellowship will follow the talk.

All donations that are collected at the event will be given to the Women's Care Center and Hannah's House.

For more information, contact Kevin Large, president of the St. Joseph Valley Chapter of the Knights of Columbus at (574) 850-4001 or klarge@earthlink.net.

## Father Lavelly, CSC talks about 40 years as priest

SOUTH BEND — Serving the spiritual needs of four parishes in the South Bend area plus a 10-year stint as a teacher and administrator at Notre Dame High School in Niles, Ill., have been the highlights of a 40-year career as a priest for Father Charles Lavelly, CSC.

Now the pastor at St. Augustine Church on South Bend's near west side, Father Lavelly recounted four diverse assignments — to Little Flower Church, Holy Cross Church, St. Patrick Church and his current assignment — to members of the Serra Club of South Bend, which has recently received special honors from Serra International of Chicago for a \$1,400 contribution for the fostering and promotion of religious vocations both in the U.S. and abroad.

"People today, and that includes our youth, are thirsting for knowledge of Jesus Christ every day because they want to make it a principal part of their values," he said, noting that this was more so today

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## PACK 584 ASSISTS ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY



PROVIDED BY SHAWN SULLIVAN

For the third consecutive year, Pack 584 formed its own food and funds drive and delivered the goods and over \$1,000 cash to the St. Vincent de Paul Society in South Bend. The pack also delivered Christmas presents to more than 100 households. The pack is shown at the pantry with pack leader Shawn Sullivan.

and especially in his own parish, which has a large minority congregation.

Father Lavelly, who was ordained in 1965 in Rome to the Congregation of the Holy Cross, said he found his many years of teaching at the high school level an exhilarating experience because of well-planned programs at both the academic and extra curricular levels. — EJD

## Ukrainian Catholic visit set for Serrans

SOUTH BEND — Members of the Serra Club of South Bend will have the opportunity to enjoy a new experience on Friday, Feb. 3, at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church, Byzantine Rite, in Mishawaka.

Father Thomas R. Dobrowski will celebrate the liturgy. Afterwards, members will be guests at a luncheon and also receive a special tour of the church. — EJD

## Missionaries of the Precious Blood hold discernment retreat

CARTHAGENA, Ohio — The Missionaries of the Precious Blood will hold a vocation discernment retreat at St. Charles Center in Carthagen, Ohio, on March 3-5.

The Missionaries of the Precious Blood is a religious society of priests, brothers and lay associates who work as missionaries in parishes (including St. Gaspar Del

Bufalo in Rome City) in the U.S. and abroad, in education and in a wide range of apostolates, promoting the redeeming power of the blood of Christ and preaching God's word.

The vocation discernment weekend is for men of college age and older who are discerning a vocation to religious life as a priest or brother. Retreatants will spend the weekend in prayer and conversation with the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.

For more information, contact Father Ken Schnipke, CPPS, office of vocation ministry, Missionaries of the Precious Blood, at (937) 228-6224, or e-mail him at vocation@cpps-preciousblood.org.

## St. Joseph and Sacred Heart parishes join in Katrina relief effort

SOUTH BEND — The parishes of St. Joseph and Sacred Heart joined forces in the Advent season to bring help and hope to the people of Moss Point, Miss., by providing emergency cleanup buckets.

The United Religious Community's Executive Director, Carol Thon, encouraged participation in the Church World Service's (CWS) Gifts of the Heart program. CWS, a nonprofit organization based in Elkhart, provides disaster relief worldwide. The emergency cleanup buckets and supplies enable people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after floods, hurricanes, tornados and

other disasters in the United States and abroad. These kits make a world of difference in the lives of victims of natural disasters.

During Advent, the weeks of preparation leading to Christmas, the two parishes collected supplies for nearly 200 buckets. The buckets were assembled at St. Joseph Parish on Hill Street in South Bend on Thursday, Jan. 12.

The cleanup buckets contain scouring pads, soaps, sponges, latex and work gloves, trash bags, dust masks, towels, clothes line and clothes pins, detergent and more.

## St. Joseph Community Health Foundation report on grants

FORT WAYNE — The St. Joseph Community Health Foundation, operated by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, provided \$1,004,437 through 77 grants during 2005 to Allen County agencies to improve health and health care access for the low-income, underinsured and uninsured in Allen County for its 2005 fall grant cycle. Furthermore, executive director Meg Distler reports that these grants also helped local agencies create and/or underwrite nine full-time and 20 part-time health care jobs in Allen County.

The St. Joseph Community Health Foundation was reorganized as an independent foundation in 1998 with proceeds from the sale of St. Joseph Medical Center to maintain the Poor Handmaids of Jesus

Christ 138-year commitment to help everyone in the Allen County Community access quality medical care.

The foundation also funds several other programs/initiatives including the Allen County Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention program, the Healthcare Access Program and the Directory to Low-cost and Free Healthcare Providers in Allen County. Executive director Distler also reports that \$400,179 was recently awarded in year-end grants to local organizations, including A Hope Center, AIDS Task Force, Inc., Allen County Education Partnership, Allen County Flu Task Force, Center for Nonviolence and numerous others.

## Prominent Latino artist to speak at USF

FORT WAYNE — Paul Sierra, an internationally renowned artist based in Chicago, will discuss his work and life as an immigrant artist on Thursday, Feb. 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the Rolland Center on the University of Saint Francis campus.

Born in Havana, Cuba, Paul Sierra immigrated to the United States in 1961 and received formal art training at The School of Art Institute in Chicago. His lecture is free to the public and supported by Arts United and Greater Fort Wayne, the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information, call (260) 434-7591 or visit [www.sf.edu/art](http://www.sf.edu/art).

## Debt seminar offered in February

NEW HAVEN — A seminar, "How to Think Debt-Proof" will be offered Monday, Feb. 13, 20 and 27 from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the conference room of the New Haven Library, 435 Ann St. This free, six-hour, interactive seminar provides the information for taking control of one's finances, get out of debt and enjoy life more. It will also include details on using the Contingency Fund, Rapid Debt-Repayment Plan and Freedom account. The seminar is sponsored by Michael Able, CPA, Tower Bank, 1st Source Bank and the Blaising Community Center, Inc. — a United Way Partner Agency. To register, call (260) 749-9516.

## Fort Wayne residents can receive free legal assistance Jan. 16

FORT WAYNE — The Indiana State Bar Association (ISBA), in cooperation with various groups around the state, will sponsor a program that offers free legal assistance to the citizens of Indiana. "Talk To A Lawyer Today" features volunteer attorneys answering legal questions free of charge both in-person and over the phone on the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

Hoosiers living in the Fort Wayne area can get their legal questions answered on Jan. 16 at 927 South Harrison, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Those who cannot visit the location can receive assistance by calling (260) 407-0917 between 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. that day.

For more information, visit [www.inbar.org](http://www.inbar.org) or call the ISBA at (800) 266-2581.

# Speakers, entertainment and trips make up SAJES repertoire

## Getting together is so important for the St. Matthew senior group

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

SOUTH BEND — Seniors of any age enjoy each other's company. That's one of the reasons Sister Agnes Marie Regan, OSF, didn't specify what exact age a person had to be to be a part of the SAJES, Sts. Anna and Joachim Elder Society, that regularly meets out of the St. Matthew Cathedral.

"I never put an age on it (to attend). That helps for us to get a wide range of people. If they feel that they want to be part of the group, that is just fine," said Sister Agnes Marie. She thoroughly enjoys talking about the group that started around four years ago.

The name came about because of the first meeting date said Sister Agnes Marie. "We decided to have a get together and it happened to start on July 26 — the feasts of Anna and Joachim. How appropriate to have them as patrons. When I saw it spelled out, SAJES, which is pronounced 'sages,' it was uncanny. A sage is an older and wiser person of age. Very appropriate, I think," she noted.

The group regularly meets during good weather around every other month at the St. Matthew Cathedral, first for Mass and then for fellowship at a potluck. Sometimes, after the potluck, the group has a speaker, activity or takes a carpool trip. Attendance varies from 35 to up to 60 people in attendance. Not all of those who come are from the cathedral necessarily, she notes. "People come from St. Adalbert, St. Anthony, St. John the Baptist and many others. That was one of Bishop Jenky's feelings. It's open to everyone in the diocese," said Sister Agnes who says there are no dues, just a freewill offering taken.

The potlucks are a very appreciated and popular by SAJES attendees. "They always have the right amount of food. Sometimes I worry, but it always works out. The food is great as seniors have truly mastered the art of cooking," she laughs.

Eating together is very much something the group enjoys. "Some haven't eaten with someone in a long time because many of them live alone."

Sometimes they stay at the parish and listen to a speaker or be entertained by a visiting performer or play bingo. Other times, they take a short trip by carpool.

"A speaker from the South Bend Police Department came to talk about safety for elders not only when they are out and about, but also on the phone" said Sister Agnes. At another get-together, a South Bend Chocolate Company representative came to talk about chocolate, let them try samples and offered them the opportunity to purchase chocolates. A group from the Palais Theatre Touring Group came once an performed a vaudeville Gracie Allen/George Burns act for them.

Besides speakers, entertain-



The Valleyaires surprised Sister Agnes Marie with a serenade or two during the SAJES Valentine's Day party last year.

ment and bingo, Sister Agnes said they once held a mini-retreat on the issues of spirituality for seniors, "which is so different than for young people." The length of the retreat also differed from many younger adult retreats. "It was four hours" said Sister Agnes Marie who added that many older adults don't like to be out all day nor to drive at night.

When the weather is warm, the group has taken trips away from the cathedral, which are well-attended she noted.

"We once had a picnic at the Knights of Columbus Hall with Will Yancey, a folk singer who sings old fashioned folk and some spiritual music. It was great!" said Sister Agnes Marie. She noted some people "didn't want to go home! They started dancing! It was so spontaneous!"

The group has also carpooled from the church to take a ride on the Elkhart River Queen.

No matter what they do, Sister Agnes Marie said that those who attend truly get something special out of the meetings.

"The spirituality of it, the companionship are so very important to them. So many of them live alone. Getting together is so important to them," said Sister Agnes Marie who especially enjoys the company of the group.

"Their love of life. They don't have any agendas. They know relationships and being with other people and the simple things are important. Their values are truly in the right place," she said.

Those who attend love it, and they encourage others to come and join them!

Helen and Leon Caenepeel, who have been parishioners of the cathedral since 1943 and regular attendees, enjoy every time that they meet with SAJES, whether it is a potluck or a trip.

"We have a great time with everyone. We have fun with the group and we pray with them," said Leon, 90, who said that they particularly enjoyed the retreat.

"The leader got the point across, and she also had a great sense of humor. It was joyful to listen to her talk. She really made you feel so comfortable," said Leon.

"The fellowship is great. We just get together and have a nice meal and sometimes have entertainment. It's so relaxing. That's what I like about it," said Gene

Fiegler who attends with wife, Julia, and encourages all to come.

The next SAJES meeting will begin with Mass on Feb. 10 at the cathedral at 11:30 a.m. Everyone in the diocese is welcome to attend including couples as well as singles and widows and widowers.



MICHELLE DONAGHEY

Elmer Danch and Helen Caenepeel enjoyed a SAJES party held near Valentine's Day in 2005.

# Catch it!



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# Indiana Catholic Conference works to limit death penalty use

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

INDIANAPOLIS — In response to the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops' (USCCB) November statement calling for an end to the death penalty, the Indiana Catholic Conference will work to limit Indiana's death penalty during the 2006 legislative session of the Indiana General Assembly.

"Because all human beings are created in the image and likeness of God, we have an inherent dignity," said Indiana Catholic Conference Executive Director Glenn Tebbe. "The church has consistently upheld the dignity of all life from conception to natural death. It is out of this consistent life ethic that we address legislative issues. This year we are dovetailing on the U.S. Catholic bishops' campaign to end the death penalty in Indiana," said Tebbe.

Senate Bill 48 would prohibit the court from imposing a death sentence if the jury is unable to agree on a sentencing recommendation. Current law allows a judge to impose a death sentence when a jury cannot agree on a recommendation. "The bill puts the decision back into the hands of the jury where it should be," said Sen. Anita Bowser (D-

Michigan City), author of the bill. Senate Bill 66, also authored by Sen. Bowser, establishes a procedure to determine whether a person is mentally ill and prohibits the imposition of life imprisonment without parole or the death penalty for a person found to be mentally ill.

Paula Sites, assistant executive director of the Indiana Public Defenders Council, said, "Senate Bill 66 is based on model language drafted by the Task Force on Mental Disability and the Death Penalty." Sites said, "We were not expecting to use this model language until the 2007 General Assembly, but public interest sparked by the Arthur Baird clemency campaign encouraged us to begin our efforts a year early."

Kathy Bayes, National Alliance of the Mentally Ill (NAMI), Fort Wayne Chapter, said, "Our goal is to limit very carefully the definition to be used in the change in state law to apply only to persons suffering from serious mental illness at the time of the crime."

