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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Cardinal Turkson of Ghana visits diocese

Holy Cross College honors friend and collaborator at commencement



MATT CASHORE

Cardinal Peter Turkson of Cape Coast, Ghana sits with Bishop John M. D'Arcy at Holy Cross College's commencement ceremony on May 13, where he delivered the address. The cardinal's visit stemmed largely from the rapport developed by the presence of the Holy Cross Congregation in Ghana and the college's International Learning Experience program, which sponsors student pilgrimages to Ghana and other countries.

BY DON CLEMMER

SOUTH BEND — A flourishing international relationship received a major affirmation May 13 when Cardinal Peter Turkson of Cape Coast, Ghana received an honorary degree and delivered the main address at the 39th annual commencement exercises of Holy Cross College of Notre Dame.

"You have looked beyond the city of Notre Dame, of South Bend, and indeed beyond the country of the United States to faraway Africa and to the small coastal town of Cape Coast for a guest of honor, a guest speaker. You have done the church and the people of Ghana proud," the cardinal said to those in attendance, including students, faculty, staff, family and friends of the university community, the vicar general of the Congregation of the Holy Cross and Bishop John M. D'Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The cardinal's visit was more or less a direct result of the International Learning Experience, a program begun in 2000 by Holy Cross College Director of Campus Ministry Robert Kloska that facilitates student pilgrimages to Ghana, Peru and — starting this winter — Bangladesh.

The trips to Ghana, in particular, include meetings between the students and Cardinal Turkson, during which they have the opportunity to discuss issues of the church with him, just one of many benefits of the trips.

"We go, and we might think we are going to serve, but we come back having been served in having learned so much," said Mike Griffin, professor

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Science that tampers with human life threatens humanity

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Medical and scientific progress becomes a threat to humanity when people think they can fill in for God and tamper with creation, specifically human life, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The human embryo "must always originate from an act of love" between a man and a woman and "already be treated as a person," he said in a May 13 address to members of the Pontifical Council for the Family.

Scientific and technological advancement in the field of bioethics "becomes a threat when man loses sense of his limits and, basically, claims to supersede God the creator," Pope Benedict said.

Council members met May 11-13 at the Vatican to discuss the achievements, challenges, and current and future projects of the department founded 25 years ago by Pope John Paul II.

Two major themes under discussion at the council's plenary assembly were the sanctity of life and marriage.

Procreation outside the loving act

between a man and woman bonded in marriage not only ignores God's plan for creation, it degrades the human body and turns it into "merchandise, a plain thing," Pope Benedict said.

He praised unmarried men and women, especially young people who were "rediscovering the value of chastity, which appears more and more as a sure guarantee of authentic love."

The pope then urged married Christian couples to be open to life and show "with courageous coherence that procreation is the fruit of love." He said sometimes it seemed that families are afraid of "life, paternity and maternity."

"It is necessary to give them back confidence so that they can continue to fulfill their noble mission of procreation in love," he said.

More couples having more children would help "stimulate politicians and lawmakers to safeguard the rights of the family," he said.

The family is under threat by laws trying to give civil unions, which reject the obli-

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EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS GATHER FOR MASS



TIM JOHNSON

Bishop John M. D'Arcy invited eighth grade students from Fort Wayne diocesan schools to love one another as based on the Gospel reading at the graduates' liturgy. The Mass on May 10 was themed "Opening Our Hearts to Your Will." In his homily, the bishop encouraged the students to use the instruments God has given us to love one another — baptism, confirmation, reconciliation and Eucharist.

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PUBLISHER: Bishop John M. D'Arcy

EDITOR: Tim Johnson
ASSISTANT EDITOR: Don Clemmer
STAFF WRITER: Kay Cozad

Editorial Department

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan
FREELANCE WRITERS: Ann Carey,
Michelle Castleman, Elmer J. Danch,
Michelle Donaghey, Bonnie Elbersson,
Denise Fedorow, Sr. Margie Lavinis,
CSC, Jennifer Ochstein, Theresa
Thomas, Kristi Ward

Business Department

BUSINESS MANAGER: Kathy Denice
AD GRAPHICS DIRECTOR: Mark Weber
BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION: Kathy Voirol

Advertising Sales

Carol Eifert (Fort Wayne area)
(260) 456-2824
Judy Kearns (South Bend area)
(574) 234-0687

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456-2824. Fax: (260) 744-1473.

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

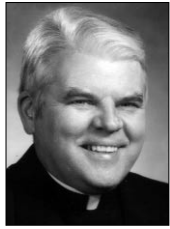
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Cardinal Turkson makes an impact on the diocese



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

A new friend from Africa

Cardinal Peter Turkson was in our diocese this week. I believe he is one of the youngest cardinals in the world and a man of great distinction. He holds a doctorate in biblical studies from what is popularly called the Biblicum, the Pontifical Institute for Biblical Studies in Rome. He is the archbishop of the Diocese of Cape Coast in Africa. The Holy Cross Brothers have been in Ghana for over 50 years, and their influence there has been profound.

For the cardinal, it was a kind of pilgrimage to the headquarters of the Brothers of the Midwest Province. The Holy Cross Brothers are making great gains from the point of view of vocations in Ghana. Brother Paul, who is their superior, accompanied the cardinal.

I also met Father John Page, who is the vicar general of the brothers, stationed at their general headquarters in Rome. There was a special moment in the visit. An older brother who had served in Ghana came to visit the cardinal and bent before him expecting to kiss his ring. The cardinal, in a gesture of gratitude for what the holy and dedicated brothers had meant to his diocese and to his native country, bent down on his knee to venerate this older brother.

The cardinal celebrated Mass for the senior citizens of Holy Cross Village and also the baccalaureate Mass for the graduates. I was privileged to be with him for the graduation where he gave the baccalaureate address and received an honorary degree.

The next morning, he was the principal celebrant at a Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral Parish before a full church with so many children and families. We had a most beautiful and prayerful liturgy. Cardinal Turkson presented an excellent homily. In the beginning, he explained the history of evangelization in his country.

There are many vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life in Ghana, but the cardinal spoke about the increased realization of the need for careful discernment. He even started a program where the young men would be required to leave the seminary for one year prior to their ordination to the diaconate. They are told to get jobs, work in the regular economy and live on their own. This is especially important as so many of them enter the seminary at a very young age.

Students to Ghana

As part of the excellent education at Holy Cross College, students have the opportunity of going to places around the globe where the brothers have been missionaries and educators. Many go to Latin America, and a significant number go every year to Ghana. The young woman who gave a moving valedictory address spoke of it as one of the main components of her education at Holy Cross College.

I am very grateful to Brother Richard Gilman, CSC, and Daniel Fitzpatrick, chair of the board of Holy Cross College, for the invitation to the cardinal, but also for the great work they have done in strengthening, academically and spiritually, this important institution in our diocese.

The graduation season

The visit with the cardinal was in the midst of impressive confirmations at St. Jude, St. John the Baptist and Christ the King, South Bend, and St. Jude and Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne. An intense time to be sure.

Now comes the graduation season. It is encouraging to see smaller Catholic institutions of higher learning growing among us. I refer to the University of Saint Francis, Fort Wayne, where I was privileged to celebrate the baccalaureate Mass. I did my best to reflect on Saint Francis and what it meant to have studied in an institution under his inspiration. Then came Holy Cross College, and next week the University of Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College. After that comes the graduations at our four high schools, which grow in importance each year.

Presbyteral council

A meeting with our Priests' Council is a special joy. The priests certainly speak freely and with openness. Here are some of the things we discussed this past week.

Ministry to youth

While we are all gratified with the excellent religion departments and the sacramental life at our four Catholic high schools, it must be admitted that more needs to be done on the parish level to reach the very large number of teenagers who are in public high schools. Some of our parishes have excellent, effective and strong programs of youth ministry, and one way this is evident is the interest of those programs in vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life. Looking at the whole diocese, however, we see a great need for further efforts to reach more young people.

At this most recent meeting, in addition to Steve Weigand and Chris Culver from our Office of Youth Ministry, we brought in a number of lay people who are working in our parishes. At a workshop which I conducted at our recent FaithFest event, sponsored by the Office of Youth Ministry, I was struck by the goodness and sincerity and also the challenges presented by some of our lay leaders. On short notice, I asked them to join us. We had Mark and Jean Wagner from St. Dominic, Bremen; Mary Arend from St. Gaspar del Bufalo, Rome City; and Jackie Oberhausen from Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne.

We were all impressed with Matt Coonan, one of our seminarians, who has worked in youth ministry, both in St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne and in Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne. Matt drove the long distance from the Josephinum seminary to be with us. His brief presentation on the essence of youth ministry was especially impressive. Also with us were Jesse Martinez from St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, and Tara Schmitt, who leads an excellent effort at St. Pius X Parish, Granger. I was pleased

that there were so many from small rural parishes, which definitely need the help of the diocese in reaching our young people. The caliber of these lay ministers to youth is impressive.

This mixture of laity and priests together was impressive and we hope good results will come from it. Youth are more and more open to Christ and the church. The influence of Pope John Paul II continues, and I intend to place this concern in my prayer as we approach our year of jubilee in 2007. I am sure John Paul will help us if we ask him.

Wells of Hope

This is a program of evangelization specifically geared toward those who have left the practice of their faith. After much consultation, it has been put together by the members of the Office of Spiritual Development — Sister Jolene Heiden, SSND, Sister Mary Brooks, CSC, and Ginny Kohrman. It will involve the training of people to be prepared to visit those who no longer attend church. It was received enthusiastically with interest and some recommendations from our priests. Linda Furge, who is coordinator for the observance of our jubilee year, has worked extensively on this effort.

A teachable moment and an opportunity

That is the way our priests are looking at the forthcoming movie entitled "The Da Vinci Code." At the Priests' Council, Father Daniel Scheidt informed us that he is putting together a series of lectures, which will present a clear response to the points put forth in the book and, presumably, the movie. From scholarship of the last 100 years, we know clearly how the Gospels were formed. We know the efforts from the Fathers of the Church and the early councils which brought forth the church's definitions of the nature of Christ: one person, two natures. We know the evidence in the Scriptures and the faith of the church in the divinity of Christ. This book, while admittedly fictional, has been harmful to many.

Father Thomas Jones, CSC, who had cooked some delicious steaks for Fathers Ronald Tripi, CSC, Neil Wack, CSC, Jim Fitzpatrick and me after our recent confirmation at Christ the King, explained that they had taken the same approach; namely, to use the book as an opportunity to teach the truth.

The Council of Priests suggested that I send one of the books of Amy Welborn to our priests. Amy lives in our diocese, attends St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne, I believe, and has written a number of excellent books on this subject. I would recommend that everyone read "De-coding Da Vinci." It can be obtained at our Cathedral Bookstore for just under \$10. Our bookstore can be reached at (260) 422-4611. It reads well, and everything is answered there. I would urge everyone to read this book, which is selling like hot-cakes all across the country. It is published by Our Sunday Visitor.

The spring moves on and I look forward to all of it. Now if only the weather clears, we will be in good shape. Three out of four over the Yankees. A sign of hope.

See you all next week.



CNS PHOTO/MAX ROSSI, REUTERS

A statue of Our Lady of Fatima is carried in procession from Castel Sant'Angelo in Rome to St. Peter's Square at the Vatican May 13. Thousands of pilgrims marked the anniversary of the first apparition of the Virgin Mary to three shepherd children at Fatima, Portugal, in 1917 and also the 25th anniversary of the May 13, 1981, assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II's life.

Vatican marks place in St. Peter's Square where late pope was shot

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican observed the 25th anniversary of the shooting of Pope John Paul II with a Marian pilgrimage and the laying of a marble marker at the place he was shot.

In a message to participants, Pope Benedict XVI said the memorial stone in St. Peter's Square would remind visitors of that "dramatic event" that left his predecessor near death.

The white stone was laid into the pavement where Pope John Paul was riding in his open jeep May 13, 1981, when Turkish assailant Mehmet Ali Agca shot him in the hand and lower abdomen. The memorial recalled the date of the shooting in Roman numerals.

A similar marker was placed inside the Vatican at the entrance to the Vatican's health center, where the pope received initial medical care before being rushed to a Rome hospital.

The Vatican commemoration featured the release of hundreds of blue and yellow balloons — the colors of the late pope's crest — and ended with a fireworks display above St. Peter's Square.

More than 10,000 pilgrims

came to the square to pray in the late afternoon, the time of the papal shooting 25 years earlier, and laid flowers around the stone marker.

Celebrating Mass in the basilica, Cardinal Camillo Ruini, papal vicar of Rome, asked for prayers for the late pope's beatification.

His words were met by long applause.

A statue of Our Lady of Fatima was flown in from the Fatima sanctuary in Portugal for the occasion and brought by helicopter to the pilgrimage assembly site. Pilgrims then carried it in procession to the square.

The shooting took place on the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, and Pope John Paul always credited Mary with saving his life.

Pope Benedict recalled the late pope's special devotion to Mary in a midday talk May 14. Addressing thousands of people from his apartment window above St.

Peter's Square, he said Pope John Paul had always felt that Mary's "maternal hand" had miraculously saved him from death.

The late pope's entire pontificate was marked by the Marian apparitions to three children in Fatima, Portugal, in 1917, and by what Mary foretold in her mes-

sages to the young visionaries, Pope Benedict said.

"The message she gave them, in continuity with the message of Lourdes, was a strong call to prayer and conversion," the pope said.

"That is a truly prophetic message, considering that the 20th century was afflicted by

unprecedented destruction caused by wars and totalitarian regimes, as well as by extensive persecution against the church," he said.

The pope prayed that Mary would continue to watch over the church and all humanity, especially families, mothers and children.

The shooting took place on the feast of Our Lady of Fatima, and Pope John Paul always credited Mary with saving his life.

German-born pope's visit to Poland will be pastoral, personal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The memory of Pope John Paul II will be present throughout Pope Benedict XVI's May 25-28 trip to Poland, but the German-born pope's pastoral visit also will focus on his own background.

Pope Benedict will visit Pope

John Paul's birthplace and will celebrate Mass in Krakow, where his predecessor was ordained to the priesthood and served as archbishop. The new pope also will visit Marian shrines dear to the heart of his predecessor and likely will hear pleas to beatify Pope John Paul quickly. At the same time, he will encourage Poles to keep Pope John Paul's memory alive by living the faith as the late pontiff would want

them to do.

Pope Benedict approved the theme chosen by the Polish bishops for the visit, "Be Strong in the Faith." But internationally, the key moment of Pope Benedict's four-day trip will be his May 28 visit to the Nazi's Auschwitz death camp and his prayer service at the nearby site of the Birkenau concentration camp.

STATEMENT BY BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Instruction for holy Communion outside of Mass

April 4, 2006

My Dear Brother Priests,

The Introduction for the Roman Ritual, "Holy Communion Outside Mass," reminds us that "sacramental Communion received during Mass is the more perfect participation in the eucharistic celebration. The eucharistic sign is expressed more clearly when the faithful receive the body of the Lord from the same sacrifice after the Communion of the priest."

Thus, the use of frequent Communion services can lead to the erroneous equating by the faithful of the celebration of Mass and a Communion service. This would be dangerous development and would serve to undermine the true meaning and understanding of the sacrificial action of the Mass. Therefore, Communion services should be used rarely.

It seems that in a few parishes in our diocese, the use of weekday Communion services has become a regular occurrence. The recently-issued instruction "Redemptionis Sacramentum" from the Congregation of Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments addresses this issue. In paragraph 166, it states:

"Likewise, especially if holy Communion is distributed during such celebrations, the diocesan bishop, to whose exclusive competence this matter pertains, must not easily grant permission for such celebrations to be held on weekdays, especially in places where it was possible or would be possible to have a celebration of Mass on the preceding or the following Sunday. Priests are therefore earnestly requested to celebrate Mass daily for the people in one of the churches entrusted to their care."

Priests should do everything possible to ensure the weekday celebration of Mass in their parishes on days off and vacation days. This can be done especially by soliciting the help of other priests, but on those weekdays when it is simply not possible to have Mass because of the legitimate absence of the priest, the Mass times of neighboring parishes should be published.

I sought the advice of our Presbyteral Council on this matter at our most recent meeting. Indeed, it was discussed at a meeting of the previous council. The council and I were in strong agreement that we should issue guidelines for all our parishes on this matter. The matter was also discussed at our Diocesan Liturgical Commission and they were in full agreement.

Having accepted this advice and noting that "Redemptionis Sacramentum" makes the diocesan bishop the sole regulator of the use of communion services, I issue the following norms for this diocese.

Norms for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend concerning the use of Communion services on weekdays

1. Communion services are not to be held on Sundays or weekdays without the permission of the diocesan bishop. (see "Redemptionis Sacramentum," 166)

2. This does not apply to Communion services for the sick and elderly in nursing homes or other health care facilities which are to be done according to the norms in the Roman Ritual in the "Pastoral Care of the Sick." Permission is also given for Communion services to be held for prisoners should the need arise.

3. General permission is hereby granted for weekday Communion services in parishes during Priests' Days of Continuing Education and Diocesan Priests' Retreats.

