

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

'Edith Stein Project: Redefining Feminism' draws students



ANN CAREY

The Edith Stein Project conference drew students from around the country. Standing, left to right, are Adam Pasternack, Sister Maria Frassati, OP, Mark Gore, Andrew Taube, Sister Mary Michael, OP, and Rachel Brown. Kneeling, left to right, are Jackie Anclien, Kathleen Henry, Stash Dailey, Jessica Field and Christin Hydeman. The sisters are members of the Dominican Sisters of Mary Mother of the Eucharist from Ann Arbor, Mich., and attend Eastern Michigan University. Dailey is a seminarian from the Diocese of Columbus, Ohio, and attends Mount St. Mary's College in Emmitsburg, Md. The other students are from the University of Dayton.

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — A student-led conference drew about 300 students from around the country to the University of Notre Dame Feb. 10 and 11 to speak, listen, discuss and network about "new feminism."

The "Edith Stein Project: Redefining Feminism" was organized by three Notre Dame undergraduates, Anamaria Scaperlanda-Ruiz, Caitlyn Shaughnessy and Madeleine Ryland, as a forum for discussing the dignity of women and the problems women face in the culture.

A diverse roster of 21 speakers included students themselves, professional women, university professors, and several national and international figures, including Deidre McQuade, director of Planning and Information in the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops; Josef Seifert, rector and professor of philosophy at the International Academy of Philosophy in Liechtenstein; and Alasdair MacIntyre, Notre Dame philosophy professor and author of "Edith Stein: A Philosophical Prologue."

In MacIntyre's talk on Edith Stein, it became clear why the organizers had named their conference after the saint, also known by her Carmelite name, Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. He explained that Saint Edith Stein (1891-1942) was a brilliant philosopher who — even though she had earned a doctorate at a prestigious university — was denied a university position because she was a woman. However, because she was so open to truth and caring about truth, Edith Stein saw intellectual inquiry itself as a vocation, and she used her feminine gifts to pursue truth, first as a school teacher and then as a Carmelite nun. Edith Stein con-

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Professor discusses Jim Crow Era at day of reflection

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — St. Mary Church was the site Feb. 11 for a day of reflection in celebration of Black History Month. The speaker at the event was Dr. Richard Pierce, associate professor of history and chairman of the Department of Africana Studies at the University of Notre Dame.

Also part of the day-long presentation was a film, discussion of Pierce's remarks, lunch and a prayer service, all hosted by the St. Martin de Porres Society of St. Mary Parish. Pierce, a specialist in African American, urban and civil rights history and author of "Polite Protest," shared with his audience the early results of research he is currently doing for a book tentatively titled "Teaching Jim Crow."

"Jim Crow" is the practice of segregation and policy of discrimination against blacks that Pierce himself calls the "separation of races," and the Jim Crow era "a time when blacks frequently occupied the lowest rungs

of political, economic and social life." It was prevalent in the United States in the years from 1896, when the decision in Plessy vs. Ferguson gave the practice of segregation legal status, until 1954, when the Brown vs. Board of Education decision became the legal blueprint for racial integration and equality.

Pierce said his book will examine how African-American parents and institutions worked together to teach Jim Crow to their children while still maintaining the youngsters' self esteem. Children had to be instructed in ways to live safely in a society bent on their repression and quick to punish them for the slightest infraction. But they had to be taught dignity and self worth as well, no simple task, Pierce pointed out.

Their job was made even more difficult by subtle outside forces. The book "Little Black Sambo" was the only representation of black society, and early textbooks taught a "certain sense of civic order" in which blacks were

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BISHOP BEGINS HIGH SCHOOL VISITATIONS



MARY KAY DANCE

Bishop John M. D'Arcy began his annual pastoral visits to high schools on Feb. 6 at Marian in Mishawaka. After the celebration of the Mass in memorial of martyrs St. Paul Miki and companions, bishop posed with altar servers Rebecca Knabenshue, Michael McMahon and Christopher Leitz.



Chastity is the word

Students relate to students in a new way

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Senior finds rewards

Church and community benefit from committed volunteer

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Teens take a stand for life

High schools and youth groups attend national march

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Meet the priest

St. Matthew Cathedral rector and pastor takes the spotlight

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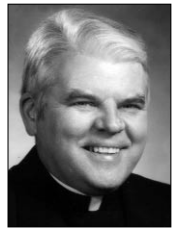
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Women respond in the rich tradition of the church



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

A moment to remember

Three young women — Caitlin Shaughnessy, Anamaria Scaperlanda-Ruiz and Madeleine Ryland — organized a seminar on the extraordinary Edith Stein, St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. They are Notre Dame students and titled their effort the “Edith Stein Project: Redefining Feminism.”

To do it right involved fundraising, and Our Sunday Visitor Institute was pleased to give them a grant. Drawing from the Catholic tradition, they presented seminars over two days centered on, but not limited to, the life and teaching of the extraordinary German intellectual, Edith Stein. Born a Jew, she became a Catholic after a long journey, eventually a Carmelite and finally a martyr. Who can forget the words to her sister as the Nazis took her from her convent, “Come, Rosa, let us go and die for our people.” A Catholic intellectual and also a Jew.

Among the topics for the various seminars were: Dignity of Women on an International Level; Women in Latin America; Pornography; St. Gianna, a mother canonized recently by Pope John Paul II; The Social Implications of Contraception; and the Importance of Fertility Awareness.

Sister Marie Morgan, OSF, gave a seminar on Edith Stein's ideas on spiritual motherhood, and Father John Coughlin, OFM, presented a seminar titled Women and the Church. Laura Garcia spoke on Mary: Model for the Working Woman. I was privileged to be invited to celebrate the 5 p.m. Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

It was obvious from my contact with the three young women who led this campus-wide seminar, with many outstanding speakers from within and without Notre Dame, that these were women of the church who also wished to respond to the issues of this time out of the rich tradition of the church on the gift and vocation of women.

I shared with them in my homily the words from Pope John Paul's apostolic letter “On the Dignity and Vocation of Women.” Written on the occasion of the Marian year in 1988, the pope begins by quoting the fathers of the Second Vatican Council at the conclusion of that extraordinary event. “The hour is coming, in fact has come, when the vocation of women is acknowledged in its fullness, the hour in which women acquire in the world an influence, an effect and the power never hitherto achieved. That is why, at this moment when the human race is undergoing so deep a transformation, women imbued with the spirit of the Gospel can do so much to aid

humanity in not falling.” Not women are going to keep the world from falling, said the Council of Fathers, but women imbued with the spirit of the Gospel.

I also shared the words of Pope John Paul II on Edith Stein.

“My personal philosophical outlook moved, so to speak, between two poles: Aristotelian Thomism and phenomenology. I was particularly interested in Edith Stein, an extraordinary figure, for her life story as well as her philosophy. Born into a Jewish family in Wroclaw, she discovered Christ, was baptized and entered the Carmelite convent, spent some time in the Netherlands, but was deported from there to Auschwitz by the Nazis. She died in a gas chamber and her mortal remains were burned in a crematorium. She had studied with Husserl and had been a colleague of the Polish philosopher Ingriden. I had the joy of beatifying her in Cologne and then canonizing her in Rome. I also proclaimed Edith Stein, Sister Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, as a co-patron of Europe, together with St. Bridget of Sweden and St. Catherine of Siena: three women alongside the three male patrons: Cyril, Methodius and Benedict.”

— “Rise, Let Us Be On Our Way,” John Paul II

I reflected that the women who had influenced the church most deeply, St. Catherine of Sienna, St. Teresa of Avila and St. Therese of Lisieux, were contemplatives, women of profound prayer. Also Edith Stein was a member of the Carmelites, a contemplative congregation. Men and women who are contemplative, that is who pray, will influence the church and the world. As we conclude our observance of the eucharistic year, I think especially of prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, which is beginning to flourish in our churches, whether we are

So I went there in the dark night
and said a prayer of thanks to her for being present
in Boston that day, and all the years since,
and also for bringing me to Notre Dame.

referring to exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, reverence for Christ present in the holy tabernacle, or prayer after holy Communion. When we are drawn to Christ and his love, as the leper was in last Sunday's Gospel, then we have an influence beyond our small, immediate circle. It will be Christ renewing the church in the way he wants to do it — through all of us who are close to him in quiet prayer and adoration.

That is truth

Before Mass in the sacristy, I chatted with my good friend, Professor Larry Cunningham, asking him if he knew this saint. Larry has forgotten more about saints than most of us know. He did, indeed, know Edith Stein through her writings, and told me how she had translated and written a

commentary on St. Thomas Aquinas. We reminded each other about an important event in her life. She was visiting some Catholic friends and found in their home while they were out the biography of Teresa of Avila. She read it in its entirety and, when she put it down, she said, “That is truth.” The writings of one great contemplative woman in the church drawing another to conversion, holiness and martyrdom.

I was only at Notre Dame a few hours, but it was a blessing. What a joyful way to spend an anniversary. Thirty-one years ago on that day, I was ordained a bishop at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston, Mass. That day, and the weeks leading up to it and the retreat I made at a religious house along the Hudson River, remain as moments where I was given a strong sense of the love of God in Jesus Christ. Bishops are asked to take an episcopal motto. It was because of the experience of his love that I took the words from Psalm 117, “In Aeternum Misericordia Ejus” (“His Steadfast Love Endures Forever”).

A dinner followed, and before me lay the long trip to Fort Wayne. How could I begin that trip on the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, and seeing the dedication of these young women, without going to the grotto at Notre Dame which, after all, is modeled on the famous Grotto of Lourdes in France? So I went there in the dark night and said a prayer of thanks to her for being present in Boston that day, and all the years since, and also for bringing me to Notre Dame.

A day at Marian

What can possibly be said about a beautiful day at Marian High School, hosted by Carl Loesch, the principal? Here, too, is a special human story. Carl's parents live near Fort Wayne on an old farm that has been in his family for generations. So it was that, having been recruited by John Gaughan and Sister Jane Carew, he came to teach at Bishop Dwenger High School. In his second year, he was chosen as Teacher of the Year. His love for the young people and his ability to teach them about the faith was special. He was a double-domer with a master's degree in biblical studies. In high school, he had been influenced by good religion teachers, so he settled in with us for eight years.

As his marriage to Marie approached, he left us with great sadness. I said, “Carl, I believe you will return to us.” When the opening came at Marian, I knew he was the right one. Carl is a wonderful mentor and leader for young people. He is fair and disciplined. There are no favorites. As a father of three boys, he takes his responsibilities with great seriousness. He is devoted to strengthening Marian in every way. His strong faith in Christ and in the church is evident. Having seen his journey through Dwenger and Wall Street to Notre Dame and then to Marian, I am delighted that he is with us. So are the parents and the board with whom he works. A special day at Marian with an old friend.

Pitchers and catchers ready to report soon. Still no word from the Red Sox.
See you all next week.

No conflict: Truths of faith, science have God as source, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The truths of faith cannot be in conflict with the truths of science because God is the source of faith and creator of the world, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The pope met Feb. 10 with 98 officials, members and consultants of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, the office he led for more than 20 years before being elected pope.

The congregation, he said, "is called, in a spirit of collegiality, to promote and recall the centrality of the Catholic faith in its authentic expression."

When "the truth of faith is placed at the center of Christian existence with simplicity and decisiveness, people's lives are energized by a love that knows neither breaks nor boundaries," Pope Benedict said.

Love for the truth, he said, pushes the human intellect to explore new horizons.

Jesus Christ is truth incarnate, the pope said, so everything the church does to promote truth is a way of serving Christ.

He said, "Love for the truth also inspires and orients the Christian approach to the modern world and the evangelizing commitment of the church," two themes that members of the congregation discussed during their four-day plenary meeting.

Archbishop William J. Levada, the former archbishop of San Francisco chosen by Pope Benedict to lead the congregation, said the members looked at "some delicate moral questions inherent in bioethics" and "some aspects of evangelization in modern circumstances," particularly in light of confusion about what evangelization means in a world marked by "widespread relativism and religious syncretism."

Pope Benedict said, "The church welcomes with joy the authentic conquests of human knowledge and recognizes that

evangelization also requires a real taking account of the horizons and challenges opened by modern knowledge."

In the past century, he said, modern science "has helped us to understand better the mystery of creation" and has made people more aware of the need to protect the environment.

At the same, the rapidity of scientific discoveries has made it difficult to recognize how some scientific facts "are compatible with the truths revealed by God about man and the world," the pope said.

"Sometimes, some affirmations of scientific knowledge are even opposed to those truths," leading to confusion among the faithful and greater difficulty in proclaiming the Gospel, he said.

"In the certainty that there is no competition between reason and faith," he said, "every study that proposes to deepen knowledge about the truths discovered by reason is of vital importance."

"We have nothing to fear in facing this challenge; Jesus Christ, in fact, is the lord of all creation and of all of history," the pope said.

Responses to the questions raised by science, the concerns of modern men and women and their concrete needs must be part of evangelization, he told congregation members.

"The dialogue between faith and reason (and between) religion and science not only offers the possibility of showing people today — in a more effective and convincing way — the reasonableness of faith in God, but also of showing them that the definitive fulfillment of every human aspiration resides in Christ," Pope Benedict said.

The pope thanked congregation members for all they do in helping him fulfill his "heavy and fascinating" task of leading people to Christ and to the "light of the faith expressed in its fullness and wholeness."

Marking World Day of Sick, pope says God sent Jesus to heal, save

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Out of his great love for all creatures, God sent his son to heal and to save, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Christ is the hand of God extended to humanity so it could escape the quicksand of sickness and death, standing on its feet on the solid rock of divine love," the pope said Feb. 12.

Pope Benedict used the main part of his midday Angelus address to remind people that the church celebrated World Day of the Sick Feb. 11 and to ask for continued prayers for those who are suffering.

He asked Mary to watch over all the sick, but especially those who also "suffer from solitude, poverty and marginalization."

While the main celebration of World Day of the Sick took place in Adelaide, Australia, Pope Benedict joined Italian sick people and their caregivers at the end of a Mass Feb. 11 in St. Peter's Basilica.

Before personally blessing many of the people in the basilica, the pope said the church dedicates the Feb. 11 feast of Our Lady of Lourdes to those who are ill because in Lourdes, France, Mary "demonstrated God's tenderness toward the suffering."

Appearing to St. Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, Mary identified herself as the Immaculate Conception "to remind the modern world, which risks forgetting, that the primacy of divine grace is stronger than



CNS PHOTO/DARIO PIGNATELLI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI waves to the faithful from the window of his apartment at the Vatican after celebrating Mass in St. Peter's Basilica Feb. 11 for the 2006 World Day of the Sick. This year's observance was dedicated in a special way to people with mental illnesses and to those who care for them.

sin or death," the pope said.

The 2006 World Day of the Sick was dedicated in a special way to people with mental illnesses and to those who care for them.

Pope Benedict said Jesus' own ministry to the sick was dedicated to healing the entire person, "in body, psyche and spirit."

The pope asked Catholic health workers to let the love of God be alive in their hearts so that it would give direction to

their projects and plans, but especially to the way they care for their patients and the patients' families.

At the Feb. 9-11 international celebration in Adelaide, Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry, said the World Health Organization estimates "there are 450 million people in the world affected by neurological or behavioral mental disorders, of which 873,000 commit suicide each year."

In addition to the illness itself, he said, there is "the serious problem of the social stigma that the patients and their families have to face."

In his homily at the Feb. 11 closing Mass, the cardinal said mental illnesses have a variety of very complex causes, among which are "the negation of God," moral relativism and the "exasperation of desires" in cultures where people have grown up believing that they can have everything necessary to make them happy.

When a broken family and poverty are added to the mix, he said, it is easy to see how the emotional support needed to keep one's balance disappears.

A Catholic approach to caring for the mentally ill must emphasize their inviolable dignity and must be filled with love, he said.

"We are dealing with human beings, and human beings always need something more than technically proper care," Cardinal Lozano said. "They need humanity. They need heartfelt concern."

Pope greets athletes, says he hopes games uphold Olympic values

BY CINDY WOODEN

TURIN, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI greeted the thousands of athletes, organizers and visitors who have flocked to Turin for the XX Olympic Winter Games.

At the end of his Feb. 12 Sunday Angelus prayer at the Vatican, Pope Benedict sent his "cordial greetings to the organizers, members of the International Olympic Committee and all the athletes" who came to Turin from all over the world.

Just two days after the games opened, the pope used the occasion of his weekly address to express hope that this "beautiful sports competition" upholds "the Olympic values of commitment, joy and brotherhood." He also asked that the games help contribute to peace.

It was the third time the pope made a public statement about the Olympics. He first spoke during his blessing of the Olympic flame in St. Peter's Square Dec.

8, then in a written message to Cardinal Severino Poletto of Turin.

In the message to the cardinal, released Jan. 21, the pope introduced what may be a new anthropology of sport, said a Vatican official.

U.S. Father Kevin Lixey, who heads the Vatican's church and sport desk and who was in Turin Feb. 9-12, said "there's a treasure" in the pope's message for the Olympics.