Sen. Bowser, longtime advocate to end the death penalty said, "The mood of the House and Senate are not favorable to abolish the death penalty at this time, but I think we can move on some aspects of the death penalty.

"Persons who are mentally ill should not receive a death sentence," said Bowser. "The U.S. Supreme Court has outlawed executing minors and the mentally retarded. Those suffering from mental illness should be treated the same."

No matter what happens this session, Sen. Bowser said she will continue to work on this issue. "Before I leave the Senate, I want to rid our state of the death penalty altogether. But for now, I'm doing what I can to move this issue forward."

Sen. Richard Bray (R-Martinsville), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, the legislative panel that both death penalty bills have been assigned and who in part will control what happens to this legislation, said he is not planning to hear either bill this session. "We studied the death penalty extensively a few years ago and in the short session, a subject like the death penalty takes a lot of time," said Bray. "Even if we had the time, I don't think the votes are there to pass it." Bray who served as a Morgan County prosecutor for 12 years said he has "a lot of confidence in Indiana's judicial system." Bray says he supports the death penalty as do the majority of people he represents. Bray said that recent rulings by Indiana's

Supreme Court have placed "an extra degree of protection" in capital cases.

With regard to persons who are mentally ill, Bray said, he agrees they should not be executed, but says "determining a criterion for mental illness is difficult because it's so subjective."

Thirty-eight states including Indiana have the death penalty. Since 1977, when Indiana reinstated the death penalty, 16 persons have been executed. Only three of the 92 persons sentenced to death in Indiana received commuted sentences. Gov. Joe Kernan commuted two death sentences to life in prison without parole, and Gov. Mitch Daniels recently commuted the death sentence of Arthur Baird to life in prison without parole.

Malcolm Lunsford, a permanent deacon from the Gary Diocese, works as a volunteer chaplain at the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City. Lunsford visits, listens to and brings Communion to those on death row and has witnessed one execution.

"The death penalty accomplishes nothing," said Lunsford. "For some, it may give a sense of revenge, but not closure. Closure comes only through forgiveness."

The Indiana Catholic Conference hosted a legislator

luncheon, Jan. 12, entitled "The Costs of the Death Penalty" featuring Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, OSB, of Indianapolis, Father Tom McNally, CSC, and Malcolm Lunsford. Father McNally and Lunsford work with death row inmates at the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City.

For additional information on the death penalty, visit the Bishops Campaign to End the Death Penalty at [www.ccedp.org](http://www.ccedp.org); National Death Penalty Information Center at [www.deathpenaltyinfo.org](http://www.deathpenaltyinfo.org); Indiana Public Defenders Council at [www.in.gov/pdc/](http://www.in.gov/pdc/); and the Indiana Catholic Conference [www.indianacc.org](http://www.indianacc.org)

To become part of the Indiana Catholic Conference's action network, (The I-CAN Network) e-mail the ICC directly at [icc@indianacc.org](mailto:icc@indianacc.org) for more information. Indiana Catholic Conference Web page [www.indianacc.org](http://www.indianacc.org)

The following Web site can help you identify your legislator and provide some easy ways of making contact: [www.in.gov/apps/sos/legislator/search/](http://www.in.gov/apps/sos/legislator/search/)

## Junior high art teacher crazy about model trains

BY IDA CHIPMAN

PLYMOUTH — Tom Johnson, the art teacher at Lincoln Junior High School for the past 31 years, has been crazy about trains since he was about five years old.

He grew up on Third Street in Plymouth, close by the old Nickel Plate Railroad. Sounds of hissing steam, grinding wheels and clanging bells are in his blood.

Sometimes, if he was really lucky and timed it just right, he'd get to see the trains switch tracks up town.

"The railroad crossing guard at Washington School was Merlin Jolly," Tom said. "Everybody called him 'Jolly.' And he was."

He'd give the kids a candy bar on their birthdays and he was always willing to talk. Tom, a student at St. Michael School, would ride his bike to the crossing almost every day to chat with Jolly.

"Jolly would ask us kids to gather up acorns on the school grounds and the next time that we'd see him, he'd have changed them into peanuts in the shell."

Tom said it took them a long time to catch on to that one.

George Bergman, Tom's uncle, owned the Bergman Laundry near the old fire station and lived in an apartment upstairs of the business. In the spare room, he had a wooden chest full of American flier trains.

"Once a year, close to Christmas time, Uncle George would set it up and all of us cousins would get to play with it."

In addition, Tom would occasionally sneak up to the apartment to look and to hold the cars.

He yearned to have a toy train of his own.

When he was 12, he got a job cleaning Bob Kelsey's barber shop on Washington Street. He made \$2.50 a week and saved every penny of it to buy his first H-O-scale train set.

The locomotive, three cars, a caboose and a 4-by-8 oval track cost around \$18 at Malloy's City News Agency.

He put it on lay-away.

"Every week, when I got paid, I'd take my money down to Mr. Malloy and he'd record it in a little

book," Tom said.

Finally, the big day came when the full amount was paid off and Tom got to take the train set home.

He set it up in his bedroom where it pretty much stayed until he sold it, after graduating from Plymouth High School in 1970 and going to Manchester College to earn his bachelor's and master's degrees.

In 1974, Tom started teaching at Lincoln Junior High. He and Jane Overmeyer, who is now a second grade teacher at Menominee Elementary School, were married that same year.

They have a daughter, Karrie, a student majoring in social studies and music at Indiana State University.

Tom has ridden the rails a couple of times. He's traveled on Amtrak and the South Shore on short trips and once, 25 years ago, he rode in the locomotive from Fort Wayne to Chicago.

"That was a thrill of a lifetime," he said.

He went back to his model railroading hobby a little at a time.

Ten years ago, in their home in

Culver, Tom, now 53, took over the basement.

He laid eighty feet of track on 12- to 8-inch wide shelves he built around the walls for his 30 locomotives to run on.

Gradually he has created a panorama of small farm towns along the track with 400 covered 'hoppers,' seven grain elevators, a Texaco gas station and a number of depots, antique stores, cafes and shops. He has added touches such as pop machines, cases of fruit and other interesting details.

"One of them," he said, "is sort of spooky."

He built the Bruce Lake Grocery store out of his imagination. "Turns out," Tom said, "it is eerily like one that was really there!"

One of Tom's pet peeves is that people don't really understand the model train hobby.

"Some think we are adults still playing with toy trains," he said.

"That's not it at all. There are history lessons to be learned and, for me, it's another way to be creative other than painting pictures on flat surfaces."



IDA CHIPMAN

Tom Johnson, an art teacher in Plymouth, has reconnected with his interest in H-O-scale model trains. Johnson was a student at St. Michael School in Plymouth.

Tom said that when he was a kid the greatest thing you could get for Christmas was a train set. He thinks that it is too bad that in this computer generation, "there is not a whole lot left to the imagination any more."

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# Hip Hope

## Mexican exchange student enjoys stay in area

BY MIRANDA KRYDER

FORT WAYNE — Life sometimes takes drastic turns. Bishop Luers High School junior Ana Becerra understands this concept well. Barely four months ago, she was sitting in beautiful Vera Cruz, Mexico, with her parents, enjoying the summer sunshine and the seaside city. Now she is living in a foreign country with a family not her own and attending a school full of strangers.

Becerra is an exchange student, living life a bit differently than the average Bishop Luers student.

Through the help of an exchange program, C.A.S.E., Becerra came to Fort Wayne and resides with the Aguirre family of St. Therese Parish in Fort Wayne. The Aguirre family are hosting Becerra's stay until the end of June. No language barriers have appeared between Becerra and her host family; she is trilingual in Spanish, English and French.

Becerra decided to come to the U.S. to study as an exchange student because she has future plans of a career, which may allow her to travel internationally. She is just getting the experience now.

Although life in Vera Cruz is similar to that in the U.S., Becerra has had to make a few adjustments. Once an only child, she now has three host siblings, one with whom she must share a bedroom.

"I miss the privacy," Becerra admitted.

The school day also seems a bit awkward to Becerra. "(In Vera Cruz), instead of the students changing classes, the teachers switch rooms," Becerra explained.

Becerra participated in many activities at her high school in Vera Cruz including volleyball, service projects, an athletic program similar to cross country and French studies. She is taking a break for now, but may join the softball team in the spring.

Despite these changes, Becerra seems to find life in Fort Wayne agreeable. She has had fun going to the movies, football games and go-karting. She does miss the food from her home.

"The food here is too junky," Becerra commented.

**Miranda Kryder** is a senior at Bishop Luers High School and a staff writer of the school newspaper.



PROVIDED BY BISHOP LUERS HIGH SCHOOL

Ana Becerra, left, is an exchange student from Mexico who attends Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne. She is shown with the Aguirre family. Next to Becerra in the photo is the host family, Kim, Javeon, Monica and Gerry Aguirre.

## 2nd Timothy 1 Conference set Jan. 28 at Holy Cross College

NOTRE DAME — The second annual 2nd Timothy 1 Conference is set Saturday, Jan. 28, at Holy Cross College at Notre Dame.

The program will explore "real passion, real purity and real relationships." Joel Johnson will be the conference speaker. Johnson is a youth pastor from California, and has lived through a poor, difficult and sometimes violent childhood. His testimony speaks of the saving and healing power of God's love, hope and

life-changing direction. A graduate of the University of Texas at Tyler, Johnson is a sought-out speaker of the subject of dating and relationships. He teaches what God's word says about dating, sex and purity. He uses his courtship with his wife, Casey, as an example.

Doors open at 9 a.m. and the sessions begin at 9:30 a.m. and closes with Mass from 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. The \$20 registration fee includes sessions, lunch, dinner, snacks and recreation. Participants should bring a Bible and a notebook. The sibling rate is \$15 each. To register or to receive the registration form, contact Dave or Jan Torma at (574) 291-3381.

**SAT PREP COURSE OFFERED AT BISHOP DWENGER** Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne is offering an SAT prep course on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6-7:30 p.m. beginning Jan. 24 and runs through March 9. The 14 sessions include diagnostic testing, six verbal and six math sessions. The fee is \$150 and includes the textbook. The class addresses recent changes in the SAT. The class is open to any high school student in the area. For information and registration, contact the school at (260) 496-4700.

## Wrestling invitational combines remembers a Luers wrestler

BY ALLISON JACKSON

FORT WAYNE — Two years ago, the Bishop Luers family suffered the sudden and heartbreaking loss of one of its members, Corey Kennerk. Corey was a well liked, personable young man who had a burning passion for the sport of wrestling. One would often see him in the gym or wrestling room, training and improving his skills in the sport he loved.

With his sudden and tragic death in an automobile accident, his friends and teammates on the wrestling team were at a loss to find a way to honor his memory appropriately. Then, a sudden epiphany seemed to smack wrestling coach A. J. Kalver in the head. What better way to honor a young man who had an inner fire for the sport of wrestling than to hold a wrestling invitational in his honor? Actually, it was not so much an epiphany as a subtle prompting from Mike Skordos, father of senior wrestler, Jonathon Skordos.

"Mike was definitely the source of this idea. He brought the idea to my attention, and I just started to put it together. I thought it was the best way to honor the memory of a great wrestler," stated Kalver.

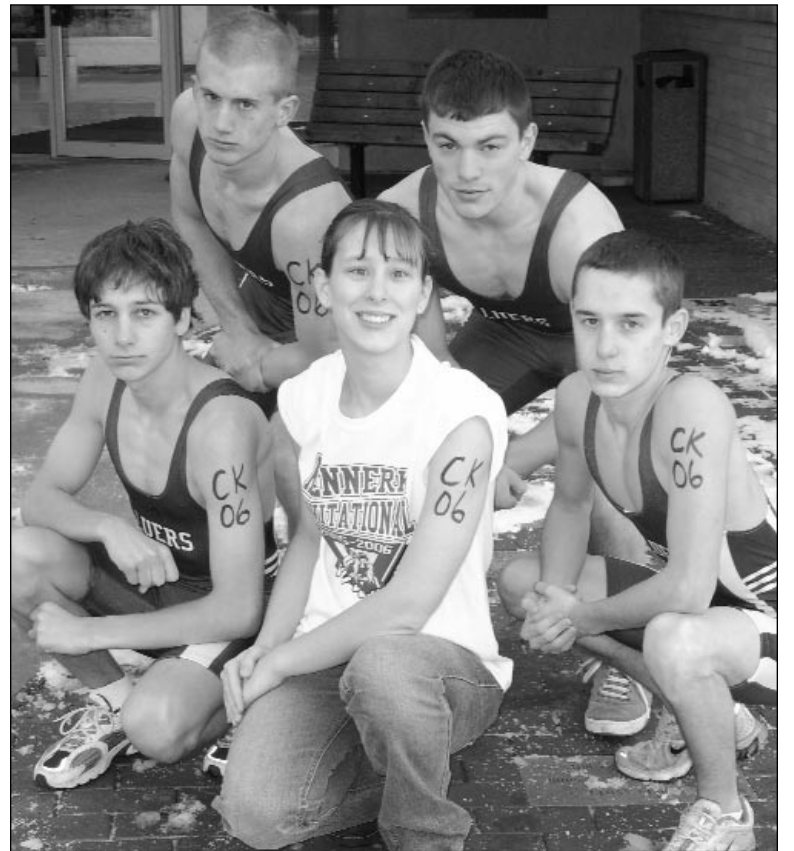
Senior wrestler Todd Gerardot added, "I think this is the way Corey would have wanted to be remembered. He was an asset to the team, and he affected my wrestling career as well as the performance of the rest of the wrestling team. It was the thing he had the most passion for and I know he would have wanted this."