4. Should other occasions arise when the pastor of a parish feels that a Communion service is necessary, he should write to the diocesan bishop for permission

5. Communion services should be conducted according to the Roman ritual in "Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass." The minister of Communion should be, in order of preference, a deacon, an instituted acolyte (such as a seminarian) or an extraordinary minister of holy Communion.

Proper instruction is central. Our people need to understand the nature of the eucharistic action, the Lord's sacrifice remembered and made sacramentally, but truly, present. Thank God, we have enough priests to do this on a daily basis in our parishes. Also, many of our retired priests are willing, and even eager, to offer daily Mass in parishes.

Some parishes have begun to offer morning and evening prayers, which have a central and ancient place in the life of the church, and these are always to be recommended.

I make these directives, which are faithful to the liturgical documents of the Church, effective on June 18, 2006, the feast of the Body and Blood of the Lord. This will give us the opportunity, when necessary, to explain the true nature of the Eucharist and the close link, which must be preserved whenever possible, between the reception of holy Communion and the Lord's sacrifice.

I thank all of you for your observance of these important matters and for your devotion to the holy Eucharist which you show every day of your lives.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,
Most Reverend John M. D'Arcy

Chinese church situation has been unusual for over 50 years

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Under normal circumstances, bishops are named by the pope and run dioceses where the number of priests, nuns and baptized faithful is recorded and reported annually to the Vatican.

But things have not been normal in China for more than 50 years.

Some of the bishops are approved by the pope, some are approved by the government, but increasingly most are approved by both.

As for statistics, the estimated number of Catholics in China runs from about 8 million to as many as 16 million.

While the Vatican pays homage to Chinese Catholics who risk their freedom and even their lives to remain in full communion with the pope and universal church, it has allowed some compromises to ensure the ongoing survival of Catholicism in the country.

Until the mid-1980s, the only Catholic bishops in China recognized as legitimate by the Vatican were those chosen and ordained secretly by other bishops in the underground Catholic community, said Belgian Missionary

Father Jerom Heyndrickx, one of the most authoritative experts on Catholicism in China.

In the mid-1950s, when China's communist government expelled all the foreign-born bishops, the Vatican gave the remaining bishops "special faculties to select and ordain their successors" to ensure continued service to the faithful and the survival of the church, Father Heyndrickx said.

In 1957, the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association was formed under government sponsorship to assure the Catholic community's harmony with state policies and to separate the church from "foreign interference," especially its ties with the Vatican.

Members of the patriotic association elect their own bishops, who are ordained with government approval.

As happened under communism in Eastern Europe, the existence of an underground church and of a government-approved church did not mean all Catholics chose one and excluded the other, especially when remaining underground meant they could not receive the sacraments.

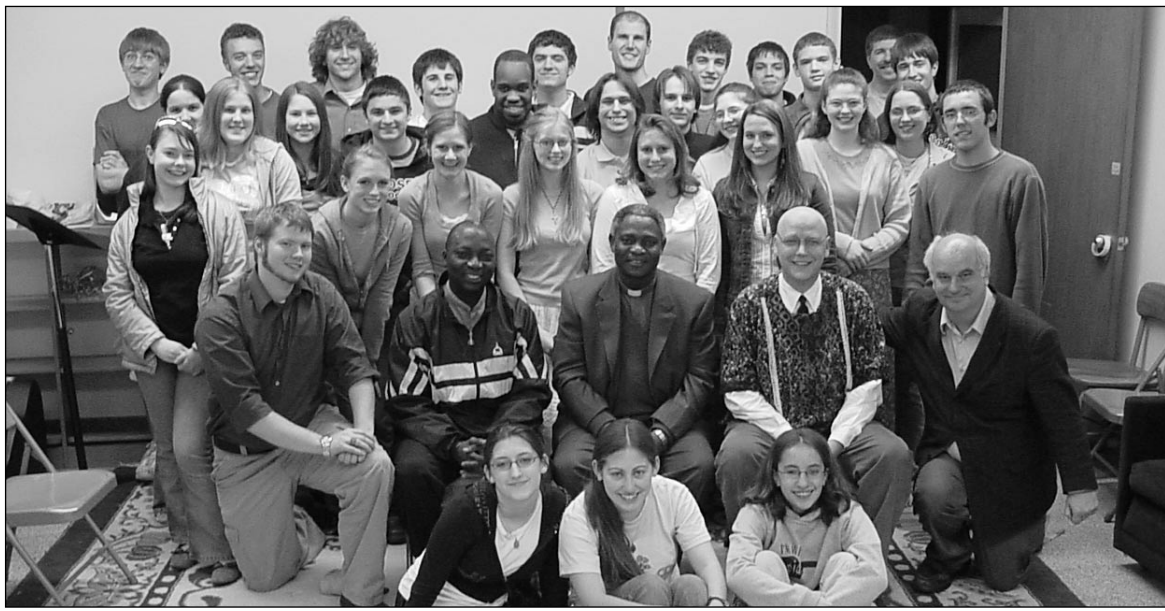
Bishops, priests and the faithful who continued to practice their faith without submitting to the patriotic association were



CNS PHOTO/JASON LEE

A Chinese Catholic receives Communion during an early morning Mass at the government-sanctioned Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, or South Church, in Beijing May 9. China held out an offer to improve ties with the Vatican May 9, but said the Holy See had to renounce control over appointing Chinese bishops before the two sides could establish formal ties.

AFRICAN CARDINAL VISIT WITH ANTIOCH GROUP



SUSAN BAXTER

Cardinal Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson, archbishop of Cape Coast, Ghana, dropped in on the Antioch Youth Group Sunday evening at the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration Convent. After answering questions from the teens, Cardinal Turkson said that meeting them was a surprise and a pleasure. "You are not what I expected," he told them. "When they told me I would be speaking to teenagers, I expected something very different. The mood (of silent prayer) we found you in was very inspiring." Cardinal Turkson is seated in the center, in the Roman collar. Left of him is Brother Paul Kofi Mensah, CSC, district superior, district of West Africa. At right is Bob Kloska, Antioch youth leader.

arrested and imprisoned. Bishops who accepted their elections by the patriotic association were excommunicated.

Then, Father Heyndrickx said, in 1984 Bishop Bernardine Dong Guangqing of Hankou — who in 1957 was the first bishop illicitly ordained — sought reconciliation with and received recognition from Pope John Paul II.

Dozens of bishops elected by the patriotic association followed suit over the years and now, many China church experts say, as many as 90 percent of the bishops in the government-approved church are recognized as legitimate bishops by the Vatican.

Father Heyndrickx, who was in Beijing in late April and early May when the patriotic association ordained two bishops without Vatican approval, said that for the past five years the Chinese government has looked the other way as the patriotic association chose candidates for the office of bishop, then sent the names to the Vatican for approval prior to their ordinations.

The priest listed nine dioceses where ordinations were scheduled only after Vatican confirmation, the latest being the May 7 ordination of Coadjutor Bishop Paul Pei Junmin of Liaoning.

In a May 8 commentary sent to Catholic News Service, Father

Heyndrickx wrote, "It happened that the Chinese civil authorities told the local priests explicitly: 'We know that you have to submit your proposal to Rome. Do your job. We do ours.'"

"The Holy See was happy with this positive evolution," he said. While the Vatican would prefer no government interference at all, "some openness and good will was apparently growing on both sides."

As for church statistics, Father Heyndrickx said: "Question any number you read. Everyone gives something different because everyone is guessing."

The only certainty, he said, is that there were 4 million Catholics in China when Mao came to power in 1949.

"Under normal circumstances with normal growth, you would expect the total to be about 8 million today," counting both members of the Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association and the underground church, he said. "But there is no way to know."

In a statement last October, the patriotic association claimed it had about 5 million members. And the latest Vatican statistical yearbook estimated that there were about 4.6 million Catholics in countries that could not provide an accurate report to the Vatican, mainly China and North Korea.

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TURKSON

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of theology at Holy Cross. "We recognize that we are part of the universal church, and we want all of our students at Holy Cross College to have an experience of the internationality of the church."

Griffin noted that the trips are included in students' tuition, a reflection of their importance to the college's sense of authentic Catholic identity.

Cardinal Turkson praised the International Learning Experience program in his address, as well as the Congregation of the Holy Cross in general for their almost 50-year presence in Ghana, during which they have ceaselessly spread their "charism of education."

Of the International Learning Experience, he told the Holy Cross graduates that their experiences abroad had been their first lessons in globalization, of learning that the world is more than oneself.

"A guiding principle of respect and open-minded flexibility should come along with our globalized view of human diversity," said the

cardinal.

"The best thing that is happening is the occasion for the students coming to have another source of information," Cardinal Turkson later told *Today's Catholic*, "for examining again all of the traditional sources of information about Africa."

Students who spoke of their experiences reflected this different vision. Amy Jo DeCloedt, who delivered the student reflection at the ceremony, stated how the experiences in Ghana had taught her not to fear learning firsthand and to "see the world through eyes of faith."

Kimberly Green, another Holy Cross graduate, said of her experiences in Ghana among its people, "They use their faith as a stamina that moves them forward in life. ... You go to Ghana, and you think about poverty, and you think about how they may be down and out because of their situation. But it's really the complete opposite. They embrace what they have and just look forward, toward the future."

Apart from the commencement ceremony itself, Cardinal Turkson also spoke at the Holy Cross College baccalaureate the evening prior and concelebrated Mass with Bishop D'Arcy at St. Matthew

Cathedral Sunday morning.

"It's been great," said Robert Kloska of his interactions with cardinal. "We've visited him on his terms and in his context. So to have him come over here and visit us is a great honor, a great thrill ... and to see the international face of Holy Cross is something that's really wonderful."

Brother Richard B. Gilman, CSC, president of Holy Cross College, noted, "For a little school like Holy Cross to convince him to come halfway around the world ... is very, very meaningful to us. He's a truly remarkable human being, and he graced the day."

"For us in the Holy Cross Congregation, he's one of our real collaborators because the Holy Cross works all over the world," said Brother John R. Paige, CSC, vicar general of the congregation, who traveled from Rome to South Bend to represent the general administration during the cardinal's visit. "He's one of the young and up-and-coming cardinals in the church. He's bright. He's very well educated. He's an excellent innovator in terms of formation and education. ... It's a privilege to have him here in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend."

CARDINAL PETER TURKSON CELEBRATES MASS AT DUJARIE HOUSE



BROTHER CHARLES MCBRIDE

Cardinal Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson, Archbishop of Cape Coast, Africa, celebrated Mass on May 13 at the Dujarie House Chapel for residents of Schubert Villa and Dujarie House as well as residents of Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame. The cardinal praised the Brothers of Holy Cross for their 49 years of missionary service in Ghana. Cardinal Turkson is pictured with some of the Holy Cross Brothers who served in his diocese in Ghana. From left are Brothers Rex Hennel, Fred McGlynn; Cardinal Turkson, Richard Johnson, the current district superior of the brothers in Ganah, Paul Kof Mensah and Jerome Kroetsch.

SPEAKING ABOUT CONTROVERSIAL ORDINANCE



JOSEPH P. SERGIO, PH.D.

Lisa Everett, co-director of the Office of Family Life for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, presented Bishop John M. D'Arcy's special rights statement to the Personnel and Finance Committee of the South Bend Common Council. The May 10 hearing was established to hear community input on the special rights proposal that the council is evaluating to provide homosexuals — including gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders — with special rights protection under the Human Rights Commission. The vote on this ordinance is scheduled for Monday, June 26, at 7 p.m. on the fourth floor of the County-City Building, 227 West Jefferson Blvd., South Bend. Catholics are urged to contact South Bend Mayor Stephen Luecke and the nine members of the South Bend Common Council to express their respectful, but firm desire, to vote down this ordinance. The statement, addresses and e-mails were in the May 14 issue of *Today's Catholic*.

LIFE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

gations of marriage, the same rights as married couples, he said. Some governments are trying to come up with a new definition of marriage by legalizing homosexual unions and allowing gay couples to adopt children, he added.

He urged families to stay united and overcome the difficulties that often lead to separation and divorce, which can have negative effects on children.

Patience, sacrifice and understanding as well as prayer and receiving the Eucharist can help couples "remain faithful to their vocation," he said.

Archbishop Elden F. Curtiss of Omaha, Neb., who attended the council's plenary assembly, said the family based on marriage between a man and a woman is


"fundamental to society," not just the church.

He told *Catholic News Service* May 12 that the "secular culture tends to look at everything from the point of view of personal rights and personal disposition, and somebody has to say 'Well, what about the common good ... what happens when you undermine marriage?'"

Another assembly participant, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson of the Knights of Columbus, noted that, as some states start to limit a woman's access to abortion, social programs and services that support women and their pregnancies need to be set up or bolstered.

He told CNS that this is reflected in the pope's encyclical, "God Is Love" ("Deus Caritas Est"), in that even if the United States is able to restrict or overturn *Roe v. Wade* "you still need room for charity."

"How does one look at the whole question of pregnancy in a post-Roe culture" and help women with unplanned pregnancies? he asked.



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Cardinal McCarrick, Bishop Imesch resign; successors named

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI accepted the resignation of Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick May 16 and named Bishop Donald W. Wuerl of Pittsburgh to succeed him as archbishop of Washington. The pope also accepted the resignation of Bishop Joseph L. Imesch of Joliet, Ill., and appointed Bishop J. Peter Sartain of Little Rock, Ark., as his successor. The changes were announced in Washington by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Vatican approves revised U.S. "Essential Norms" on clergy sex abuse

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With Vatican approval, the head of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued the revised special norms adopted by the U.S. bishops to deal with clergy sexual abuse of minors. Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., USCCB president, decreed that the revised "Essential Norms" will take effect May 15. The norms, which have the force of law in all U.S. dioceses, require each diocese to have written policies on clerical sexual abuse of minors, an assistance coordinator for victims and a review board that advises the bishop on individual cases and on policy. They also spell out detailed procedures for handling any allegation of abuse, for removing clerics who sexually abuse a minor from ministry and for applying other penalties, including laicization. The revisions, adopted by the bishops at their June 2005 general meeting in Chicago, are few and limited in scope.

Suspended Los Angeles priest sentenced for child abuse

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Michael E. Wempe, 66, was sentenced to three years in prison May 5 on one count of sexually abusing a minor in the 1990s, when he was still an active priest in the Los Angeles Archdiocese. Time he has already served while awaiting trial and sentencing will be deducted. Wempe waived his right to appeal his conviction in return for prosecutors deciding not to retry him on four other molestation charges on which a jury had deadlocked in February. Los Angeles archdiocesan spokesman Tod Tamberg said the archdiocese hoped "that this conviction and sentencing brings some measure of healing to his victims." Since 2002 Wempe has been barred from ministry and not allowed to identify himself as a priest. He was placed on retirement and receives a pension from the archdiocese.

Ohio priest convicted, sentenced to life in 1980 murder of nun

TOLEDO, Ohio (CNS) — Father Gerald Robinson, a retired priest of the Diocese of Toledo, was convict-

CANADIAN BOY SINGS HYMN FOR POPE



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Jeremy Gabriel sings a hymn for Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican May 11. The 9-year-old Canadian boy, who was born with a genetic disease causing facial disfiguration and deafness, fulfilled a dream when he sang for the pope. He has become a well-known singer in Quebec after surgeries allowed him to hear.

ed and sentenced to life in prison May 11 for the murder more than 26 years earlier of Mercy Sister Margaret Ann Pahl. Father Robinson, 68, was taken from the courtroom in handcuffs after the verdict was announced and Common Pleas Judge Thomas Osowik sentenced him. He could be eligible for parole in 15 years. The jury deliberated for six hours and 25 minutes before handing down the verdict. "This is a sad day for the Diocese of Toledo," Bishop Leonard P. Blair said in a statement. He called for prayers for Sister Margaret Ann, her family and the Sisters of Mercy; the judge, jury, attorneys and witnesses in the trial; and Father Robinson. "Let us hope that the conclusion of the trial will bring some measure of healing for all those affected by the case as well as for our local church," the bishop added. "The diocese has remained steadfast in the work of the church and its ministries throughout this trial, and will continue to do so."

Just solutions can defeat terrorism, archbishop tells U.N. assembly

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — Just solutions to political, social and economic problems frustrating young immigrants worldwide "can rob terrorists of the oxygen of hatred" and thwart efforts to "recruit the impressionable," the Vatican's representative to the United Nations said May 11. Archbishop Celestino Migliore, the permanent representative of the Holy See to the international body, spoke before the General Assembly during its informal consultations on a counterterrorism strategy. "The political, social and economic exclusion of immigrant communities stokes the frustration of young

people and has led to breakdowns in order in some places; but the demand for a just solution to these questions remains a legitimate one," the archbishop said. "By resolving such questions swiftly and justly, nations can rob terrorists of the oxygen of hatred and of grievances, real or imagined, by which they attempt to legitimize their evil deeds and recruit the impressionable," he added.