"I think it was very beautiful what (the pope) said about Christ being the light" and comparing it to the light of the Olympic torch, he told Catholic News Service.

Just as the Olympic flame is an integral part of representing the spirit of the games, the pope said light is also a reminder for Christians that Jesus "illuminates humanity in all of its dimensions, including sport."

"What sports badly need is a model" that offers a concept of the body that has value and is infused with the spirit, a model that is inherent in Pope

Benedict's message, Father Lixey said.

"Next to the Olympic torch there's that other light (found in Christ) that might be able to guide athletes these days," he said.

He said Pope John Paul II spoke of Christ "as the greatest athlete by conquering death."

While Pope John Paul was known for his athletic prowess and love of sport, Pope Benedict enjoys moderate exercise with walking, said the priest.

"There's obviously no comparison to John Paul II as a former athlete," he said, "but I know (Pope Benedict) walks every day, making it a part of his routine."

Pope Benedict always takes a break from his work, carries his rosary and strolls through the Vatican Gardens, Father Lixey said.

While it may not be kayaking, a sport the late pope loved, it still is remarkable and "impressive to see" considering the pope is 78 years old, he said.



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Benedict XVI meets with officials, members and consultants of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith at the Vatican Feb. 10. The pope said the truths of faith cannot be in conflict with the truths of science because God is the source of faith and creator of the world.

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verted to Catholicism when she was 30 years old, and because of her Jewish heritage was killed by the Nazis in 1942 at Auschwitz. She was canonized in 1998.

"Every one of us has to solve the problems Edith Stein solved," MacIntyre said, adding that Stein was the woman who most recognized the obstacles women face in the world.

In their welcome to the conference, the organizers called on participants to look at how society treats women and to realize that practices that degrade women are caused by "a general misunderstanding of the true nature and dignity of the human person, particularly the female person." Thus, the first half of the conference dealt with issues affecting the dignity of women. Some of those speakers were:

- Laura Baechle, executive director of the YWCA of St. Joseph County, who discussed how the legal justice system often re-victimizes domestic abuse victims.

- Amy McInerney, an attorney and South Bend resident who founded the Women's Injury Network, who recounted how abortion damages women.

- Erica Bove, a medical student at the University of Vermont College of Medicine, who talked about eating disorders being a disease of the soul in which women try to gain recognition and create a sense of purpose for their lives.

- Alex Jech, a graduate student in philosophy at Notre Dame, and Rebekah Scaperlanda, a student at the University of Kansas, who both discussed how pornography

degrades women and debases the culture.

- Natural Family Planning educator and registered nurse Janet Bettcher of South Bend, who talked on the importance of fertility awareness in addressing women's health problems.

- Caitlin Shaughnessy, who spoke on "The Social Implications of Contraception in Chile."

The second half of the conference was devoted to seeking a deeper understanding of who woman is, the source of her dignity and how to "uphold and celebrate her unique nature, her inherent worth and the distinct gifts that she has to offer society."

The organizers stressed that "new feminism" is not an attempt to return women to "restrictive" feminine roles or to make women more masculine, but rather, it is a promotion of a vision of women as equal in dignity to men and complementary to men. Conference speakers were invited to draw upon their own experience as well as "the valuable thoughts of our predecessors, particularly the vision of the human person revealed in Catholic tradition."

Thus, various speakers in the second half of the conference applied Catholic tradition to their remarks. Professor Seifert discussed Pope John Paul II's view of spousal love and the complementarity of man and woman. Michael Scaperlanda, a law professor at the University of Oklahoma and father of Anamaria and Rebekah, talked about the call to marriage, based on St. Paul's Letter to the Ephesians. Laura Garcia, a philosophy professor at Boston College, spoke on "Mary: A Model for Working Women." And Franciscan Sister Marie

Morgan, a theology teacher at Marian High School in Mishawaka, spoke about the thought of Edith Stein.

The results of the conference, according to David Solomon, a Notre Dame philosophy professor and director of the university's Center for Ethics and Culture, were outstanding. In remarks at the conference banquet, Solomon recounted how the three Notre Dame students approached the Center for Ethics and Culture with their idea for the conference. It was an idea the center also had been contemplating, Solomon said, so the center threw its support behind the students, as did several other Notre Dame entities, several individuals, and the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Solomon said that the three students enlisted their friends, and with great energy and enthusiasm created a sophisticated organization that planned an impressive program. He called the student-created Edith Stein Project a significant turning point in the ongoing effort to define just what it means for a college to be Catholic.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy had similar praise in his homily at the Mass that closed the conference. He commended the three women who created the conference for taking such a positive view of womanhood and "drinking of the font of the Catholic Church and its tradition." Like Edith Stein, the young women behind the conference were "seekers of the truth," Bishop D'Arcy said, calling them "an inspiration," and noting that "Women imbued with the spirit of the Gospel can save humanity."

According to Scaperlanda-Ruiz, a similar conference is planned again for next year.



DON CLEMMER

Dr. Richard Pierce, associate professor of history and chairman of the Department of Africana Studies at the University of Notre Dame, speaks at the day of reflection in celebration of Black History Month at St. Mary Church in Fort Wayne. Pierce's remarks dealt primarily with research he is conducting for a book, tentatively titled "Teaching Jim Crow."

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

shown in inferior socioeconomic positions, said Pierce. Elements of Jim Crow were also found in music and in popular movies like "The Little General" starring Shirley Temple.

Along with his research into the written history of those years, Pierce is also interested in oral history and has done countless personal interviews in his attempt to unravel the complexities of life for blacks in the first half of the 20th century. Though he has gained some valuable insights, he admits to being frustrated at his storytellers' reluctance to complain about their lot in life or fully explain their child-rearing style.

"Parents made peace with the system," said Pierce. They simply taught their children to be polite so they could get along in society. One woman assured him, "My children were always mindful." He has noticed a recurring theme among those he interviews. "That's just the way it was," they say.

During the discussion that followed his remarks, some in Pierce's audience verified his findings. One woman who spent her early years in the South recalled her parents teaching her to be proud but to be "satisfied at a certain level." Another woman who grew up in Mississippi was told,

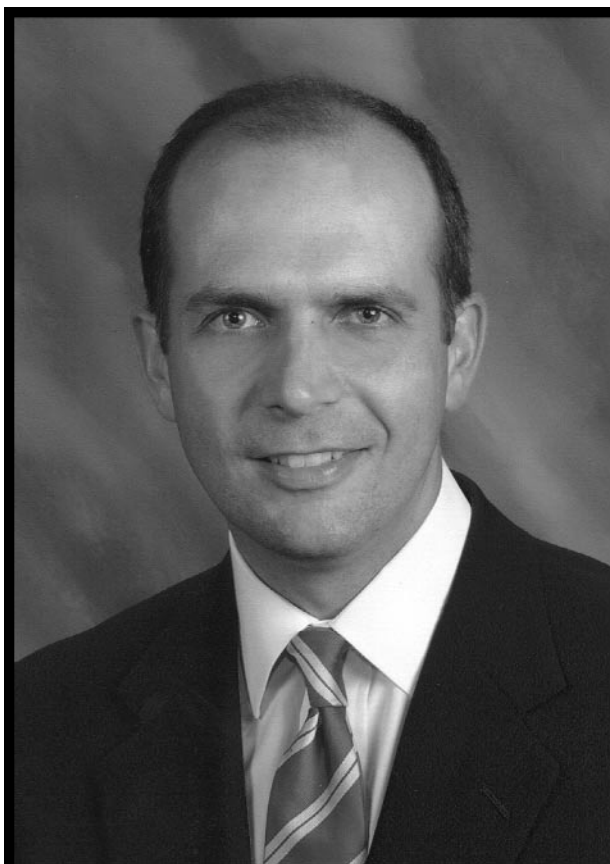
"You don't ask questions." Perhaps their children's mere survival in a hostile environment was the goal of most black parents, suggested yet another listener.

The following appears in remarks by Pierce quoted on the National Black Catholic Congress Web site: "African American adults entangled in a Jim Crow society had the daunting task of rearing children in an environment committed to their subjugation. This put African American parents in an especially compromising position, as they had to explain to their children, on the one hand, why they were restricted from certain public facilities, while, on the other, trying to instill a sense of worth and dignity."

Pierce says that, while he understands why black parents taught their children what they did, he is "stuck on" exactly how they did it, or the "cultural transmission" of that information. And so, he says, his research will continue before memories fade and valuable information is irretrievably lost. The professor emphasizes that he needs more firsthand accounts from people who lived and raised their children during the Jim Crow era.

"Please help me record one of the greatest untold stories of African American perseverance ..." he says. "I'm looking for people to interview."

Dr. Richard Pierce may be contacted at the University of Notre Dame by e-mail at rpiercend.edu.



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Vatican official says pope will fix liturgical abuses firmly, gently

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's top liturgy official said he expects Pope Benedict XVI to move against liturgical abuse with firm teaching and a gentle manner, recognizing that such mistakes often reflect ignorance, not ill will.

At the same time, the pope wants to offer reconciliation to followers of the late French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre — but not at the cost of “disowning” the Second Vatican Council, said Cardinal Francis Arinze, the Nigerian who heads the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

Cardinal Arinze spoke about the direction of the new papacy in an interview with Catholic News Service in early February. He said he expected important moves — but not a purge — to improve liturgy under Pope Benedict.

“I do not expect an aggressive correction of abuses. I don't think the pope is going to use the ecclesiastical hammer,” Cardinal Arinze said.

“Pope Benedict has very clear doctrine and convictions. What many people may not know is that he is not rough. He is gentlemanly, in the sense of what the prophet Isaiah said: ‘A bruised reed he will not break,’” the cardinal said.

Many liturgical abuses, Cardinal Arinze said, are “based on weakness of faith or ignorance” or on a wrong idea of creativity. Where improper practices occur, it is important to begin identifying them and talking about them, but without harming the people involved, the cardinal said.

That could be one reason the pope is focusing on the bigger faith issues, understanding that the quality of worship reflects knowledge of the faith, he said. A good example, he said, is the pope's first encyclical, “Deus Caritas Est” (“God Is Love”).

Many people are scrutinizing papal Masses for clues to liturgical direction under the new pope.

“Obviously, people are watching the details, and I cannot blame them,” Cardinal Arinze said with a laugh. “I think the papal liturgies are beautiful and that people like them.”

He said the election of Pope Benedict, who wrote extensively about liturgy as a cardinal, kindled hope for reconciliation with the Society of St. Pius X, which was

founded by Archbishop Lefebvre and which rejected the new Mass and several Vatican II teachings or directives.

Cardinal Arinze shares that hope, but said people should realize that the pope “cannot change the faith of the church.”

“He cannot disown Vatican II in order to make the Lefebvrites happy. The pope cannot reinvent everything, or act as if Vatican II did not take place,” he said.

While some have proposed a wider indulgence to allow use of the pre-Vatican II Tridentine Mass with fewer restrictions, Cardinal Arinze said he is happy with Pope John Paul II's rules, which require the involvement of the local bishop.

“When you speak of wider use for everybody, it raises some questions, which have to be examined more carefully,” he said.

The cardinal said he thought that for most people the question is not the Tridentine rite versus the new Mass, but the much more basic issues of faith, love of Christ and the appreciation of the importance of Sunday Mass.

“If a person has these, many of these other problems would fall into line,” he said.

Cardinal Arinze said one priority that has carried over to the new pontificate is the translation of liturgical texts.

“The pope has said, let the various translations of the Missal proceed quickly, because the people are waiting. These pieces of paper used on Sunday and little leaflets are not ideal. You really need the whole book translated,” he said.

He said the new Roman Missal, released in Latin in 2002, is 1,300 pages long and has excellent texts, including some new ones, but the people do not have them in their local languages.

The cardinal said he hoped work on the English translation would be completed in two years. He said that would not depend principally on the Vatican, but rather on the priority given the project by bishops' conferences.

The Roman Missal is being translated by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy for bishops' conferences, which can adopt, amend or reject the translation. The worship congregation, meanwhile, has established a committee of 12 bishops, called Vox Clara, to help it evaluate the texts as they are being prepared.

The congregation's closer watch on translations in recent years does not mean the Vatican wants to supplant local bishops and bishops' conferences as the “key people” in translating liturgical texts, Cardinal Arinze said. But sometimes, he said, the congregation gives its views on a particular translation as it is being done, so that translated texts will receive ratification in Rome with the least delay.

Cardinal Arinze, 73, has headed the worship and sacraments congregation since 2002. Liturgy has always been one of his primary interests, and he wrote his doctoral dissertation on sacrifice in a Nigerian traditional religion as an introduction to the catechesis of the Catholic Mass.

The cardinal has been a popular speaker in the United States, and his reflections on liturgy and other topics have been featured in a number of recent video podcasts.

He heads a staff of 36 experts responsible for responding to questions from around the world, reviewing texts and ministerial books in many languages, hosting groups of bishops, attending a multitude of meetings and conferences, promoting liturgical knowledge and practice, and discouraging abuses.

“We always have more work than we can do on any particular day. People don't understand that,” Cardinal Arinze said.

The limited personnel and resources mean that on some issues, like sacred music, the congregation's actions may appear largely symbolic.

“We do not pretend that a few of us sitting here in the Vatican are going to conduct excellent music all around the world,” he said. But last year the congregation sponsored a study day at the Vatican to encourage dioceses to take liturgical music more seriously.

Cardinal Arinze said the main challenge facing his congregation is to encourage a spirit of prayer, which must grow out of faith. He said bringing people to Mass regularly is essential, and it hinges largely on two factors: catechesis and high-quality, faith-filled liturgies.

Celebrating Mass well involves lay ministers, but primarily the priest, who sets a tone through every word and gesture, the cardinal said.

“Suppose a priest comes at the beginning of Mass and says:

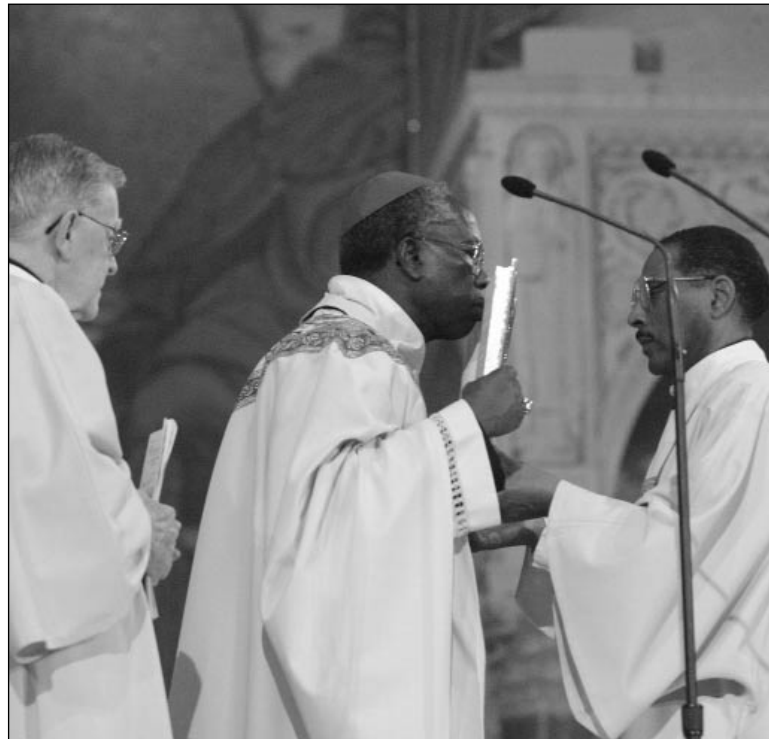
‘Good morning, everybody, did your team win last night?’ That's not a liturgical greeting. If you can find it in any liturgical book, I'll give you a turkey,” Cardinal Arinze said.

Likewise, a priest has to preach well, making sure that his homily offers theological and scriptural enlightenment, and not merely verbal “acrobatics” to show off how

many books he's read, he said.

The cardinal said that if done well Sunday Mass will not be experienced as a heavy obligation, but as a spiritual banquet, a celebration appreciated by the faithful who are hungry for spiritual nourishment and want to adore God.

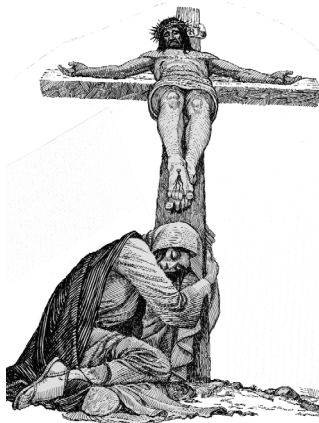
“You should not need a commandment to enter such a banquet hall,” he said.



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Cardinal Francis Arinze kisses the Book of the Gospels during Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington May 18, 2003. The Nigerian cardinal, who heads the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, said he expects Pope Benedict XVI to move against liturgical abuses with firm teaching and a gentle manner.

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Serra Club visits Byzantine Rite Catholic Church

MISHAWAKA — Members of the Serra Club of South Bend had their first experience in attending — as well as participating in — the hour-long divine liturgy of the Byzantine Rite at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in Mishawaka.