The Corey Kennerk Wrestling Invitational was held on Dec. 10, and eight teams took part. The teams included Indianapolis Broadripple, Leo, Northrop, Huntington North, Whitco, McQuaniquah, North Miami and Bishop Luers.

Kalver stated that the Kennerk family was very pleased when they heard about the invitational being put together. They were the guests of honor at the invitational. They were involved in working different aspects of the invitational, including handing out the awards.

"They didn't want to open old wounds, but they saw this as a final way to help them let go and settle the turmoil of their son's death in their hearts," Kalver said.

The Corey Kennerk Wrestling Invitational holds deep meaning



BEN WAGNER

**Wrestlers at Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne remember classmate Corey Kennerk who died in a car accident in November of 2004. Wrestlers in the photo and their weight class include the following: front row, from left, Todd Gerardot (119), Ashley Norton, team manager, and Roger Norton (103); back row, Jonathon Skordos (145) and Tom Lohmuller (171). When Corey wrestled, his weight class was 130, which his fellow wrestlers wrote on their arms, "CK 130." They wrote "CK 06" because Corey would have been a senior this year.**

for the members of the wrestling team, especially for the seniors. This would have been Kennerk's senior year, and the team saw it as an extremely fitting time for the birth of the invitational. They all affirmed that they were excited about the opportunity to commemorate Kennerk and to make sure others do not forget.

"I think this is one of the best things that we could do to remember Corey," said junior David Bryant. "It will show him that we do miss him and will never forget what he gave to this team by his skill and attitude."

Although Kennerk was a skilled wrestler, he contributed to the team in other ways that will be missed and commemorated through the wrestling invitational. He was a treasured friend and "brother" to many on the team. All agreed that was the hardest part of all about letting him go.

Senior Roger Norton reminisced, "Corey was a friend of mine since the fifth grade, and losing him was really hard. He always made me laugh, but most of all he made me want to be a better person on and off the wrestling mat."

Norton's sister and wrestling team manager, Ashley Norton, added, "Corey was caring, funny, and he could always make you smile. He was one of my best friends, and I will miss him every day of my life."

The death of a friend and a great athlete is a hard thing to have to deal with in life, especially at a time when one seems to take the presence of others for granted. Although this tragic ordeal will never leave the minds and hearts of those Kennerk touched, they now have an outlet for their grief and love.

Junior Robert Handel summed up the goal and heart behind the idea, "The Corey Kennerk Wrestling Invitational is a way to remind everyone of Corey's legacy, and as it continues on, to make sure that we as the Bishop Luers community will never forget him."

**Allison Jackson** is a junior at Bishop Luers High School and a member of the school newspaper staff.

## Admitting past mistakes is key to Christian unity, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When Christian churches and communities are willing to admit their members may have offended or misrepresented the teachings of others, they make important contributions to Christian unity, Pope Benedict XVI said. Meeting Jan. 7 with the leaders of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, Pope Benedict said that in 2000 Pope John Paul II “gave a powerful impulse to this endeavor in the Catholic Church” when he publicly asked for forgiveness on behalf of Catholics. “I am pleased to learn that several of the Reformed churches which are members of the World Alliance have undertaken similar initiatives,” he said. The pope was referring to decisions by the Presbyterian Church USA, the Christian Reformed Church in North America and others to declare that official statements about Catholicism made by their leaders in the 16th century do not reflect their current understandings of Catholic Church teaching.

## Freed from death row, ex-prisoner talks about what sustained him

HAMPTON, Ga. (CNS) — Juan Roberto Melendez Colon can remember holding a rope in his hands preparing to strangle himself in his prison cell on Florida's death row, but something held him back. Instead, he went to sleep and dreamed he was swimming again as he loved to do as a boy in the tranquil aqua waters of the Caribbean. “The sun was bright. The sky was blue. The palm trees looked so good from the shore of the beach, and I was right there in the Caribbean swimming. Then I saw ... four dolphins ... flipping and jumping like dolphins do. And then I looked to the shore and I saw my mama waving at me. ... I was happy,” he recalled. He awoke with new hope that one day he would be found innocent, and he flushed the rope down the toilet. In January 2002, he became the 99th of 122 former death-row inmates to be exonerated in the United States since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976. He and 12 other exonerated men took part in a recent retreat in Hampton sponsored by the Witness to Innocence project.

## More than 800 million children are exploited, says Vatican report

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — More than 800 million children around the world are victims of malnutrition, disease, trafficking and other forms of economic and social exploitation, an annual Vatican report said. Among the more worrisome trends are the more than 200 million child laborers between 5 and 14 years of age and the increase in street children on several continents, it said. Millions more children are forced into armed conflict or prostitution. In many countries, births are unregistered, leaving those chil-

## POPE ANOINTS INFANT IN SISTINE CHAPEL



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Benedict XVI anoints an infant in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican Jan. 8. The pope baptized 10 babies, using the occasion to launch an impassioned denunciation of a “culture of death” that he said pervades the modern world.

dren open to a lifetime of exploitation, it said. “They are the scandal of our time. For 860 million children of the world, the future is an unknown and the present is a nightmare that lies on the consciences of adults,” said the report, issued Jan. 5 by Fides, the Vatican missionary news agency. The annual report, first prepared in 2004, seeks to draw attention to the plight of young people on the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, which the church marks as the world missionary day for children.

## Pontifical council says Holy Spirit is theme of next three youth days

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While choosing themes for the next three celebrations of World Youth Day, Pope Benedict XVI asked young Catholics to reflect on how the Holy Spirit leads people to encounter Christ, to love others and to go out to the world to spread the Gospel, said the Pontifical Council for the Laity. The council, which coordinates the local annual celebration of World Youth Day and organizes the international gatherings of young people with the pope, published the list of themes for 2006-2008. The next international gathering, the council said Jan. 3, will be held July 15-20, 2008, in Sydney, Australia. The theme for the 2008 event is “You Will Receive Power When the Holy Spirit Has Come Upon You; and You Will Be My Witnesses.” The quotation is taken from the first chapter of the Acts of the Apostles. “Your Word Is a Lamp to My Feet and a Light to My Path” is the theme chosen by Pope

Benedict for the 2006 celebrations, which will be held on the diocesan level, the council said. In 2007, also on the diocesan level, young people will focus on the theme “Just as I Have Loved You, You Also Should Love One Another.”

## Up to 28 more U.S. bishops could retire for age reasons in 2006

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Following the Jan. 3 retirement of Ukrainian Bishop Basil H. Losten of Stamford, Conn., up to 28 other U.S. bishops, including five cardinals, could retire because of age this year. There are 14 still-active U.S. bishops, including three cardinals, who have already turned 75. Fourteen more, including two cardinals, will celebrate their 75th birthday in 2006. At age 75 bishops are requested to submit their resignation to the pope. Bishop Losten turned 75 last May 11. Cardinal Edmund C. Szoka, 78, who has been in Vatican service since 1990, has been the oldest active U.S. cardinal since July 2003. The former bishop of Gaylord, Mich., and former archbishop of Detroit turned 75 Sept. 14, 2002. In Vatican service since 1990, he is president of the Pontifical Commission for Vatican City State. In 2005 Cardinals Adam J. Maida of Detroit and Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington turned 75. Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore will be 75 March 4, 2006. Cardinal Bernard F. Law, archpriest of St. Mary Major Basilica in Rome, will be 75 Nov. 4, 2006.

## Maryland bishops call for veto override, \$1 increase in minimum wage

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Calling it a matter of economic justice, the Catholic bishops of Maryland have released a pastoral statement urging Catholics to contact their state lawmakers in support of an increase in the minimum wage. The Maryland state Senate and the House of Delegates approved legislation in 2005 that would have provided a \$1 boost in the minimum wage to \$6.15 an hour, but the measure was vetoed by Gov. Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. As the Maryland Legislature reconvenes in mid-January, the bishops are throwing their support behind a push to override the governor's veto. “The church teaches that the economy must serve the people, not the other way around,” the bishops said. “Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's act of creation.” The bishops said those who work full time at the current minimum wage earn \$10,712 a year — nearly \$5,400 below the \$16,090 federal poverty guideline for a family of three.

## Professor says Palestinian nonviolence not yet at grass-roots level

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — Although Palestinian nonviolence movements are growing, there is still work to be done to bring the concept to a grass-roots level, said a U.S.-based university professor. Mohammed Abu-

Nimer, a professor at American University in Washington, spoke at a three-day conference on non-violence sponsored by the Holy Land Trust, a Palestinian group dedicated to strengthening the Palestinian community, and Nonviolence International, which promotes nonviolent actions around the world. Some 350 Americans, Europeans, Palestinians and Israelis took part in the conference, which was hosted at the Terra Sancta College near Manger Square in Bethlehem Dec. 27-30. On three separate occasions during the conference, when meeting with nonparticipants, Abu-Nimer quoted an old Arabic adage, “That which is taken by force can be taken back by force.” He said many Palestinians see nonviolence as a form of co-opting, when it is exactly the opposite. Abu-Nimer, originally from Israel, is an associate professor of international peace and conflict resolution at the American University School of International Service.

## U.S. Ukrainian bishop retires; successor, Philly auxiliary named

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Bishop Basil H. Losten of the Ukrainian Diocese of Stamford, Conn., and named as his successor Canadian-born Bishop Paul P. Chomnycky, who since 2002 has been apostolic exarch for Ukrainian-rite Catholics living in Great Britain. The pope also named Msgr. John Bura, pastor of St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Parish in Wilmington, Del., to be auxiliary bishop of the Ukrainian Archdiocese of Philadelphia. The appointments were announced at the Vatican Jan. 3. Bishop Losten, who turned 75 last May, has headed the Stamford Diocese since 1977. A staunch advocate of the Eastern Catholic Church in Ukraine, which was harshly suppressed for many decades under Soviet rule, Bishop Losten frequently spoke out for the rights of Ukrainian Catholics and after the fall of communism was involved in the efforts of the U.S. bishops to help restore and rebuild the church in Ukraine.

## Survey says majority of Hispanics call themselves pro-life

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A survey of Hispanics reported that 57 percent identify themselves as pro-life and support laws requiring parental notification before a daughter under 18 years old can get an abortion. The survey said only 27 percent identified themselves as pro-choice and 36 percent opposed parental notification before a minor's abortion. The survey by the Washington-based Latino Coalition, an independent organization specializing in issues affecting Hispanics, was released in Washington Jan. 5. It reported the responses of 1,000 adult Hispanics surveyed Dec. 10-13 on public policy issues and had a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percent. Seventy percent of the respondents identified themselves as Catholics.

# Senior Spirit

**MEDICARE RX ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE IN FORT WAYNE** Parkview Behavioral Health has partnered with the Medicare Rx Access Network of Indiana to assist Medicare beneficiaries in understanding the new Medicare prescription drug benefit. This free education session is open to the public and is scheduled for Monday, Jan. 16, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at Parkview Behavioral Health, 1720 Beacon St. Individuals interested in attending should call (260) 373-7672.

## Culver parishioner publishes 'war stories'

BY IDA CHIPMAN

CULVER — Jim "Red" Walsh, 19, was studying to be a Catholic priest. The second son of an immigrant Irish Catholic family, his parents were delighted.

Jim went to seminaries in Chicago, Detroit and Dallas as the family moved around so that his father could find construction work during the aftermath of the Great Depression.

He grew up a tough kid. Tall and lanky with bright red hair, he was in more fist fights throughout the third grade than baseball games.

His childhood was ordinary. He enjoyed sports, hanging out with other paper boys and reading comic books. Although he had already opted for the priesthood, Jim's father maintained his son's "left jab, right cross, left hook and ring savvy" by encouraging boxing lessons from a former prize fighter.

By the time he graduated from St. Scholastica's Grade School, Jim had earned a well-deserved reputation with his fists and had won the Novice Light Heavy Weight Championship of the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO).

"I had every intention of entering the priesthood," he said. "But in June of 1950, when the U.S. Army's police action in the aid of South Korea's army erupted into a full scale war with the North Korean Peoples' Army — I wanted to do my patriotic duty for God, country and family."

"My father said that I was wrongly setting aside obedience to the archbishop on behalf of President Harry Truman's political prattle."

As a third-year seminarian with "guilt-stained patriotism," he went back to school.