Public schools add religion course to curriculum

WASHINGTON (CNS) — At a time when public schools are increasingly wary of any mention of religion, one California school district has found that requiring students to study world religions has been surprisingly uncontroversial and has helped smooth hostilities. For the last six years, the Modesto public schools have required ninth graders to take a nine-week course on world religions, beginning with two weeks of study of First Amendment rights and the U.S. history of religious liberty. When the requirement began, researchers from Stanford University in California and the College of William and Mary in Virginia started tracking students' attitudes and their understanding of different religions and of constitutional rights governing the free exercise of religion. The researchers and two Modesto teachers involved in the project reported on it at a May 8 conference in Arlington, Va., sponsored by the First Amendment Center of the Freedom Forum. Among the study's findings were that students grew to understand and respect others' religious views and they were much more likely to accept that different religions share core moral values.

Sirius, New York Archdiocese to launch Catholic radio channel

NEW YORK (CNS) — Beginning this fall, the new Catholic Channel on Sirius Satellite Radio will air nationally seven days a week, 24 hours a day, featuring Catholic-oriented talk shows, music programming and live daily Masses from St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York. The new channel is to be operated jointly by the New York Archdiocese and Sirius. Programming also will include human interest and inspirational stories, shows offering counseling and guidance and educational programs, as well as "regular and previously unavailable content from the Vatican," the New York-based Sirius said in a news release. Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York called it "a splendid opportunity for the church." Mel Karmazin, CEO of Sirius, said the company's partnership with the New York Archdiocese "is a significant step forward in our ... mission to provide our listeners with the finest and most distinctive Christian programming on radio."

Domino founder's plan for town near Catholic university sparks debate

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (CNS) — A Catholic philanthropist's plans to develop a town around the new site of a Catholic university in Florida has raised concerns from critics both within and outside church circles. But Tom Monaghan remains firm in his commitment to the project and its prospects for success. Monaghan, who made his fortune as founder of the Domino's Pizza chain, broke ground in mid-February for Ave Maria town, a 5,000-acre, 11,000-home commu-

nity to be built around Ave Maria University, which he established as an interim campus in 2003. He founded Ave Maria College near Ann Arbor, Mich., in 1998, but later elected to move the institution to Florida, prompting a mix of praise and criticism even from his own faculty and administration. He currently is seeking board approval to move the Ave Maria School of Law to the Naples area as well. More recently, he has faced a media backlash over his stated desire to create a family-friendly atmosphere in Ave Maria, one free of morally problematic elements such as pornography, contraceptives and abortion.

Pro-life official sees signs of hope in latest polls on abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — For the first time since the Harris Poll began measuring support for the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decision that removed most state restrictions on abortion, fewer than half of all Americans said they favor Roe v. Wade. Even though the Harris question erroneously stated that Roe v. Wade legalized abortion only in the first three months of pregnancy, only 49 percent said they supported the law and 47 percent said they opposed it. With a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points, the responses were almost equal. In earlier years, support for Roe v. Wade in the Harris surveys had ranged from 52 percent to 65 percent. Roe and its companion decision, Doe v. Bolton, legalized abortion virtually on demand through all nine months of pregnancy. Deirdre McQuade, director of planning and information in the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said the Harris Poll released May 4 concurs with other recent surveys in showing that "public opinion has moved progressively away from supporting unqualified access to abortion."

Theologian urges Hispanic community to be more involved in ecumenism

SAN JOSE, Calif. (CNS) — Hispanic Catholics and Protestants should engage in more ecumenical sharing, collaboration and witness, Jesuit Father Thomas P. Rausch told a gathering of Catholic ecumenical leaders May 9. Father Rausch, a theology professor at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles, spoke at a luncheon of the National Association of Diocesan Ecumenical Directors, held in conjunction with the National Workshop on Christian Unity May 8-11 in San Jose. Over the past 40 years "the ecumenical climate has changed forever" in the U.S. Catholic Church's relations with most Orthodox and Protestant churches, Father Rausch said. But among Hispanic Catholics and Hispanic Protestants, he said, "in spite of some recent initiatives, the old hostilities are still strong. ... This is particularly regrettable, given the rapid growth of the Hispanic community in the U.S. and the high level of Hispanics who continue to practice their Christian faith."

Dialogue group sponsors May 24 showing of 'Sister Rose's Passion'

FORT WAYNE — Though nominated for an Academy Award in 2005 and the recipient of numerous cinematic awards, "Sister Rose's Passion" has rarely been seen beyond one HBO screening. This short documentary about an 84-year-old Dominican nun's successful effort to change the Catholic Church's institutionalized views of Judaism is difficult to acquire.

However, after contacting the producer of the film, the Temple and St. Mary's Catholic-Jewish Dialogue secured permission for it to be shown for the first time in Fort Wayne on Wednesday, May 24, at 7 p.m. at St. Mary, 1101 S. Lafayette St.

Born in 1920, Sister Rose Thering grew up with 10 siblings in a devoutly religious Catholic family on a Wisconsin farm. She recalls the arrival of the first Jewish family in her area. "At one time, we were driving through Plain and he (my father) whispered to me, 'We have a new pharmacist, and I think he's Jewish.' And I said, 'Daddy, why did you whisper that?' I didn't get an answer."

Interactions like this prompted Sister Rose to question the deicide charge against Jews, often prominent in Catholic teachings and religious texts, because, "Jews never crucified anyone, Romans crucified people."

Through her scholarship and conviction, Sister Rose was instrumental in persuading the Vatican to renounce the charge of deicide. In 1965, Vatican II adopted "Nostra Aetate: The Declaration on the Relationship of the Church to non-Christian Religions."

"That document," explains Sister Rose, "said we Christians cannot blame the Jews for the death of Jesus. And it gave the reasons why. No more. No how. No one can ever say (that) ... and if you ever hear anyone say that, you need to tell them, 'You better study your religion, cause it doesn't teach that anymore. It was our sins that Jesus chose to die for.'"

The film begins inside a grand, quiet church. Sister Rose's voice is heard sharing some of the most common and disturbing Catholic misrepresentations about Jews. "It will be hard for you to hear these things," she explains, "as it will be hard for me to say them."

Her doctoral dissertation focused on how Jews were portrayed in Catholic textbooks. In the film she remembers how she "almost got ill" reading them. Not everyone has been supportive of her work. One bishop asked her not to disseminate her findings by hanging out "our dirty laundry." Sister Rose recalled, "I listened to what he had to say and then I hung it."

Since receiving her doctorate in 1961, she has done postgraduate work at Hebrew University and at Yad Vashem, the Israeli Holocaust memorial center. She was instrumental in the passing of a bill that makes Holocaust education mandatory in every school in New Jersey.

The May 24 program is open to

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St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School celebrated National Pastor Appreciation Day with its pastors. Father Tim Wrozek and Father Jim Shafer were honored during the day with gifts and kind words. The NCEA sponsors this day to recognize the support of the pastor with a Catholic School. Both Father Tim and Father Jim are great supporters of Catholic education. Father Tim, on the left, and Father Jim are pictured with a few of the second graders as they prepare for first Communion.

the public and sponsored by the Temple and St. Mary's Catholic-Jewish Dialogue group.

ND commencement to be cybercast on World Wide Web

NOTRE DAME — The University of Notre Dame's 161st commencement exercises, which will be held on campus May 21 (Sunday), will be cybercast live over the World Wide Web, as will four other commencement weekend events.

The Webcasts will be available at www.nd.edu/commencement/, according to the following schedule:

- ROTC Commissioning Ceremony, 9 a.m. Saturday, May 20
- Senior Service Send-off Ceremony, which will be held at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, May 20, will be cybercast in a delayed Webcast at noon that day
- Commencement Mass, 5 p.m. Saturday, May 20
- Academic procession to commencement, 1:30 p.m. Sunday, May 21
- Commencement exercises, 2 p.m. Sunday, May 21

The university also will provide a live closed-circuit television broadcast of commencement in the DeBartolo Hall auditorium. Doors will open at noon Sunday.

Notre Dame's Office of Information Technologies will provide videotapes of commencement and other related events. To order, visit www.nd.edu/~ndoit/gradvideo on the Web or call (574) 631-0961 for further information.

Holy Cross Summer Youth Conference set June 23-25

NOTRE DAME — Once again this summer, the school of Rudy, the mighty little college where so many lives have been transformed, the place where so many dreams have already come true, now becomes a Catholic pilgrimage destination for high school students. The Summer Catholic Youth Conference will be held June 23-25 on the campus of Holy Cross College in Notre Dame.

High school students who feel they are called to grow closer to Christ will be challenged with what it really means to abide in God's vine.

In John 15, Christ said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me, you can do nothing." This is one of the most powerful metaphors in Scripture — to be able to understand it is to take a much closer walk with Christ than ever before.

The Holy Cross College

Catholic Youth Conference is a dynamic national Catholic youth conference for high school kids held on the campus of Holy Cross College, Notre Dame. Students may come alone, with a church group (with groups of eight or more, a group chaperone is required), or with their parents. Parents are especially encouraged to attend.

This weekend is designed to foster an encounter with Jesus Christ. It can best be described as part retreat, part spiritual pep rally. The goal is for the weekend to be both fun and profound for every retreatant.

The cost is \$135 per individual youth. Parent or chaperone fee is \$45. Limited financial aid is available. To register, visit <http://faculty.hcc-nd.edu/RKloska/summer-conference/registration.html> or call (574) 239-8315 for information.

Saint Joseph's High School offers art and drama camp

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph's High School's Art and Drama Camp is open to all incoming fourth through eighth grade students. Campers may choose from four different classes: 3D (ceramics and sculpture), computer graphics, photography and drama. After lunch students will have an

extra class in one of these areas of concentration to either perform or work toward a gallery exhibit at the end of the week. Classes will take place in the Kalamaros Fine Arts Center at Saint Joseph's.

Deadline for registration is June 8. The fee of \$125 covers supplies and the five classes. Session 1 is June 12-16, and the dates for Session 2 are June 19-23.

The classes begin at 8:30 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. Session 2 has an optional full day Summer Enrichment Program at Holy Cross College for \$100.

For further information contact Kim Coleman at (574) 233-6137, ext. 260 or e-mail her at kcoleman@stjoe.k12.in.us.

Catholic education consortium wins national award

NOTRE DAME — The University Consortium for Catholic Education (UCCE), a program established by the University of Notre Dame to sustain and strengthen K-12 Catholic education, is the 2006 recipient of the C. Albert Koob Award from the National Catholic Educational Association. The award was presented in April at the association's 103rd annual convention in Atlanta.

Established in 1998 by the educational outreach office of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) — a master of education program that prepares graduates for service as Catholic school teachers — the UCCE supports some of the neediest Catholic schools in the country through the replication of the ACE model of teacher education at other national universities.

"I speak for the directors of all of the UCCE teaching-service programs when I say we are daily humbled by the commitment and generosity of the young teachers we place," said Joyce Johnstone, chair of the UCCE and director of educational outreach for ACE.

Through the UCCE, ACE has been able to provide technical, strategic and financial support to young Catholic teacher-service programs as they work to establish their own mission and vision. Additionally, the ACE model has served as an effective vehicle of service to K-12 schools in the most underserved regions of the nation.

Currently, the UCCE includes 13 colleges and universities offering graduate teaching programs that are based on ACE's philosophy of professional teaching, community and spirituality.

For the present academic year, 442 UCCE teachers serve in more than 200 Catholic schools in 49 dioceses and archdioceses in 32 states; there currently are some 1,000 consortium alumni nationwide.

Correction

In the Saint Joseph's High School Top Ten Poet awards in the Creative Communications, Inc. national poetry contest photo, pictured was Michael Furdyna, son of Jacek Furdyna and Margaret Dobrowolska, and Alexandra Burlingame, daughter of Michael and Christine Burlingame.



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Brothers of Holy Cross, FSCSC celebrate construction starting at Holy Cross Village

SOUTH BEND — The Brothers of Holy Cross and the Franciscan Sisters of Chicago Service Corporation (FSCSC), along with several of its valued partners, celebrated construction starting at Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame with a special ground blessing ceremony May 10.

Setting their sights on developing a premier senior living community, the Brothers of Holy Cross and FSCSC have partnered to offer the complete retirement lifestyle to seniors living in the greater South Bend area by expanding the Brothers' current services and joining them together into the new Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame.

Located near the campuses of the University of Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College and Holy Cross College, this new continuing care retirement community will offer superior senior housing options and at the same time bring together the current services and programs of Dujarie House, Schubert Villa and the independent living villa units. The construction includes 96 new independent living apartments, along with 30 additional assisted living suites at Schubert Villa and a 12-bed dementia care unit at the 36-bed skilled nursing community, Dujarie House.

The Franciscan Sisters of Chicago Service Corporation, through its operating division Franciscan Communities, currently operates 15 senior living communities in Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Texas and Ohio.

Franciscan Communities also provides home and community-based health services in Indiana and a shelter for women and their children who are survivors of domestic violence in Indiana. Offering independent and assisted



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Steve Bardoczi, senior vice president of growth and development for Franciscan Sisters of Chicago Service Corporation; Brother Thomas Shaughnessy, chairman of the Holy Cross Village Board; Steve Kastner, executive director for Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame; Brother Robert Fillmore, provincial, Holy Cross Village Board; Susan Griffin, marketing director for Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame and Chuck Schwanbach, regional marketing director for Greystone Communities celebrated construction starting at Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame with a special ground blessing ceremony last Wednesday that included the ceremonial shoveling of dirt.

living, skilled nursing and Alzheimer's care, FSCSC is the seventh largest Catholic health and housing system in the nation.

The history of the Brothers of Holy Cross has been primarily in

college and being connected physically to two others offers Holy Cross Village residents an intergenerational lifestyle that affords many opportunities to interact with students through tutoring, mentoring and even attending classes and lectures," said Steve Kastner, executive director of Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame.

"Offering residential living, lifelong learn-

ing and security for the future, Holy Cross Village is the perfect retirement option for those seeking an active, independent lifestyle with services and amenities to keep the mind and body young."

This new continuing care retirement community will offer superior senior housing options and at the same time bring together the current services and programs.

education, but awareness of the need for ministry to senior adults motivated them to found and develop the intergenerational Holy Cross Village at Notre Dame.

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St. Vincent Scout troop celebrates 100th Eagle Award

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — Excitement and anticipation ran high recently when St. Vincent Boy Scout Troop 2 reached an important milestone.

Connor Hedrick, son of Keith and Pamela Hedrick, was named 100th Eagle Scout in St. Vincent scouting history, followed closely by his brother Jared, the 101st Eagle Scout. Both boys are members of North Christian Church in Fort Wayne where they completed their Eagle projects.

Connor's project was the design and installation of a new flag pole, along with special landscaping at the entrance of the church. Jared's project included construction of a basketball goal for the church youth group and helping to rebuild the driveway, which serves the church's food bank.

Connor says he learned much

in the completion of his project, like "meeting deadlines ... staying on task and bringing people together for the greater common good." Jared says he learned organizational and leadership skills, the importance of teamwork and a good work ethic while completing his Eagle project. "All in all, they're life lessons I'll use," he emphasizes.

St. Vincent parishioner Benjamin Becker, son of John and Patricia Becker, requested permission to install much-needed landscaping at the church as his Eagle Scout project. With the approval of Father John Kuzmich and funding from the church, Becker organized an arsenal of friends, family and fellow Scouts, who provided nearly 200 man-hours of labor to complete the task.

Upon reflection Becker says, "I learned a lot ... I couldn't even tell you ..." He enjoys interacting with people and using his leader-

ship skills. He also likes the way scouting instills morals and puts faith into action. He expresses it best in his Eagle application. "I have a strong devotion to God, and Scouting has never been a conflict there."

William Workman, son of John and Kelley Workman, also chose a landscaping project on St. Vincent Church property as his Eagle project. He was able to secure donations of grass seed and two tri-axes of dirt from local businesses, then paid for the straw cover out of his own pocket. Workman admits that the project took a lot of organization but says, "It ran smoothly after that."

Christopher Wiseman is a Carroll High School senior and the son of Dan and Kathy Wiseman of Huntertown. An avid drummer, he built a large shelving unit for the high school drum room as his Eagle Scout project. Wiseman says before he stepped in, the room was "a complete disaster." So he approached the band boosters for funding, then recruited his dad, a professional carpenter, his drum instructor, his band director and a buddy to help. Seventy-nine man hours later, the project was completed, teaching Wiseman the importance of "leadership and friendship overall," he remarks.

Travis Johnson says he "learned a good work ethic" in successfully completing his Eagle Scout project. The son of Mike and Wendy Johnson of Churubusco, Travis secured funding from the Homestead Acres neighborhood association on Cedar Canyon Road in north Fort Wayne to re-stain and refurbish all their street signs. The 20 volunteers he recruited contributed

75 hours to the project, he says, and made an important contribution to the community.

Our Lady of Good Hope parishioner Gregg Andriano, son of Fred and Stacia Andriano, completed his Eagle project at the Red Cedar Center for special-needs children in northern Allen County. Andriano designed and, along with a team of about 12 volunteers, installed markers and nature information signs along the trails at the camp. He was helped along the way by Brueggeman Lumber Company, which donated materials and made a few suggestions about design and construction, but he is pleased that he was able to manage the project independently. Andriano calls Scouting a "great experience" and the Eagle project "the culmination to all you've done."