The liturgy, including the Gospel, was chanted, as is tradition with this paritular Eastern Rite of the Catholic Church.

Father Thomas Doborowski, a native of Windsor, Ontario, Canada, is now in his eighth year as pastor of this 100-family parish church, which was established in 1916 by a few families who had migrated to the United States from the Ukraine.

Father Doborowski answered many questions concerning the Byzantine Rite, many of them centered around married priests and the celibacy of priests in the Roman Rite.

He said celibacy is the positive answer to young men desiring a religious vocation, emphasizing that celibate priests are devoted to the Roman Catholic Church with all their hearts and minds. He too is unmarried and cited himself as an example.

Patricia O'Neil of the Serra Club was general chairperson of the visit, in which 77 people participated.

St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel holds mission

FORT WAYNE — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Church will hold its parish mission, "Come Alive at His Feast," Sunday, March 5 through Wednesday, March 8.

The evening sessions of the mission will be at 6:30 p.m., with Father Ron Rieder, OFM, Cap., presenting "Eucharist: Table of Real Presence" on Sunday, Gervaise Bastian presenting "Eucharist: Table of Unity and Love" on Monday, Father Tom Shoemaker presenting "Eucharist: Table of Forgiveness" on Tuesday and Father Glenn Kohrman saying the closing Mass and presenting "Eucharist: Table of Sacrifice and Thanksgiving" on Wednesday. The mission will also include sessions on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 9 a.m. presented by Sister Jolene Heiden, SSND.

Catholic Charities' South Bend office approved with recognition and accreditation

SOUTH BEND — The South Bend office of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Inc. has been approved for office recognition and accreditation. To seek this recognition, the agency filed an application with the Board of Immigration Appeals, along with proof of service that the copy of the application was served under the appropriate district director having jurisdiction over the area in which the organization was located.

The Board of Immigration Appeals found that recognition of Catholic Charities was warranted.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

PILGRIM CROSS DISPLAYED AT ABORTION CLINIC



CORISSA BAKER

The Jubilee Pilgrim Cross, while visiting St. Therese Parish, accompanied students from Bishop Dwenger High School, Bishop Luers High School and St. Therese School seventh- and eighth-grade students, shown above, as they prayed the rosary across the street from the abortion clinic on Feb. 9 in Fort Wayne. Over 80 high school students prayed the rosary at 7 a.m. before classes, braving frigid weather and sacrificing sleep.

Catholic Charities Director Debbie Schmidt told *Today's Catholic* she is thankful to South Bend Director Robert Ercoline, his staff and all of those who assisted in the application process.

Catholic Charities also submitted an application for accreditation of a representative pursuant to Title 8 code of the federal regulations. The application requested partial accreditation for Monica Newcomer who is located in the South Bend office.

The Bureau of Immigration Affairs has been satisfied that Monica Newcomer is a person of good moral character and that she possesses the prerequisite experience and knowledge of immigration law and procedure. The request for partial accreditation was granted.

ND Vision enters fifth year

NOTRE DAME — The ND Vision program at the University of Notre Dame enters into its fifth year of providing retreat opportunities for high school students from all across the nation. Many local high school students have attended from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in the past. The program strives to gather together a diverse and unique group of high school students through one of their four five-day conferences held on the Notre Dame campus during the summer.

Students join together with national speakers, trained and talented musicians, over 50 Notre Dame students and the whole Notre

Dame community to recognize their gifts and learn how to use them in response to God's call.

Believing that God calls everyone to a life of committed discipleship in which gifts are recognized and utilized, the program anticipates another summer filled with growth and realization in faith.

High school students entering grades 9 through 12 in the fall of 2006, or who will have just graduated in the spring of 2006, and are interested in learning more about the ND Vision program, or coordinators of youth ministry programs at parishes, are encouraged to search for more information through the ND Vision Web site at www.nd.edu/~ndvi, or contact Lenny DeLorenzo, director of ND Vision, at (574) 631-7425, or e-mail ndvi@nd.edu.

The early application discount deadline is March 20. All applications are due by May 15. Group discounts are available for five or more students.

Bodel addresses knights

SOUTH BEND — Cindy Bodel, a distinguished member of the St. Joseph County Commission, addressed the Father Nieuwland Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly on Feb. 15, at a dinner meeting in the assembly hall of Ave Maria Council on South Ironwood Road.

Her address on both civic and patriotic affairs is in tradition with the assembly's patriotic agenda, said Robert Niezgodski, program chairman.

Bodel has been a member of the

St. Joseph County Commission for many years and has earned an enviable reputation for her outstanding leadership in both civic and social affairs. — EJD

Father Malloy receives Hesburgh Award from ACCU

NOTRE DAME — The Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities (ACCU) has presented the Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, CSC, Award to Father Edward A. Malloy, CSC, president of the University of Notre Dame from 1987 to 2005. The award is named in honor of Father Malloy's immediate predecessor as Notre Dame's president.

Father Malloy was recognized for his many contributions to Notre Dame as a priest, scholar and administrator, as well as his service to higher education and his efforts to promote volunteerism and combat alcohol and drug abuse.

The award citation reads in part "... Monk Malloy stands tall in service to the academy, to the Catholic Church, and to the nation and the world."

During Father Malloy's 18 years as president, Notre Dame experienced rapid growth in its reputation due to substantive improvements in the size and scholarly credentials of its faculty, the academic quality and diversity of the student body and its financial resources and physical infrastructure.

He has served on numerous national and international boards, including the ACCU, American

Council on Education, Campus Compact, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, International Federation of Catholic Universities, National Advisory Council on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, and the Boys and Girls Clubs of America.

Most Precious Blood School receives gifts

FORT WAYNE — In honor of Catholic Schools Week, Joshua Harper and Richard Overheiser of CM Sloan and Sons Funeral Home, a part of Dignity Memorial, presented a new iMac computer, Mac Mini and other electronics and supplies to Most Precious Blood School in Fort Wayne. This was part of the Sloan and Sons/Dignity Memorial neighborhood outreach program.

Most Precious Blood announces kindergarten round-up

FORT WAYNE — Most Precious Blood School will hold its kindergarten round-up for the 2006-2007 school year Wednesday, March 15, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. This evening is designed to put children at ease about attending a new school or joining a new classroom. This is an opportunity for those considering the Most Precious Blood School program to meet the school staff and have questions answered. Free dinner will be provided. For more information, contact the school at (260) 424-4832.

Pontifical College Josephinum opens doors to the public for tours

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Pontifical College Josephinum will open its doors to the public for tours of its buildings and grounds on Saturday, Feb. 25. Tours to the public are only available two times each year and will be available every half hour from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Space is limited, so call to make your reservation today.

Costs are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children under 12. Seniors, students and group rates are also available.

Guests will have the opportunity to explore the only pontifical college outside of Italy. It is home to over 125 Catholic seminarians, representing 26 dioceses from around the world. The artistry in the construction is apparent throughout the buildings. The views of extensive oak woodworking, stained glass, terrazzo floors, intricate brickwork design, inspirational stained glass windows and art work are breathtaking. Also on exhibit will be a sampling of rare books and manuscripts from the Josephinum's library.

For information and reservations, please call (614) 985-2234.

Tax Assistance Program provides relief in a cruel season

NOTRE DAME — As a disgruntled community endures tax season, with its avalanche of arcane regulations, camouflaged deductions and illegible forms, it is consoling to remember Albert Einstein's obser-

vation that "the hardest thing in the world to understand is the income tax." Nevertheless, the near incomprehensibility of tax law, so often a staple of middle-class comedy, can be an intolerable burden for beleaguered citizens with low incomes.

An awareness of that burden and a determination to lighten it are the principal earmarks of the Vivian Harrington Gray Notre Dame-Saint Mary's College Tax Assistance Program (TAP), now in its 35th year.

The program, in which volunteer tax preparers provide assistance with state and local tax returns to taxpayers whose incomes are below \$35,000, helped file 3,462 tax returns last year. There is no charge for the service, which is funded by the Mendoza College of Business and supplied by the Internal Revenue Service and the Indiana Department of Revenue. A few program volunteers are certified public accountants from national, regional and local firms, as well as accountancy faculty members from Notre Dame and Saint Mary's, but most are undergraduate accountancy students.

It seems as agreeable an arrangement as can be made in such an unpleasant season.

"A win-win-win situation is a rarity," says Ken Milani, Notre Dame professor of accountancy and TAP director. "However, the TAP provides this outcome. Low-income Michiana-area taxpayers are the primary beneficiaries of the TAP since they receive free income tax preparation service, but students also benefit from the program since it provides them with practical experience. A third group, involved faculty members, complements classroom activities by working with students on an interesting and challenging project."

Last year, more than 800 such people were served by the program and more than 1,400 tax returns were prepared.

The Tax Assistance Program provides service in 11 area locations including the Center for Social Concerns and ND Downtown. The International TAP meets in LaFortune Student Center and the Mendoza College of Business.

Domestic service began Saturday, Feb. 11, and ends Thursday, April 13. International service begins Monday, Feb. 13, and ends April 13. A complete schedule of times and locations is available at www.nd.edu/~taptax or (574) 631-7863. Various university events such as spring break will interrupt service.

Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend receives grants totaling \$16,000

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend recently received grants totaling \$16,000 from the Black and Indian Mission Fund, Washington, D.C. The grants are being disbursed — one in March and one in June or July 2006 — in two equal installments at the following parishes and schools. The grant money will be used to assist Black and Native Americans in need at the respective parishes and schools:

In South Bend

For Black Americans

- Holy Family School — \$2,000 for tuition assistance/Freedom 22
- Our Lady of Hungary School — \$2,050 for tuition assistance
- Holy Cross School — \$2,000 for tuition assistance and \$2,000 for tuition assistance for one new student

For Native Americans

- Holy Family School — \$700 for tuition assistance for one student

For Native Americans

- Holy Family School — \$700 for tuition assistance for one student
- Our Lady of Hungary School — \$250 for tuition assistance for one student

In Fort Wayne

For Black Americans

- Benoit Academy — \$2,000 for tuition for non-sponsored scholarships
- St. Henry Parish — \$2,000 for tuition assistance
- Bishop Luers High School — \$3,000 for tuition assistance

The annual diocesan-wide collection to assist the Black and Indian Missions will be on March 5, the First Sunday of Lent.

Children benefit from current proposals

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

INDIANAPOLIS — Schools in urban and poor areas facing teacher shortages may soon find relief if the teacher shortage bill, Senate Bill 172, becomes Indiana law.

Senate Bill 172, authored by Sen. Teresa Lubbers (R-Indianapolis) would allow the governing body of a school corporation or an accredited nonpublic school to hire an individual who is in the process of obtaining a teaching license under the "Transition to Teaching" program.

Sen. Lubbers said, "The bill is designed to help schools hire licensed teachers in hard-to-find subject areas such as math, science, special education and English-as-a-second language. The goal being to improve the quality of teachers in those areas where there are shortages. Under the bill, the teachers that are hired from the 'Transition to Teaching' program must have subject competency in which they are going to teach."

Sen. Lubbers added, "The way it is now, the State Board of Education has issued roughly 2,000 emergency teaching permits to fill the teaching shortage, and those teaching with an emergency permit are not required to have a subject competency. Senate Bill 151 will require those in the 'Transition to Teaching' program to have subject competency, but overall they are more qualified to teach since they are already working toward licensure."

Sen. Lubbers said her bill is actually becoming less controversial. "As people are learning more

about the bill, support for it is growing," said Lubbers. "This bill also applies to accredited, nonpublic schools," Lubbers said.

The teacher shortage bill, which passed the Indiana Senate last month (31-15), was approved Feb. 8, by the House Education Committee. The bill moves to the House floor for further consideration.

Another important measure affecting children in Indiana is also moving forward through the Indiana legislature. Senate Bill 151, authored by Sen. Connie Lawson (R-Danville), in its original form, would have required child care providers registered as ministries who receive federal and state funding through vouchers from the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF), to meet certain child to staff ratios. "Ministries do an excellent job, however there has been a preponderance of day care providers who have found a loophole in the definition as a ministry. These providers, who have no real ministry affiliation, were being exempted from certain child care standards under the registered ministry category," said Sen. Lawson.

Sen. Lawson explained that one such provider in Indianapolis had 13 two-year-olds and only one adult supervising. "To address this problem and ensure at the very least certain child to staff ratios existed, the bill would have required all child care providers, including those who are registered ministries, to adhere to the minimum child to staff ratios," said Sen. Lawson. "But because of the lack of time in the short session, and due to the outcry of ministry

organizations, that language of the bill was amended out of it so that there would be more time to work with ministries and come up with a good definition for a ministry and resolve the problem.

"It's important that we bring more people into providing quality child care and that's what we're trying to do with SB 151," said Sen. Lawson.

Melanie Brizzi, the Child Care Development Liaison for FSSA, said "It's important for parents to realize that not all child care providers are licensed or are required to follow the same standards. Parents need to ask questions like 'How many children do you have per each adult?' There are many ministries out there that provide a very high quality of care, but parents can not assume that they all operate under the same guidelines because they don't," said Brizzi.

According to Brizzi, there are 650 child care providers in Indiana operating as registered ministries. Two-thirds of those accept the Child Care and Development Fund vouchers. Child care providers, which operate as registered ministries, are not required to have child care development training and are exempted from child to staff ratios. Approximately \$122 million in government dollars are spent in Indiana through Child Care and Development Fund vouchers.

Senate Bill 151 passed the Senate (50-0) and has been assigned the House Committee on Family, Children and Human Affairs and awaits a hearing.



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World Council of Churches' head says ecumenical movement needs youths

PORTO ALEGRE, Brazil (CNS) — Without young people, the World Council of Churches will not be able to keep the ecumenical movement alive and active, the council's secretary-general told a global gathering of young adults. The Rev. Samuel Kobia addressed a packed hall of 300 young adults Feb. 11 at a youth gathering before the WCC's Ninth General Assembly Feb. 14-23 in Porto Alegre. "My vision," Rev. Kobia said, "is that young people have a stronger and more meaningful voice in the ecumenical movement. You need to be very well organized to have maximum impact at an assembly like this. Get together and determine how you can make the most of your voice." Greeted with enthusiastic singing and clapping, Rev. Kobia, a 58-year-old Methodist minister, told the crowd, "You make me feel young again." He said it was his experience that the World Council of Churches was "a space to be in, to participate in and to grow in. There's no place like it in the world. With its cultural and religious diversity, it is a transforming space."

New Orleans to close seven parishes, delay opening of 23 others

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — The Archdiocese of New Orleans issued a pastoral plan Feb. 9 that calls for the closing of seven parishes and delays the reopening of 23 others until there are enough parishioners in an area to warrant the resumption of pastoral ministry. It also calls for establishing six centralized elementary schools, which before the storm had served primarily as individual parish elementary schools. The archdiocese, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, is facing unknown projections regarding its future Catholic population and hundreds of its properties suffered extensive damage. New Orleans Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes projected that the archdiocese, which before Katrina was home to nearly a half-million Catholics in 142 parishes, might see its Catholic population return in the next two years to only 60 percent to 65 percent of its August 2005 levels, which would mean a Catholic population of about 295,000. The pastoral plan, which will take effect March 15, establishes a framework for pastoral ministry in the seven deaneries that sustained the greatest damage from the Aug. 29 storm.

Compendium of catechism goes on sale in paperback March 31

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, a 200-page synthesis of the 1992 catechism, will be available in paperback March 31 from USCCB Publishing, the publishing office of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. A hardcover edition will follow shortly after. Both versions will be published in English and

NEWS BRIEFS

CARDINAL RUINI TOUCHES COFFIN OF SLAIN PRIEST



CNS PHOTO/TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

Italian Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar of Rome, touches the coffin of slain Italian Father Andrea Santoro during his funeral in Rome's Basilica of St. John Lateran Feb. 10. Father Santoro, who was murdered in a church in Turkey, has all the makings of a Christian martyr and should be put on the road to sainthood, Cardinal Ruini said.

Spanish. The compendium, made up of 598 questions and answers, echoes to some degree the format of the Baltimore Catechism, which was standard in many U.S. Catholic parishes and schools from 1885 to the 1960s. The paperback version of the compendium, in English or Spanish, will cost \$14.95; the price for the hardcover book will be \$24.95. The compendium may be ordered online at: www.usccb-publishing.org, or by phone at: (800) 235-8722.

Survey shows Catholics who give most want more church accountability

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholics who give more than \$5,000 a year to the church are more critical than other Catholics about the church's financial accountability practices, according to a new survey commissioned by FADICA. "Only 12 percent of larger parish donors rated the church above average in keeping them informed on the use of their donations, while over a third of typical parishioners rated church reporting practices above average," according to a survey analysis prepared by Charles E. Zech, director of the Center for the Study of Church Management at Villanova University's College of Commerce and Finance. The survey, conducted in November and December 2005 by Zogby International, was the fourth annual "Catholic donor attitude survey" commissioned by Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities, a Washington-based consortium of charitable foundations and individual donors interested in religious

philanthropy. Responses were received from 1,000 Catholics nationwide, but only the answers of the 787 people who identified themselves as regular churchgoers — attending Mass at least three times a month — were analyzed.