The U.S. Eighth Army had been driven back 275 miles south, the longest retreats in the annals of the U.S. military.

Jim could stand it no longer.

He left the seminary and returned home.

On Feb. 6, 1951, he joined the army and was sent to Camp



IDA CHIPMAN

**JoAnn and Jim Walsh met in college. Jim recently had excerpts of his Korean War experience in the U.S. Army published in "Voices of War," which can be ordered through the Internet or from The National Geographic Society, 1145 17th Street, Washington, D.C. 20036-4688.**

Breckenridge, Ky. He was recommended for Leadership School, but declined the appointment and was immediately sent to Korea.

His first duty assignment was to dig a latrine. He said he guessed that he was chosen because, after two years in the seminary, his commanding officer figured he could comprehend a manual on building urinals.

"That's the way it was in the army. They had recognized my leadership skills and put them to use."

At first, in combat, Jim was the ammo bearer. He would lug six cans, each weighing 20 pounds and holding 250 rounds, up a never-ending climb to win the honor of "first idiot ammo bearer."

In a 73-page epistle, written for his children and grandchildren, Jim is graphic about his experiences in Korea. There are several stories about rats, cooties, death, destruction and what it was like to be a GI in a new kind of war — "rock to rock, ridge line to crest warfare. A new era of siege surge!"

In the Library of Congress's Veterans' History Project, "Voices of War," published in 2004, by the National Geographic Society, Jim, in his first major publication, writes about his first glimpse of dead GIs.

"I knew GIs were as likely to die in battle as was the enemy, but I hadn't ever seen a dead GI. Here were a half dozen laid side by side. They could have been in a funeral parlor, so neatly arranged were

they. None had limbs missing. Their bodies were still in full field dress. Bodies that once were full of vigor were waxen, pale of face and hands, blood spots staining their fatigues. A lone rifleman guarded them. He could have been at prayer the way he knelt over them.

"I let loose a prayer of my own for the repose of their souls with God at that moment."

He said that it took less than a year for the fingers that had once been folded in seminary chapel

prayer to pull a trigger to kill communists.

It was kill or be killed.

"Transmission was done from seminarian to soldier, changing me from the godly to the deadly."

Discharged in November of 1952, Jim was decorated with six ribbons, including a Purple Heart and a Bronze Star. He enrolled in the University of Notre Dame on the G.I. Bill.

He won the N.D. Bengal Bouts Heavy Weight Division title in 1954, and that same year at a mixer, resplendent in his Bengal Boxing letter sweater, met a Saint Mary's sophomore student named Jo Ann Myers who he said "was the world's most beautiful woman." Jo Ann, born in Kewanna, where her grandfather was the publisher and editor of the *Kewanna Herald*, was raised in Indianapolis.

The couple were married in the Sacred Heart Basilica in September of 1955.

After earning a bachelor's degree in January of 1955, a master's degree in 1956 and another master's degree in social work in 1960, Jim served as probation offi-

cer in juvenile court in South Bend for a year and five years in the court system in Detroit, Mich. He then moved to Ohio for eight years, returning to South Bend to become the director of Catholic Social Services from 1963 to 1968.

After practicing law in Kansas for a number of years, the family — including their five children — moved to Culver in 1987. In semi-retirement, Jim was ombudsman for area nursing homes in five counties: Elkhart, Kosciusko, LaPorte, Marshall and St. Joseph.

He sings in the choir at St. Mary's Church in Culver.

Still a member of the Indiana and Kansas Bar, he has turned his attention to writing and has authored five books: two fictions on Irish history; two fictions on the Korean War and one factual story on nursing homes.

In addition to the excerpts in the "Voices of War" (pages 153-155), three articles have been published in "The Almanac for Farmers and City Folks." His stories are entitled: "A Lot of Bull, Ringing Hogs and Peculiar Law."

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## EDITORIAL

## Human life would be devalued by loss of pro-life individuals, institutions

We Catholics have come a long way since our immigrant ancestors encountered blatant anti-Catholicism that denied jobs, political office and equal social status. However, we should not grow complacent now that Catholics have achieved economic, social and political equality, for daily news accounts remind us that contemporary Catholics increasingly face challenges to the free exercise of our religion, particularly in regard to issues touching on human life.

In Illinois, for example, the governor has issued an executive order requiring all pharmacists to fill prescriptions for the so-called "morning-after pill" that can cause an abortion. Several Illinois pharmacists already have been laid off for refusing to dispense the drug because of its abortifacient properties. Other states are considering enacting laws that will deny pharmacists a conscience exemption, and similar federal legislation was introduced in Congress last year and then withdrawn so that sponsors of the bill could look for more support before reintroducing the bill.

The conscience rights of other healthcare workers also are being attacked. The Catholic Medical Association reports cases of bias against pro-life medical students and residents, as well as bias in employment of pro-life doctors. Last year, the American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology told the U.S. Congress that doctors who morally object to abortion should be required to refer patients to doctors who will perform abortions.

Furthermore, Catholic hospitals across the country are being threatened with loss of public funds if the hospitals do not provide the whole spectrum of "reproductive services." Already, many states require all employers who offer prescription drug coverage to include contraceptives in that coverage.

Even though we Catholics are comfortably established in our society and do not face the same kind of discrimination as our ancestors, we must remember that the exercise of our religion takes place outside as well as inside our churches. As Vatican II reminded us, exercise of our religion occurs as we go about our everyday lives in the public square, where we are commanded to live our faith and the Gospel values it teaches.

If we do not actively challenge and resist such assaults on our constitutional rights, Catholics would be forced out of many medical fields. Likewise, as Cardinal Francis George of Chicago told the American Medical Association when it was considering a resolution to require all hospitals to perform abortions, Catholic healthcare institutions would disappear.

If the Catholic pro-life influence disappears from the public square, all human life would be seriously devalued by the loss of pro-life individuals and healthcare institutions that serve the public good as they teach, promote and practice the culture of life intended for all of humanity by our Creator.

### Embryonic stem-cell research needs a time-out

News that a Korean researcher fabricated claims that he had succeeded in creating a stem-cell line from cloned human embryos has shocked the scientific world. This shock may be just what is needed to call a long time-out to reconsider such research.

Proponents of embryonic stem-cell research claim that the flexible cells of embryos can be used to cure almost any disease and that embryo clones of the patient reduce the chance of rejection. Dr. Hwang's alleged accomplishments fueled that hype and motivated other researchers to try to match his now-discredited work.

Also discredited are the wild claims of successful cures possible with embryonic stem-cell therapy, claims that attracted investors and prompted voters in some states to approve massive spending in hope of catching up with the Korean research. The truth is, not one patient has benefited from embryonic stem-cell treatment, and no such benefit is on the horizon.

On the other hand, adult stem-cell research, which uses cells from human sources without harming the donor-sources like umbilical cords, bone marrow and human skin — has already helped thousands of patients. Indiana is among the few states that have banned human cloning and created adult stem-cell research centers.

We hope the research scandal will motivate a sober re-evaluation of embryonic stem-cell research and its demand for cloned embryos and prompt more states to follow Indiana's lead. Not only are human cloning and embryonic stem-cell research morally reprehensible, they also are wasting scientific talent and billions of dollars that could be used for the more promising adult stem-cell research that already is benefiting patients.

Today's Catholic editorial board consists of Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Ann Carey, Don Clemmer, Father Mark Gurtner, Father Michael Heintz, Tim Johnson, Vince LaBarbera and Msgr. J. William Lester.

# COMMENTARY

TODAY'S CATHOLIC welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification. Today's Catholic reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Address letters to: Today's Catholic • P.O. Box 11169 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46856-1169 or e-mail to: editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org

## Coach Westendorf impacted lives of those he coached

What is a hero? On Dec. 1, 2005, the Catholic community of Fort Wayne lost one. Larry Westendorf passed away after a year long battle with cancer. As the *News Sentinel* paid tribute to the former Saint Francis coach, I kept thinking back to the early 1980s when Coach W. took many St. Charles girls' basketball teams to CYO championships in the old

Central Catholic gymnasium.

Coach W. was the kind of coach that could make a winning team out of a bunch of 12-year-old girls playing their first organized basketball ever. I loved playing for him in fifth, sixth and eighth grades, but it wasn't the winning or the great job of teaching fundamentals that I remember the most. Instead, it was his smile, his wink and his philosophy.

Coach always said you'll be a success if you keep your priorities straight; No. 1, God; No. 2, family; No. 3, school; No. 4, friends (3 and 4 could switch during the summer

and in times of need) and No. 5, sports.

I am a high school teacher and coach now, and I've always tried to share his philosophy with my students and athletes.

Larry probably never knew how many "next generations" of female athletes he's helped coach. Good coaches are teachers, and good teachers are heroes because they make a difference in others lives. May he and his family rest in peace knowing he is with our Lord.

Jody (Koehl) Pollack  
Seattle, Wash.

## ICC continues its role to provide a Catholic voice to Indiana legislators

BY GLENN TEBBE

For almost 40 years the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) has offered a moral and social justice perspective regarding legislative issues. Again this year the conference looks forward to working within the legislative process by providing a readily accessible source regarding the position of the church on matters affecting the common good. The church examines all issues in the light of her principles of social doctrine and values based upon the Gospel.

While the church is realistic in its approach to addressing issues, taking into consideration the political realities and likelihood of success, there are times when the issues are of such importance that the church must speak with a prophetic voice, in spite of political realities. Two such issues are priorities for 2006.

The first is the use of capital punishment (death penalty) in Indiana. During 2005, five individuals were executed by the state. This is approximately half as many as were executed from 1977-2004; another is scheduled to be executed on Jan. 27, and more await a date.

As the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops recently noted in its statement, "A Culture of Life and the Penalty of Death," "the sanction of death, when it is not necessary to protect society, violates respect for human life and dignity."

We urge Indiana legislators to reconsider the death penalty law and its effect upon society. Jesus showed us that the only true way to justice is through mercy and reconciliation, not violence.

Immigrant concerns within our state continue to be a concern of the Indiana bishops also. While the church does not advocate undocumented immigration into the United States, it affirms the

human dignity of the undocumented who live within our midst and makes every effort to ensure that their basic human needs are met and that their human rights are respected.

Although immigration policy is a national issue, there are state policies that can facilitate or restrict one's ability to provide for one's family. Of specific concern this session is the problem of obtaining a driver's license. In Indiana, driving is critical to support one's family. Getting to work, obtaining groceries and taking care of the ordinary needs of one's family require driving a vehicle. Allowing immigrants to obtain driving privileges not only benefits immigrants, it is a matter of safety for all Hoosiers.

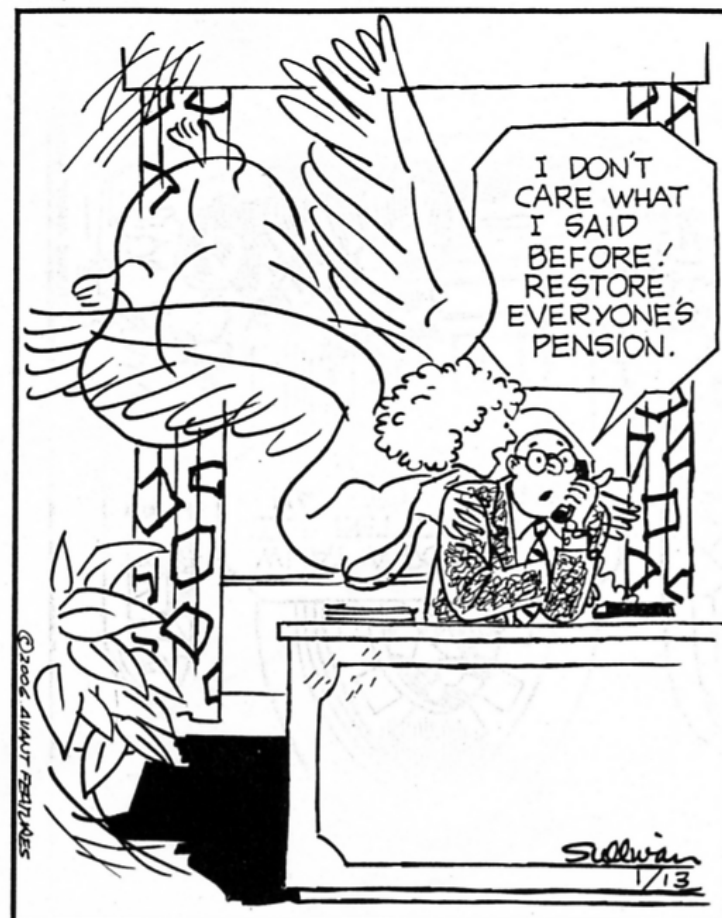
Neither issue is popular or likely to be addressed. However

the church's moral position is not based on popular opinion. The issues it addresses are not only those in which it is likely to be persuasive.

The church's role in society as noted in the catechism is to "bear witness to man, in the name of Christ, to his dignity and his vocation to the communion of persons. She teaches him the demands of justice and peace in conformity with divine wisdom."