The Scouting program at St. Vincent Parish has a long history, beginning in 1960 when several men parishioners met with the late Father Donald Isenbarger to discuss the possibility of organizing a troop. Father Isenbarger, who was always active in Boy Scouts, had served on the National Catholic Commission on Scouting and was a strong proponent. Soon, with the blessing of St. Vincent pastor Father Fettig, Troop 2 was organized and Ray Schowe was named its first scoutmaster.

Early on, the scouts met in the church basement. Then in 1967, when a new church was built and the old church building was closed and partially dismantled, the Scouts continued to use it for storage until it fell into severe disrepair. Eventually then-pastor Father Elden Miller was

approached by the Scouts with a novel idea. Why not turn the run-down building into something that could be used for troop fundraising and benefit the parish as well.

Father Miller agreed, and in the fall of 1980 St. Vincent Scout Troop's Haunted Castle opened its doors for the first time. The attraction became an overnight success, with more than 4,300 visitors the first year. Since then, two other haunts have been added, the Black Forest in 1997 and Pharaoh's Revenge in 2001.

Scoutmaster Randy Young says, "The three haunts are known throughout the Midwest as one of the leading haunted attractions in the tri-state area. Their success has continued to fund an ever-expanding scout program, considered to be one of the best in the country." He notes that the Haunted Castle was recently featured in *Scouting Magazine*, a national publication for scout leaders.

Proceeds from the attractions have built a Scout lodge, purchased a Scout bus and made the program self-supporting. In addition, the Scouts made and paid off a \$50,000 pledge for the new St. Vincent church building.

Young is pleased to report that the scouting program receives no monetary support from the parish. Scoutmaster Randy Young has high regard for the young men he leads, especially those who persevere and work to earn the Eagle Scout rank. "The project is a massive undertaking," he says, and most people don't appreciate the work involved in planning and seeing it through to completion. "Eagle Scouts are something special," he exclaims.

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Journey to Peace: God's plan for marriage and procreation

The following is a companion piece to last week's article on contraception and sterilization. Anonymity has been requested in the following letter that explains one couple's struggle and discovery about sterilization.

We began our marriage in August of 1981 as a 21-year-old non-practicing Catholic groom and a 19-year-old unbaptized bride with a marriage preparation of about 30 minutes with the priest. We had no clue what the church taught about marriage and had not been chaste during dating anyway. As a result, our son was born in January of 1982, and we were a family. Oh, we should get the baby baptized? Okay, we'll get to it sometime.

In the meantime, Sunday mornings were for sleeping in. With no required marriage classes to tell us otherwise, we began to experiment with various artificial birth control methods until we decided to have another baby two years after our son and stopped contracepting. Pregnancy soon occurred to our great delight and we had a daughter.

During the pregnancy I became interested in becoming Catholic and went through a RCIA program that I now recognize as insufficient to prepare me to educate our children in the faith or embrace it fully myself. It was up to the cradle Catholic dad to do this, but his education was lacking too. We started to go to Mass more often

but still didn't want the church in our bedroom. Before we could start back on birth control, God decided to surprise us with another pregnancy just nine months after our daughter's birth.

I am ashamed to say I wept in sadness and disbelief when the nurse told me my pregnancy test was positive. "We" didn't plan this. We had another beautiful daughter, then went back to birth control right after she was done nursing.

Our lives were very busy with a new house, our son beginning school, more activities and two little girls so close in age. We started taking them to Mass and CCD classes. We can't ever recall any homilies on birth control or married life, but we probably would have tuned them out as we had become classic "cafeteria Catholics."

In the next three years, we felt we were "done" having children and actually got rid of all the baby stuff. All my energies were on the children and all my husband's were on working.

When we did come together in marital union, it was selfish pleasure and we struggled with our feelings of distance and anger. I often felt used and my husband felt neglected and rejected. We continued to grow apart.

Surprise! Pregnancy number four! Birth control had failed us. I grew excited to have a baby in my arms again, but my husband was tired from working an extra job

and trying to get ahead in the construction field by changing companies frequently. Right before the baby was due, layoffs occurred and he lost his job. More stress. Less trust in God.

Labor began and we went to the hospital where we discovered the baby was breech. Our regular doctor was off and we had a doctor we had never met before. An ultrasound determined that the baby was over nine pounds, and the doctor advised I have a caesarean to be sure the baby would be okay. He frightened us with talk of cord compression, brain damage, etc. We decided under the circumstances we would have the c-section. The doctor then suggested that while he was performing this he could easily do a tubal ligation. Until that moment, we had never thought of doing anything permanent to assure that our family size would be our decision. Both of our moms out in the waiting room thought this was a good idea, especially in light of the current job situation. This would make the future better, everyone thought: easier, more manageable — after all, four children were surely enough.

For some insane reason, I agreed. Maybe it was my apprehension about the upcoming surgery, the first serious surgery I'd ever had. Possibly it was the worry about our little breech baby's health that caused me to make the decision to forever alter a healthy life-giving part of my body.

We didn't have time to recon-

sider — it was off to surgery. Several hours later I awoke in the recovery room, desperate to see our baby. As I held her it hit me that I had just done something to ensure I would never have a moment like this again.

We didn't talk about it between us, but just tried to forget this would be our last baby. We both tried to hide our sadness, the beginning of many years of suppressing regret and resentment. Years of marital strife, money problems, my chronic health problems and troubles with teens followed. Many times we didn't think our marriage would survive. We were still practicing our faith but couldn't turn our lives over to God — we always needed to be the ones in control. As a result our lives were not very happy or peaceful.

Then came a spiritual conversion for us and we began to study what the catechism taught about our faith. We joined a parish where the priest talked about the church's teachings on contraception and respect for life on many Sundays. We began to heal as a family, prayed the rosary together and went to spiritual events. We began to go to holy hour and pray before the Blessed Sacrament. We read "Humanae Vitae" and other church documents that opened our eyes to how damaging the contraceptive mentality is to the world.

We had both confessed the sin of sterilization previously and knew we were forgiven through the beautiful sacrament of reconciliation, but now we longed to make reparation.

We spoke to our priest and he advised us on what the church suggests couples do. Practicing NFP (Natural Family Planning) was a way of sacrificing, he said. He told us we were not required to surgically reverse the procedure, though that would be the greater sacrifice. The thought of reversing the tubal ligation was very exciting to us.

We prayed about it a lot and sought the advice of a friend who worked at a church in town. She told us about the One More Soul Web site. We checked into the doctors who performed sterilization reversals and found several in our area. I called them for information. The news was somewhat discouraging as the price was quite high and most insurance companies do not cover the surgery.

We discussed how we could pay the fees: a loan, line of credit or just save up. More prayers ... then I checked my insurance benefits booklet ... just maybe ... yes! It was covered! We were convinced more than ever that God did want us to pursue this.

We then consulted Dr. Martin

FAITH AND FERTILITY

WHAT THE CHURCH TEACHES AND WHY

in Schererville who was in our preferred insurance network as was the hospital where she worked.

Our first meeting was awesome. We felt so comfortable with Dr. Martin, since she really understood our journey to this point and explained everything about the procedure so that we fully understood.

We set a date and went home to tell the kids. They were kind of excited about the fact that they could have a sibling in the next few years if the surgery was successful. But best of all, we talked about how God is the author of life and being open to life is what marriage is all about.

The surgery went well. Both tubes were reattached and I stayed in the hospital overnight to ensure complete recovery. I spent that night just thanking God for allowing us to repair the damage we had done to my body, our marriage and family life.

At a subsequent checkup a test was done to see if the tubes were still open. One side had closed due to scar tissue but the other side was completely open. Amazingly, after a few months I no longer had the chronic health problems I had been plagued with for 10 years.

I discovered a syndrome related to tubal ligation that listed many of the problems I suffered from.

Now three years later we don't have the child we had hoped God would give us, but we have peace in our hearts and marital love that is rooted in sacramental grace. We have a family who understands God's teachings on the sacredness of human life and how birth control is detrimental to everyone's life.

We wanted to write about this experience so that others who may be struggling in their marriage like we were, or others who may not even know why they feel incomplete or far from God, can get the strength to talk about this with their spouse and then with their priest.

Help is out there and we want everyone who may be seeking to find peace.

Safe Station reaps the benefits from a giving spirit at St. Joseph's

SOUTH BEND — The school year may be winding down but not the generosity and good hearts of the Saint Joseph's High School community. Student council is finishing their year of Dress Down Days for Charity by supporting Safe Station. All students, faculty and staff pay at least \$1 to dress down.

Safe Station is a short-term emergency shelter facility for youth ages 12-18. These young people may have experienced one or more of the following conditions: alienation and/or conflict with parents, physical and/or sexual abuse, dysfunctional, unhealthy family relationships and parental substance abuse ranging from using to dealing.

They may also be a status offender (runaway, ungovernable, truant). The state law changed in the early 1970s. Runaways were

not to be locked up as delinquent youth.

The Safe Station has been in operation for 30 years. As part of the programming, they weave regularly scheduled recreation time into the daily schedule. They know that offering multiple choices for recreation provides youth the opportunities for creative means of self expression and relaxation, further allowing them to gain insight and be more open to working through their issues. In addition, offering regular physical activity gives young people the opportunity to learn about the development of healthy bodies and the reduction of stress and anxiety.

Some examples of recreation provided include games, arts and crafts, billiards, volleyball and basketball. In addition to on grounds recreation, off ground

recreation has many of the same benefits and also provides a change of scenery and additional opportunities. Since these outings are expensive, donations help to offset the costs of admission, entrance fees and seasonal passes to places such as bowling alleys, roller skating rinks, ice skating rinks, museums, festivals, movies, sporting events, zoos, state parks, concerts, planetariums and many others.

Safe Station is providing a valuable service for the entire community. Saint Joseph's High School is sending them Dress Down Day funds. For more information or to make a donation to Safe Station, contact Erin Powell at erinmpowell@sbcglobal.net.

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Marian High School announces valedictorians and salutatorian

MISHAWAKA — Marian High School announced the top students in the Class of 2006. Erin Hendricks and John Firth are co-valedictorians. Both have a 4.75 grade point average on a weighted scale.

Erin is the daughter of Ken and Lori Hendricks of Granger, a graduate of Christ the King School and a member of Christ the King Parish.

John is the son of John and Ann Firth of Mishawaka, a graduate of The Montessori Academy and a member of St. Pius Parish.

Marian's salutatorian is Laura Jagla. Laura completed her high school academic record with a 4.68 grade point average on a weighted scale. She is the daughter of Brian and Ann Jagla of South Bend, a graduate of John Marshall Elementary and St. Matthew Cathedral Junior High as well as a member of St. Matthew Cathedral Parish.

Erin Hendricks' interests are varied including Special Olympics, science research and ballroom dancing. She has done volunteer work as a swim coach and a basketball coach for the Special Olympics. She is currently doing research in the genetics lab at the University of Notre Dame. Erin has earned extensive awards for her scientific research

including an Indiana Academy of Science Research Grant, the U.S. Air Force Award for Outstanding Science Achievement, first place in the Indiana Science Academy's Genetics Competition, second place in physics in the Northern Indiana Regional Science Fair and a Bayer Grade Level Award for Science.

She has been active in campus ministry for four years, serving as a lector, usher and an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist. She has also been a member of the leadership team and French Club for four years. She has participated in SADD for three years and served as treasurer during junior year and president during her senior year. She has been an integral part of Art Club for three years serving as secretary during her senior year. She was Junior Civitan's public relations director during her junior year and vice president of that service organization during senior year. She has also been active in drama (9,10), Thespian Society (10), poms (9, 10, 11) and National Honor Society (11, 12). She was the service coordinator for NHS during her senior year. Erin was named a National Merit Commended Scholar and will be attending the University of Notre Dame to major in pre-medicine



ERIN HENDRICKS



JOHN FIRTH



LAURA JAGLA

or genetics. She plans to pursue a career as a pediatric geneticist.

John Firth's interests include golf, sports and music. He has worked at Burger King and as a tutor throughout his high school career. He is a National Merit Finalist and is one of three students in the state of Indiana to score a perfect 36 on the ACT. He is also a Presidential Scholar candidate. John lettered in golf during his sophomore, junior and senior years and was named All Conference during junior year and captain for senior year.

While at Marian he has partic-

ipated in French Club for four years, SADD for three years, National Honor Society, mock trial and junior statesmen for two years. He has been active in student council and served as senior class treasurer. He has applied to the University of Notre Dame, Harvard, Yale and Stanford. His planned course of study could be philosophy, math, government or business with the goal of attending law school.

Marian's salutatorian Laura Jagla has many interests including painting, drawing, literature, music, travel, running and yoga.

She especially loves spending time with family and friends. She has been employed as a lifeguard by the YMCA of Michiana and has done volunteer work for the 4C's, Community Coordinated Child Care. She has been a violinist for the South Bend Youth Symphony from 2001 to present and for the Elkhart Honors Orchestra during 2003 and 2004. She won a silver medal for piano and a gold medal for violin from the Indiana State Solo Music Association and gold medals for violin at the regional and state competitions in both 2004 and 2005.

Her athletic career included both soccer and track for three years. In 2004 she participated in the Sunburst 5K and in 2005 the Optimist Sprint Triathlon.

Laura attended the Intercultural Leadership Conference at Saint Mary's College during the summer of 2005.

While at Marian, she has been an active member of Art Club, French Club and NHS. Her awards include Scholastic Art Honorable Mention for Drawing in 2003 and a Gold Key for Drawing in 2005. In 2006 she was awarded both a gold key for her portfolio and a honorable mention for her painting. Laura also won a grant for research from the Indiana Academy of Science. In 2003 and 2004 she won awards from the National French Exam.

Laura has been accepted to the Hutton's Honors College at Indiana University. She plans to major in chemistry and fine arts and her professional plans include medical research.

Erin, John and Laura will be pictured in Marian's Academic Hall of Fame with the valedictorians and salutatorians from the past 41 years.

They will be attending the baccalaureate Mass celebrated by Bishop D'Arcy on Thursday, June 2, at St. Matthew Cathedral. They will be speaking to the class of 2006, their families and guests at commencement ceremony on Friday, June 3, at the Morris Center for Performing Arts in South Bend.



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Diocesan high school students, from left, Gregory Neumann (Bishop Dwenger), Annette Wellman (Bishop Luers), Adam Peterson (Bishop Luers) and Meredith Bennett (Bishop Dwenger) stand together after receiving the Christian Leadership Award from the Serra Club of Fort Wayne May 12 at a luncheon following a special Mass for the recipients at St. Joseph Hospital.

Congratulations!

Marian Class of 2006

We will miss your spirit and the many gifts and talents you have shared with us. As you join the ranks of Marian Alumni, we wish for each of you God centered lives and much success both personally and professionally.

Congratulations Knights of '06

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Distler named 2006 Notre Dame valedictorian

NOTRE DAME — Catherine Distler, a double major in anthropology and preprofessional studies from Leawood, Kan., has been named valedictorian of the 2006 University of Notre Dame graduating class and will present the valedictory address during commencement exercises at 2 p.m. on Sunday, May 21, in the Joyce Center arena.

Distler earned a 4.0 grade point average and was a member of the Dean's List each semester. Her service activities include an international summer service project in Calcutta, India, where she worked for nine weeks in 2005 at Mother Teresa's Missionaries of Charity home for the destitute and sick. She also served as co-organizer of Notre Dame's World AIDS Day Campaign and as a member of VOICE, the student advisory board to the University's Center for Social Concerns.

A volunteer at South Bend's Center for the Homeless and Memorial Hospital, Distler also worked as a researcher on studies on the impact of HIV/AIDS on children in the developing world, and clinical oncology and palliative care. She served as sophomore class vice president and participated in the Notre Dame chapter of the Children's Defense Fund.

The commencement invocation will be offered by Kristin Graham, a double major in English and history from Pleasanton, Calif., who will graduate with a 3.98 grade point average.

Bishop Luers Valedictorian

Allison Meyers

Hometown: Fort Wayne

College attending:
Ball State University

Intended major and eventual career: Health Care, nursing/pharmacy

Who have been your helpers and guides through your time in high school and how?

"My parents have supported me in my endeavors at Bishop Luers and the activities in which I have been involved. They trust me to be responsible with my decisions, and they let me do my thing when it comes to school. I guess it has worked!"

What have your favorite classes been?

"My favorite classes have been science-related. I especially enjoy chemistry. I took two years of it. I also like math and student publications."

What do you like to do for relaxation/hobbies/spare time?

"I enjoy reading unassigned books. I like to ride my bike and spend time at my grandparents' lake cottage when weather is nice."

What are your favorite memories of high school?



"I value the time spent with my friends immensely, so my favorite high school memories stem from those moments."

What is your dream for your life?

"I see myself being successful in college, graduating and working in the health care field, maybe at a hospital. I will marry a wonderful, hard-working man who will be a great husband and father."

What do you feel is the value of a Catholic education?

"I am grateful for my Catholic education, both in grade school and high school, because I know that I will keep those values with me after high school."