First lady meets with pope, discusses violence sparked by cartoons

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI expressed his hopes that the U.S. first lady's trip to the Winter Olympics in Turin, Italy, would be peaceful and spoke of his concern about violent protests taking place in many Islamic countries. First lady Laura Bush and one of her 24-year-old twin daughters, Barbara Bush, met the pope at the Vatican Feb. 9 during a brief stop in Rome on the way to the Olympics. After the meeting, she told reporters traveling with her that peace, terrorism and violence were among the topics the pope raised. "He talked to me about the worries of terrorism, worries right now about violence in Beirut, Damascus and other cities" in the Middle East as protests continued over cartoons published in Europe that many Muslims found offensive. "His hope and certainly our hope (is) for peace and tolerance" and for everyone to treat others with respect, she said.

Vatican confirms Pope Benedict to visit Turkey Nov. 28-30

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Just four days after an Italian priest was killed in Turkey, the Vatican confirmed that Pope Benedict XVI

would visit the country Nov. 28-30. While the pope had spoken publicly about wanting to go to Turkey, particularly to visit the Istanbul-based Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarchate of Constantinople, the Feb. 9 Vatican announcement was the first to mention specific dates. Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said Turkish President Ahmet Necdet Sezer invited His Holiness Benedict XVI to make an official visit to his nation Nov. 28-30. The Holy Father accepted the invitation." Navarro-Valls said a detailed itinerary had not yet been completed.

Prospect of Anglican women bishops causes problems, says cardinal

LONDON (CNS) — The prospect of ordaining women as bishops in the Church of England means that the quest for unity is at a plateau, said a British cardinal. There is "no doubt that recent developments in the Anglican Communion with regard to the ordination of women as priests and now as bishops — even more profoundly because a bishop is in a particular way a figure of unity — as well as other developments in the ethical sphere have meant that ecumenism is at a plateau," said Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor of Westminster, England. The cardinal spoke at a London press conference Feb. 6, the same day as the first session of the Church of England's general synod, at which Anglican leaders were scheduled to debate the ordination of women as bishops, a move church officials have said will present a new obstacle to Anglican-Catholic unity. "It's probably inevitable that in due course there will be the ordination of

women as bishops," said Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor. "If you have women as priests, it's an inevitable conclusion."

Vicar general ordained as Chicago's newest auxiliary bishop

CHICAGO (CNS) — When the Archdiocese of Chicago welcomed its newest auxiliary bishop Feb. 2, it was truly a celebration of a favorite son. Cardinal Francis E. George ordained Bishop George J. Rassas, 63, with his parents, Frances and George J. Rassas Sr., in the front pew at Chicago's Holy Name Cathedral and dozens of other family members in attendance. The rest of the cathedral was filled with well-wishers who knew Bishop Rassas from his nearly 38 years of ministry in the archdiocese, including 14 years as pastor of St. Mary Parish in Lake Forest and 15 years working in family ministry while assisting in other parishes. For the past year, Bishop Rassas has served as vicar general, a post in which he is expected to continue for the immediate future.

South African bishops establish office to address human trafficking

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — The Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference is establishing an office at its Pretoria headquarters to address human trafficking. Conference officials said they are "acutely aware" that the countries they represent — Botswana, South Africa and Swaziland — are affected by international trafficking in women and children, particularly for the sex trade. "The trafficking in the vulnerable will not be challenged until women and children are treated, not as goods or possessions to be bought, used and sold, but as unique and valuable individuals," the bishops said in a Feb. 1 statement after a plenary meeting in Pretoria. "Society's strength is measured not in its strongest, most-privileged members, but in its most vulnerable members," the bishops added, noting that "women and children have the right to family and nurturing and security."

New breach in Vatican walls gives access to parking garage

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — U.S. Cardinal Edmund C. Szoka formally blessed a new breach in the Vatican walls, opening a gate to a new 240-space underground parking garage. The cardinal, president of the commission governing Vatican City State, said the work on the walls involved not only destruction, but also the restoration of a segment built during the 1559-1565 pontificate of Pope Pius IV. The Feb. 10 ceremony included unveiling a new gate inscribed in Latin with the year, the name of Pope Benedict XVI and the fact that it is the first year of his pontificate. The new bronze-covered steel gate was sculpted by Gino Giannetti, the Vatican said.

Senior Spirit

DREAMING ABOUT RETIREMENT INSTEAD OF PLANNING FOR DREAMS?

Most of us envision retirement as a time to relax, spend time with loved ones, travel or start a new hobby. But it's difficult to reap the rewards of our hard-earned years of work without careful financial and health benefits planning. A new national survey of pre-retirees and retirees reveals that Americans are not spending enough time planning for their retirement.

Giving through life insurance

Question: How can I use life insurance to make a planned gift to my parish, school or other diocesan agency, and what are the benefits of doing so?

Answer: Very few individuals have the ability to write a check for \$100,000, \$50,000, \$25,000, or even \$10,000 to their favorite charity. However, an individual can accomplish making such a significant future gift through his or her estate plan. And one way is through life insurance.

Life insurance can be used to benefit your parish, school or other diocesan agency in various ways.

• **Beneficiary Designation.** You can retain lifetime ownership rights in a policy but name a charity as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy. At the insured's death, the life insurance proceeds pass to the beneficiary with no income tax consequences. And if the beneficiary is a charity, your estate will not be subject to any estate tax on the proceeds.

This type of designation is revocable, which means that you can change the beneficiary at any time during your lifetime. In addition, you have the right to borrow against the policy or to cash in the insurance policy. Such gifts can easily be fulfilled by obtaining a change of beneficiary form for the policy you want to give and then completing the form to name the charity as beneficiary.

• **Irrevocable Gift of Policy.** Another way of gifting life insurance to charity is by assigning the ownership and beneficiary designation of a policy to the charity during your lifetime. Because you are giving up ownership under this arrangement, the transfer is irrevocable. However, a number of tax benefits may apply.

Let's assume that you own a \$50,000 whole life policy with a cash surrender value of \$20,000 and annual premiums of \$500. If

you contribute the policy to your church by transferring ownership and beneficiary designation to the church, you are entitled to an immediate charitable income tax deduction for the cash surrender value of the policy. Also, if you continue paying the annual premiums on the policy, you would receive a charitable income tax deduction for the amount of the premium paid each of those years.

Moreover, the insurance proceeds will pass free of estate taxation. And at your death, the full \$50,000 proceeds will be distributed to your church.

• **Purchase of New Policy.** If you do not have a current life insurance policy that you could name a charity as beneficiary or assign ownership to the charity, you could purchase a new policy on your life. You would name the charity as the owner and beneficiary on the new policy. If you pay the annual premiums, you would be entitled to claim an income tax deduction for the amount paid.

• **Wealth Replacement Plan.** What can you do with an asset that has appreciated substantially in value? If you sell that asset, you would incur capital gain tax. But if you hold that property, your estate would be subject to estate and inheritance tax on it. The taxes would greatly reduce the amount passing to your heirs.

One idea is to use a wealth replacement plan. You could transfer the appreciated asset to a charitable remainder trust. The charitable remainder trust sells the asset, but pays no capital gain tax. You and/or your beneficiary would receive an annual payout from the charitable remainder trust. To "replace" the assets that will be transferring to charity, you can purchase a life insurance policy and use the payout from the charitable remainder trust to pay the



ELISA SMITH

PLANNED GIVING

premium on the policy.

The life insurance proceeds would be payable to family members at your death. Remember life insurance proceeds are not subject to income tax, and if structured properly, can escape estate tax as well.

With the charitable remainder trust, assets remaining in the trust at the end of a term of years or at the death of the last beneficiary are distributed to your beloved charity.

There are several advantages of funding a charitable giving plan with life insurance. First of all, because life insurance is not a probate asset, it is paid promptly and not tied up in the administration of an estate.

In addition, gifting life insurance is not a complicated process. You would request the appropriate forms from your insurance agent to name your charity as owner and/or beneficiary of a policy.

Moreover, as mentioned earlier, a number of tax incentives exist for making a charitable gift with life insurance. However, as with any other planned gift, you should consult with your professional advisor beforehand.

Elisa M. Smith, CPA/PFS, is vice president and director of financial planning for STAR Wealth Management, Fort Wayne, and the director of planned giving, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Taiclets receive community spirit award

BY IDA CHIPMAN

PLYMOUTH — Gordon and Dot Taiclet, parishioners of St. Michael Parish in Plymouth were named as the 2006 Community Spirit Award recipients. They were recognized at a reception at The Java Trail on Jan. 17.

Gordon, a retired Monterey, grain elevator and feed store owner, was asked to say a few words about his and Dorothy's 54 years together.

"Some people have their I.R.A.s or their 401 (k) — me? I have my D.O.T.," he joked.

The Taiclets will be honored at the annual Catch the Spirit Gala to be held on Friday, April 21, at Swan Lake Resort. Invitations and tickets will be sent out in late February. The theme of the party will be Monopoly.

The Community Spirit award recognizes an individual or a couple who exemplify the mission and core values of Saint Joseph Health Center on Washington St. in Plymouth.

Dot, in addition to her thriving business for the past 18 years as a Realtor-broker with the Re/Max

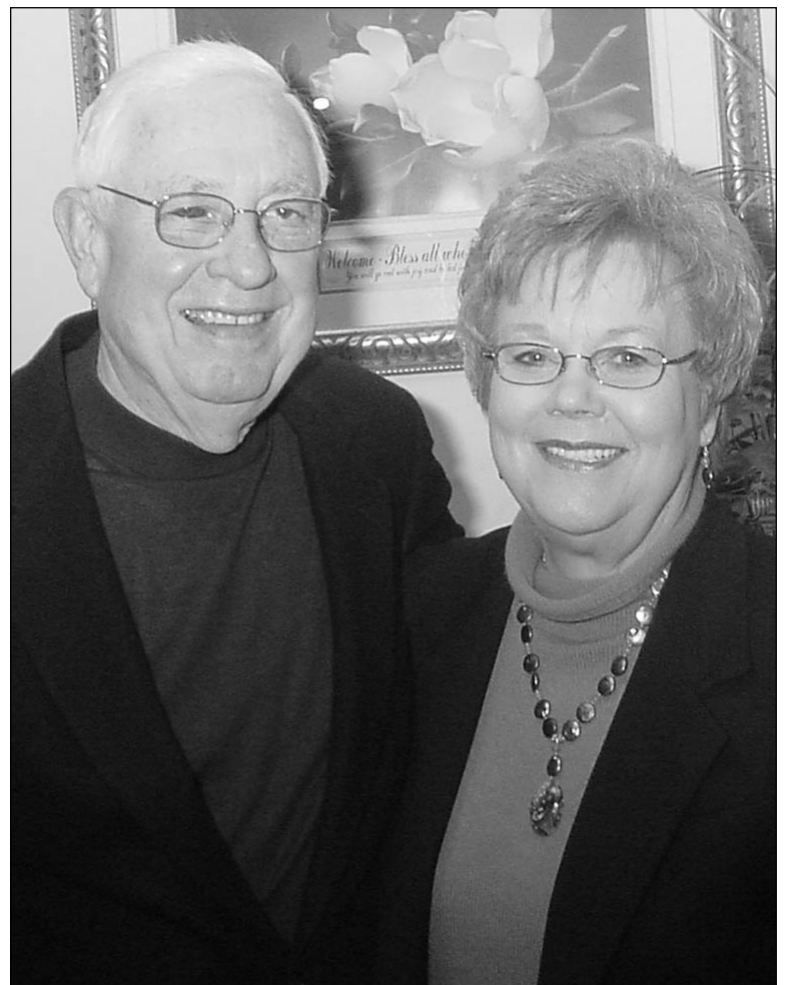
system for the Indiana region, has served on the Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center, Plymouth's Development Committee. She has worked for the Argos United Way, the Marshall County American Red Cross, the Kiwanis Club and St. Michael Catholic Church.

Gordon mirrors Dot's activities in every way, partnering with her in charitable activities. He helps her in her work, staking "Do Call Dot" sale signs and taking pictures of her listed properties.

"She told me she wanted to go into the real estate business part-time," he said. "I didn't know the part-time part was me."

The money raised benefits the Saint Joseph Health Center. Last year more than \$75,000, the proceeds from the gala, was placed in the Marshall County Community Foundation to further advance the Center of Care Endowment Fund. The Health Center has treated more than 1,300 underserved residents of Marshall County with primary medical care since opening in 1999.

The Taiclets will be the 14th recipients of the Community Spirit Award.



Gordon and Dot Taiclet, Plymouth, were named as the Community Spirit Award recipients for 2006. Gordon accepted the honor for himself and Dot and told a few anecdotes about their life together.

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Rewards in helping students and church

BY IDA CHIPMAN

PLYMOUTH — Sara Lopez is a hard worker.

She always has been — all of her life — which will soon be 76 years.

Her day starts before dawn. By 5:45 a.m. she is at St. Michael Church, setting up everything for the morning Mass.

After Mass and coffee with friends, at 8 a.m., she arrives at Webster Elementary where there and in the afternoon, at Jefferson, she works not only with the E.S.L. (English-as-a-second-language) children, but “with any students who need me.”

Lynn Dodson, secretary at Webster, said that Sara talked about retiring this year, “but we begged her to stay. She helps our Hispanic families so much and everyone loves her.”

Born in Donna, Texas, Sara was the youngest of five children. Her father died of a stroke at the age of 42, the day after Sara, six weeks old, was baptized.

“It was hard for my mother,” she said, “but she had the help of our close-knit family.”

Sara lived with her grandmother. “She was my second mother and a lot of my values have come from her.

“She was tough. And very strict. She raised 10 of her own children and several grandchildren who needed her care. We all benefited — and learned — from her love and discipline.”

In the summer, not yet a teenager, Sara, her mother and older brother, were migrant workers.

“We traveled five states together and experienced life — such as it was.

“For us, following the crops was an honest way to earn a living.”

She dropped out of school when she was 12.

“I always loved school. I loved reading, but I had no opportunity to do so. These were hard times and I had to work with the family.

“We didn’t go for handouts. We worked hard.”

When she was 18, in Walkerton, Sara met Celestino Lopez. He was also a migrant worker, following the harvest north from Texas. They courted for seven years, including the two years Cel served in the Army during the Korean War, before marrying on May 6, 1955, in St. Joseph Catholic Church in Donna, Texas.

After a few more years on the road, Cel got a good job in Texas and the family settled down.

And the babies — eventually seven of them — started to come.

There is Celestino Jr., Gerardo, Sara, Alma, Gabriel, Christobal and Lourdes (Laurie).

Of the seven, two are retired from the Navy, one of whom is a Cdr., USNR; a factory supervisor, two law enforcement officers, an industrial technology teacher and a self-employed plumbing contractor.

“I decided,” she said, with passion, “I did not want to raise our children in Texas, which, in my opinion, at that time was the most prejudiced state in the union against minorities — blacks and Mexicans alike.”

In 1959, they moved to Plymouth, and Cel went to work for the Weidner Canning Co., and



IDA CHIPMAN

Sara Lopez, 75, is the English-as-a-second-language teacher’s aide in two Plymouth Community Schools, Jefferson and Webster Elementary. “I help any child that needs help, Mexican or not,” she said. Sara is shown with first graders, left, Katlin Johnson and Chad Martin, at Jefferson, helping with their reading.

later for Bremen’s Universal Bearings, retiring after 33 years on the job.

The family has been an integral part of the community.

“Our children were involved in church, school and sports. Religion was, and is, the foundation for our family: school came a close second.”

She said that she’s been blessed with good kids.

“Trust the Mother of God,” she said. “Give your children to her — that’s all you have to do.”

When, Laurie, the youngest Lopez child, went to kindergarten,

Sara, who had been a stay-at-home mom, got a job with American Containers where she worked for 18 years, retiring in 1995.

During that time, having dropped out of school 48 years before, Sara decided, at the age of 66, to get her high school degree.

She went back to school to earn her General Education Diploma.

“I had preached education and the importance of learning to my children all of their lives and I wanted to finish what I had started.”

Only one of her seven children was even aware that she was doing it.

With the help of her teacher, Laura Jeffers Kruyer, it took six months to comp out of four years of schooling.

“If you are serious, it doesn’t take too long,” she said. “Life’s experiences helped me pass.”

Kruyer suggested that Sara enter a contest sponsored by the Adult Literacy Coalition of Indiana. Her 300-word essay, “A Turning Point,” won second place.

Shortly afterwards, she went with a tour group to Europe, visiting Rome and Croatia.

“I wanted to make the pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady,” she said.

“I had followed the advice of my grandmother. Our Lady was always guiding me. She never left my side and my prayers have always been answered — sometimes in the most unusual ways.”

Sara loves her job and has decided to work with children as full-time aide as long as she can.

She said that she may end up as an old lady rolling down the halls in a wheelchair.

“Doing what I do,” she said, “there is no time to get grumpy. I never have to think ‘what am I going to do today?’ And I know where I have to go.”