The conference shares in this responsibility, and looks forward to examining other issues with these same criteria throughout the 2006 session of the Indiana General Assembly.

Glenn Tebbe is the executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference.



# No place like home: Papal apartment gets extreme makeover

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When he was elected last April, Pope Benedict XVI inherited the papal apartment on the top floor of the Apostolic Palace, but it wasn't until Christmas that the pope could really call it home.

The apartment, about 10 rooms in all, underwent a three-month renovation this fall. Electrical wiring was replaced, new pipes were installed, the kitchen was refurbished and a custom-fitted private library was put in place.

It was "Extreme Makeover: Vatican Edition." And while the pope didn't whoop or jump up and down at the unveiling, he made it clear he was pleased with the results.

"I can only admire the things you've done, like these beautiful floors," he told the more than 200 architects, engineers and workers involved in the remodeling project.

"I really like my new library, with that antique ceiling. For me it's like being surrounded by friends, now that there are books on the shelf," he said.

The floors were the original 16th-century marble slabs and inlay, restored to their original luster. The library solved the problem

of where to put the pope's 20,000 books, which he did not want to leave in storage somewhere.

Details of the remodeling were considered secret, but they emerged in the sideways fashion typical of the Vatican. When Bruno Bartoloni, a veteran Vatican correspondent for the Italian newspaper *Corriere della Sera*, went to have his hair cut recently, he found himself seated next to a talkative member of the restoration team.

The renovation, the workman related, was long overdue. The architects said they were surprised at the poor state of the apartment.

For one thing, the electrical system was not up to code. Some rooms still used old 125-volt electrical outlets, which were phased out years ago in Italy in favor of 220 volts. The water pipes were encrusted with rust and lime, and the heating system was approximate at best.

Above the false ceiling, workers discovered big drums placed strategically to catch the leaks from the roof; some were nearly full of water.

The makeover included renovation of the medical studio, which is said to include emergency surgery

## THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

and dentistry equipment. The papal bedroom, situated at the corner of the building, was completely redone, and most of the rooms were freshly wallpapered.

The new kitchen was reportedly outfitted by a German company, with state-of-the-art ovens, ranges and other appliances.

Those who frequented the papal apartment under Pope John Paul II have no doubt that the place needed an overhaul. Polish film director Krzysztof Zanussi, a friend of the late pope, once said he was astonished at the gloominess of the place, with its outmoded furnishings and lack of lighting.

"Everything was in semidarkness, somber and without inspiration. The chairs were like the ones my aunt had in the suburbs of

LETTER, PAGE 14

# Christ is the path for every disciple



## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Second Sunday in Ordinary Time Jn 1:35-42

The First Book of Samuel is the source of the first reading for this weekend. Originally, First and Second Samuel were one volume. At some point in history, an editor divided them into the two volumes, and two volumes appear in Bible translations today.

As the title of these books implies, the central figure is Samuel, a prophet active centuries before Christ.

Prophets were highly revered throughout the history of the Chosen People. They were seen as God's special representatives, but also personally very holy and devoted to God. At times, prophets resisted their calling initially. Such was the case of the great prophets, Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah. However, after all was said and done, they accommodated themselves to God's will and accepted the call to be prophets.

These figures were admired because the call to be a prophet was seen precisely as a call, as a call from God.

In this weekend's reading, God calls Samuel. It occurs according to God's plan. Samuel is open to

hearing God, indeed ready to hear God, but Samuel cannot hurry the divine plan.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians supplies the second reading for this weekend. Many of the Pauline writings have their luster in their clear revelation of the bond between true believers and Jesus. Jesus was the Son of God, but also human, in a mystery theologians call the Incarnation.

Truly committed Christians, in faith and baptism, are inseparably bound to Jesus, both in a shared human nature, but also in the divine life given believers by Christ.

This supernatural bond, the very keystone of personal salvation, requires Christians not only to be of spiritual faithfulness, but bodily faithfulness as well. They must not allow themselves to fall into carnal sin.

Instructing the Christian Corinthians in this fact seems for some to be excessive for Paul. However, it should be remembered, Corinth was known near and far as a virtual capital of lewdity and vice.

St. John's Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is a story about the decision to follow Jesus by Simon, later known as Peter, and Simon's brother, Andrew. In the story, Jesus intrigues Andrew and Simon. They follow Jesus. Yet, the Lord invites them to be apostles.

They recognize Jesus as Messiah. Jesus calls Peter to a new life, even giving him a new name, Cephas, that is often translated as Peter.

### Reflection

The church, in the majesty and glory of its liturgy, in the profound gaze into the reality of Jesus, born in Bethlehem, given by the

Gospels, called us all to celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas.

On Christmas, the church revealed to us that Jesus was the son of Mary, therefore a human, as she was only human despite her unique holiness and singular place in the divine plan of redemption.

Two weeks later, it celebrated for us the feast of the Epiphany, revealing to us the fact that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, was divine, the Son of God, and that redemption is God's gift for all people.

So, these past several weeks have been times in which the church, with the greatest joy and hope, has told us about the Lord. He is the Savior of the world.

Now, the church asks us in the readings this weekend to consider how personally we shall respond to these marvelous facts. By the mere fact we are of the church, or at least interested in God, we are being touched by God's grace. God calls us. He offers us eternal life in Christ.

How should we respond? St. Paul gives very concrete advice. Samuel, Peter and Andrew are examples. We must follow Christ. There is no other way to true life and peace.

### READINGS

Second week of Ordinary Time

**Monday:** 1 Sm 15:16-23 Ps 50:8-9, 16-17, 21, 23 Mk 2:18-22

**Tuesday:** 1 Sm 16:1-13 Ps 89:20-22, 27-28 Mk 2:23-28

**Wednesday:** 1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51 Ps 144:1-2, 9-10 Mk 3:1-6

**Thursday:** 1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7 Ps 56:2-3, 9-14 Mk 3:7-12

**Friday:** 1 Sm 24:3-21 Ps 57:2-4, 6, 11 Mk 3:3-19

**Saturday:** 2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27 Ps 80:2-3, 5-7 Mk 3:20-21

## CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

In January we remember Martin Luther King Jr.

This quiz looks at Martins, Luthers and Kings

**1. A fourth century St. Martin was a soldier in France. Even while serving as soldier he showed charity in one instance giving a beggar**

- a. advice not to ask for money
- b. half of his only cloak
- c. his medals

**2. Although Martin Luther is regarded as one of the most significant of the Protestant reformers, he was a member of this Catholic order:**

- a. Jesuits
- b. Dominicans
- c. Augustinians

**3. The arrival of the Magi or kings is commemorated by this January feast:**

- a. St. Janis
- b. Epiphany
- c. Epiclesis

**4. This seventh century saint and pope, Martin I has this honor, not sought by many.**

- a. He was the last pope to be installed with the rite of flogging.
- b. He was the last pope to be allowed out of Rome.
- c. He was the last pope to be considered a martyr.

**5. Lutheran Church disciplines vary a lot, but in these two greater Scandinavian countries, the Lutherans retain an episcopacy, ultimately derived from the Catholic Church:**

- a. Sweden and Finland.
- b. Sweden and the German Democratic Republic.
- c. Norway and Kaliningrad (in Russia).

**6. Jesus was mockingly called "the King of the Jews." What is one name for the board on which this was inscribed, claimed as relic by some?**

- a. The Mandela
- b. The Shroud of El Cajon
- c. The Titulus

**7. Pope Martin IV found himself involved in the politics of his day. This reached a low point when he did this to the Byzantine Emperor Michael Palaeologus**

- a. had him executed
- b. excommunicated him
- c. tickled him until he signed a concordat

**8. The Catholic Church, after some debate with Martin Luther, excommunicated him. What was the name of the document that enacted this?**

- a. Decet Romanum Pontificem
- b. Lex Luther
- c. The 95 Theses

**9. This king, denied a divorce by the pope, simply made himself the head of his nation's Catholic Church:**

- a. Henry V of Turkey
- b. Henry VIII of England
- c. Ludwig of Bavaria

**10. St. Martin de Porres had to overcome much prejudice to make his way in life. Why?**

- a. He was rich and famous, values disdained by his Dominican order.
- b. He was illegitimate and of mixed race, and his mother was an ex slave.
- c. He was not baptized until his deathbed, which led the faithful to shun him.

**11. Martin Luther initially objected to the administration of these in Germany, though he later broadened his criticisms:**

- a. Tithes
- b. Indulgences
- c. Translations of the Bible into Latin

**12. In medieval France, there was a belief in the "king's evil," a divine ability to do this:**

- a. Cure certain skin diseases
- b. Commit certain sins with impunity
- c. Speak in tongues when denouncing people, so they did not understand

**13. Gregory Martin was a Catholic biblical translator who fled from the service of the 16th century Duke of Norfolk when the latter was imprisoned. For what crime was Norfolk imprisoned?**

- a. Murdering the pope
- b. Being a Catholic
- c. Waging war against the Spanish

**14. Martin Luther's wife also had a strong Catholic connection:**

- a. She was Gertrude Von Schwarz Bord, an ex Catholic school teacher.
- b. She was the first female Catholic bishop of Sweden.
- c. She was Katharine von Bora who had been a Catholic nun.

### ANSWERS:

- 1.b, 2.c, 3.b, 4.c, 5.a, 6.c, 7.b, 8.a, 9.b, 10.b, 11.b, 12.a, 13.b, 14.c

# The church calls us to be pro-life to the root

**Question: How does the church feel about members who are morally opposed to most abortions but who have ambivalence about completely outlawing it in some situations?**  
Heather

**Answer:** It is not uncommon to hear individuals say "I am opposed to abortion except in cases of rape or incest." The question that must be asked, however, is why they are opposed to abortion at all. If they answer, "because it's wrong to take an innocent life," then one can respond, "how is the child who is conceived in an act of rape or incest somehow less a child?" That is, we have to be consistent in our reasoning. The church calls all of us to be radically — meaning "at the very root" — pro-life. We can't pretend to oppose abor-

tion but then make exceptions based upon the circumstances of the child's conception. Rape and incest are abhorrent violations of human dignity. Nevertheless, if conception occurs as the result of these actions, the child conceived is no less deserving of our protection and care than any other.

**Question: What is the church's position on artificial hearts, heart valves, knee and hip joints, etc.? Anonymity requested, Fort Wayne**

**Answer:** The church does not oppose the use of such technological developments to assist in the healing and rehabilitation of those who are ill. It is important to remember, however, that technology (whose advance in our culture has become almost unquestioned) must always serve

## THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

the good of persons and that persons are not to be made subservient to technology.

**Question: Why can't women become priests? EC, Fort Wayne**

**Answer:** First, it is important to remember that Jesus had both male and female disciples. However, he selected and commissioned certain of his disciples to share in the apostolic ministry

(i.e., to preach and baptize). Those whom he called and so commissioned were men; the Gospels record in several places their names. Such a call is a work, not of power, but of service for the entire community.

The church has maintained this distinction and practice to the present day. In our culture, unfortunately, it has been interpreted as a sign that women are somehow second-class citizens or deprived of something to which they have a right.

It is important to remember that no one has a right to be ordained: the church discerns, calls and ordains individuals for service in the church.

Women indeed have a clear, important and vital role in the life of the church. Consider how important and influential a St.

Catherine of Siena or a St. Therese of Lisieux or even a Mother Theresa have been in the church and in larger society.

**Today's Catholic** welcomes questions from readers to pose to Father Richard Hire, Father Michael Heintz, Father Mark Gurtner and the Liturgical Commission of the Office of Worship. Please e-mail your questions to editor@fw.diocese-fwsb.org or mail them to Today's Catholic, That's A Good Question, PO Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856. Please include your name and city and an e-mail address or telephone number that we can contact you if necessary. Anonymity will be preserved upon request.

## Forming priests in today's culture

Now that the initial dust over the Congregation for Catholic Education's recent instruction on homosexuality and candidacy for the priesthood has settled, three points seem worth underscoring.

The first point is one of historical and theological context.

On Dec. 8, the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception, the church marked the 40th anniversary of the conclusion of the Second Vatican Council — a reforming council intended by John XXIII to prepare the church for what John Paul II would later call a "springtime of evangelization." Historically, we must remember that every great period of reform in Catholic history has included a reform of the priesthood and the consecrated life. Theologically, we must understand that there can be no "reform" of any facet of Catholic life without reference to "form": in this case, the "form" in question is the priesthood understood as an iconic embodiment of the eternal priesthood of Jesus Christ. Christ's eternal priesthood, in turn, involves Christ's spousal relationship with his bride, the church. Keeping those truths of history and theology in mind is essential for reading the recent Instruction from Rome

correctly — which is to say, as a reforming document.

The second point is one of cultural context.