Bishop Luers Salutatorian

Jessica Wyss

Hometown: Yoder

College attending:
Ball State University

Intended major and eventual career: Actuarial Science

Who have been your helpers and guides through your time in high school and how?

"My parents have been my biggest supports during my time in high school. They taught me to always work hard and try my best in everything I do. My mother is always willing to listen and give advice, and my father comes to almost all of my games."

"My grandparents also supported me a lot during high school. I would visit them nearly every day and they would cook dinner, and we would have fun conversations."

What have your favorite classes been?

"My favorite classes were calculus and creative writing. I liked calculus because it was a challenge. Creative writing was fun because it pushed me to be more imaginative than I thought possible."

What do you like to do for relaxation/hobbies/spare time?

"I love sports and physical activity. In my spare time, I like to play tennis or go swimming in the summer. For relaxation, I love reading outside on our deck."

What are your favorite memories of



high school?

"My favorite memories of high school are the times I spent with my friends. I have gone many fun places with my friends and have some great experiences ranging from campfires in my backyard to Kings Island."

What is your dream for your life?

"I want to go to college and get a good job, but I also want to get married, have a few kids and build a house in the country. I want to continue practicing my Catholic faith and hopefully make a difference for others throughout my life."

What do you feel is the value of a Catholic education?

"Having a Catholic education for the past 12 years has allowed me to develop a strong spiritual foundation that will hopefully give me the courage to do what is right in the coming years."

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Bishop Dwenger Valedictorian

Hailey Gardner

Hometown: Fort Wayne
College attending:
Ohio State University

Intended major and eventual career: Environmental Science

Who have been your helpers and guides through your time in high school and how?

"My mom has been there for me if I ever need help. My teachers have been great guides. Mrs. Spohn has always encouraged me. Mrs. Williams taught me the importance of learning from my peers, and Senora Wright was encouraging when I wanted to go to Spain."

What have your favorite classes been?
"AP statistics and AP English"

What do you like to do for relaxation/hobbies/spare time?
"I like to read and take pictures. I also like to watch movies with my friends."



What are your favorite memories of high school?

"My favorite memories are from going to Costa Rica with my marine biology class."

What is your dream for your life?
"My dream is to positively contribute to the world."

What do you feel is the value of a Catholic education?
"Going to Dwenger has given me many great opportunities."

The Faculty, Staff, and Students of
BISHOP LUERS HIGH SCHOOL
congratulate the 145 members of
the class of 2006 and to those who have
received acceptances from the following:



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| Bowling Green State University | Indiana Institute of Technology | Southern Wesleyan University |
| Butler University | Indiana University | Spelman College |
| Carthage | International Business College | St. Joseph's College |
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| | | Xavier University |

Bishop Dwenger Salutatorian

Clair Ensley

Hometown: Fort Wayne
College attending: Marian College
Intended major and eventual career: Theology major

Who have been your helpers and guides through your time in high school and how?

"My parents have been very supportive. Marching band has taught me discipline, responsibility and teamwork."

What have your favorite classes been?
"Calculus, French, biology, U.S. history"

What do you like to do for relaxation/hobbies/spare time?
"Reading, fencing, band, film-making, climbing trees"

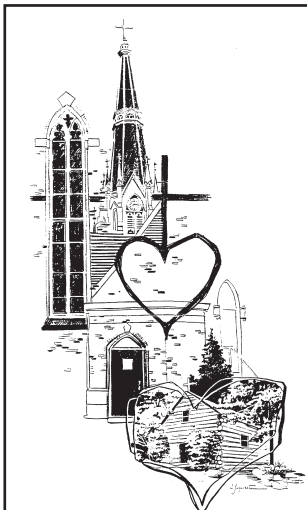
What are your favorite memories of high school?
"March for Life in



Washington, D.C., making amateur movies, band camp"

What is your dream in life?
"To please God."

What do you feel is the value of a Catholic education?
"My Catholic education has strengthened my faith and given me a good foundation for the rest of my life."



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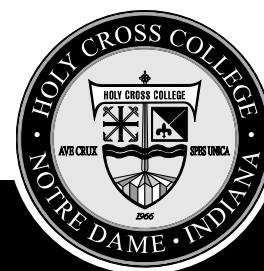
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Saint Joseph's Valedictorian

Sarah Mattheys

Hometown: South Bend

College attending:
University of Notre Dame

Intended major and eventual
career: Professional Sciences,
medical doctor



Who have been your helpers and guides through your time in high school and how?

"My parents have provided a stronghold for me. Whenever I have a problem, I know I can always fall back on them for support. My older sister has been a role model for me. She has been a great friend and loving sister. Lastly, my friends have provided an encouraging, supportive and fun atmosphere."

What have your favorite classes been?

"My favorite classes have been chemistry, morality, American history and physics."

What do you like to do for relaxation/hobbies/spare time?

"I enjoy spending time with my friends, playing sports and playing board games with my family."

What are your favorite memories of high school?

"Planning events at the student council field trips and

pulling April Fool's jokes on friends and teachers."

What is your dream for your life?

"My dream is to become a good doctor and be involved in medical research. I want to have a family and live in a town like South Bend."

What do you feel is the value of a Catholic education?

"A Catholic education is invaluable. Nothing can compare to being able to participate in theological discussions and pray in school every day. The community spirit fostered at Saint Joe has enabled me to grow mentally and spiritually. The teachers involved at Saint Joe genuinely care for the students' needs and are always ready to help."

Saint Joseph's Valedictorian

Rob Jones

Hometown: Born in Oak Park, Ill.,
now of South Bend

College attending:
University of Notre Dame, pending
decisions from Harvard and Yale

Intended major and eventual
career: Electrical Engineering,
unsure of career



Who have been your helpers and guides through your time in high school and how?

"My parents have helped me and encouraged me to do the right thing and to keep within my limits. My friends have supported me and given me an outlet when I become too stressed about something. My teachers have challenged me to always do the best work I can do."

What have your favorite classes been?

"I loved economics because it gave me an entirely new perspective on the world. I enjoyed math in general because I am a bit strange in that I like doing math. I also thoroughly enjoyed Father Bly's Hebrew Scriptures class."

What do you like to do for relaxation/hobbies/spare time?

"I play sports recreationally, listen to music, play clarinet, guitar and piano, watch sports, 'CSI,' and 'Jeopardy,' read, play videogames and spend time with my friends."

What are your favorite memories of high school?

"Father Bly's class, beating Marian in soccer on the last second goal freshman year, Fed Challenge state competitions, Mock Trial State Competition (regionals, also), Quiz Bowl."

What is your dream for your life?

"I am not sure exactly what career I would like to pursue, but I do know that I would love to have a job that I enjoy and a family that I love."

What do you feel is the value of a Catholic education?

"Catholic education is valuable because it gives the students involved a great sense of community, responsibility and morals. These combine to create an educational environment superior to that of any other school."

Saint Joseph's Salutatorian

Alan Huang

Hometown: Granger

College attending: Washington
University in St. Louis

Intended major: Chemistry



Who have been your helpers and guides through your time in high school and how?

"My parents, my brother, and my uncles and aunts have given me great advice. My teachers at Saint Joe have also given me a great deal of guidance."

What have your favorite classes been?

"Macroeconomics, microeconomics, Father Bly's class, AP physics, gym, computer science and U.S. government"

What do you like to do for relaxation/hobbies/spare time?

"I like to play violin, read, go on the computer and mostly spend time with my friends."

What are your favorite memories of high school?

"Study hall with Mr. Gerencher, with Maggie Waller, Danny Rudzinski and Kael; the tennis team and hanging out with all of my friends."

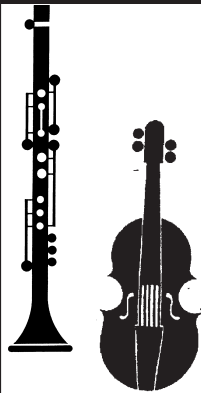
What is your dream for your life?

"I don't know what it is that I want to do for my career, but I really want to make a difference in the lives of others."

What do you feel is the value of a Catholic education?

"Faith based education where people are not afraid to express their faith is invaluable. It instills moral values that are essential in life."

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Hip Hope

SADD CHAPTER PREMIERED 'CRASH' VIDEO Marian High School's SADD chapter, led by Deb Ketcham, hosted the premiere of the locally produced film, "Crash" at their school on May 3. The movie demonstrates choices and corresponding consequences teenagers suffer relating to drinking and driving. Students from Marian, Penn and Saint Joseph's High School's SADD chapters wrote and starred in the movie. An anticipated state grant will allow a copy to be placed in every high school in Indiana.

Receives scholarship to Marian College

MISHAWAKA — Heather DeLucenay, who will graduate from Marian High School this year, has received the San Damiano Scholarship to attend Marian College in Indianapolis.

A resident of Bristol, DeLucenay attends St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Elkhart. She has been a catechist at St.

Thomas for four years and is an extraordinary eucharistic minister. A Girl Scout and member of 4-H, DeLucenay is also a clown. Her school activities include membership to the Marian Civitans group and the Marian Liturgical Choir.

Marian students assist with cleanup in New Orleans

BY MARY CATE QUIETT

MISHAWAKA — Thirteen teenage girls piled into a minibus overflowing with donated food with a nun for a chauffeur and the zaniest religion teacher at Marian as the navigator on March 30. I knew this would be a trip to remember and it was. What I will remember most is not the ride down, the food falling from the ceiling of the minibus, or the silly sing-a-longs we had on the bus, but the generosity that was shown to us.

Dozens of donors gave food, money and prayers so this trip was possible, but we received a generosity I never expected from the people of New Orleans.

As we took our tour of New Orleans we witnessed the horrible devastation still present seven months after Hurricane Katrina.

I saw houses on top of cars, waterlines of nearly 10 feet, blue roofs and the neon "X"s numbering the dead found in every house. Our group had the privilege to meet some of the people affected by this devastating hurricane, namely, the entire family of Patrick Cuba.

Patrick is a junior who joined the Marian community after the hurricane. His little sister, Danielle, attends St. Matthew Cathedral School.

The generosity of the Cuba family amazed me. They cooked for us, took us to find the best seafood in town, welcomed us into their homes, gave us goody bags full of Mardi Gras beads and shared their stories with us.



PROVIDED BY MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL

Marian High School students spent their spring break in New Orleans assisting those who are rebuilding their lives after the devastation from Hurricane Katrina.

All of this came from people who are still rebuilding their lives seven months after Katrina. I was, and still am, in awe of such generosity.

All of the work we did could never amount to the kindness the people of New Orleans showed us. Their charity has taught me two valuable lessons.

The first lesson learned is best stated by Mother Teresa when she said, "Love does not measure, it just gives." No matter how much or little we possess, we are called to give unconditionally and this is what the people of New Orleans did.

Secondly, I now understand what Jesus meant when he said,

"To whom much is given much is expected." — Lk 12:48.

Much has been given to the small group of Marian students and teachers who went on this trip and now much is expected. The people of New Orleans still need our help. They are ordinary people whose houses, cars and worldly possessions were lost.

New Orleans is not "okay," but it can be, if we all continue to give. We hope to return to New Orleans next year.

Mary Cate Quiett is a member of the Marian High School class of 2007.

CONGRATULATIONS!

Everyone at Saint Joseph's High School extends heartfelt congratulations to our graduating Class of 2006. We're so very proud of how you've grown — intellectually and spiritually. May God go with you as your next journey begins.

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UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA, B.S. & PH.D
PSYCHOLOGIST | STUDIES THE MIND | ENRICHES MINDS

INDIANA UNIVERSITY SOUTH BEND

EDITORIAL

Divine revelation is the core of our spiritual lives

It is quite common today to hear many Catholics speak of appearances of Our Lady at various places around the world, from Medjugorje in the former Yugoslavia and Conyers, Ga., to cities not far removed from Fort Wayne or South Bend. In order to understand how these special experiences relate to Catholic faith and practice, it is important first to understand the church's teaching on how God reveals himself, called divine revelation.

The church teaches that God has revealed himself in the course of human history in different ways and at different times (see Hebrews 1.1). This gift of God — this self-communication of God, his revelation of who he is — is completed and made perfect in Jesus Christ, his only Son, who took flesh and was born of the Virgin Mary. Jesus completes God's revelation of himself, because in Jesus, God makes himself known in an unparalleled way. Once God had spoken his Word (Jesus, his Son), he said all that he needed to say. As St. Irenaeus (+c. A.D. 220) wrote, "the manifestation of the Son is what it means to know the Father" and as his slightly later contemporary Origen (+A.D. 254) argued, "The Son reveals the Father by being himself understood." There is something complete and definitive about God's revelation of himself in Christ. The apostles and other immediate witnesses of Jesus' life, ministry, death and resurrection possess a privileged place in God's plan. The church teaches that this unique, firsthand experience of the Risen Lord has been passed on in the life of the church in two ways: in written form (called sacred Scripture) and in unwritten form (called sacred tradition). These two form what is called public revelation, because this revelation is given to the church (not simply to individuals), it is accessible to all (it is not secret or esoteric), and provides what is necessary for our salvation (it is definitive).

Public revelation is considered to have ended with the death of the last apostle. This means that there are not going to be any new books added to the Bible, and that, while we undoubtedly grow in our understanding of what is revealed through Scripture and tradition, nothing new can or will be added to the "deposit of faith": the essentials are already there. What we need to know for our salvation has already been made known to us: God does not hold anything back.

What then are private revelations? In the long history of the church, particular individuals have had unique experiences in which the Lord himself, or more commonly, Mary, his mother, has appeared and communicated to them. Familiar examples are the apparitions of Our Lady to Bernadette Soubirous at Lourdes, France in 1858, and to the three children at Fatima, Portugal, in May, 1917. These are called private revelations precisely because they occurred to particular individuals, and because, with public revelation already completed, such messages or communications cannot add to or change anything already revealed publicly.

In the words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church, private revelations "do not belong ... to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ's definitive revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history." (Paragraph 67).

It is clear from the catechism that the role of private revelation is to assist individuals at particular times in assimilating what has already been revealed publicly — in immersing themselves more deeply into the lived faith of the church and its sacramental life.

Private revelations are always subject to the church's inquiry and approval. Church authorities carefully and painstakingly investigate reports of such events, and are always circumspect in making judgments about their authenticity. Even when such approval is granted by the church, no Catholic is bound to accept or adhere to private revelation — the reason being that, strictly speaking, it is not necessary for one's salvation. Private revelation can only reinforce or highlight the faith of the church. It cannot reveal anything new.

Pending such approval, Catholics should exercise caution and evaluate such events in light of what is publicly revealed, that is, the life, practice and teaching of the church. Any supposed revelation, which contradicts the public faith of the church or claims to add anything to it, is not worthy of belief or adherence.

While private revelations can be special moments of grace for particular individuals, it is imperative that they be understood within the larger context of the church's understanding of divine revelation.

And while private revelations can assist and develop our spirituality, they should not become the core or focus of our spiritual life. Our focus should always be on the publicly revealed elements of Catholic faith, particularly the written word of God and the church's experience of the Risen Lord, celebrated in the source and summit of Christian life, the eucharistic liturgy.

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

Heartfelt thanks for those who shared in care of elderly religious

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all who have shared in the care of our elderly religious through contributions to the annual Retirement Fund for Religious Appeal. The \$150,697.69 contributed by the people of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend — an almost three percent increase over 2004 giving of \$146,856 — is a great help to senior religious throughout the United States. Ninety-four cents of every dollar contributed goes directly to religious institutes, and you are remembered daily in the prayers of the more than 38,000 senior religious who benefit from your generosity.

Sister Andree Fries
Executive director
National Religious Retirement
Office
Washington, D.C.

Thanks from the CCHD

Dear Bishop D'Arcy:

I write on behalf of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) to thank you and your parishioners in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for your generous contribution of \$38,896.47 from your 2005 CCHD collection.

Last year, the incidence of poverty in our country rose for the fourth consecutive year, with most of the increases occurring among the working poor. Without the safety net provided by safe and adequate housing, reliable transportation, functioning schools, steady employment and dependable health care, even more people will slip into an intolerable existence. Through the support of parishioners in dioceses across the country, we were able to grant \$9 million in 2005 to anti-poverty, social justice projects in 49 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. CCHD takes the risk of investing in the dignity of poor and low-income people. Your partnership with us helps break the

cycle of poverty. So, in the name of those who will be helped by the generosity of your people, I say thank you, too.

In his World Day of Peace Message for 2006, Pope Benedict XVI challenges us with these words:

"Peace thus comes to be seen in a new light: not as the mere absence of war, but as a harmonious coexistence of individual citizens within a society governed by justice, one in which the good is also achieved, to the extent possible, for each of them."

Your support of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development helps achieve "the good" for families and communities struggling in poverty. We are grateful for your leadership and the invaluable efforts of your diocesan director, Ms. Ann Helmke. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Respectfully yours in Christ,

Timothy F. Collins
Executive Director
Catholic Campaign for Human
Development

Stewardship — A battle

Watch a few minutes of the news and we know that the world is at odds with our faith. Actually, there is more than a competition; it is an all out battle raging between the worldly culture and a life of faith. Many people take one side or the other, some people try to play both sides, some of these people act as traitors — carrying a title of one side and living the ways of the other. We are each challenged to pick the side that we dare stand for.