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SAINTS ALIVE! ACCEPTING RESERVATIONS Saints Alive! is still accepting reservations for the upcoming dinner and auction on Friday, Feb. 24. The theme for this year is "London ... Long Ago." Call Kris Markam in the Saints Alive! office at (260) 483-7001 to make a reservation.

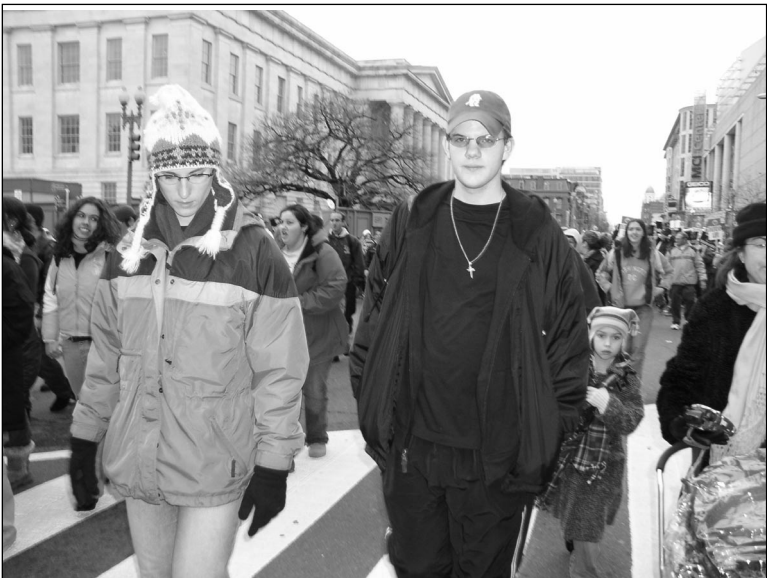
ICE-BREAKERS HELP BUILD RETREAT COMMUNITY



PROVIDED BY BISHOP LUERS HIGH SCHOOL

Bishop Luers High School students Molly Schall, Brendan Fazio and Veronica Baker participate in an ice-breaker exercise at the junior-senior retreat in January. Drawing on the Antioch retreat model, students were entirely responsible for planning and leading the retreat. Adam Peterson and Annette Wellman were the retreat directors.

BISHOP DWENGER PARTICIPATES IN NATIONAL PRO-LIFE MARCH



PROVIDED BY BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL

Students from Bishop Dwenger High School participated in the pro-life march in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 20 to commemorate the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion. In the march is Jessica Hayes, morality theology teacher at Bishop Dwenger. Next to Hayes is student Kai Young and others in the background. Students also visited the John Paul II Cultural Center before the vigil Mass at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception.

Teens make difference at march

BY GREG SWEENEY

SOUTH BEND — For over three decades, people from all walks of life have gathered annually on the Mall in Washington, D.C., to mark the occasion of the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling on Roe v. Wade, which legalized abortion. The 33rd March for Life on Jan. 20 drew hundreds of thousands to the nation's capitol to take a stand against abortion and take real steps to promote life. Included in those numbers were young adults from all the Catholic universities and colleges in the diocese, young people from all of the diocesan high schools and teens from youth ministry programs in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

This year's gathering seemed to have a different feel, a change that included the recent confirmation of Justice Samuel Alito, one that added to the hope that this gathering may be one of the last of its kind.

The teens from the combined youth ministry program of Christ the King and St. Joseph parishes in South Bend teamed up with students from Saint Joseph's High School to march and make a difference in another way.

For the past four months, these teens have been penning a "Platform for Life" to be presented to Indiana's congressional delegation. The first recipient of this document was Democratic Senator Evan Bayh. The platform was presented by the teens to Bayh through his aide Lauren Cialone in a meeting following the march. The platform will also be presented to Sen. Richard Lugar and Rep. Chris Chocola through representatives in their offices in South Bend. The other delegates will receive the platform in the mail.

The platform is simple but speaks from the heart of the young people who wrote it. It urges congressional representatives to look at being people of life and not buy into the "culture of death" that Pope John Paul II spoke of.

The platform proclaims, "It is our understanding that the abortion issue is axiomatic to being pro-life. Only when we take into account the value of the human person at the moment of conception can we seriously take into account the whole economy and condition of the human person as it relates to the world today."

It continues, "We also understand that the world is not a simple place in which to live and that the decisions that you will make in this legislative session will



GREG SWEENEY

Members of the Christ the King and St. Joseph parishes combined youth group, along with students from Saint Joseph's High School, presented a platform to U.S. senators and representatives after the March for Life in Washington, D.C. in January. The platform, created by the students, encourages the representatives to pass laws that protect the unborn and to build a culture of life.

affect us for years to come. We encourage you to consider the value of all human life as you debate the issues of abortion, education, homelessness, health care, the death penalty, our nation's fight against terrorism and all legislation dealing with the life and dignity of us all."

The 33 young people who helped in the formation of the document, outlined the following concepts they used in the development of their platform. The teen's state that being pro-life means: "Embracing love for all; Exhibiting bravery; Offering a chance; Realizing everyone matters; Seeking true justice; Searching for peace; Sacrifice; Democracy; Respect for others; Truth; Equality; Centering on Christ; Focusing on God's plan."

In presenting the document to Cialone and legislative intern Pat Hayes, Jacob Teshka, a senior at Saint Joseph's, explained, "We want you to understand that all life issues center around the fact that you must be born. We cannot continue to allow abortion to happen in our country. Without birth, the other (life) issues we face, like the death penalty, fair trade, don't matter."

Thirteen young people, along with four chaperones, made the trek to Washington and they took with them the thoughts of the other young people who could not make the trip, but wanted their voice to be heard. Included with the platform were the thoughts of all who helped in the formation of the document. George Lund reflected, "Every life on this planet was created by God and is precious to him. All life is special and will help

advance this world into the future."

"Being pro-life shows that I have a choice in life, it shows that I care if someone is killing a person, even if unborn," according to Ashley Talley.

Katherine Remley explains it like this, "To me, pro-life means supporting a person's freedom to enjoy a life that is fully theirs. People confuse the (natural) order making liberty more important than the right to life."

After the march and the meeting with Bayh's aides, the teens gathered to reflect on their experience which included an opportunity to visit sights around the area, including the monuments on the Mall, the Capitol Building, and Arlington National Cemetery in nearby Arlington, Va.

Relating her experience to visiting the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington, Saint Joseph's sophomore Rebecca Jones pointed out that we have to be like the sentinels who look after the tomb. "We have to be on the lookout to protect all life."

Youth minister Greg Sweeney took that thought a step further explaining that sometimes in striving for life, we may be all by ourselves. "We have to be just like the sentinel. Sometimes people stop to listen to what we have to say; sometimes no one is around to hear it. But we still have to speak up for life, we still have to take the steps to make sure that life is protected — that life is sacred."

EDITORIAL

Setting a tone of true, self-giving love

In recent history, popes have used their first encyclical letter to set a tone, as it were, for their papacy. Put another way, one might view the first encyclical of most modern pontiffs as "setting an agenda" for their papacy. This was clearly the case with John Paul II, whose "Redemptor Hominis" (1979) put forward what was to be a recurring theme of his papacy, a theologically-determined anthropology: what it means to be authentically human is revealed most clearly in the person of Jesus Christ, who not only shows us God, but also reveals who we are called to be. One might even suggest that his later "theology of the body" is a natural and organic development of themes latent in that first encyclical letter.

Pope Benedict XVI's first encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est" ("God is love"), is in some ways a surprise. Not a few ecclesiastical pundits had predicted, quite wrongly, that his first letter would address liturgical aberrations or stand as a stern corrective against theologians embroiled in controversy, which might reveal more about the pundits' concerns than about Benedict's. No, Benedict's first salvo to the world at large brings us back to the basics. The essence of the Christian life and vocation is to be caught up and drawn into the drama of God's love for the world.

Benedict demonstrates that sin strikes at the very heart of us (quite literally), perverting that which is most Godlike within us, our capacity for love. Eros, which, correctly understood, is a desire for unity with the other, becomes cheapened by sin and reduced to mere sensuality (and sensuality always means using rather than reverencing others).

Benedict wants to rescue eros from this kind of reductionism and situate it in its rightful place in the tradition. There is, after all, a long history of Christian commentary on the Song of Songs (with all of its rather bold and racy language) as a love song expressing God's love for the individual soul or, alternately, for his people, Israel, as well as the New Israel, the church.

But Christian love is never merely eros, but rather finds its completion in agape. That is, this desire for union with the other necessarily finds its consummation in the act of self-giving. This, of course, is most evident in Jesus, who gives himself entirely on behalf of his beloved, the church. This love is experienced and even tasted in the church's celebration of the Eucharist.

Once Benedict has provided reflection on the true nature of Christian love, he then turns his attention to what this means concretely in the life of the church.

Those who like warm, cuddly and snug conceptions of love will find Benedict's words here a wakeup call. Genuine love, the love revealed by Jesus, is never easy, and while it may from time to time be warm, it makes serious demands upon us. This is not because God is a demanding tyrant. Rather, it is because we are so turned in on ourselves, so self-focused, that genuine love seems to us so demanding, as it calls us out of ourselves and to make a gift of ourselves. But in this self-giving is true liberation, true freedom. As the Gospel teaches, it is only in dying to oneself that we can discover our true identity and vocation.

What is more, the church is motivated — in fact, driven — by this agape (Benedict uses its Latin form, *caritas*) to the service of our neighbor. Benedict makes clear that "our neighbor" is not confined to our own community of faith, but extends beyond and imposes a universal love toward even those we meet by chance.

This pastoral charity, this kind of love naturally flows out of the very essence of what Benedict calls the church's deepest nature: the tripartite work of proclaiming the Gospel (his use of the doublet *kerygma-marlyria* means this proclamation is more than mere verbiage), instantiating that proclamation in sacramental celebration (*leiturgia*) and enacting what has been celebrated through pastoral charity (*diakonia*).

Pope Benedict's first encyclical makes several things abundantly clear: (1) He is very much attuned to the situation of the modern person whose life is driven by love, albeit at times disordered love (thus love in need of healing and elevation); (2) he has a dynamic understanding of the life of the church, which cannot be reduced to mere institutional terms and whose central and self-defining act is the celebration of the Eucharist; (3) he sees the church (very much in patristic terms) as the soul or servant of the world; Christians are called to be engaged in the world but not in terms defined by the world; and finally, (4) the destiny of humanity is to be taken up into the very Trinitarian life of God, a communion of knowledge and love, a communion, which does not destroy personality, but perfects it.

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

Thanks to all the faithful

Through the kindness of Father Robert Schulte, we have received a check in the amount of \$44,254.64 for the general fund of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith for World Mission Sunday 2005 from the people of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Asking God to continue to bless you in your mission endeavors, I remain fraternally in the Lord,

Rev. Msgr. John E. Kozar
National director
Pontifical Mission Societies in the
United States

Embrace what God is giving you

One of the most awesome things that touched me while at the national March for Life in Washington, D.C. was the sheer number of people there. People of all faiths and backgrounds. It is really inspiring to see so many people there who all believe in the same thing you do — that abortion is murder, and that it is not only lethal to the baby, but also hurts the

mother as well. Whether it be physical, spiritual or mental, I don't think that there is one mother who walks out of that abortion clinic unaffected.

Sometimes sitting in front of an abortion clinic praying can be, in a way, discouraging. It doesn't seem like there are a lot of people with you on this issue. But when you see the number of people in D.C., you can't help but think to yourself that you are not alone. And just think of how many people can't even make it to the march.

When you add it all up, it begins to make a difference. However, this march is not only a time to cry out against abortion.

For a lot of people, especially the Catholic youth who show up in large numbers, it is a time of reflection and meditation. What is God calling me to do in my life? Where does he want me? This was brought to light most especially at the MCI Youth Rally and Mass where Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick gave an awesome talk on vocations. For me, it was a changing point in my life.

I finally said to myself that I know what God wants of me, and I am willing to answer that call.

And as hundreds of guys, and likewise girls, stood up all around the arena saying that they have heard the call to the priesthood or religious life, it becomes an inspiration for many priests and bishops. I think the main thought in their minds at that moment was "wow."

They often tell us that we are the church, and that the church is young. It is so true. Everyone brings up the much debated topic of a so-called vocations crisis, but I once heard from a priest I know that there is not a vocations crisis, but a "saying 'yes' crisis."

So many people are afraid to say "yes" to God's call to the priesthood and religious life, when we shouldn't be. God is calling. Don't run and hide, but open wide your arms and embrace what God is giving you.

Jason Salisbury
Bishop Dwenger High School
Fort Wayne

Unlocking a wardrobe

BY BRANDON McCaffery

If you, by some chance, were to open an ancient wooden wardrobe, entirely impervious and brilliant of craft, what on earth would you expect to discover? Some old mothballs and a few filth-infested coats? Shoes that even Goodwill would refuse?

Or you might even think to find some forgotten Christmas present, which is now sadly camouflaged with the dust that crept in from the slits in the doors. And maybe even a coin or two tucked in the pockets of those few bulky wool coats that are so horribly out of style. Though clearly, I tell you, if there's anything to find in such an old wardrobe, it's nothing worth any of our whiles, correct?

How wrong that is ...

Let's stretch our distracted minds a little further than the so common "expected." Dare to dream of a wardrobe unlike any other ordinary wooden wardrobe. Envision finding an enchanted world within that stale, musty wood. Imagine a door that leads into dreams or, possibly, even truths. Just image finding God in your attic closet.

Truly, this is what C. S. Lewis wrote about in his luminous books, "The Chronicles of Narnia." Many of us have seen the new movie created by the magic of Disney, and I'm hoping most of these

viewers liked it very, very much.

Whatever the popular reaction, that Narnia was based merely upon Christianity is quite apparent. One of C. S. Lewis' earlier books was "Mere Christianity." Just think — a bold Lion giving his life for the good of others, then rising again and defeating evil altogether — does it ring any bells? Oh, of course it does! And this is what is so powerful about Narnia, so mag-

So now comes the time to realize that God is everywhere, even if it is in some place so unanticipated.

ical about the writings of C. S. Lewis. They twist the realms of dreams with the seeming certainties of reality. And I tell you — dreams usually are the best realities.

That someone was willing to suffer and die for you is not a dream. Doesn't that reality comfort your heart? Doesn't your soul quiver to sense something magical, something impossible? Don't you dream that dreams can come true? Of course you do, for everyone has

a hope for his or her future. That future hope will make this life on earth worthwhile.

C. S. Lewis tries to touch our hearts through the delicate words of Narnia — not to persuade us into believing in the Almighty, but to feel, to accept the love given by him who loves all. It is this love that makes Narnia so remarkable, so beautiful. It's for this reason that we fell in love with the books at such a tender age, then in love with the story all over again just a few months ago with the release of "The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe." We recognize love when we feel it.

So now comes the time to realize that God is everywhere, even if it is in some place so unanticipated. He is within that very large book on your shelf, in the gentle wind that sings through the trees, in the morning sun that always rises after night, and even more closely, within the beats of our very own hearts.

The time has now come to find him. He has been waiting a very, very long time.

I suggest starting somewhere unexpected, even if it happens to be a dirty old wardrobe.

Open those doors, and embrace his grace.

Marian High School Lance features editor Brandon McCaffery is a member of St. Bavo Parish in Mishawaka.

The church is a church, not a sect

Sociologists believe there are many differences between a "church" and a "sect." Both are legitimate forms of religious expression, but they represent two fundamentally different approaches to religion. An understanding of these approaches might help Catholics who are trying to interpret some of the issues facing the church these days.

By nature, a church has a positive view of society. It sees itself as functioning within existing social and cultural arrangements, but is willing to critique these arrangements from time to time. A church believes that it offers a balanced world view that both affirms society and retains the core elements of its religious tradition. It believes it is able to survive — indeed, flourish — within the society, while maintaining its integrity as a religious institution, including doctrines that challenge the society.

Membership in a church is inclusive, meaning that a church hopes to attract followers from all walks of life. Membership standards make it fairly easy for people from varied backgrounds and with diverse world views to join the church. In fact, most people become members simply by being



RESEARCH FOR THE CHURCH

JAMES D. DAVIDSON

born into church families and being baptized into the church at a very early age. Members of a church see themselves as a heterogeneous mixture of saints and sinners who are no better or worse than other members of society. Churches endorse their members' desire to be actively involved in many spheres of life, and they create behavioral norms that make this possible. They expect moderate levels of religious commitment, but do not expect members to sacrifice other commitments for the sake of the church.

A sect starts out as a subset of church members who believe that their church has made too many compromises with the larger society and, in the process, has sacrificed much of its integrity and many of its core teachings. These members believe there is a need to adopt a countercultural view of society and to reclaim the fundamental truths of their faith.

Sometimes they are able to convince church leaders to make room for them within the church. When they are unable to do so, they are excommunicated or voluntarily withdraw from the church and form a new religious group.

Membership in the new sect is exclusive. It is restricted to those adults who are willing to embrace the group's countercultural views of society and the faith. Sect members draw a clear line between insiders (the "saints") and outsiders (the "sinners"). Sects encourage their members to withdraw from the society and make the sect the center of their lives, as both a social community and a community of faith. They expect high levels of religious participation.