Living chastely is no easy business in the sex-saturated culture of the contemporary West. It's impossible to walk through a mall, turn on your computer or television, or browse through a bookstore without being bombarded by sexual imagery of every imaginable sort. The challenge of living chastely in these circumstances is a tough one for everybody: single, married or celibate, lay or ordained. That is one important reason why the appropriate authorities in the church — pastors, diocesan vocation directors, seminary faculty, seminary rectors, religious superiors, and, above all, bishops — must be as certain as humanly possible that a man is capable of living the demanding vocation of chaste celibate love before he is called to holy orders.

That responsibility cannot be outsourced to psychologists and psychiatrists. Why? Because, in the final analysis, it's a judgment of pastoral prudence, not a clinical judgment. The evaluation of clinicians can be helpful in forming a judgment about a man's capacity for living chaste celibate love in today's sexual free-fire zone. But

the final call rests with the church's pastoral authorities. And as the Long Lent of 2002 made unmistakably clear, it is a responsibility that cannot be shirked.

Candidates for the priesthood, whether diocesan or religious, also have a responsibility here, particularly given the challenging cultural circumstances in which they propose to serve. Any prospective candidate for ordination should be prepared and willing to demonstrate his capacity to live chaste celibate love before he asks the church to confirm his vocation to the ordained ministry. Indeed, a willingness to do so might be considered an important sign of whether or not a man's sense that God is calling him to a priestly vocation is a true discernment.

The third point takes us to the bottom of the bottom line.

Will this document make any difference? That is, will it help foster a genuine and enduring reform of the priesthood? That is entirely up to local bishops, in the case of the diocesan priesthood. A bishop must take the time and trouble to know his seminarians before he issues the canonical call to orders. If a bishop's first real encounter with a man he is to ordain happens on the day of that man's ordination, something is seriously wrong. As

for men's communities of consecrated religious life, which seem to be the primary (albeit not exclusive) locus of unchaste clerical "gay culture" today, no Roman document can substitute for courageous leadership by religious superiors, calling all under their authority to live the "more excellent way" by honoring the majesty of their vows.

In the providence of God, the Long Lent of 2002 could not have been meaningless: it was, in retrospect, a call to the entire church to take the reform of the church's ordained ministry with the urgency Vatican II proposed. The recent instruction is a response to that call



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

and should be welcomed as such.

George Weigel is a senior fellow of the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

## LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

Warsaw," Zanussi said. "It was not a place that made one feel good."

The papal apartment wraps around two sides of the Apostolic Palace and is accessed by a doorway that opens onto a historic loggia decorated with frescoes. The layout includes a vestibule, the library, a small studio for the papal secretary and the pope's private studio, from which he blesses the crowd every Sunday.

The other rooms include the pope's bedroom, the medical studio, his private chapel, a small living room, a dining room and kitchen.

The papal apartment didn't

always have a bird's-eye view of St. Peter's Square and the city of Rome. In fact, it was only in the late 1300s that popes established their permanent residence at the Vatican.

The masterfully decorated apartments of Renaissance pontiffs like the Borgia pope, Alexander VI, are now part of the Vatican museums. The most famous papal apartment was that of Pope Julius II, who had rooms decorated with a cycle of frescoes by Italian artist Raphael Sanzio.

It was Pope Pius X who transferred his apartment to the top floor of the Apostolic Palace in 1903. In 1964, Pope Paul VI completely remodeled the papal residence, and Pope John Paul made his own changes early in his papacy.

In the late 1930s, the huge attic

above the apartment was remodeled to make a series of mini-apartments that open to the inner courtyard. They house members of the pope's household staff, and one is said to have been refitted as a guest quarters for Pope Benedict's brother, Msgr. Georg Ratzinger.

The fact that workmen finished the pope's apartment in only three months impressed everyone in Rome, where even small-scale renovations seem to take forever.

"I had a small house built for me in Germany once," the pope told the workmen. "I'm convinced that anywhere else this project would have taken a year or perhaps longer."

From a German pope to his Italian makeover team, it was a high compliment.

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for January 15, 2006

John 1:35-42

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: the identification of Jesus as the Lamb of God. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

NEXT DAY	JOHN	DISCIPLES
WALK BY	LAMB OF GOD	FOLLOWED
TURNED	LOOKING FOR	TRANSLATED
TEACHER	THAT DAY	FOUR
AFTERNOON	ANDREW	SIMON
PETER	BROTHER	FOUND
MESSIAH	ANOINTED	AT HIM

### HE WALKED BY

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D E D E W O L L O F T X
A L A M B O F G O D R E
N J D N U O F U F N A D
D J O K O F R J O H N I
R O F G N I K O O L S S
E N S I M O N P K W L C
W E D E N R U T P I A I
A X P T E A C H E R T P
L T A T H I M F T D E L
K D F H A I S S E M D E
B A Y R E H T O R B D S
Y Y A D T A H T Y P D H
    
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# 'Imposing our beliefs' on others

A lot of hot-button topics are being debated in our state legislatures these days, topics of great ethical and bioethical importance, ranging from emergency contraception to gay marriage. These debates address important issues for the future of our society. Lawmakers face the daunting task of making decisions about what should or should not be permitted by law within a reasonable society.

Recently I was asked to speak in Virginia at legislative hearings about embryonic stem-cell research. After I gave my testimony, one of the senators asked a pointed question. "Father Tad, by arguing against embryonic stem-cell research, don't you see how you are trying to impose your beliefs on others, and shouldn't we as elected lawmakers avoid imposing a narrow religious view on the rest of society?" The senator's question was an example of the fuzzy thinking that has become commonplace in recent years within many state legislatures and among many lawmakers.

Two major errors were incorporated into the senator's question. First, the senator failed to recognize the fact that law is fundamentally about imposing somebody's views on somebody else. Imposition is the name of the game. It is the very nature of law to impose particular views on people who don't want to have those views imposed on them. Car thieves don't want laws imposed on them that prohibit stealing. Drug dealers don't want laws imposed on them that make it illegal to sell drugs. Yet our lawmakers are elected precisely to craft and impose such laws all the time. So the question is not whether we will impose something on somebody. The question is instead whether whatever is going to be imposed by the force of law is reasonable, just and good for society and its members.

The second logical mistake the senator made was to suppose that because religion happens to hold a particular viewpoint, that implies that such a viewpoint should never be considered by lawmakers or enacted into law. Religion

teaches very clearly that stealing is immoral. Would it follow that if I support laws against stealing, I am imposing my narrow religious viewpoint on society? Clearly not. Rather, the subject of stealing is so important to the order of society that religion also feels compelled to speak about it. Religion teaches many things that can be understood as true by people who aren't religious at all.

Atheists can understand just as well as Catholics how stealing is wrong, and most atheists are just as angry as their Catholic neighbors when their house is broken into and robbed. What is important is not whether a proposed law happens to be taught by religion, but whether that proposal is just, right and good for society and its members.

To be more coherent, of course, the senator really should have chosen to address the substance of my testimony, rather than talking about the imposition of religious views. The argument I had offered, interestingly, did not depend on religious dogma at all. It depended rather on an important scientific dogma, namely, that all humans come from embryonic humans.

The statement that I was once an embryo is a statement about embryology, not theology. Given the fact that we were all once embryonic humans, it becomes very clear why destructive embryonic research is an immoral kind of activity. Exploiting the weak and not-yet-born in the interests of the powerful and the well-heeled should not be permitted in a civilized society. This argument, moreover, can be clearly seen by atheists, not just Catholics.

During my testimony, I pointed out how in the United States we have stringent federal laws that protect not only the national bird, the bald eagle, but also that eagle's eggs. If you were to chance upon some of them in a nest out in the wilderness, it would be illegal for you to destroy those eggs. By the force of law, we recognize how the egg of the bald eagle, that is to say, the embryonic eagle inside that egg, is the same creature as the glorious bird that we wit-



## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

BY FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

ness flying high overhead. Therefore we pass laws to safeguard not only the adult but also the very youngest member of that species. Even atheists can see how a bald eagle's eggs should be protected; it's really not a religious question at all.

What's so troublesome is how we are able to understand the importance of protecting the earliest stages of animal life, but when it comes to our own human life, a kind of mental disconnect takes place. Our moral judgment quickly becomes murky and obtuse when we desire to do certain things that are not good, like having abortions, or destroying embryonic humans for their stem cells.

So anytime we come across a lawmaker who tries to suggest that an argument in defense of sound morals is nothing but imposing a religious viewpoint, we need to look deeper at what may really be taking place. That lawmaker may not be so concerned about avoiding the imposition of a particular view on others — more likely, they are jockeying to simply be able to impose their view, a view which is ultimately much less tenable and defensible in terms of sound moral thinking. Hence they seek to short-circuit the discussion by stressing religious zealotry and imposition without ever confronting the substantive ethical or bioethical argument itself. Once the religious imposition card is played, and Christian lawmakers suddenly become weak-kneed about defending human life and sound morals, the other side then feels free to do the imposing themselves, without having expended too much effort on confronting the essence of the moral debate itself.

**Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D.** earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass. and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

So the question is not whether we will impose something on somebody. The question is instead whether whatever is going to be imposed by the force of law is reasonable, just and good for society and its members.

# The shape of the Eucharistic Prayer

Think back to the time you first learned the alphabet. Perhaps your parents or teachers taught you to sing the letters to the tune "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Most children sing the song over and over until they know the letters in order and by heart. Many adults, confused for a moment over just where "Q" belongs, will find themselves humming the same nursery school song until they place "Q" correctly between "P" and "R."

We know what our ancestors knew. Repetition is the best way to learn. The Scriptures of the Old Testament were spoken, memorized and handed orally, from one generation to the next long before they were written down. Today, surgeons who perform the same operation over and over again have the lowest mortality rates. Musicians who attain professional careers are the ones who practice daily. Scientists speak of such repetitive learning as the cutting and clearing of neural pathways in the brain. It is like a clearing in the forest; the more you walk it, the easier walking becomes. Left alone and untended, the pathway will disappear, overgrown by vines and grasses.

The same is true with prayer. When we first learn a new prayer or hymn, we concentrate on get-

ting the words and rhythms right. Like hikers on an uncleared trail, we have our eyes on the ground, on the lookout for rocks and fallen branches. We're afraid of tripping up.

But once we learn a prayer or hymn, we're set free. Most of us don't need a printed copy of the Hail Mary or the Our Father in order to pray. We can pray those familiar prayers anywhere, under any circumstances. Why? Because we have repeated them over and over again, ever since we were children.

Just as repetition is the friend of learning, so is it the friend of prayer. Once we know a prayer by heart, we can stop focusing on the words and focus instead on the object of the words, the glory of God. We can lift our eyes, as the psalmist encourages, "to gaze on the Lord's beauty, to visit his temple."

For some 1,400 years, the Roman Catholic Church prayed one Eucharistic Prayer. It is called the Roman Canon — "canon" meaning a "rule" or "standard." Just as a carpenter will use a rule, or level, as a guide to measure whether a wall is true, so the church uses the canon of the Eucharistic Prayer as a guide for all our prayer, personal and communal.

Since 1970, the Vatican has revised the Roman Canon and has

added 13 other Eucharistic Prayers. All of them — except the Eucharistic Prayer for Masses with Children, which is modeled after the Roman Canon — repeat an ancient pattern of the Eucharistic Prayer that is set out in the General Instruction of the Roman Missal. This ancient pattern both shapes and expresses our relationship to God. It shapes and expresses our relationship to God in the same way requiring small children to say "please" and "thank you," shapes and expresses their relationship to other people. First, we ask them to act like grateful people, to say the words of thanks. Repetition, the habit of gratitude, helps form them in true gratitude and gives them the means to express it.

The Eucharistic Prayer becomes the rule, or standard, of our prayer and of our faith. Its pattern becomes the template for all prayer. Here is an easy memory aid to learn the pattern of the Eucharistic Prayer: You, Who, Do, Through.

**You** — We begin by naming God, the "you" upon whom we call. When Jesus prayed, he called God "Father," and in the Eucharistic Prayer, so do we:

*Father, it is our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks...*

**Who** — We remember an act or quality of God; we remember

who God is. When Jesus spoke of God as Father, he spoke of one who protects and guides his own, of one who would lay down his life before allowing harm to those in his care. In the Eucharistic Prayer we remember that:

*Time and again we broke your covenant*

*but you did not abandon us.*

*Instead, through your Son, Jesus the Lord,*

*you bound yourself ever more closely to the human family by a bond that can never be broken.*

— Preface, Eucharistic Prayer 1 for Reconciliation.

**Do** — Jesus laid down his life for us; he acted. God is at work in the world, acting on behalf of all. Knowing how God has acted throughout human history — bringing the Jews out of slavery in Egypt, sending Jesus to reveal the depth of the Father's love — we have the courage to bring our needs before God. We have the courage to ask that God will stand for us and with us, that we will not stand alone. In the Eucharistic Prayer we proclaim:

*Father, hear the prayers of the family you have gathered here before you. In mercy and love unite all your children wherever they may be.*

**Through** — Jesus comes to earth to reveal the nature of God. He says, "If you know me, then you will also know my Father."

## THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

A GUIDE TO PARTICIPATION

— Jn 14:7. We come to the throne of God's mercy through Christ and in the Holy Spirit. All prayer acknowledges the communion of Father, Son and Holy Spirit and the church.

*Grant this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.*

**During the Year of the Eucharist**, the Office of Worship is sponsoring a five-part series of articles distributed by the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC). Comments or questions can be e-mailed to [brieger@fw.diocesefwsb.org](mailto:brieger@fw.diocesefwsb.org) FDLC #44680, Part 3 of 5. Authors: Andrew Cifemi and Melissa Musick Nussbaum Art: Jane Pitz @ FDLC. 415 Michigan Ave. N.E., Washington DC 20017. [www.fdlc.org](http://www.fdlc.org)

# Sports

**BISHOP LUERS TO HOST EXTREME CHEER CHALLENGE** Bishop Luers High School will host the second annual Extreme Cheer Challenge in the gym on Saturday, Jan. 21. High school, junior high, some grade school and all-star teams from Indiana and Ohio will compete. Competition begins at 10 a.m. The entrance fee is \$5 per person. For more information, contact Anita Correll at (260) 456-1261.

## CYO resumes regular schedule

BY JOAN BOBAY

FORT WAYNE — With Christmas basketball tournaments wrapped up, the CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) boys and girls grades 7 and 8 teams resumed conference play Saturday, Jan. 7. This week St. Charles Cardinal teams are being highlighted.

### Boys grade 8

This Cardinal team has 12 members, three of whom are over six feet tall. "They are having an up and down season, partly due to having to learn how to handle their growth factor," coach Jeff Polhamus said. Their 44-33 win Saturday over Sts. Joseph/Elizabeth gave them a 5-4 overall record and Polhamus said, "The potential is there for them to get much better and do well come tourney time."

He likes to use a basic man-to-man defense and be ready to use the press when needed. Three-point shots are not as important as having the big players get inside or having the guards penetrate to the basket more. "I'd say they need to get more aggressive," the coach said. Most also are involved in other sports during the year.

Assistant coaches are Joe Gabet and Tad Christle.

### Boys grade 7

These Cardinal boys defeated Queen of Angels-7 by a score of 45-17 in a game in which nine of the 11 Cardinal players scored and all played. This put them at 2-1 in CYO and 3-5 overall. Coach Sean Digan said injuries, illness and vacations have made it "hard to get together as a team," but he is hoping the players' athleticism will help them overall.

"They work hard and are improving. I tell them that if you press on defense you can get turnovers and can score off them," Digan said, adding that with their

overall talent he can "move guys in and out of the lineup and not lose any playing ability. Anyone can start and we can have a running game and not tire anyone out except maybe the other team." As he checked his score book, he said in eight games six different players took the lead in scoring while the games featured consistent balanced scoring.

He concluded with, "They are good guys to coach and get along well. We played older teams in the holiday tournament and that was hard but a good learning experience."

Digan's assistant is Ted Christle.

### Girls grade 8

The Cardinal girls won their game Saturday over St. John New Haven-8, but it has been a rough season, so far. Coach Bernie Ray said, of his 12 players, only seven have been healthy at times. "We have never had so many injuries, sprains etc. I had hoped the Christmas break would help the healing but three are down right now." That has made it hard to practice, to be consistent, or even to know which players work well together.

They played in the Saint Francis tournament and will play in the annual one-day invitational with St. Vincent and Shawnee and Blackhawk middle schools on Feb. 14. "We're good friends with those teams and always enjoy playing each other. The eighth grade teams from the four schools will play here at St. Charles and seventh grade teams will play at St. Vincent the same day," Ray said.

The win last Saturday probably resulted from a week of good practices, he said. "Now we're hoping to get healthy and be in good shape for the CYO tournament in February. Some of the girls hope to play in high school and a good tourney would be great."

Assistant coaches are Kurt Patterson and Dan Sordelet.

### Girls grade 7

It was St. Charles vs. Queen of Angels Royals Saturday and the Cardinals won the game 26-12. Cardinal coach Scott Burkhardt said the team is 3-1 in CYO and 8-6 overall, with some of the losses to grade-8 teams in tournaments. Even so, the 12-member team finished fourth in the large Thanksgiving tournament.

The Cardinals rely on speed because they are of average height. They have two aggressive defenders, Samantha Eckrich and Leah Ronner who are consistent and persistent players and rotate with two other players. Point guard Sarah Killion is described by Burkhardt as "a quick, smart, unselfish player with great vision," an asset the coach believes comes from playing soccer, which may be her favorite sport. She is part of the three player core of starters, which also includes post player Caitlyn Meyers and Ashley Burkhardt. "Those three do most of the scoring," the coach said.

He believes soccer players develop the ability to see the whole field and that carries over into basketball. "It's an advantage both on offense and defense and enables the player(s) to know where the ball is at most times and that's why I will take Killion over any other player in the area," he said. He has high hopes for the team as the players improve weekly, especially on defense.

Assistant coaches are Dave Sordelet and Jenny Dabbelt.

Burkhardt also is the athletic director at St. Charles and said the school is expanding into golf and tennis club teams this year.

### Next week

There are 18 games Jan. 14 at four of the five sites. Also on that date will be the seventh and eighth grade invitationals at St.

## High scoring individual performances mark the new year of ICCL basketball action

BY JOAN BOBAY

SOUTH BEND — Two high-scoring individual performances marked the opening of the second half season of the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) as the leaders in the four division maintained their positions.

Chris Shaw of St. John the Baptist in the Martin de Porres West division poured in 21 points to lead his team and propel them to a 55-21 victory over St. Joseph of Mishawaka. The winners led from start to finish and were in complete command all the way. Tim Wilson had 15 points for the St. Joseph's team.

The second top individual performance was turned in by Michael Kendzicky of Corpus Christi in the John Bosco West division. He popped in 20 points as the Cougars topped St. Anthony, 44-30. Ty Wolfram collected 10 for St. Anthony.

Jordan Milligan looped in 16 points to pace St. Bavo to a 38-14 win over St. Adalbert in one of the six inter-division tussles.

In a white-knuckle finish, Christ the King nipped St. Thomas of Elkhart, 24-22, despite a splendid 10-point performance by Joshua Riikonen of St. Thomas. Tyler Bliha of Christ the King hit a three pointer with less than a minute for the win.

Holy Family continued its winning ways with a 35-20 win against St. Joseph of South Bend. Danny Kochs tossed in 10 points for St. Joseph.

In other games, St. Jude led by Trace Dowling's 12 points, defeated St. Monica of Mishawaka, 45-16. St. Michael of Plymouth downed St. Pius of Granger, 44-22, thanks to a fine 12-point performance by Todd

Vervynckt. Dominick Bellardina had 10 points for St. Pius. And

St. Matthew jumped on the winning track with a 33-27 win over Holy Cross. Dylan LeBlanc dropped in 11 points, five of them in the fourth period, to lead St. Matthew. Colton Pulaski paced Holy Cross with 15 points.

In the Colors Division, a splendid 19-point performance by Tyler Rody of St. Thomas White spearheaded his team to an unfortunate loss to St. Anthony Maroon, 37-33. St. Anthony was led by Brandon Thorpe with 16 points and Antonio Winn with 15 points.

Christ the King White downed Holy Family Blue, 50-34, as Nick Catanzarite of Holy Family kept his scoring pace intact with 12 points.

Paul Anthony of St. Joseph (South Bend) Blue tossed in 11 points to lead his team to beat St. Thomas Gold, 31-28.

In other games, Corpus Christi Red defeated St. Jude Green, 38-18, and Christ the King Blue beat St. Thomas Maroon, 20-10.

Jan. 15 schedule at Saint Joseph's High School:

- St. Michael vs. St. Monica
- St. Pius vs. St. John the Baptist
- St. Joseph, Mishawaka, vs. St. Adalbert
- St. Jude vs. St. Bavo
- Jan. 15 schedule at Marian High School
- St. Anthony vs. Christ the King
- St. Thomas vs. Holy Cross,
- St. Matthew vs. Holy Family
- Corpus Christi vs. St. Joseph, South Bend

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# Accountability: A life lesson learned in sports

As a high school coach, I've been entrusted with an incredible responsibility and an amazing opportunity to impact the lives of the young men I instruct.

The lessons that can be taught are numerous: discipline, character, winning with class, losing with grace, handling adversity, etc. To me, none of those lessons are more important than accountability.

Taking responsibility for one's actions can be a difficult lesson for teenagers, particularly athletes who have always excelled in their chosen sport. Most have been star athletes growing up. They have been told they are great. They have been told that it's "not their fault" when something has gone wrong while playing their sport.

Every athlete is going to make mistakes. A ground ball is going to squirt through a middle infielder's legs and an open jump shot is going to bounce off the back of the rim. Those things are part of the game. It's how a young athlete deals with that moment that

will have a direct bearing on an event later in life that ultimately is much more important than the outcome of a high school game.

"It was my fault" are four of the most difficult words in the English language. That's not to say that your child should walk around blaming everything bad that happens to the team on himself or herself. But as a parent, you have to be careful. There's nothing worse than a teammate who walks around with a "don't blame me" attitude.

As a coach, I try to acknowledge when I've made a mistake. It sets a good example. It breaks down some of the barriers between the coach and player, and let's them know that assessing the situation and taking responsibility for a shortcoming is not a sign of weakness, but rather, accountability for one's responsibilities to the team.

When a child decides to play sports, particularly a team sport, he or she assumes a certain amount of responsibility for his or her performance. Certainly by

the high school level, a young person playing a team sport must take on the responsibility incumbent of a teammate.

There's nothing worse than an extremely gifted athlete who gives a poor effort. It reminds me of the parable of the talents. — Mt. 25:14-30. The worker with five talents put them to use and doubled them, much to the joy of his boss. The man with two talents doubled his as well. But the man with one talent buried his, for fear of losing it.

When God has given you the ability to run and jump and sweat and compete, and you have chosen to put those talents to use in a team sport, a certain amount of responsibility and accountability comes with it. Likewise, when an athlete gives his or her all and comes up a bit short, he or she can sleep well that night. You have put your talents to good use. You have been accountable.

I would like to win every game that we play, but I know we can't and won't. There are games that we win when I'm upset



## FROM THE SIDELINES

TIM PRISTER

about the way we performed. There are games that we lose when I'm extremely proud of my players. Ultimately, it's not about winning and losing as much as it is about being accountable for one's performance and effort.

It's okay to tell your child that his or her failure in the sporting arena is not the end of the world. It's not okay to dismiss one's accountability to the team. One day real soon, when teamwork in the workplace is much more important than the outcome of a baseball game, that accountability to one's fellow worker — a teammate, so to speak — will come in handy.

The better we can differentiate between the two, the better athlete you'll have. More importantly, the better person and budding

adult you'll have. Ultimately, that's much more important than a notch in the victory column.

**Tim Prister** is a 1978 graduate of Marian High School in Mishawaka with a bachelor of arts degree in English from the University of Notre Dame (1982). Prister was the starting third baseman at Notre Dame in 1981-82 and the editor of *Blue & Gold Illustrated* (BGI) from 1983-2002. He currently is the senior writer for BGI, provides Notre Dame coverage for the *Indianapolis Star*, and serves as the head baseball coach of the Mishawaka Marian Knights.

## Three-day Precious Blood tournament called a success

BY JOAN BOBAY

FORT WAYNE — For at least 15 years, or perhaps more, Most Precious Blood has hosted a holiday basketball tournament for grades five and six. This year's chairperson, Judy Schon, said it was a three-day event held Dec. 26-28 and had 16 teams participating. On Dec. 28, two champions were crowned with St. Jude's boys and girls teams winning the titles.

### Boys

In the championship game, St. Jude-6, coached by Patrick Henline, defeated St. John Fort Wayne-5, and in the consolation game, St. Vincent-6 won over Most Precious Blood-5-6. No scores were available but trophies were awarded through third place, which was the consolation winner.

### Girls

The title went to St. Jude-6, coached by Jane Wolf, who defeated St. Charles-5. The consolation game was won by St. John New

Haven-6 over St. Vincent-5.

All teams were guaranteed a minimum of two games, but it was not a true double elimination tournament. Several schools have so many interested players that they entered more than one team in the boys or girls division, or both.

The event is a fundraiser for Most Precious Blood's athletic teams, said Schon, and some years ago it replaced a fund-raiser parish dance. The sports event draws good crowds, and the committee relies on those crowds to help keep gate fees low. Jayne Smith was the fundraiser chairman and Matt Hosier, of the school's athletic board, was overall coordinator. Parents of the players worked shifts in the concession stand, at the gate and as security people while others worked the scoring table.

Schon, whose husband Tom coaches the Precious Blood grade 5-6 boys team, said team parents and other parishioners have an opportunity as workers to get to know one another while setting an example of teamwork for their young athletes.