As Catholics, we are the ones that are marked with the sign of faith. We are the ones who are equipped for competition. We must be engaged in the struggle of the competition; this is our Christian duty. Our task is to convert this misguided world, to transform it into something that is holy; this is the coming of God's kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. This has been God's intent from the start and he has invited many to join his cause.

We cannot simply believe that God's kingdom is only in heaven, for it is God's intent that his kingdom is on earth as it is in heaven, obviously stated by Jesus in the Our Father. And it is our responsibility, with God's grace, that God's kingdom unfolds on earth. Is this not the reason Christ became present in the world? Not for just 33 years, but for the last 2,000 years. We, his church, are the physical means of living his spirit. Is it not our responsibility then to continue this mission as Jesus expressed, "As the Father has sent me, I also send you." — Jn 20:21.

Jesus was the earthly witness to the Father; therefore, we ought to do the same. His words were not for



STEWARDSHIP — A WAY OF LIFE

HARRY VERHILEY

his apostles alone, but also for us.

By living a Christian life, we proclaim to the world that God is present in the world. The world of Jesus is different from the culture we live in. Jesus lived in a real spirit of poverty, chastity and obedience. There are movements within our culture that call us — especially our youth — to be affluent, perverted and rebellious. The practice of poverty gives us a sense to begin with the end in mind by renouncing the material things of this world, therefore preparing us for the last act of renunciation upon the moment of death when we give it all up. To do without certain things does not limit our freedom as much as it gives us more freedom, because we become detached from the material goods and less reliant on them.

It is easy to become self-ambitious, preoccupied with money, affluence and power. Of course, there must be a balance, we do not want to become a burden on others because we do not earn our keep, or care for our own family's needs. This is all part of being a good steward. But it does have something to do with recognizing our needs, and our wants, and not responding to every desire that we have.

Stewardship has a great deal to do with trusting God for our needs, that he will provide for our needs,

in giving us opportunities to work toward the fulfillment of those needs. It has something to do with imitating Christ in his poverty, chastity and obedience. It recognizes the needs of others and responding to those needs. It articulates our duty as Christians and contributes to the building of God's kingdom on this earth, by seeing Christ in the poor and those who are less fortunate than we are. It identifies that the worldly goods that we have are gifts from God to be used towards his greater glory, not ours. All of this is on the premise that God is first; everything starts with God. This seems to be the spirit of Jesus' words, "Man cannot serve two masters, God or mammon." — Lk 16:13.

The battle will rage until the last day, therefore we will always have to struggle with the balance of our spiritual journey and our temporal well being. Realistically, our generation will most likely always struggle with the desire to have more. We have to make a concerted effort not to collect too much stuff for ourselves, while ignoring those in need. After all, we are journeying through life and a lot of this stuff is heavy.

Harry Verhiley is development director for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Bush outlines plan on flu pandemic; CRS staff in Asia on front lines

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When President George W. Bush unveiled his 234-page national strategy for combating a possible avian flu pandemic in the United States May 3, the report emphasized that “there are no reported cases of sustained human-to-human transmission” of the current strain of the flu.

But that could change quickly, and the threat is very real in some areas of Southeast Asia where Catholic Relief Services personnel are serving. The avian flu strain known as H5N1 has already infected more than 200 people in nine countries and has killed more than half of them.

Greg Bastian, CRS’ regional representative for Southeast and East Asia, is coordinating an avian influenza advisory group for the Baltimore-based overseas relief and development agency of U.S. Catholics.

With personnel and projects in 99 countries, CRS has focused on information, education and communication with its own staff and the people in the community. An internal Web site offers its staff

information about avian flu, how to prevent its transmission and ideas about spreading the word in the field.

“It’s important for our own staff to be educated and cared for, so that they can help the people we serve” to avoid the effects of avian flu and of any pandemic that might result if the strain mutates, Bastian said.

“CRS is very well placed to respond” to the avian flu threat because of its long-established links to agriculture and primary health care programs in a wide range of communities, said Richard Balmadier, CRS country representative in Cambodia, in a May 4 telephone interview from the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh.

The strategy outlined by Bush offers more than 300 action steps for federal agencies to take to prevent and contain outbreaks abroad; slow the arrival and spread of a pandemic; protect human and animal health; ensure civil order during a pandemic; and ensure continuity of operations at the institutional level.

THE WASHINGTON LETTER

NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

If the H5N1 avian flu were to mutate into an influenza easily transmitted among humans, large gatherings such as church services might be one of the first things to be canceled.

As a matter of fact, training exercises developed by the California Department of Health Services’ Office of Legal Services and Division of Communicable Disease Control to help the state’s court system personnel plan for a possible influenza pandemic includes one scenario in which the entire active membership of a Catholic parish is quarantined after a priest infected by the flu distrib-

LETTER, PAGE 18

God offers us life itself, life in Jesus



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

6th Sunday of Easter Jn 15:9-17

The Acts of the Apostles once again provides the first reading for a weekend in the Easter season.

In this reading, the Apostle Peter enters the house of Cornelius, who falls to his knees to give homage to the leader of the followers of Jesus. Graciously, Peter lifts Cornelius to his feet. Then, Peter insists that he has no partiality among persons of various ethnic and national backgrounds, because God has no such partiality.

At the moment of this testimony of faith, and of true discipleship, the Holy Spirit descends into the group present, including the gentiles. Peter says that anyone so prompted by the Spirit cannot be denied baptism by water.

To set the stage for this reading, Cornelius’ name implies that he was not Jewish. He was a gentile. Moreover, he was a Roman, representative of the detested occupying power. His associates were gentiles. Despite all this, Peter entered the home of Cornelius, unheard of for a devout Jew, as was Peter. The apostle claimed that all have access to God, and God welcomes all. Finally, God, in the Holy Spirit, comes into the hearts of all. The Spirit is with Peter. At last, Peter brings all into the company

of faith by baptizing them with water.

The First Epistle of John is the source of the next reading. This reading is a moving, and especially descriptive, message about God’s love. God is love. God is in Jesus. Love is in God. Marvelously, God shares this divine love with the faithful.

God’s love, and living according to God’s love, brings joy, indeed a joy unequalled by anything on earth.

The test of loving God is in obeying the commandments. God revealed the commandments, and God perfectly revealed the divine plan for salvation through and in Jesus.

St. John’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. As did the second reading, this proclamation of the Gospel centers upon the love of God.

In this reading, God’s love is celebrated. God’s love was proven by the Lord’s willing, sacrificial death on Calvary. “There is no greater love than this, to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

Because of uniting with Jesus in faith and love, disciples are friends of God. For the ancient Jews, as well as others in the Mediterranean world, friend was much more powerful in its meaning than it is today. United with Jesus, people are no longer slaves, certainly not slaves to sin.

But, truly loving God means to love others. The image of the vine occurs again. Disciples are the branches. If true to Christ, they produce much fruit.

The reading closes with the wonderful; admonition, and command, of Jesus to “love one another.”

Reflection

Carefully and deliberately the church is leading us forward to the feast of the Ascension. It is if we Christians had been standing beside the apostles in the days following the Resurrection, hearing with them the words of the risen Jesus, seeing as they saw the wonder of life victorious over death.

Now, the mood slightly shifts. The church prepares us for the Ascension. Soon the presence of Jesus among us on earth will change.

Jesus gives us final words of advice. He calls us “to love one another.” Considering the depth of the divine love displayed in the Crucifixion, it is a challenge for mere mortals. Yet it is possible.

It is possible because strength and insight come to any true believer from the Holy Spirit. It is insight that brings peace and joy. It is outreach and great in its compassion and service.

And, it comes to anyone who earnestly seeks God, even if sin has rendered them servants of an evil dominating power. God loves us all. God offers us life itself, life in Jesus.

READINGS

Sixth Week of Easter

Monday: Acts 16:11-15 Ps 149:1-6a, 9b Jn 15:26-16:4a

Tuesday: Acts 16:22-34 Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8 Jn 16:5-11

Wednesday: Acts 17:15, 22-18:1 Ps 148:1-2, 11-14 Jn 16:12-15

Thursday: Acts 18:1-8 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 16:16-20

Friday: Acts 18:9-18 Ps 47:2-7 Jn 16:20-23a

Saturday: Acts 18:23-28 Ps 47:2-3, 8-10 Jn 16:23b-28

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

On May 26 the church remembers St. Philip Neri. This quiz looks at all things “philippic.”

- 1. What is the Gospel of Philip?**
 - a. an alternate title for the Acts of the Apostles
 - b. the missing part of “The Da Vinci Code”
 - c. a gnostic gospel with a few references to Christ’s teachings
- 2. Philip of Hesse was a leading supporter of the Protestant Reformation in this part of Europe:**
 - a. Italy
 - b. Ireland
 - c. Germany
- 3. The Catholic King Philip II of Spain sent this unsuccessful invasion fleet against Protestant England:**
 - a. the Trinidad
 - b. the Armada
 - c. the Conquista
- 4. St. Philip Neri was reputed to have had this unusual physical change after he received a mystical inflow of divine love:**
 - a. his head shrank
 - b. his heart was enlarged
 - c. he became taller
- 5. The priest and unsuccessful candidate for patriarch of Constantinople, Philip Sidetes, is credited with a lost work criticizing this last pagan Roman emperor:**
 - a. Julian the Apostate
 - b. Romulus Augustulus
 - c. Agamemnon
- 6. The Apostle Philip is often shown in art with these because he was present at the feeding of the 5,000:**
 - a. crowds
 - b. fishes
 - c. loaves of bread
- 7. Philip is included in Acts and all the Gospels as an apostle, but only this, the longest Gospel, offers any details about him:**
 - a. Matthew
 - b. Luke
 - c. John
- 8. Another Philip was one of these chosen by the apostles to serve the Christian community:**
 - a. deacons
 - b. centurions
 - c. priests
- 9. Philip the Tetrarch, a ruler in the Holy Land at the time of Christ is less well known than his notorious father:**
 - a. Julius Crasser
 - b. Herod the Great
 - c. Judas Iscariot
- 10. St. Paul wrote an Epistle to the Philippians. Where is Philippi?**
 - a. Asia, near what is now Turkey
 - b. Africa, near the Negev desert
 - c. Europe, in the region of Macedonia
- 11. That same Epistle is one of the “Captivity Epistles.” Why?**
 - a. because the originals were removed from Jerusalem and held by Muslims until the 12th century.
 - b. because they were written when Paul was under some form of house arrest.
 - c. because the Christian religion was still against the law at that time.
- 12. The Philippines had the strongest Christian community in Asia. Who introduced Christianity to this country?**
 - a. the Spanish
 - b. the Japanese
 - c. the Americans
- 13. Despite a Biblical sounding name, the Philippists were followers of Melancton who was one of these:**
 - a. A leader of a Gnostic sect in the second century.
 - b. A leader of the Catholic renewal, especially in monastic communities.
 - c. A leader of the Reformation.
- 14. In the Eastern Catholic and Orthodox Churches, Philip’s Fast corresponds to the time of year that the Roman Catholic Church celebrates:**
 - a. Lent
 - b. Holy Week
 - c. Advent
- 15. Mr. Ambrose Phillips de Lisle was a convert to Catholicism who helped the reestablishment of the church in this, his native country.**
 - a. England
 - b. Ireland
 - c. France

ANSWERS:

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

Lighting unity candle at wedding liturgy should be discouraged

What is the position of the church on the practice of lighting a unity candle during the Catholic wedding liturgy?
Anonymous

Over the last 20 years, the practice of the bride and groom lighting a unity candle after the exchange of wedding vows, has become very popular in the United States. This lighting of the unity candle ceremony is not part of the Catholic rite of marriage, and in fact is a custom, which has been added to weddings in many faith traditions, and in purely secular weddings.

It has become part of our popular culture. Usually, a larger candle is lit from two smaller candles, and the common symbolism is that "two become one." Sometimes, it is explained that the individual lives of the bride and groom are absorbed into one single life of the marriage.

What does the Catholic Church say about this practice?

In the Catholic tradition, a lighted candle is a symbol of the light of Christ. We find this sym-

bol in the paschal candle which is lit at the Easter Vigil with the priest saying: "May the light of Christ, rising in glory, dispel the darkness of our hearts and minds."

We see it in the sacrament of baptism where the newly baptized are given a candle and the minister says: "You have been enlightened by Christ. Walk always as children of the light..." When a church is dedicated, the deacon receives a lighted candle from the bishop and lights the candles at the altar. The bishop says: "Light of Christ, shine forth in the church and bring all nations to the fullness of truth." The examples could go on and on. So, it is difficult to reconcile this Catholic tradition of the candle representing Christ, with the concept of a unity candle at the Catholic wedding.

The lighting of a unity candle is not a part of the Catholic rite of marriage. Our United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has not approved the use of the unity candle. The USCCB raises some important questions in its statement of

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

March, 1991 and I would like to quote from that statement:

"Considering this liturgical usage of candles, what is the symbolism of lighting one larger candle from two smaller ones, which are then extinguished? If the larger candle does not represent Christ, what does it symbolize? The couple? If so, it seems to be a variance with liturgical tradition. And if the two small candles are meant to represent the individual baptized Christians entering this marriage, should not that symbolization be made explicit, such as, by the bride and groom each carrying their candle in the entrance procession? And are those individual lives in some way "snuffed out" when the

two who have become one in Christ extinguish their candles?"

The 1991 statement of the USCCB raises another important question: "If the larger candle represents Christ, should it not be burning from the very beginning of the liturgy? The light of Christ does not come from the couple, but rather is shared with the couple. If this symbolism is the intended one, the couples' candles should be lighted from the "Christ candle" and stand next to it as a sign that the unity of the couple comes from Christ. For they are united with each other by being united in Christ."

In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Bishop John M. D'Arcy has promulgated wedding guidelines (1995) as the norm for our diocese. Here is what these guidelines say about the use of a unity candle: "Since the Eucharist is the source and center of unity, the use of the unity candle should be downplayed. It is not a part of the Catholic rite of marriage, but it could be used effectively at the reception."

Until the Catholic Church includes this new practice into the rite of marriage, and until the theology of why we are lighting a unity candle is determined, and because we are already celebrating unity through the exchange of vows in the sacrament of marriage, and in the wedding Mass through the Eucharist, the practice of lighting a unity candle at the wedding liturgy should be discouraged for Catholic weddings.

Today's Catholic welcomes questions from readers to pose to Father Richard Hire, Father Michael Heintz, Father Mark Gurtner and 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. Include your name, city and an e-mail address or phone number so we can contact you if necessary. Anonymity will be preserved upon request.

A Golden Dome opportunity missed

A pall will hang over commencement at the University of Notre Dame this year — the pall of a great opportunity missed. Temporarily, one must hope.

Notre Dame's new president, Father John Jenkins, CSC, got off to a brilliant start this past fall, with an inaugural address that located Notre Dame solidly within the ancient tradition of Catholic higher learning. Father Jenkins then led a pilgrimage to Rome, an act that embodied a key plank in the reformist platform announced in his inaugural address: to "think with the church" means both to think and to think "with the church."

Then, in April, things changed, dramatically and for the worse. After a campus-wide debate, Father Jenkins announced that "the creative contextualization of a play like 'The Vagina Monologues' can bring certain perspectives on important issues into a constructive and fruitful dialogue with the Catholic tradition." Therefore, Father Jenkins decreed, the V-Monologues could continue to be produced on campus.

It was difficult, bordering on impossible, not to read Father Jenkins' decision as a surrender to the most corrosive forces eating away at the vitals of Catholic higher education.

That view is shared by numerous Notre Dame faculty, among whom Father Wilson Miscamble, CSC, stands tall, literally, intellectually and spiritually. In a public letter to his brother Holy Cross priest, Father Miscamble told Father Jenkins that "your decision is being portrayed as involving your 'backing down,'" in part because of an untoward deference to "the convictions of certain senior Arts and Letters faculty that any restriction on this

play would damage our academic 'reputation' — and especially among those 'preferred peer schools' whose regard we crave." "Indeed," Miscamble continued, "it is hard to understand (your decision) in any other terms."

Then Father Miscamble got down to cases: "In your recent ... statement you reveal a level of naiveté about the process of a Catholic university engaging the broad culture that is striking and deeply harmful to our purpose as a Catholic university. We live at a time, as Yale Law School professor Stephen Carter pointed out some years ago, when the elite culture is programmed to trivialize religion. Furthermore, much of popular culture is deeply antithetical to religious conviction and practice. It offers a world view completely at odds with any Catholic vision. It is a world view from which none of us can be sequestered and, indeed, many of our students arrive here far more influenced by the reigning culture than by faith convictions.

"Amidst this larger context you are to permit the continued production and promotion of a play which, as our colleague Paolo Carozza rightly puts it, 'seems to reduce the meaning and value of women's lives to their sexual experiences and organs, reinforcing a perspective on the human person that is itself fundamentally a form of violence.' Dialogue with this point of view is ridiculous. It should be contested and resisted at Notre Dame but never promoted. Notre Dame must hold to a higher view of the dignity of women and men. Might I ask that if this play does not meet your criteria of an 'expression that is overt and insistent in its contempt for the values and sensibilities of the university,' then



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

what would?"