Using such criteria, social theorists and researchers agree that the Roman Catholic Church is a

DAVIDSON, PAGE 14

Forgiveness — the healing of Jesus



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Mk 2:1-12

The Book of Isaiah is the source of this weekend's first reading. Understanding this passage and extracting from it its fullest lesson require knowing the historical context in which this book was written.

These verses come from the second section of Isaiah. At the time of their composition, the long, dreary exile of Jewish survivors of the Babylonian conquest generations earlier of the two Jewish kingdoms had ended.

Exiles, or their descendants, were in Babylon for 80 years. They were strangers in an unfriendly land. Of course, they yearned for their homeland. The opportunity to return came when the Persian emperor, Cyrus, overwhelmed Babylonia. He allowed the exiles to go home.

The religiously devout among the exiles saw God as the true deliverer. Cyrus merely was the instrument of God in this process. So, in this reading, speaking through the prophet, God declares, "In the desert I made a way." God accuses the people of unfaithfulness. Despair in Babylon had overtaken them. Still, regardless, God was true to the covenant.

Nevertheless, return was bitter-sweet. The land to which the exiles returned was desolate and unaccommodating. The prophets faced the task of sustaining the people's faith even in spite of their disappointments upon arriving home.

St. Paul's Second Epistle to the Corinthians provides the second lesson for this weekend's liturgy.

Corinth was one of the chief cities of the Roman Empire. With a large population, including people from throughout the Mediterranean world, it of course received its share of pioneer Christian missionaries. Converts were made in Corinth. A Christian community formed.

However, evidently these converts were the source of some anxiety for Paul. He wrote to them at least twice. His two known letters to Corinth are in the New Testament as the inspired Word of God.

The people quarreled among themselves. They strayed into sin and pagan practice. Paul firmly called them to uncompromised loyalty to the Gospel.

He himself was not always well received. Some challenged his credentials as an apostle. In this reading, Paul reasserts his role, and moreover he reaffirms his purely spiritual intentions.

For its last reading the church presents a passage from St. Mark's Gospel. Healing this paralyzed man was marvelous, and the extraordinary circumstance of lowering him through the roof made it all the more dramatic. However, the scribes present at the event took offense. Jesus said the paralytic's sins were forgiven. The scribes saw blasphemy in this statement. Only God can forgive sins, because sins offend God.

Again, to understand the reading requires an awareness of the

context. Pious Jews at the time looked upon physical maladies as the result of sin. Perhaps the victim of the maladies had sinned. Perhaps ancestors had sinned. But, in any case, all physical distress ultimately came from sin.

Incidentally, roofs at the time were quite flimsy by modern standards. They were wooden beams laid horizontally from wall to the directly opposing walls of a house. Then thatch was laid on these beams, loosely held together by mud. It kept out the hot rays of the sun, much more a problem in the Holy Land than rainwater.

Reflection

The church's emphasis is on Jesus as savior, and as son of God. He acts as God. He forgives sin. This is the marvel, exceeding even the cure of the paralytic.

In this understanding, the passage has relevance for us today. We sin. Jesus forgives us, if we sincerely and humbly seek to be forgiven. Jesus is God's gift to us, a gift of perfect love. God provides for our escape from the effects of sin, just as God rescued the exiles in Babylon. Sin is our prison.

READINGS

Seventh week of Ordinary Time

Monday: Jas 3:13-18 Ps 19:8-10, 15 Mk 9:14-29

Tuesday: Jas 4:1-10 Ps 55:7-11, 23 Mk 9:30-37

Wednesday: 1 Pt 5:1-4 Ps 23:1-6 Mt 16:13-19

Thursday: Jas 5:1-6 Ps 49:14-20 Mk 9:41-50

Friday: Jas 5:9-12 Ps 103:1-4, 8-9, 11-12 Mk 10:1-12

Saturday: Jas 5:13-20 Ps 141:1-3, 8 Mk 10:13-16

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Campion

In this shortest month of the year, we look at a quiz involving shortness.

- 1. What is the shortest Gospel in the Bible?**
a. Matthew b. Mark c. Luke
- 2. What is the shortest New Testament book?**
a. Philemon
b. The Letter to the Galatians
c. John 2
- 3. This is (in most recognized translations) the shortest chapter in the Bible: "O praise the Lord, all ye nations: praise him, all ye people. For his merciful kindness is great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endures forever. Praise ye the Lord." What is this?**
a. Genesis 1 b. Exodus 37 c. Psalm 117
- 4. The shortest verse in the New Testament is John 11:35. What is it?**
a. Judas died. b. Jesus saves. c. And Jesus wept.
- 5. What is regarded as the shortest verse of the Old Testament, 1 Chronicles 1:25 reads "Eber, Peleg, Reu." What are these words?**
a. an incantation against a pagan deity, likely Baal
b. men's names (part of a genealogy)
c. cities conquered by the Israelites in the Holy Land
- 6. According to Luke's Gospel, Zacchaeus wanted to see the Lord, but because he was short he had to**
a. climb a tree.
b. climb on a roof.
c. jump up and own.
- 7. In a peculiarly anthropomorphic metaphor, Isaiah 59 says the Lord's hand is not too short to**
a. smite the Israelites.
b. save.
c. reach for the stars.
- 8. In Matthew's Gospel the passage, "And if those days had not been shortened, no one would be saved; but for the sake of the elect they will be shortened," refers to a tribulation. What is the general style of this biblical language?**
a. apocalyptic
b. prohibitive
c. sanguinary
- 9. In Romans we learn that all have fallen short ("are deprived" in some translations) because of this:**
a. a lack of exercise
b. materialism
c. sin
- 10. In 1 Corinthians, we read that time is running short (running out in some texts). What event was anticipated to be imminent?**
a. the end of the Roman Empire
b. the destruction of the temple
c. the end of the world
- 11. In Revelation 12, who is acting with fury because he has only a short time?**
a. the devil b. Paul c. Jesus
- 12. In Mark's Gospel, we hear about a widow who was very short of cash, but her offering was well received by God. What is this often referred to as?**
a. the two bit tithe
b. the Widow's Mite
c. the miser who got wiser
- 13. The shortest reigning (just over a month) pope in the 20th century was:**
a. John XXIII b. Paul VI c. John Paul I
- 14. But the shortest reigning pope in history was Stephen II who died three days after he was elected. What further misfortune was heaped on him in the 20th century?**
a. He was officially declared one of the "bad popes."
b. He was removed definitively from the list of popes.
c. He was condemned as a heretic, disinterred and buried in France.
- 15. In Eastern spirituality, this prayer, "Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner," though short, is highly regarded. What is its most common name?**
a. The Jesus Prayer
b. The Sinners Prayer
c. The Iconos Hymnody

ANSWERS:

1.b, 2.c, 3.c, 4.c, 5.b, 6.a, 7.b, 8.a, 9.c, 10.c, 11.a, 12.b, 13.c, 14.b, 15.a

Catholic ritual worship engages the whole person

Why do Catholics sit, stand and kneel so much during Mass as compared to the Protestant church services? EC

Dear EC,

In response to your first question, you should know that there are a number of Protestant services which are basically word services. They are usually quite simple and straightforward. Such services commonly make use of two postures — standing and sitting — the former, usually for singing, the latter for listening to the Scriptures, the sermon, musical groups and prayer.

Some Protestant denominations, however (e.g., Lutheran and Episcopalian) follow an order of service very similar to our order of Mass. This “order” or rite has its roots in the earliest descriptions of the Mass, going back to St. Justin (AD 165) and earlier. Its structure includes a number of traditional elements — introductory rites, a Liturgy of the Word, a preparation rite, a Liturgy of the Eucharist and concluding rite.

Our worship is by its very nature ritual worship. It engages the whole person, not only our reason and intellect but also our body (e.g., standing, sitting, kneeling, bowing, processing). Bodily posture,

however, is not something reserved to worship. We sit, for example, when we watch movies; we stand to greet someone; we take off our hats when we sing the national anthem; we put our hand over our heart when we recite the pledge of allegiance; and we might kneel when we make a request of another (e.g., a man going down on one knee to ask for a woman’s hand in marriage).

All these gestures are intended not only to help us do what we want to do comfortably, but they also signify much deeper and interior sentiments such as respect or love.

So, too, with our liturgical prayer. Our external bodily gestures help us to experience more fully the particular ritual activity taking place, whether we’re being greeted by the priest at the beginning of Mass, sitting to listen to the readings and the homily or standing to pray the Lord’s Prayer.

Q. Why are we now required to bow before receiving Communion? What does it mean if we don’t? EC

Dear EC,

In regard to this question, the “General Instruction of the Roman Missal,” (GIRM) 2000, states that

THAT’S A GOOD QUESTION

a “common posture, to be observed by all participants, is a sign of the unity ... it both expresses and fosters the intention and spiritual attitude of the participants.” (— no. 42) In that regard, the instruction states: “The norm for reception of holy Communion in the dioceses of the United States is standing... When receiving holy Communion, the communicant bows his or her head before the Sacrament as a gesture of reverence.” (— no. 160)

If people choose some other form of reverence, for example, by genuflecting or kneeling, the instruction clearly states (— no. 160) that such communicants should not be denied holy Communion.

However, the instruction does state that “such instances should be addressed pastorally, by providing the faithful with proper catech-

esis on the reasons for this norm.” Often times people who do not observe the norm are unaware of the fact that they only draw attention to themselves when so acting, thus diminishing the “sign of unity” of which the instruction speaks. (— no. 42)

Q. Why does the church keep changing how we participate in the Mass, for example, standing in response to the preparation of the gifts? And by what authority? Who decides? EC

Dear EC,

Over the years, actually very little has changed in regard to posture during the celebration of the Mass. Perhaps the most significant change has come with the posture for receiving holy Communion — from kneeling to standing.

There are a number of reasons for this. One lies in the fact that as we have always stood for greeting Christ present in his word, so, too, it is appropriate to stand when receiving his eucharistic presence. Another reason is that with the permission to receive Communion in the hand and to partake of the Precious Blood, standing lends itself more easily to these actions than kneeling.

The recent change, at the end of

the preparation rite, requiring all to stand to make the response, “May the Lord accept...” is, I believe, warranted by the fact that this is a prayer — and we normally stand when we pray.

It should be noted, however, that the assembly is to stand only after the priest has fully completed his invitation to pray — “Pray ... God the Father almighty.”

The regulation of postures within the liturgy is authorized by the Congregation for Divine Worship and Discipline of the Sacraments in Rome.

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, P.O. 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.

We have twins

“At the beginning of the third millennium, the church feels with renewed intensity that Christ’s missionary mandate is more timely than ever.”

— Pope Benedict XVI

American Airlines flight #1556 is tearing through the sky at a fantastic speed. In the seats ahead of me there are three couples that have just adopted Guatemalan orphans and are returning home with their tiny bundles of love.

Unbeknown to them, I share some of their joy and feelings. I have just met our twins. In a couple of hours I will again see familiar people and places, and tonight I will rest my weary bones in my own bed. But my heart is still in the rainforest of the northernmost region of Guatemala where our twins live.

Are you surprised, befuddled, confused? Let me explain.

Our twins are special. They range in age from one day to 90 years, they speak a variety of extremely different languages, they number in the thousands and they have kept the faith for centuries, together with their ancient rituals, under the most adverse conditions.

They are the indigenous Maya who live in and around the town and parish of San Luis de Petén, a stone throw from the imposing pyramids and ruins built by their ancestors in Tikal.

Early last year, the Comboni Missionaries were given the duty and the privilege to walk with them in their journey of faith and to share with them their needs, joys, sorrows, adversities and challenges.

The people’s contacts with our side of the world, however, go

back a few more years, when the parishioners of St. Lawrence Church in Lawrenceburg, Ind., decided to break out of the confines of their town, which even includes a successful floating casino, and reach out to others.

Lawrenceburg and San Luis, two Christian communities as diverse as day and night, joined hands in mission and entered into a very special relationship we call “twinning.”

Remember the days when we thought we had everything to give and nothing to receive? The days when we thought that the people “over there” had nothing to give, but sat idly waiting for our handouts?

Well, those days are gone. And those who still believe in such fantasies have lots of catching up to do. People of good will do not want a handout. They may just need a “hand-up” to set them on their way to a more dignified life.

Twinning is a new way to do mission that bridges gaps between cultures, countries, social classes and languages in a way we never thought possible just a few short years ago.

Sharing takes the place of giving; learning takes the place of pitying. Twinning takes shape in exchanges of prayers, of gifts and of personal experiences. The program foresees closer contacts, mutual visits, common projects, even a common page in the bulletin. Eventually friendship will develop and we will be like the family God wants us to be.

As the process develops, there will be a long string of little successes and failures. Friendships just don’t “happen.” They require a lot of nurturing. For certain,



THE
GLOBAL
CHRISTIAN

FATHER JOE BRAGOTTI, MCCJ

exposure to the Mayan Christians will expand our horizons and increase our faith in God’s goodness. Part of the commitment will entail a certain sharing of our financial resources that will not create dependency, but will be an answer to real needs.

In turn, we will learn from the Mayas’ love of nature how to be better stewards of creation and how to share our blessings. We will gain an appreciation of what it means to live at the edge of survival, to care for the poorer neighbors and give of one’s own poverty, to treasure learning, to live simpler lives and thank the Lord for little blessings.

Like all God’s gifts, twinning is a great adventure. What’s next? Stay tuned. You will be the first to know.

Father Joe Bragotti, MCCJ, is mission director of the North American Province of the Comboni Missionaries, a worldwide religious institute founded by St. Daniel Comboni to carry the Gospel to “the poorest and most abandoned” people on earth.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for February 19, 2006

Mark 2:1-12

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: the complete healing of the paralytic man. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

CAPERNAUM	MANY	NO LONGER
THE DOOR	WORD	CARRIED
FOUR MEN	CROWD	ABOVE HIM
MAT	PARALYTIC	JESUS SAW
FAITH	SPEAK	GOD ALONE
EASIER	WALK	MAY KNOW
AUTHORITY	GLORIFIED	ANYTHING

NEVER SEEN

O	J	A	U	T	H	O	R	I	T	Y	W
F	G	F	D	E	I	R	A	C	J	O	
R	O	O	D	E	H	T	M	I	R	H	N
P	M	U	D	F	A	I	T	H	O	K	K
J	U	R	M	A	N	Y	T	M	W	W	Y
E	A	M	W	A	L	K	E	D	D	L	A
S	N	E	F	A	B	O	V	E	H	I	M
U	R	N	R	E	G	N	O	L	O	N	
S	E	A	S	I	E	R	F	E	G	W	D
S	P	E	A	K	G	B	N	D	O	O	P
A	A	N	Y	T	H	I	N	G	F	R	E
W	C	G	L	O	R	I	F	I	E	D	X

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DAVIDSON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

church, not a sect. But, within the church, there have always been some people who are more sect-like in their thinking.

The church-sect distinction might be of some assistance as Catholics try to assess the legiti-

macy of various groups in today’s church. Catholics should celebrate sect-like groups that want to be part of the church. We should beware of sect-like groups that want to transform the church into a sect.

James D. Davidson is professor of sociology at Purdue University in West Lafayette.

In search of Noah's Ark: Mt. Ararat and other places

Question: Is there a possibility that Noah's ark is really on Mt. Ararat?

The Book of Genesis tells the story of Noah. God was upset with the sins of the human race and wanted to destroy the people. But Noah found favor with God. So God warned Noah about the approaching flood and told him to build an ark. Noah and his wife, along with his three sons and their wives, went into the ark. For 40 days and nights heavy rain came. The waters lifted the ark above the earth. All the highest mountains were submerged. The waters maintained their crest over the earth for 150 days. Then the waters receded and the ark came to rest on the mountains of Ararat. Noah and his family came out of the ark. Noah thanked God from an altar of sacrifice, and God told Noah's family to be fertile and multiply.

Mt. Ararat was in the country of Armenia. Now it lies in eastern Turkey. But you still can see Mt. Ararat at a distance when you are standing in Armenia. This mountain has two peaks: Great Ararat

at 16,945 feet and Little Ararat at 12,877 feet. The mountain rises above the valley of the Aras River. It is a magnificent mountain, but its top can be shrouded in a cloud, while snow decorates its lower peaks. Ararat is actually a dormant volcano that last erupted in 1840.

Anna Edmonds says the upper third of Mt. Ararat is covered with snow all the time. The last 100 meters of snow at the top have turned to ice. The sun melts some of the snow that offers running water for climbers. Below the snow the slopes are covered with great blocks of black basalt rock, some as large as village houses.

Some people have said Noah's ark is on Mt. Ararat. Josephus, the Jewish historian, in A.D. 70 said the ark is there on display for all to see. The Italian explorer Marco Polo in 1300 also said the ark is there, but both men were relying on the accounts of others. E. Blake says that Noah and his family could have used up the ark in bits and pieces to build their



FATHER RICHARD HIRE

HIRE HISTORY

new homes, which is a fate that has destroyed many other ancient structures in the Near East.