## Dwenger doing 'swimmingly'

FORT WAYNE — At a triangular swim meet between Bishop Dwenger, Bishop Luers and Concordia Lutheran, Dwenger won the boys meet 134-130 over Concordia with Luers third. Dwenger's girls won their meet 132-121 over Concordia with Luers third.

James Isca of Dwenger was a double winner with victories in the 100 free style and 100 backstroke. The Saints won the final

event, 400 freestyle, with a 1-2 finish. Two Concordia swimmers, Tyler Lemert and Dan Wickensheimer, also were double winners in the boys meet.

The girls produced one double winner, Bridget Niezer of Dwenger, in the 200 IM and 100 breast stroke. The latter, coupled with the points for the girls winning the final event, the 400 relay, earned the Saints the win for the girls. — JB

## School teacher uses athletic ability to bridge cultures

BY MICHAEL WOJCIK

MORRIS PLAINS, N.J. (CNS) — In many ways, Diesa Seidel, physical education teacher at St. Virgil School in Morris Plains and a former basketball star, is a real "globe-trotter." And she has years of frequent-flier miles to prove it.

The 25-year-old Seidel, a St. Virgil's teacher since September 2004, has coached in an interreligious basketball league in South Korea, played professional women's basketball in France and Italy, built Habitat for Humanity homes in Guyana and helped spruce up a poor neighborhood in Trinidad and Tobago.

In high school and college, the 6-foot-3 Seidel lit up the scoreboards with her considerable basketball talents. Today, she loves lighting up the faces of the St. Virgil's students she teaches, encouraging them to eat right and exercise regularly.

On her international service trips, she loved trading smiles — and making friends — with the many warm and colorful people of various cultures and religions she met along the way.

Siedel's interest in international outreach comes naturally. Born in Toronto with French and Canadian citizenship, she was raised in Red Hook, N.Y.

"Diesa has the ability to work with people beyond all differences," said Carol Pobanz of the New York-based Religious Youth Service, which ran the service trips to Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago. "She is interested in all kinds of people. She invests her heart, not only in the work, but in the people."

Last fall, Seidel raised more than \$4,000 for Religious Youth

Service by collecting pledges before running the 26.2-mile New York City Marathon. With a time of 4:17:34, the talented athlete placed in the fastest one-third overall — 12,933 out of 37,300 runners — and in the fastest one-quarter among women.

"The marathon was very challenging. There was a lot of pain involved," said Seidel, who was sent off to the run by students, faculty and staff with a lively pep rally, complete with cheerleaders.

"You don't know what you can do until you do it," she said. "I saw the clock at the end of the run, and thought 'Wow, I just ran a marathon!'"

"It's powerful to bring together people of all religions united in one task: to serve others," she said of her two Religious Youth Service trips. "Through service comes love."

At St. Virgil's, Seidel said her goal is to "instill in my kids a love of sports and physical activity so they continue them on their own."

"Diesa keeps the kids moving around," said Joyce Middleton, St. Virgil's principal. "It's fun to see kids doing push-ups on the front lawn. Diesa wants them to be fit. She is a wonderful role model for the kids, because she's fit, still plays basketball and ran the New York Marathon. We are proud of her."

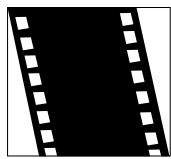


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**MOVIE CAPSULES**

**NEW YORK (CNS)** – Following are recent capsule reviews issued by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office for Film and Broadcasting.

**"Cache" ("Hidden") (Sony Classics)**

Superior allegorical French thriller — with political underpinnings — about a television talk show host (Daniel Auteuil) and his

wife (Juliette Binoche) who works in publishing who receive ominous drawings and videotapes indicating that they are under surveillance, but by whom is a mystery. Director-writer Michael Haneke eschews melodramatics for understated suspense and psychological tension that builds unnervingly, though the denouement leaves provocatively unanswered questions. Subtitles. Scattered rough and crude language; an instance of profanity; two violent, if dramatically valid, episodes including the beheading of a rooster with blood; a suicide with blood; brief shadowy nudity. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R.

**"Mrs. Palfrey at the Claremont" (Cineville)**

A terrific performance by Joan Plowright is reason enough to catch this low-key British charmer about an elderly matron who moves into a shabbily genteel London hotel, and just when she's abandoned by her uncaring daughter and grandson and appears to be facing a dead-end existence, she is befriended by a handsome young writer (Rupert Friend) whom she passes off as her grandson to the inquisitive residents. For this bittersweet film, director Dan Ireland has assembled a top cast of British pros to play the hotel's loners (Anna Massey, Robert Lang, Marcia Warren, Georgina Hale and Millicent Martin) and, though improbable,

the story imparts a worthy message about aging and human connection. Mild profanity and innuendo, brief instances of crude language, a brief sexual encounter with no nudity, premarital sex. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. Not rated by the Motion Picture Association of America.

**"Munich" (Universal)**

Riveting but morally fuzzy political thriller inspired by real events about a team of Israeli assassins (led by Eric Bana) assigned to hunt down and assassinate 11 Palestinians who supposedly had a hand in the slaughter of Jewish athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics. With its problematic revenge

theme, director Steven Spielberg's well-acted film walks a thin line between condemning violence and exploiting it for titillating effect by wrapping it in the pulse-pounding excitement of an espionage-action movie that belies its stated serious intent. Extremely graphic violence, including shooting and bomb-related gore, full-frontal nudity, two sexual encounters between husband and wife with partial nudity, as well as recurring rough and crude language and profanity. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R.

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# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

**WHAT'S HAPPENING** carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@fw.diocesefwsb.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff to purchase space.

**Life Chain event planned**

Goshen — A Life Chain sponsored by Holy Innocents Pro-Life Action Group will be held around the public sidewalks of the Goshen Court House on Saturday, Jan. 21, from 11 a.m. to noon. Placards provided. Family participation encouraged. Contact Karen at (574) 295-8551 for information.

**Sausage and pancake breakfast**

Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood School, 1529 Barthold St., will host a sausage and pancake breakfast on Sunday, Jan. 29, from 9 a.m. to noon. Tickets are \$5 adults, \$2.50 kids under 10 and \$15 per family. Contact Kelly Shanks at (260) 466-5941 for information.

**Little Flower Holy Hour**

Fort Wayne — Father David Ruppert, associate pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, will celebrate the Holy Hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, Jan. 17, at 7:15 p.m. Bring a friend this week and join in prayer with the special intention to pray for priests and vocations.

**DCCW to meet**

Fort Wayne — The Fort Wayne Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 24, at 10 a.m. in the lower level of St. Joseph Hospital. This month's speaker will be Bruce Summerfield, a local artist from Hoagland. All Catholic women of the diocese are members and welcome. Men and other guests are also welcome to attend.

**Knights plan spaghetti dinner**

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have an all-you-can-eat spaghetti dinner on Friday, Jan. 20, from 5-7 p.m. Adults \$6, children (5-12) \$3. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, garlic toast and coffee. Carry-out available.

**Holy Name hosts Polish dinner buffet**

South Bend — The St. Hedwig Holy Name Society will have a Polish style dinner buffet on Sunday, Jan. 22, from noon to 2 p.m. with music by Soundsations from 1 to 5 p.m. in the Hedwig Memorial Center. Tickets are \$10 per person. Children 12 and under are free. Reservations are needed by Jan. 16 to (574) 232-6546 or (574) 287-4821.

## REST IN PEACE

**Decatur**

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**Elkhart**

Stella V. Page, 84, St. Thomas the Apostle

**Fort Wayne**

Richard A. Allgeier, 71, St. Jude

Marie A. Hoffman, 94, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

Rose McGee, 86, St. Vincent de Paul

Gwendola Stuck, 90, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

Joseph Alexander Zwierko, 83, St. Charles Borromeo

Richard J. Earl, 87, Queen of Angels

Ruth M. Hamm, 85, Our Lady of Good Hope

William H. Thatcher, 62, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Betty M. Rygowski, 83

Luella A. Brames, 96, St. Jude

Ruth A. Knapke, 68, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

Ida Mae West, 82, Most Precious Blood

**Mishawaka**

Julia M. Ernst, 89, St. Joseph

Lawrence F. Calhoun, 51, St. Joseph

Toni Ann Burke, 65, St. Joseph

Michael A. Zirille, 95, St. Monica

**Monroeville**

Ivan V. Zuber, 78, St. Rose of Lima

**South Bend**

Dorothy V. Zielinski, 87, St. Stanislaus

Daniel A. Jaworski, 73, Corpus Christi

Anne M. Balint, 70, St. Jude

Robert E. Jeske, 83, St. Stanislaus

**Fish and tenderloin dinner supports St. Joseph School**

Monroeville — A fish and tenderloin dinner prepared by Ed Fox will be Friday, Jan. 27, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Monroeville Park Pavillion. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children 6-11. All proceeds benefit the seventh and eighth grade class trip.

**St. Joseph School hosts pancake and sausage breakfast**

Decatur — The annual pancake and sausage breakfast at St. Joseph School, Decatur, will be held on Sunday, Jan. 28, from 7:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the school auditorium. Eighth grade students, with the help of their parents, will serve the breakfast. Proceeds will help pay for their class trip to Washington, D.C. Tickets are available from any St. Joseph eighth grade student, or by calling the school at (260) 724-2765.

**Knights plan drive-through fish dinner**

Fort Wayne — The St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Knights of Columbus will have a drive-through fish dinner by Country Chef on Friday, Feb. 10, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the church hall. Cost is \$6.50.

**Beginning experience announces retreat for widowed, divorced**

Donaldson — A beginning experience weekend will be held Feb. 17-19 at Lindenwood Retreat Center. The weekend fee is \$175. Call (574) 233-2132 for information.

**Scouts plan breakfast**

Fort Wayne — St. John the Baptist's Boy Scout Troup is hosting a pancake and sausage breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 19, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. John's PAC. The funds raised will be used to buy a new Scout trailer for Troup 19.

**St. Patrick School plans benefit dinner**

Walkerton — A dinner to benefit the St. Patrick tuition assistance fund will be Saturday, Jan. 28, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the American Legion. Tickets are \$10 and include dinner, one drink and dessert and drawing for cash

prizes. Music will be by Jerry Houston. A silent auction, tip-boards and raffles will also be available.

**Bishop Luers to host annual Spirit Breakfast Jan. 20**

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will host its fifth annual Spirit Breakfast, "Living the Gospel," on Friday, Jan. 20. The guest speaker will be Nancy Schenkel, administrator, Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic. The Spirit Breakfast will be at Lester's Banquet Hall, 1502 Bluffton Rd., from 7-8:30 a.m. Tickets are \$15 per person sold in advance. Call the school office at (260) 456-1261 for tickets or information.

**Notre Dame fundraiser planned by the St. Vincent de Paul Men's Club**

Fort Wayne — The St. Vincent Notre Dame athletics fundraiser and casino night will be held Saturday, Jan. 28, from 6 to 11 p.m. at the St. Vincent de Paul Parish hall. Admission includes food by Casa. Tickets are \$20 single, \$30 couple at the door or \$15 single, \$25 couple in advance. Refreshments available. Must be 21. Contact svnd@saintv.org for information or tickets.

**Bishop Dwenger High School announces winter events**

Fort Wayne — The music boosters will host "Winter Fantasy" on Saturday, Jan. 28, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the gymnasium. The winter guard show will feature schools from throughout Indiana. Tickets are \$5 at the door. Registration dates for incoming freshman are Jan. 23-25 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and on Saturday, Feb. 4, from 9 to 11 a.m. For information on any of these events call (260) 496-4700.

32nd Annual  
**MARCH FOR LIFE**  
January 28, 2006  
Noon at Scottish Rite  
(DOWNTOWN FORT WAYNE)

No Admission Charge



Keynote Speaker  
**Dr. Alveda King**

Director of African American Outreach  
*Priests for Life*

A Silent No More event will immediately follow the March at the Federal Building.

*The National Silent No More Awareness campaign is an effort to make the public aware of the devastation abortion brings to women, men, and their families. The emotional and physical pain of abortion will no longer be shrouded in secrecy and silence, but rather exposed and healed. This effort is a key to make abortion unthinkable and persuade society that women deserve better than abortion. For more information about Silent No More visit their website at [www.silentnomoreawareness.org](http://www.silentnomoreawareness.org).*

**For more information, call the Allen County Rite to Life office at (260) 471-1849 or visit [www.iChooselife.org](http://www.iChooselife.org)**



# Mass for Life

**Sunday, January 22, 2006**

*Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne*

The Reverend Robert Schulte, Main Celebrant

Mass at 5:00 p.m. • Benediction - 7:00 p.m.

*Cathedral of St. Matthew, South Bend*

The Most Reverend John M. D'Arcy, Main Celebrant

Mass at 5:30 p.m. • Benediction - 7:30 p.m.

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament  
(immediately following Mass)

The Mass will mark the 33rd anniversary of the Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade* which legalized abortion in our country. Please come and pray for a renewed respect for human life in our nation.

Sponsored by the *Office of Family Life*