Father Miscamble ends by asking his brother priest to "go back to your best self and to your original instincts and position on this matter. Don't embarrass those of us who want to work with you to build a great Catholic university. Lead us."

Anyone who cares about the flagship university of Catholic higher education in America must pray that Father Miscamble's plea is heard by Father Jenkins, a man who has shown courage in the past. The V-Monologues is trashy, pornographic nonsense, like a lot of other stuff available in the movies and on cable TV. A great university can't monitor what its students watch on TV or in theaters. But it can teach them about stupidity. The V-Monologues are stupid, and one of the things a great Catholic university ought to teach its students is to avoid the stupid. It can't do that by the "creative contextualization" of stupidity.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for May 21, 2006

John 15:9-17

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Sixth Sunday of Easter, Cycle B: the gift of divine friendship. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

FATHER	MY LOVE	IF YOU KEEP
KEPT	MY JOY	YOUR JOY
LOVE	ONE ANOTHER	GREATER LOVE
THAN THIS	LIFE	COMMAND
NO LONGER	MASTER	IS DOING
CALLED YOU	CHOSE YOU	FRUIT
YOU ASK	MY NAME	GIVE

CHOSE YOU

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

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LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

utes Communion.

The exercise asks court personnel to consider what to do if "parishioners who claim they did not take Communion or otherwise have contact with the priest" petition the court to be released from the quarantine.

The scenario is not so far-fetched. In 2004, during a shortage of vaccines to treat the seasonal flu, Bishop Timothy A. McDonnell of Springfield, Mass., said Catholics in his diocese who were sick for any reason could "excuse themselves from Sunday worship out of respect for their fellow worshippers."

The World Health Organization

warns that if the avian flu develops into "a form as contagious as normal influenza" its global spread will be inevitable.

The pandemics of the 20th century — including the 1918 Spanish flu, which killed 40 million to 50 million people worldwide — "encircled the globe in six to nine months, even when most international travel was by ship," WHO said in an October report. "Given the speed and volume of international air travel today, the virus could spread more rapidly, possibly reaching all continents in less than three months."

But on the front lines of the H5N1 avian flu, CRS is working to keep its own personnel healthy and safe, so that service to the local populations won't be diminished.

Think, pray, decide



THE CUTTING EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

Have you ever acted first and thought about the consequences later? This behavior, unfortunately, for too many of us is not uncommon. A large number of people always seem to be in a hurry.

Because of our hectic lives, we Americans have a tendency to act now and think later. This often results in poor decisions.

A good practice that all of us need to learn — if we haven't already — is what is known as discernment. Discernment is a tool that helps a person to make good decisions that are, hopefully, in line with God's will.

To discern means to sift through all the possible consequences of our choices or actions. It involves gathering information, reflection, prayer and listening to the true desires of our hearts. Good discernment takes time. It is not a hurried process. It should be used for any major decision in our lives.

Some examples of decisions that would benefit from the discernment process are

choosing a college or a major. Or it may be the decision whether to marry someone or to continue a certain relationship. Another significant decision would be whether or not to choose religious life or priesthood over marriage. Job decisions and major moves also fall in this category. (Those who are graduating from college in the next month or so have many of these things on their minds.)

To make good choices we need to look at all the options and all the consequences of a particular decision. Another way to say it is to look at all the pros (good things) and cons (not so good things). Every decision we make to do one thing is a choice not to do something else. It is important to look at both sides of a situation.

For example, to decide to enter the ordained ministry or religious life is also a decision not to marry and have a family. Or, to decide to marry a certain person is a choice not to be intimately involved with anyone else.

When we discern pros and cons we look at all the reasons we can think of to do something and every reason we can think of not to do it. After this is done, we take this information and spend time reflecting and praying about it. Then we try to get in touch with where our heart is being drawn. Which decision gives us the most peace? It is good to wait a couple of weeks or so to see if this spirit of peace remains before we make the final decision. If we begin to feel anxious or

restless about our decision it is a sign to discern further.

One thing I forgot to mention is the great importance of prayer for openness. It is not truly discernment if one goes into the process with his or her mind pretty much made up ahead of time. True discernment requires an open mind and spirit. Only God can give us that grace. Openness is not easy.

Major decisions have lasting consequences in our lives so it is extremely important to give them the time and thought they deserve. If decisions are made solely on emotion or impulse, the results are often poor. That is why I usually counsel couples not to make a decision about marriage until they are out of the infatuation stage. It is important to develop a friendship based on real experience, not on romantic notions. There is an old saying that romantic love can blind us.

A good habit to get into is to ask God's help in any decision we have to make and to seek guidance from people we respect—not to make the decision for us, but to help us weigh the possible consequences of our actions.

I would wager that most of us would have fewer regrets about our choices if we took the time and discerned well in a spirit of prayer.

Let us resolve not to make immediate decisions about anything that is important to us. On the other hand, some people discern



YOUNG ADULT PERSPECTIVES

and discern but can never make a decision. That is not good either. After we discern, we must act. We will never be absolutely sure about anything. Sitting on the fence for a long time is not good. We get nowhere fast. We either have to go on one side or the other. Indecision can be very uncomfortable and it keeps us from growing.

When our decisions are well thought out we can be pretty sure that most of the time they will be good ones. Good luck.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, a former campus minister and vocation director, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department. mlavonis@cscsisters.org.

Notre Dame Pro-Life Conference tackles issues to save unborn, infirm and aged lives

BY ELLEN RICE

NOTRE DAME — The arrival of spring at the Notre Dame campus means the annual Blue-Gold game football scrimmage, and crowds of students and fans flocked to Notre Dame stadium to see next fall's team. Amid this unseasonal burst of fall fandom, another crowd gathered, for the purpose of building teams not to block, tackle and score, but to save unborn, infirm and aged lives. The day's speakers discussed pertinent dimensions of the culture.

Father James Heyd, a Notre Dame graduate, and a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago serving as an associate with Priests for Life addressed the crowd of approximately 60 students, from schools including Notre Dame, Loyola University of Chicago, and Wayne State University.

Father Heyd's address located the Catholic apostolate to save lives in the tradition of lay activism that began with the publication of Pope Leo XIII's magnificent social encyclical "Rerum Novarum," which inspired lay people to stand up for the weak of that day, the workers.

Father Heyd traced this tradition through the Catholic Action movement of the 20th century, which in turn inspired the Christian Family Movement, which began at Notre Dame in the 1950s. "Observe, judge, act," the motto of the Christian Family Movement, he suggested, needed to be adopted by the contemporary pro-life movement.

He noted that Priests for Life observes the fallout of the 46 million abortions to date, telling women's stories; and observes the legal situation and the corruption of the medical profession. He pointed out that it is all right to judge phenomena as problematic, as truth exists. Finally, after judging how something accords or differs from the truth, the pro-life movement, he said, needs to act and correct the wrong.

Father John Coughlin, a canon lawyer on the faculty of Notre Dame Law School, followed this talk with a rousing argument for ecclesiastical clarity regarding the effects of pro-abortion activism on the body of Christ. Father Coughlin explained that this issue became important in the 2004 election, when Archbishop Raymond Burke of St. Louis stated he would refuse holy Communion to pro-abortion politicians who presented themselves for Communion in his diocese.

Recalling that, from the beginning of the church, with St. Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians, it has been taught that those who eat unworthily of the body and blood of the Lord eat to their own condemnation, Father Coughlin traced the development of the rules for refusing Communion to public sinners from the early days, throughout the history of the church, and down to the present day.

After explaining, in a Thomistic dialogue, the pros and cons presented by Archbishop Burke's brother bishops in America, Father Coughlin pointed out that abortion and euthanasia, being forms of murder, qualify as grave sins under Canon 915, and thus, a public advocate participating in these grave sins can justly be refused Communion. He also pointed that under then-Cardinal Ratzinger's published principles for judging the issue, abortion and euthanasia are graver than other offenses against life such as the death penalty and just war.

After a pizza lunch, Janet Smith, professor at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit, Mich., spoke on artificial reproduction technologies (ART). Her slides and lecture presented a portrait of an increasingly harrowing situation where in vitro fertilization has allowed men and women to sell sperm and eggs as commodities, for blind greed or for short-term desperation, such as financing their educations, resulting in a now-grown generation of children who have turned to Internet support groups to cope with the question of why their parents would

not want a relationship with them.

She pointed out that artificial reproduction technologies result in problems such as 50-100 residents of a city unknowingly being half-brothers and sisters; the relationship between mother and father and child being distorted into endless permutations of donor, parent and surrogate. She explained why, beyond all the horrific consequences, ART is immoral and presented again the unchanging, God-given plan for families that is in danger of being forgotten.

Following this address, Notre Dame philosophy professor Daniel McInerney and his wife Amy, founder of the Women's Injury Network, presented a two-part presentation comprised of a philosophical and theological definition of the nature of freedom, and an applied discussion of the abortion lobby's use of the term freedom to deceive women.

Amy McInerney provided stories of one woman who, in order to fulfill a "choice" for abortion, was given consent forms and an abortion while drugged; and other women who suffered serious physical complications from abortion that they were not informed about.

Finally, as the day waned, Dr. Peter Kreeft, professor of philosophy at Boston College in Massachusetts, expanded on Dr. McInerney's introduction to the nature of freedom. In discussing our culture's restrictions on political, psychological and metaphysical freedom, Dr. Kreeft concluded that we have reached the frightful point where abortionists and others who would deny the right to life, such as euthanizers, have become morally blind. This means that they deny that all human beings have human rights. Knowing well that all people are human beings, they dehumanize those they want to kill by first denying their personhood.

This way of thinking, he noted, is reminiscent of the defeated totalitarianism of communism, where, with God eliminated from the equation, state power denied freedom and often life, based on arbitrary criteria.

FORMER USF PRESIDENT RETIRES FROM UNIVERSITY



DON CLEMMER

Sister M. JoEllen Scheetz, OSF, former president and retiring English faculty at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne, speaks with Dr. Matt Smith, chair of the university Department of English, at a party celebrating Sister JoEllen's retirement from teaching and the university. Sister JoEllen served as president of then-Saint Francis College from 1970 to 1993. She has since served as fulltime faculty, teaching English and Latin. Her service to the university goes back over 40 years.

Sports

HOLY CROSS COLLEGE ADDS ATHLETICS PROGRAM The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) has approved Holy Cross College's application for membership. With the recent addition of athletic fields and a membership to the NAIA, the college can offer official intercollegiate competition. Joining the NAIA is also a major step in realizing the college's mission to develop each student's mind, body and spirit. Holy Cross College is considered a part of Region VII and will be starting athletic competition with men's and women's cross country this fall.

Rainy weather fouls ICCL baseball schedule

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — Inclement weather missed out five days of action in both divisions of the Inter-City Catholic League. Even so, undefeated Christ the King retained its leadership in the John Bosco Division although they were rained out twice.

Corpus Christi Red can snare the Martin De Porres Division pennant this weekend if they win their final game. Five games were played prior to the deluge of rain. In these contests, Holy Family defeated St. Jude, 8-6; Holy Cross bounced St. Anthony,

12-8; and St. Jude defeated St. Thomas of Elkhart, 11-7.

Following the windup of the regular season, a post game tournament will follow. The four bottom teams in each division will play in a single elimination tournament.

Standings:

John Bosco Division

St. Jude	6-1
Holy Family	5-1
Christ the King	4-0
St. Thomas	4-3
St. Joseph/St. John/Our Lady	2-4

Holy Cross	3-4
St. Anthony	2-4
St. Matthew	1-5
Corpus Christi	1-6

Martin De Porres Division

Corpus Christi (Red)	7-0
St. Jude (Green)	5-2
Holy Family (Blue)	5-2
Christ the King (White)	5-3
St. Michael (Plymouth)	3-4
St. Adalbert	3-5
Mishawaka Catholic	1-5
St. Thomas (Maroon)	1-6
St. Anthony (Maroon)	2-5

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St. Therese girls top CYO soccer season

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The girls Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) soccer season has wrapped up for 2006. The league standings are listed below. St. Therese came out on top during the regular season games. Teams receive two points for a win and one point for a tie.

2006 Girls CYO Soccer League Standings

Team	Points
St. Therese	10
St. Jude	9
St. Charles 8	8
St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth	7
St. Charles 7	6
St. Vincent	2
St. John	0

The tournament was an exciting one for Bob Christian's St. Joseph's/St. Elizabeth's girls. Finishing in fourth place during the regular season, they opened against St. Charles seventh graders. The St. Charles Cardinals handed them one of their losses during the season, but St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth beat them easily 4-0 in the tournament. In the semifinals, they had

to beat the No. 1 seed, St. Therese, 2-1, in overtime to get to the final game.

In the championship game, they faced St. Jude on a wet and rainy May 11 evening. St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth had lost to St. Jude during the regular season but came out on top with a lone goal scored by seventh grader, Gia Casaburo. Casaburo started the season in a cast after breaking her foot during the basketball season, but scored the winning goal with about two minutes to go.

Christian said the girls started the season out "pretty slow" because many of them do not play together in the off-season. However, they made great strides throughout the season and finished 3-2-1. They had 18 girls on the roster, 10 eighth graders and eight seventh graders. Offensive leaders for the team were Gabby Denning and Abbie Christian. St. Joseph's/St. Elizabeth's defensive anchor was Ally Stonebraker. Assistant coaches were John Connelly, Dan Quigley and Joe Spatt (Bishop Luers senior in his fourth year coaching). Christian has coached this group of girls for three seasons and has coached recreational soccer for the past nine years.

Top sports executive leads gender equity symposium at SMC

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary's College hosted a gender equity symposium for members of the Michigan Intercollegiate Athletic Association (MIAA) during the MIAA's annual meeting on Tuesday, May 16. The symposium focused on Title IX as it relates to athletics. Title IX is the 1972 landmark legislation that bans sex discrimination in schools.

The keynote speaker for the symposium was Donna Lopiano, Ph.D., chief executive officer of the Women's Sports Foundation. Lopiano has been a catalyst for increasing participation of girls and women in sports and works to educate the public about the importance of women's health and gender equity in athletics. The International Olympic Committee named Lopiano Woman of the Americas, and *Sports Business Journal* listed her as one of the "top 10 female sports executives in the nation." She coached college men's and women's volleyball, softball and women's basketball. She also served as director of women's athletics for 18 years at the University of Texas, Austin, one of the top Division I programs

in the country.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association awarded a grant to the Saint Mary's College Department of Athletics to fund Lopiano's visit.

Marian golfer snares top golf medalist honor

SOUTH BEND — Marian High School's talented freshman golfer, Adam Sumrall, snared top medalist honors at the prestigious 43rd annual E.A. Kaepler Golf Invitational at the Morris Park Country Club although his team finished second to Mishawaka Penn by two strokes, 307-309.

Sumrall had to go four extra holes to defeat Ben Bellville in the playoff.

Saint Joseph's golf team finished fourth in the eight-team event .394.

Marian and Saint Joseph's team scores include the following:

- Marian — Colin Van Es, 80; Adam Sumrall, 71; Mike McShane, 78; John Firth, 83; Stephen Sexton, 80.

- Saint Joseph's — Rob Jones, 92; Joe Crimmins, 82; Tyler Kanczuzewski, 83; Brooks Demaraus, 95; Jay Donbson, 89.

The four lowest scores count for each team. — EJD

CYO reports track best going into city meet

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Going into the 2006 CYO city track meet, Theresa Dirig, in her last year as coordinator, reports the following top three seeded times listed for each event.