In modern times, G. Horobin says one Turkish pilot claimed to have seen a ship's timbers on Mt. Ararat. R. Moore says satellite photos have shown a boat embedded in a glacier, but, when examined, they were freak formations in the strata.

There certainly were great floods in the ancient world. A. O'Neill says the worst in Mesopotamia (or southern Iraq) overwhelmed Abraham's native city of Ur about B.C. 4000, burying it under some 10 feet of silt. The ancient Babylonians (of southern Iraq) hold a story based

on an unusually devastating flood in the Euphrates River basin and here the ark grounded on the slopes of one of the Zagros mountains of western Iran. F. Cross says excavations at Ur in 1929 revealed that the Tigris-Euphrates area was subject to widespread flooding that could form the historical basis of the flood tradition.

Flood stories are seen everywhere. In Egypt the goddess Sekhmet wanted to wipe out the human race with a flood. In classical literature, the god Zeus decides to destroy the bad human race with a nine-day flood. But Deucalion and his wife are saved on a ship, because of their piety. In India, Manu and his wife are saved from the flood waters by the god Vishnu. Even ancient China told a disastrous flood story.

Father John McKenzie says that the flood stories of Mesopotamia preserve the memory of some unusually disastrous flood of prehistoric times. The ancestors of the Hebrews, like Abraham, came from Mesopotamia and could have preserved these flood stories orally. The Hebrews could have taken the popular traditions of other people and retold them with a religious meaning by showing God's justice and providence and the security and stability of nature resting on the good will of God to the human race in spite of the evil inclinations of the human heart. J. Packer adds that this salvation of the human race by a good God makes the flood story of Genesis unique and different from the pagan myths.

Together again

BY FATHER WILLIAM PEIL

Three they went out. Three they came back.

It was May 13, 1917, when Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta went out to a field owned by Lucia's family, the Cova da Iria, two miles west of Fatima, Portugal. Before they came back, a woman who said she came from heaven appeared to them for 10 minutes asking them to accept sufferings for "the conversion of sinners."

"Yes, we would like to do that," Lucia answered for the three.

And so they have.

Francisco and Jacinta — Lucia was their cousin — were stricken in the 1918 flu epidemic, which swept the world.

Francisco seemed to be getting better and even was able to get out of bed and walk around for awhile, but his lungs were badly infected. On April 4, 1919, after having said he was bearing the suffering "for the love of our Lord and Our Lady," he gently passed away.

Jacinta remained frail and told Lucia that the Blessed Virgin had appeared to her and told her she'd be taken to a hospital in Lisbon and after suffering a great deal



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF SHRINE OF FATIMA

Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos is seen in this May 16, 2000, file photo. Sister Lucia, the eldest of the three Portugese children to receive apparitions of the Virgin Mary in 1917 in Fatima, Portugal, died Feb. 13, 2005, at the age of 97.

would die alone. Jacinta died Feb. 20, 1920, in a hospital in Lisbon after having two of her ribs

removed in a futile effort to relieve the pleurisy.

Shortly before she died, she had kissed a picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and said, "Now you can convert many sinners because I am suffering so much." She died at 10:30 p.m. while the nurse was out of the room for a few moments.

Lucia died on Feb 13, 2005, in Coimbra, Portugal, after a lifetime of spreading the Fatima message.

On May 13, 2000, Pope John Paul II, in a visit to Fatima, declared Francisco and Jacinta "Blessed" and assigned their feast day to Feb. 20.

On Feb. 3, 2006, Pope Benedict XVI elevated the World Apostolate of Fatima from a private organization to the Public Association of the World Apostolate of Fatima.

Lucia's body is being brought to Fatima Feb. 19, 2006, to be laid alongside her cousins Francisco and Jacinta.

Three they went out. Three they came back.

Together again.

Father William Peil is a retired pastor from the Gary Diocese. He resides in Fort Wayne.

Our Sunday Visitor announces stewardship conference

HUNTINGTON — Our Sunday Visitor has gathered some of the best stewardship minds in the country to bring the stewardship message closer to area parishes. In conjunction with the International Catholic Stewardship Council (ICSC), USCCB Publishing, ParishSOFT, RSI Catholic Services Group and others, Our Sunday Visitor announces its latest stewardship resource, the Living Catholic Stewardship Conference, June 14-16, in Indianapolis.

This exciting new stewardship event will include nationally-rec-

ognized stewardship speakers that will present a range of sessions geared for both parishes that are just starting out on their stewardship journey, to parishes that have been practicing stewardship for many years.

Each workshop will reinforce the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop's pastoral letter on stewardship and is structured with a "train the trainer" approach to assist pastors, parish staff, stewardship committee members and lay volunteers in implementing the suggestions and procedures in their

parishes. The materials and breakout discussions will also help attendees take the message, and many ideas, back home to their peers.

Early bird registration ends March 1. After that, the price will increase from \$225 to \$300.

Speakers such as Matthew Kelly, Charles Zech, Dan Conway and others will present sessions on a variety of topics. For a complete listing of session topics, visit the conference's Web site at www.osvenvelopes.com.

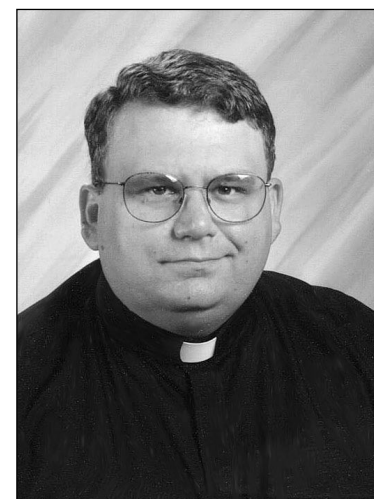
Meet The Priest

Father Michael Heintz

Ordained to the priesthood:

Nov. 27, 1993

Rector and Pastor, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend



Briefly tell us what was the primary influence on your decision to become a priest?

The primary influence on my decision to become a priest derives from my experience growing up and attending school at St. Thomas in Elkhart. The happiness and wholeness of the priests who served there made a deep impression on me as a child, and I both respected and admired them; I wanted to be like them.

Why do you like being a priest?

I like being a priest because who I am and what I do are the same.

Do you have a special interest or hobby? How did this interest develop?

I am an avid sports fan, in particular, baseball. I was never an accomplished athlete but found officiating as a way of being part of sports. In fact, I am a licensed umpire, and in the spring and summer each year, I umpire Little league, ICCL and high school baseball.

What do you like to do for relaxation?

For relaxation, I enjoy reading and sports.



Do you have any pets?

I have no pets.

What is your favorite reading material? Who is/are your favorite author(s)?

I enjoy reading theology and history. Augustine probably has pride of place (no pun intended) as a favorite author. Modern authors I enjoy are Henry Chadwick, Andrew Louth, John Behr, Frances Young and Simon Tugwell.

What do you think is the best part of being Catholic?

The best part of being Catholic is the entire world that belief as a Catholic opens up; it is a comprehensive way of seeing and being, which is a liberation in an otherwise fallen and daunting world.

What is your favorite scriptural passage?

My favorite passages are Matthew 6:33 (Seek first...) and the account of the Road to Emmaus in Luke 24.

How do you prefer to be addressed by laity?

Father Mike or Father Heintz is fine.

Sports

LADY INDIANS PACK PLYMOUTH, MOVE ON TO HAMMOND After wrapping up their fifth successive record-breaking sectional championship, the defending Class 3-A Indiana state champion Saint Joseph's girls basketball team will lay their blue chips on the line at Hammond this week in the Twin Lakes Regional against Hammond High School. The Lady Indians packed away the Knox Sectional with a 61-51 victory over the No. 5 ranked Plymouth Lady Pilgrims by sinking 31 of 38 free throws plus an astounding individual performance by Melissa Lechtliner. — EJD

CYO grades 5-6 tournament action wraps up

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) wrapped up its fifth and sixth grade tournament last week that involved large schools and small school action.

Boys large school

In his 10th season, Coach Tony Stump's St. Vincent Panthers Green team squeaked past St. Jude, St. Elizabeth/St. Joe and then St. Charles to win the fifth- and sixth-grade boys CYO large school tournament.

"It took a team effort and was a close game all the way. St. Charles gave us all we could handle," Coach Stump said of their 22-20 championship victory.

Evan Feichter had nine points and Keenan Fuller added eight for the Panthers while Michael Sordelet led the St. Charles Cardinals with eight. St. Vincent went undefeated in CYO play and lost just one non-conference game. Todd Martin was the assistant coach.

Girls large school

The unbeaten St. Jude Eagles

took the girls fifth- and sixth-grade CYO title this season after winning the holiday tournament at Most Precious Blood in December.

"We had a great group of girls who have a deep respect for each other and are very dedicated to their sport," said the very pleased Coach Jane Wolff. After receiving a bye and beating St. John, Fort Wayne, the Eagles pulled off the win over the Cardinals from St. Charles in the championship game by a score of 21-18. Eagle Lindsey Wolff and Sordelet from St. Charles each led their teams with eight points. The assistant coaches for St. Jude are Craig Bobay, Larry Mayers and Bill Kartholl.

Girls small school

The small school tournament play took place at St. Aloysius Activity Center in Yoder. The girls' winner was Huntington Catholic over St. Therese with a score of 22-10.

Assistant Coach Mike Stoffel said this was the Rams best finish since joining the CYO league three years ago. The head coach for the team is Tom Skelly. With a record of 3-0, they will now continue intramural play in their Huntington County league. Este Stoffel chipped

Prayer, led by a St. Therese School parent, opens the fifth- and sixth-grade tournament game between St. Therese and St. Louis-St. Rose Twins. The tournament was hosted at St. Aloysius in Yoder last week.

in 14 points for Huntington Catholic and Audrie Luegring was the leading scorer for St. Therese.

Boys small school

In boys' action, Coach Corey Sheehan led his St. Louis-St. Rose Twins past St. Aloysius, St. Therese and finally Benoit Academy on the road to the championship in his rookie season as a CYO coach. The two "academies" each had just seven players listed on their roster and it was a hard fought battle until the end with the final score of 50-43.

Twins players could not believe the turnout of fans for the big game. The Castleman brothers combined for 20 of the Twins' points. Lacy Curry of Benoit and Colin Stuerzenberger of St. Louis led all scoring with 17 points each. The team finished their season with a record of 16-3.



MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

Corpus Christi leads ICCL

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — Week by week, it appears that the Corpus Christi Cougars are asserting themselves as the top basketball team in the four division Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) with an unblemished record of nine games.

As the leaders in the John Bosco Division West, the Cougars rolled over Holy Cross Crusaders, 43-14, along with an airtight defense. It was the Cougars' fifth straight win and also upped their overall record to 9-0. Mike Kendzicky topped the scoring with 12 points for the victors.

Corpus Christi clinched their division, with one game to play in a competition, which nipped Christ the King, 36-35, with a late fourth-period drive. Scoring honors with 14 points apiece were shared by Jordan Carillo of Holy Family and Aaron Zeese of the Kings.

The St. Thomas Spartans of Elkhart clinched the John Bosco East division by edging second-place St. Joseph of South Bend in a 46-42 white-knuckler finish in overtime.

The Spartans kept their division mark unbeaten at 6-0. Once again, two players shared scoring honors with 14 points, Michael Kibiloski of St. Thomas and John Parnowski of St. Joseph.

Mishawaka St. Bavo clinched the Martin de Porres East division by beating St. Pius of Granger, 37-25.

Jordan Milligan scored 18 points to pace St. Bavo, and Nick Moskolia popped in 14 points.

Chris Shaw of St. John the Baptist topped the day's scoring with a sizzling 24-point performance to lead his team in a hair-raising 48-46 victory over St. Jude. St. Jude is the Martin de Porres West leader. The game, won by St. John, however, made the division tied

between the two schools going into the last week of play.

David Hale Halter poured in 18 points, and teammate Trace Dowling tallied three points for St. Jude in a game that saw the lead change hands seven times.

In other games, Mishawaka St. Joseph downed Mishawaka St. Monica, 30-11, as Tim Wilson looped in 16 points for the winners; St. Michael Plymouth won over St. Adalbert, 26-13, and St. Matthew eked out a 31-30 win over St. Anthony.

Five games were played in the Colors Division. St. Joseph Blue defeated St. Matthew Black, 39-22. Holy Family Blue beat Christ the King Blue, 41-26. St. Anthony Maroon defeated St. Thomas Gold, 35-33. Christ the King won over Corpus Christi, 36-27. St. Thomas White defeated St. Thomas Maroon, 30-29.

Standings as of Feb. 12

Bosco Division (East)

Division Overall		
St. Thomas	6-0	7-3
St. Joseph (SB)	3-2	4-5
St. Anthony	1-4	2-7
St. Matthew	1-5	2-8

Bosco Division (West)

Corpus Christi	5-0	9-0
Holy Family	3-2	7-2
Christ the King	2-3	6-3
Holy Cross	0-5	0-9

Martin de Porres (East)

St. Bavo	5-0	7-2
St. Joseph (Mish)	3-2	4-5
St. Pius	2-3	3-6
St. Monica	0-5	1-8

Martin de Porres (West)

St. Jude	4-1	8-1
St. John	4-1	8-1
St. Michael	2-3	5-4
St. Adalbert	0-5	0-9

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Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend



EOE

Dwenger students promote chastity in middle schools

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Peer pressure and cultural trends can have a powerful influence on the choices made by American teens. Media promotion of drug and alcohol use and promiscuity has taken its toll on the moral fiber of today's adolescents. Teenage pregnancy, abortion and sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) have been a threat to this generation of teens for some time. One Catholic high school has adopted a proactive defense to change all that.

Bishop Dwenger High School has begun its second year in presenting "A Promise to Keep: God's Gift of Human Sexuality," a peer mentoring chastity program, to sixth, seventh and eighth grade students in area elementary schools. Nancy Yorke, service coordinator at Bishop Dwenger High School, describes the program as a powerful use of positive peer pressure.

It began four years ago, says Yorke, when she was asked to visit the program in progress in the Indianapolis diocesan schools, where it has run for 12 years. After bringing her positive impression back to Dwenger and Bishop John M. D'Arcy, she was encouraged to propose a grant to Our Sunday Visitor, who now funds the program. The pilot year for this unique educational series began in 2004 with 18 student mentors in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The program boasts a specifically scripted curriculum, part of the Office of Catholic Education's Religion Curriculum Guide and the Guidelines for Sexuality Education in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, but includes a personal touch. Participating junior and senior students from Bishop Dwenger classes are nominated by teachers and staff not only for their quality of character but because they are sexually pure. Nearly 25 students form teams of three to five and after choosing topics of interest within the series each student works with an adult coach to memorize the material. Topics of interest include character development, friendship and understanding peer pressure, media influence, assertiveness techniques, consequences, linking drugs to sex and love in action.

A unique aspect of the program is the personal student testimony. "The strongest point is the witness of the students. They weave their own stories of chastity into the memorized material. It is very powerful," says Yorke.

Senior peer mentor, Erika Roy, agrees, "We incorporate a lot of personal experience. The students like hearing personal stories from ones closer to their age." Roy presents linking drugs to sex and says she enjoys her participation in

the program because it "shows them someone cares about them and their decisions."

Each one-hour presentation, to which staff and parents are encouraged to attend, begins with a short discussion on a definition of chastity and a personal testimony of the peer mentor's choice to remain chaste. Topic-specific material is presented in Scripture readings, activities, discussions and movies.

Senior Ryan Briscoe, who presents love in action, says with conviction, "It's (chastity) not some old goofy thing. It's very real. We are all called to chastity." He, with the other two mentors on his team, sees value in high school students talking to the younger students and is enthusiastic about being part of the program.

Senior Nick Andert, presenting media, says, "I think the program helps the students see things they may not have thought of before in the media. They don't expect the great influence media has." He is proud to share his main reason for remaining chaste, "The love for my future wife — I don't want to give myself to someone else and take that away from my wife."

Nancy Yorke reports that each of Bishop Dwenger's 13 feeder schools has the opportunity to schedule the presentation, which she hopes will reinforce what is being taught in the students' homes, during the months of November, February and March.

St. Charles Parish and St. John, New Haven have participated for two years with positive reviews from students and staff alike.

"I am proud of the mentors and the help we get from the schools. It's good for the staff and parents to see the excitement from the mentors as they travel," says Yorke.

In addition to presenting at the scheduled elementary schools, the mentors also bring a "short version" of the program to the entire freshman class of Bishop Dwenger each fall. This year several other elementary schools in the diocese have shown interest and Yorke also reports that Marian High School in Mishawaka and Saint Joseph's High School in South Bend are considering adopting this diocesan-wide project for their areas as well.

Yorke, students and staff are well pleased with the development of this project in their area schools. "We have joined the countercultural sexual revolution," she says. "The students are strong in their 'no' to premarital sex. Our motto is 'We are strong on chastity.'"

For more information on the "Promise to Keep" program please contact Nancy Yorke at Bishop Dwenger High School at (260) 496-4700.

"I don't want to give myself to someone else and take that away from my wife."