Name	Team	Time
Girls 100-meter hurdles		
Maria Pepler	St. Therese	17.61
Aubrey Thorpe	St. John NH	18.40
Julia Lee	St. Joe/St. Eliz.	18.70
Boys 100-meter hurdles		
Bobby Widner	St. Jude	16.30
Mike Gabet	St. Charles	16.60
Stephen Wuest	St. John NH	17.61
Girls 100-meter dash		
Holley Taylor	St. Joe/St. Eliz.	13.40
Lauren Palmer	St. Jude	13.70
Ali Tippman	St. Charles	13.80
Boys 100-meter dash		
Deangelo Fincher	St. John/Benoit	12.50
Chris Lee	St. Charles	12.60
Jamarius Mitchell	St. John/Benoit	12.70
Girls 800-meter run		
AnneMarie Shank	St. John/Benoit	2:34.9
Katie Kayser	St. John NH/St. Louis	2:49.0
Lisa Weilbaker	St. Vincent	2:50.0
Boys 800-meter run		
Andy Brennan	St. Joe/St. Eliz.	2:22.6
Luke Momper	St. Jude	2:26.0
Josh Voelker	St. John NH	2:26.0
Girls 4x100 relay		
	St. John NH	57.7
	St. Joe/St. Eliz.	60.3
	St. Jude	61.1
Boys 4x100 relay		
	St. John/Benoit	51.3
	St. John NH	52.8
	St. Jude	55.8

Girls 400-meter run		
Anna McNamera	St. Joe/St. Eliz.	67.6
Rachel Sheperd	St. John NH	69.0
Tessa Derickson	St. Joe HC	69.2
Boys 400-meter run		
Nicky McCarthy	St. John NH	59.6
Leighton Painter	St. John NH	64.0
Deangelo Fincher	St. John/Benoit	64.3
Girls 200-meter dash		
Courtney Heddens	St. John NH	29.0
Lauren Palmer	St. Jude	29.4
Emily Lahrman	St. John NH	29.8
Boys 200-meter dash		
Courtney Mitchell	St. John/Benoit	26.2
Chris Lee	St. Charles	26.4
Billy Khorshid	St. Vincent	26.5
Girls 1600-meter run		
AnneMarie Shank	St. John/Benoit	5:47.2
Kate Kinley	St. Jude	6:18.5
Jill Stetzel	St. Charles	6:32.0
Boys 1600-meter run		
Luke Momper	St. Jude	5:24.9
Andy Brennan	St. Joe/Eliz.	5:27.0
Andrew Eckrich	St. Jude	5:27.4
Girls 4x200 relay		
	St. Joe/Eliz.	2:06.4
	St. John NH	2:07.0
	St. Charles	2:08.0
Boys 4x200 relay		
	St. Charles	1:54.9
	St. Jude	1:55.0
	St. John/Benoit	1:58.6

Girls discus throw		
Chris Widner	St. Vincent	90-08
Kayla Zink	St. John NH	78-01
Sarah Winklejohn	St. Vincent	71-02
Boys discus throw		
Kevin Kohrman	St. John NH	95-01
James Brames	St. John NH	89-04
Tony Bobay	St. Jude	84-04
Girls long jump		
Holley Taylor	St. Joe/Eliz.	12-11
Courtney Heddens	St. John NH	12-09
Paige Sordelet	St. Charles	12-06
Boys long jump		
Deangelo Fincher	St. John/Benoit	16-04
Matt Deininger	St. John NH	15-04
Brian Gabet	St. Charles	15-03
Girls high jump		
Emily Lahrman	St. John NH	4-09
Julia Lee	St. Joe/Eliz.	4-05
Rachel Sheperd	St. John NH	4-04
Boys high jump		
Mike Gabet	St. Charles	5-00
Brian Gabet	St. Charles	5-00
Matt Weber	St. Jude	4-10

Although it rained the entire day, the city meet was run at Bishop Luers on Saturday, May 13, as scheduled. Final results will appear in a later issue. However, unofficial sources list St. John New Haven once again as girls' champions while St. Jude upset the St. John New Haven boys.

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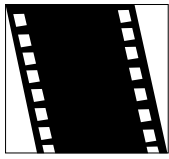
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MOVIE CAPSULES

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

"Goal! The Dream Begins" (Touchstone)

Familiar but satisfying sports drama about an undocumented Mexican migrant (Kuno Becker) who is given an opportunity to

escape his father's (Tony Plana) hardscrabble fate and fulfill his dream of playing professional soccer when a former British scout (Stephen Dillane) visiting Los Angeles offers him a tryout with a top-tier English soccer team. Directed by Danny Cannon, the film's feel-good underdog theme coupled with Becker's appealing performance scores, despite a formulaic script, underdeveloped characters and an overlong length. A few crude expressions, suggested drunkenness and carousing, implied sexual situations and some sports roughness, limiting its appropriateness to older adolescents and up. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The

Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested.

"Just My Luck" (20th Century Fox)

Lightweight if likable romantic comedy set in New York about a girl (Lindsay Lohan) with uncanny luck and a guy (Chris Pine) with none, who magically swap fortunes through a chance encounter at a masquerade ball, winding up on polar ends of the luck spectrum and falling for each other, though neither realizes the other is the cause for the karmic reversal. Directed by Donald Petrie, the fairy tale's cute conceit has the bad luck of being wrapped in a limp and predictable script, though its sweet-natured message about valuing love over

success is commendable. Some crude language and innuendo, a couple of crass sight gags, a sexual gesture and a situation involving a male "escort." The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13

"Poseidon" (Warner Bros.)

Reasonably effective but inferior remake of 1972's luxury-liner disaster film, as a tidal wave capsizes the vessel, and a sparring father (Kurt Russell) and daughter (Emmy Rossum), her boyfriend (Mike Vogel), a professional gambler (Josh Lucas), a single mother

(Jacinda Barrett) and child, and a Latina stowaway (Mia Maestro) attempt to flee through the bottom of the boat. The character setup is dispatched within minutes, and once disaster strikes director Wolfgang Petersen keeps the action going, with above-average special effects and decent performances. A few instances of profanity and crass expressions, intense but not gruesome disaster violence, brief veiled sexual exchange, gambling and a suicide attempt. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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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

Concert presented at St. Matthew Cathedral

South Bend — St. Matthew Cathedral will present Cantus Cathedralis (Cathedral Chant) in concert on Sunday, June 4, at 7:30 p.m. Cantus Cathedralis concentrates on works from the 16th century. The group aspires to bring the Catholic Church in Michiana historic liturgical art music, sung at the highest possible level. Admission is free.

Save all your loot for Luers

Fort Wayne — Donations are needed for the Luers Loot rummage sale. Drop off dates are any Saturday in May from 9 to 11 a.m. and May 30 and June 1, from 3 to 8 p.m. Please drop off items at the door on the east side of the school. To arrange large items to be picked up, contact Larry Wellman at lgwellman@msn.com or call (260) 748-4107. The rummage sale will be Saturday, June 3, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the cafeteria. Bag sale will begin at 1 p.m.

Quilt raffle benefits Hannah's House

Mishawaka — Hannah's House will have a quilt raffle on Wednesday, July 12. Tickets are \$10 for seven tickets. The king size "Mariner's Compass" quilt was crafted by a Mennonite quilter in Middlebury. Call (574) 254-5309 for information or to buy tickets.

Memory care unit to open at St. Paul's Retirement

South Bend — An open house will be held on Wednesday, May 31 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. to showcase the newly renovated Good Shepherd Memory Care Community at St. Paul's Retirement Community, 3602 S. Ironwood Dr.

Ladies brunch planned

Plymouth — The St. Michael's Altar Rosary Society and Angel Girls Club will have a Ladies May Brunch on Sunday, May 21, after the 9:30 a.m. Mass in the school cafeteria. All women and girls of the parish are invited. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for students and preschoolers are free. For tickets call Chris Morrow at (574) 936-2400 or Marilyn Fortin at (574) 936-9582 or the rectory.

Port-a-Pit chicken and ribs on menu

South Bend — A Port-a-Pit chicken and rib sale sponsored by the Our Lady of Hungary Holy Name Society will be held at Ritter's Frozen Custard, 4540 Miami Rd., on Saturday, June 3, at 10 a.m. Tickets guaranteed

until 1 p.m. Chicken — \$5 day of sale or \$4.50 presale; ribs — \$6.50 day of sale or \$6 presale. Pre-sale tickets may be purchased before or after Sunday Masses or at the Our Lady of Hungary rectory (574) 287-1700.

100 Club kicks off new year of membership

Monroeville — St. Rose Church is now accepting memberships to the 100 Club for 2006-07. A \$100 donation should be sent to St. Rose 100 Club, 206 Summit St., Monroeville, IN 46773, and is limited to the first 200 members. You must be 21 years old. Membership enters you into 50 weekly \$100 drawings. You are allowed to win three times in the calendar year. One half of the proceeds go to tuition reduction and the other half goes to families in need of tuition assistance and capital improvements at St. Joseph School. For information call (260) 623-3605. Ind. Dept. Rev. Lic. 106224.

Honor religious and eat frozen treats

South Bend — Ritters Frozen Custard at 4540 South Miami St. will sponsor a day to honor religious on Sunday, May 21, from noon - 6 p.m. Proceeds will be donated to the Religious Retirement Fund sponsored by the USCCB. Serving the frozen treats will be sisters from religious communities serving hospitals, schools and other diocesan ministries. Take-home packs and gift certificates available.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, May 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$6, children (5-12) \$3. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, garlic

toast and coffee. Carry-out available.

Day of reflection at convent

Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be at St. Francis Convent, (across from Marian High School) on Wednesday, May 31, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The cost of the day is \$15 and includes lunch. Register by Friday, May 26, to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

Garage Sale planned

Fort Wayne — St. Peter Parish will have a garage sale on May 19 and 20, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the pavilion at 500 E. DeWald St. Come early for best bargains.

Area Catholic women to meet

South Bend — The South Bend deanery of the Area Council of Catholic Women will sponsor an area rosary at St. Anthony de Padua Parish, Sunday, May 21, at 3 p.m.

Amy Wellborn to discuss book

Fort Wayne — Catholic author Amy Wellborn will discuss the errors in the "Da Vinci Code" at St. Paul of the Cross in Columbia City on Sunday, May 21, at 6 p.m. She will be signing her books and refreshments will follow. On Tuesday, May 23, at 7 p.m. Wellborn will be at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center. She will also be signing her books, "De-Coding Da Vinci: The Facts Behind the Fiction" and "De-Coding Mary Magdalene: Truth, Legend and Lies." Both events are free.

Annulments: Get the facts

Notre Dame — Rev. John P. Riley, CSC, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish will discuss the legal aspects of the marriage tri-

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bunal and Father Paul Doyle, CSC, associate rector of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart will discuss the pastoral aspects of the annulment process on Tuesday, June 6, at 7 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Parish Center. Enter from 933 and go east on Douglas Road due to construction. Call (574) 631-4139 for information.

All alumni reunion planned

Fort Wayne — The Central Catholic High School all-alumni class reunion will be held Saturday, June 24, at the Memorial Coliseum with Mass at 5 p.m., a buffet at 6:30 p.m. followed by musical entertainment ending at 11 p.m. The event includes all who attended CCHS, St. Augustine or St. Catherine Academy. The cost is \$30 per person. Call the alumni office for more information at (260) 471-7649.

DEVOTIONS

Diocesan-wide First Saturday Mass

Warsaw — The World Apostolate of Fatima will hold a diocesan-wide First Saturday Mass of reparation on June 3, at

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Devotions begin at 8 a.m. with Mass at 9 a.m. Special guest, Father Sergius Wroblewski, OFM, will speak at breakfast following Mass on consecration to Mary. Adults \$5, children \$2. Send payment/reservations by May 25 to: Jim Momper, 8032 Westwood Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46818. Transportation will be provided from Fort Wayne for \$5 per seat. The bus leaves the cathedral at 7:20 a.m. For information call Emma at (260) 625-3281 or St. John the Baptist (574) 233-5414.

Charismatic prayer group meeting

Fort Wayne — A charismatic prayer group meets every Friday night at St. Anne Retirement Home Chapel, 1900 Randalia Dr., at 7:30 p.m. A Mass is held every second Friday at 7:30 p.m. at the chapel.

Divine Mercy devotions

Fort Wayne — St. Henry Parish has Divine Mercy devotions every Wednesday at 3 p.m. and first Sundays at 3 p.m.

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From refugee to scholar

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Shafiqullah Fahim, senior at North Side High School, has recently been chosen to be the recipient of the Lilly Endowment Scholarship award. The award will pay full tuition to attend any college in Indiana. This for Fahim and his family, was very good news.

Born in Afghanistan, second of five children, to Fahim and Allagul, the senior says education has always been of paramount importance to his family. He remembers the days of his youth in Afghanistan as "horrible."

"There were no schools, my dad died, we couldn't work, and the war was going on," he recalls. Following the death of his father at the hands of the Taliban, the Fahim family relocated to Pakistan, where they lived in a refugee camp. Fahim was 11 years old.

In Pakistan, Fahim found apprenticeship in a tailor shop and was soon making suits to help support his family, this while also attending school. Education was expensive and difficult to come by after the eighth grade there, so Fahim dropped out of school in ninth grade to continue his work at the tailor shop.

Fahim's mother, Allagul, continued to search for a better life for her children and eventually applied to the United Nations for refugee status in the United States. In December of 2002, with the help of the U.S. Catholic Bishop Migration and Refugee Services and Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement Program (RRP), the family resettled in Fort Wayne.

Fahim entered North Side High School, with the help of the Catholic Charities RRG director, Nyein Chan, as a freshman that year. "I was enrolled in school about a month after we came. I spoke no English, so we used sign language," recalls Fahim.

He and his family speak a com-



SHAFIQUILLAH FAHIM

bination of Persian and Urdu at home. The soft spoken youth admits that adjusting to American culture was difficult at first, citing bad grades and "trouble" as consequences. But his smile brightens as he speaks of his English as second language (ESL) teacher, Maureen Reidenbach, who encouraged him to study hard and work on his English vocabulary.

By junior year, this determined, young refugee was feeling "comfortable" with his new language and began making friends. He played soccer for two years as well as volunteering over 150 hours at Parkview Hospital. He currently participates in an internship at Lutheran Hospital as well. While attending high school, Fahim continued to help support his family financially by working in an alterations shop, then third shift at Bhar Corporation, which produces plastic parts for General Motors.

He is a "good student" now, he says, and enjoys math most. Other interests include chess and reading. His career interests lie in medicine. "My parents always said 'you should become a doctor.' I want to be a surgeon or a dentist. My mom and my brothers want to be doctors, too," says Fahim.

He attributes his scholarship award to the coaxing of ESL teacher, Reidenbach, who encouraged him to look for college scholarships at the library. During his search, he recognized the high standards of achievement from other students and wondered if he should apply with his limited writ-

ing ability. That's when he enrolled in not one but two writing courses offered at Indiana-Purdue Universities at Fort Wayne. With his newly acquired writing abilities and the assistance of his homework coaches and Reidenbach, Fahim delivered his essays to Lilly and in light of his high academic achievement and ability to overcome adversity, Fahim was chosen from the over 6,000 applicants as one of six Indiana seniors to receive the scholarship.

The Lilly Endowment award announced at North Side in March came as a surprise to Fahim and his siblings, who "thought they were in trouble" when they were called to the commons area. David Bennett, executive director of the Community Foundation, presented the award, and the school's administrative staff was also in attendance. "I was so happy," says Fahim, who cheered with a victory fist in the air.

This determined 19-year-old plans to attend either Manchester College or University of Indianapolis this fall in hopes of studying pre-medicine. The Lilly Endowment scholarship will offer an \$800 stipend as well as cover tuition expenses.

"This is a great opportunity for me," says Fahim. "If I didn't have this scholarship, I would have to work and study. Now there is no excuse for me not to succeed."

Shafiqullah Fahim is a very grateful young man with a promising future. Opportunities, he says, have opened to him with the support of Catholic Charities RRP staff, especially Nyein Chan, Allen County Public Library homework coaches, Roger, John, Jim and Darren, and ESL teacher, Maureen Reidenbach.

"I'm so grateful for the opportunity the Lilly Endowment scholarship gives me," he says humbly. Upon graduation from medical school, Fahim intends to return to Afghanistan to "help his people" by opening a free clinic with his mother and siblings.

Lilly scholarship winner made good choices

BY KRISTI WARD

BRISTOL — The number and variety of activities on Michael Joseph Koscielny II's scholarship application would be impressive when divided between a dozen applicants, but they all belong to this Concord High School senior who is one of 10 Elkhart County Lilly Endowment Scholarship winners.

Seated in his family's cozy living room, Michael listed just a few of his school activities: track, cross country, Key Club, math, science and social studies academic teams, school musical, saxophone player in the band, and editor of the school newspaper.

He's also an Eagle Scout — and his Scout project was ... well, special. "He organized, got all the volunteers, did all the track meets, and ran the whole event in the gymnasium at Memorial High School last April for Special Olympics," his mother said proudly.

But wait ... there's more. The family attends St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in Bristol where both Michael and his younger brother, Timothy, are experienced altar servers. Michael was active in the Dead Theologian Society, his parish youth group and the Knights of Columbus Squires. He was the first from St. Mary's Squires to become a Knight, recently completing his second and third degree.

Throughout all his involvement, Michael said his Catholic faith helped him. "When I went through the typical teenage angst, it was nice to have something of

substance to fall back on," Michael said.

His parent's support and their down-to-earth practicality were another major motivation for Michael to do his best.

"I wanted to go to Notre Dame ever since I could spell it," Michael explained. "They said to work hard and get good grades, but not to hold my breath because we couldn't afford for me to go there — it made me work harder, to prove I could do it."

Michael later changed his mind about Notre Dame and narrowed his choices down to Butler University and St. Joseph's College in Rensselaer. He couldn't decide between the two, so he "flipped a coin" at the Elkhart County Community Foundation banquet where he was presented with the Lilly Endowment Scholarship.

"They said to go up, give our name, the school we would be attending, and what we were going to do," Michael said, grinning. "So I went up and said, 'Mom, Dad, I've decided.'"

He's looking forward to getting involved with St. Joe's theater program and newspaper — and maybe the band.

"In a small college like that I think they can offer more," Michael said. "Band is a completely different beast in college so I don't know — but I probably will because I do like my saxophone."

"He's made good choices up to now," Mike Koscielny added. "He's persevered in all the endeavors he's taken on through his high school years — we obviously feel blessed. And I think he'll be very successful in anything he chooses."

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