NICK ANDERT



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May 11 — St. Jude Parish

Upcoming South Bend Area Initial Sessions

March 8 — St. Pius X Parish

May 17 — Christ the King Parish

July 11 — St. Matthew Cathedral

NFP sessions are offered for both engaged and married couples. The cost for materials and the three session course is just \$25 per couple. To register, contact the Office of Family Life at (574) 234-0687.

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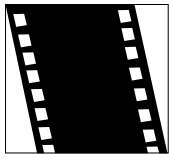
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MOVIE CAPSULES

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

"Curious George" (Universal)

Delightful and disarming animated adventure based on the beloved children's books by A.H. and Margaret Rey, about an inquisitive chimp - George -

who befriends a museum curator (voiced by Will Ferrell) searching for a legendary idol for his failing museum, and who eventually stows away, leaving his jungle home for New York, where much monkey mischief ensues. Directed by Matthew O'Callaghan, the simply told but visually vibrant film stays faithful to the gentle tone of the books, imparting a warmhearted message about friendship, which though geared toward youngsters adults will find charming. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-I - general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G - general audiences. All ages admitted.

"Final Destination 3" (New Line)

Mindless third installment in the horror franchise, this time involving a group of high school students (including Mary Elizabeth Winstead and Ryan Merriman) who escape death by getting off a roller coaster moments before it derails killing everyone else on board, only to find out you can't cheat the Grim Reaper as each survivor subsequently meets a gory demise. Little more than a tedious series of gratuitously grisly fatalities, director James Wong's film tries to out-gross its predecessors with increasingly intricate ways to kill its young cast, using them as mere props for sadistic sight gags. Excessive graphic and bloody violence, including impalings and dismemberments, partial frontal nudi-

ty, much rough and sexually crude language, some profanity and recurring crass humor. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is O - morally

offensive. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R - restricted.

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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.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Jesus Christ Superstar

South Bend — The musical "Jesus Christ Superstar," presented by Curtain Up! Theatricals will have four performances at the Century Center, Bendix Theater on Friday, April 7, at 8 p.m.; Saturday, April 8, at 2 and 8 p.m.; and Sunday, April 9, at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 each and are available at the St. Vincent de Paul Society Thrift Store, 3408 Ardmore Trail, or Curtain Up! Theatricals, 1114 N. Michigan St. or at the door. For information call (574) 234-6000.

Daughters of Isabella help Catholic Charities

South Bend — The Daughters of Isabella Notre Dame Circle 572 will work on a special project for the Catholic Charities at their meeting on Monday, March 6. Members are asked to bring sewing notions, yarns and costume jewelry. Also needed are bedspreads, sheets, mattress pads and other scrap material. A corporate communion will be celebrated at St. Stanislaus Church at the 9:30 a.m. Mass Sunday, March 12.

Little Flower Holy Hour

Fort Wayne — Father Daryl Rybicki, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne, will celebrate the Holy Hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 7:15 p.m.

St. Adalbert, St. Casimir host retreat

South Bend — St. Adalbert and St. Casimir parishes will host the Catholics Alive! mini-retreat 101 — Life in the Body of Christ. Retreats will be held at the St. Casimir Annex on Sunday, Feb. 19, March 12 and April 30, from 3 to 8 p.m. and will include a meal. Child care is available. Call (574) 288-5708 to register or for information.

Christ the King Parish plans retreat

South Bend — Father Kevin Rousseau, CSC, will speak on "Eucharist is Living" at a Lenten retreat at Christ the King Parish, 52473 State Road 933, March 5-7, at 7 p.m. Call (574) 272-3113 for information.

FUNDRAISERS

Bishop Luers Athletic Boosters host fish fry

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers Athletic Boosters will be having a fish fry on Friday, March 3, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the Bishop Luers cafeteria. There will also be the ever popular drive-through service. Adults are \$7; seniors \$6; children, 11 and under, \$5; and preschool, five and under free. Price includes

fish, slaw, potatoes, rolls, beverages and dessert. This is an all-you-can-eat affair.

Jonah fish fry and salad bar

South Bend — Corpus Christi Parish will have a fish fry and salad bar on Friday, March 10, from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Adults and carry-out \$7, children 6-12 \$3, children 5 and under free. Tickets available at the rectory or at the door.

St. Louis Academy host fish fry by Country Chef

New Haven — A fish and tenderloin dinner will be Friday, Feb. 24, from 4 to 7 p.m. at St. Louis Besancon, 4 miles east of US 30 and I-469 on Lincoln Hwy East. Adults \$7, children 6-11 \$4 and children 5 and under free. Carry-out available.

Family pasta night

South Bend — St. Matthew Cathedral's athletic association will host family pasta night on Friday, Feb. 24, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the school gym, 1015 E. Dayton St. Adults \$7, seniors \$6, students \$4 and children under 2 are free. All tickets reduced 50 cents if purchased in advance at the school.

St. Hedwig hosts card party

South Bend — The rosary society of St. Hedwig Parish will have a card party on Sunday, March 5, at 1 p.m. in the Hedwig Memorial Center, corner of Scott and Western Ave. Donation of \$4.50 is needed by Feb. 19 by calling (574) 273-1484 or (574) 287-9880. Bring your own cards.

Fish and chicken dinner planned

Roanoke — A broasted fish and chicken dinner prepared by Country Chef will be Saturday, Feb. 25, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children 6-8 and free for those 5 and under. Carry-out available.

Fundraiser, silent auction planned

South Bend — St. Augustine Catholic Church, 1501 W. Washington St., will have a silent auction on Saturday, Feb. 25, to raise money for the projects of the Augustus Tolton Society and the church. Tickets are \$20 and include a reception at 5:15 p.m., dinner of authentic New Orleans food at 6 p.m., and auction. Closes at 8 p.m.

RAFFLES

Truck raffle supports school

Decatur — A truck raffle will award a new 2006 Chevy

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Mary C. Reith, 93, Queen of Angels

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Donald G. Schroth Sr., 72, Our Lady of Good Hope

Burton Pyle, 78, St. Vincent de Paul

Donald J. Tierney Jr., 75, St. Peter

Granger

Priscilla Graczyk, 66, St. Pius X

Mary M. Daufenbach, 88, St. Pius X

Huntington

Ben Webster, 87, Ss. Peter and Paul

New Haven

Charles T. Didion, 70, St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame

Brother Thomas E. Durney, CSC, 80, Holy Cross Village

Plymouth

Leon R. Verhaeghe, 62, St. Michael

South Bend

Frederick L. Grzeskowiak, 58, St. Hedwig

Henry S. Gromski, 90, Holy Family

Michael E. Keszei, 81, St. Jude

Walkerton

Mary E. McCallum, 63, St. Patrick

Silverado 1500 or Ford F-150, or \$15,000 cash. \$1,000 in cash prizes will also be awarded. The price for one ticket is \$20 or 6 for \$100 (all six must be in the same name). The drawing will be held on April 23, the winner need not be present to win. Tickets are available from any St. Joseph School family and several local businesses or by calling the school office at (260) 724-2765.

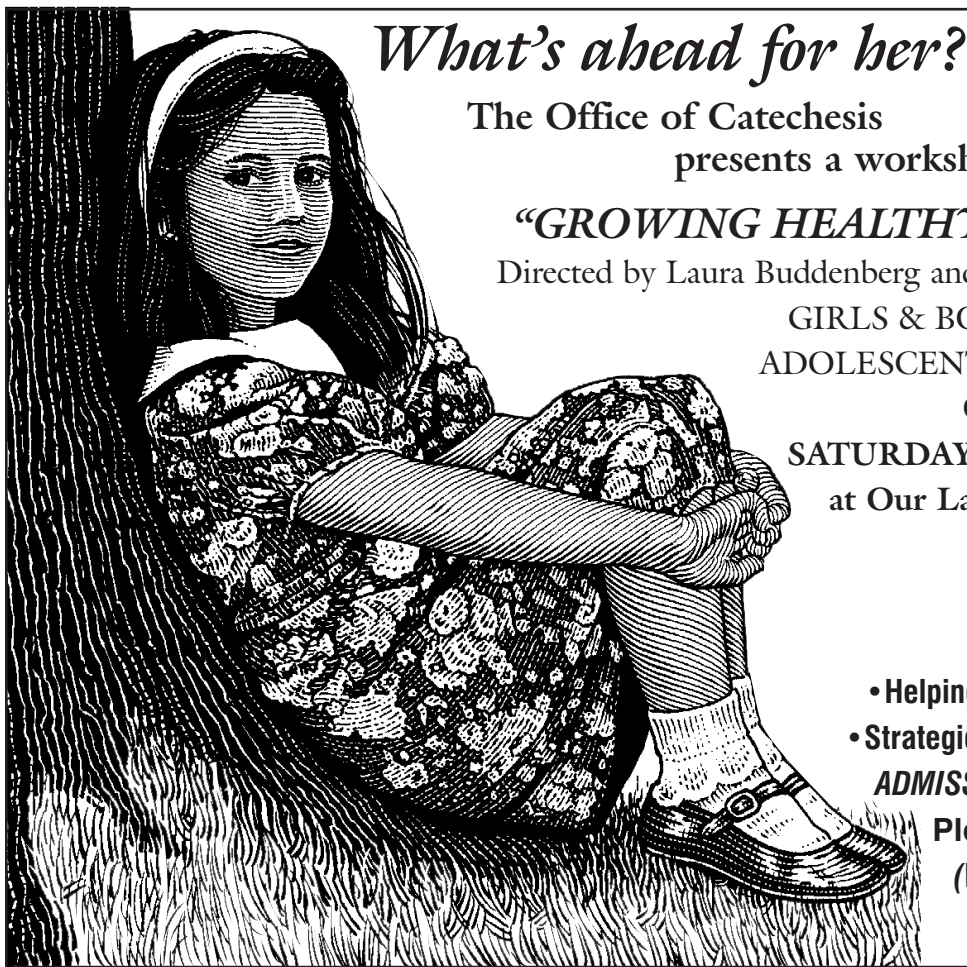
St. Aloysius Knights host raffle

Yoder — The St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus Council 13142 is hosting a raffle with proceeds used towards the loan on classroom and activity center addition. Total cash prizes add up to \$30,000. Only 300 tickets will be sold. First prize is \$10,000; second prize is \$5,000; third prize is \$3,000; fourth prize

is \$2,000. The drawing is scheduled for Feb. 26 if all tickets are sold. If tickets remain to be sold at that date, add 30 days for drawing. Tickets are \$100 each. Additional rules on back of entry apply. For information, contact Tim Sorg at (260) 622-4861 or Steve Heckber at (260) 622-7796.

Christ Child Society plans raffle

South Bend — The Christ Child Society is sponsoring a 50/50 cash raffle. Proceeds will be split 50/50 between the society and pro-rated evenly for five drawings. Tickets are \$100 each and will be sold through March 29 when the drawings will take place at the Sacred Heart Parish Center. For information or tickets contact the Christ Child Center at (574) 288-6028.



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(We need to know the numbers and how many will need Spanish translation)

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OR CALL JANICE AT: 260-399-1411 In the South Bend area, call Sue Gerard at 574-259-9994 ext. 230

OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE IN WARSAW, TAKE ROUTE 15 SOUTH OFF U.S. 30

Ray Guarendi to speak at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Dr. Ray Guarendi, noted author, psychologist and public speaker, will present a three-part series on parenting that promises to be educational as well as entertaining. Hosted by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, Dr. Ray, as he is nationally known, will speak on issues from discipline to family faith on Feb. 19, 20 and 21 beginning at 7 p.m. in the parish hall.

This much sought-after speaker is known for his dynamic presence and humor. The parenting information and personal stories he passionately offers covers toddlers to teens with insight gleaned from his background in psychology and role as parent of 10 children.

He was raised in Canton, Ohio, where he attended public elementary and high schools. Guarendi attended Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, while he performed in night clubs singing and playing the organ to earn his keep. After acquiring his doctorate in clinical psychology, he worked in a mental health center where he soon found the majority of parents with whom he worked were "insecure, tentative and afraid to be par-

ents." His clinical practice evolved into working primarily with parents as "change agents" rather than working with their children. The insights he gained in his clinical and community agency work led him in 1985 to write his first book on parenting, "You're a Better Parent Than You Think." The book, now offered in a paperback, video and audio series, offers the reader down-to-earth guidance in restoring the confidence needed to raise a child well.

During the early years as clinical psychologist Guarendi met and married his wife, Randi, of 22 years. After years of being unable to conceive a child, they decided to adopt. The Guarendi family has grown to include 10 adopted children ranging in age from six to 18. "We adopted the first, then the second. When we realized our willingness to adopt from any race we said 'let's do it again,'" says Guarendi. The family resides in Guarendi's home town of Canton, Ohio.

Regarding his Catholic faith Guarendi freely admits that he "left the church for about 10 years." During the early years of their marriage, the Guarendis worshipped in non-denominational churches until Randi began to

home school the children. "As she taught religion to the children, she looked at the Catholic faith and saw truth and depth," says Guarendi. "She became a convert and is a more devout and thoughtful Catholic than I am."

He believes his conversion back to the church was inspired by his wife. Together they are raising their brood of 10 "immersed in the faith" while being actively involved in their home parish of Little Flower.

Soon after the publication of his first book, Guarendi was asked to speak to groups around the area. In subsequent years, he reduced his clinical hours and eventually moved out of the mental health center. During that time, he appeared on several national radio and television programs including "Oprah" and "CBS This Morning."

Currently, Guarendi travels nationally from January to May speaking to a variety of groups including schools, churches, hospitals, national conventions and more. He enjoys presenting to all groups but says, "My bread and butter are the church groups because the people are seriously involved in their faith and they come to hear." Guarendi presents

his insights on parenting skills secularly but more recently has had more requests to speak to Catholic audiences. "My talks are traditional and moral. When it comes to faith — thank God I've come to understand how critical it is in everything." He believes that as his public speaking grows God allows him to

speak more boldly about faith and uses him in the mission field.

In addition to his speaking schedule, Guarendi now boasts three books, including "Discipline That Lasts a Lifetime" and "Back

to the Family" and an audio tape series titled, "Raising Kids Right: Giving Parenting back to Parents." He also writes a syndicated national column on parenting and is a regular guest on Catholic Answers Live. His national radio show, "The Doctor Is In," can be heard each weekday from noon to 2 p.m. on Fort Wayne's new all Catholic radio station, Redeemer Radio, 1450 AM.

Expectations for his audience at St. Elizabeth Parish — "I hope they don't doze off," he says. More seriously, he hopes, "If they come, I hope to help parents become more confident, more in authority and have much more peace of mind in the work they're doing."

Dr. Guarendi will present "Back to the Family" on Feb. 19 with results from a three-year study on families. The Feb. 20 talk, "Standing Strong," promises to empower the parent with humor and personal stories. "Why Catholic" presents the doctor's personal faith story and the role faith plays in strong parenting. The public is welcome. For more information call St. Elizabeth office (260) 432-0268 or visit Dr. Guarendi's Web site at www.drray.com.

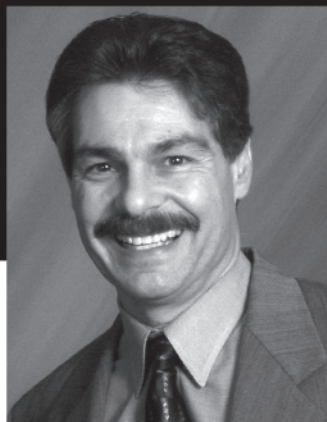
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DR. RAY GUARENDI

"Back to the Family — Surviving Parenthood with Love & Laughter"
with Dr. Ray Guarendi

FEB. 19, 20, 21 — 7-8:30pm

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Attention Parents!**



**St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church
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Dr. Ray Guarendi-noted author, national radio host, clinical psychologist, and father of 10 is coming to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church for a series of presentations on parenting. His aim is to help you

raise great kids and bolster your self-confidence parents. He'll cover parenting and families from direction, from toddlers to teens, child discipline parenting skills, and adoption to adolescence.

**Sunday, Feb. 19- "Back to the Family"- 7:00pm
Monday, Feb. 20- "Standing Strong"- 7:00pm
Tuesday, Feb. 21- "Why Catholic?"- 7:00pm**

Find out more about Dr. Ray Guarendi, listen to his national radio call-in show "THE DR. IS IN" on Redeemer Radio 1450AM from Noon to 2PM daily, or visit his website at www.drray.com

Please call 260-432-0268 with questions.

ENJOY LENT with *Fish by Ed Fox*

March

	Fort Wayne
1 St. Patrick Church	2120 South Harrison Street
3 St. Jude Church	State at Randallia
3 Queen of Angels Church	1500 West State
10 Good Shepherd UMC	4700 Vance Avenue
10 St. Joseph Church	(Bluffton, Indiana)
17 St. Aloysius Church	14623 Bluffton Road
17 St. Rose Church	206 Summit (<i>Monroeville</i>)
24 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church	10700 Aboite Center Road
24 Our Lady of Good Hope Church	7215 St. Joe Road
31 St. Henry Church	2929 East Paulding Road
31 St. Joseph UMC	6004 Reed Road

April

14 American Legion Post 420	112 East South (<i>Monroeville</i>)
14 Decatur Masons	(Decatur, Indiana)



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