

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

In Poland, Pope Benedict calls for solid faith, reconciliation, peace



Pope Benedict XVI rides through Krakow, Poland, in the popemobile May 26. Some 600,000 young people turned out in Krakow for an evening youth gathering with the pope May 27.

CNS PHOTO/JERRY LAMPEN, REUTERS

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Visiting Poland in late May, Pope Benedict XVI drew on Poles' history, their tragedies and their love for Pope John Paul II to call for a future of solid faith, reconciliation and peace.

Arriving in Warsaw May 25, Pope Benedict knew the focus of his audience was on his Polish-born predecessor, and while he constantly referred to his own desire to follow in Pope John Paul's footsteps, he emphasized that the best way to keep his predecessor's memory alive was to believe and act as he did.

"This is no mere sentimental journey, although it is certainly that, too, but rather a journey of faith," Pope Benedict said at the Warsaw airport welcoming ceremony.

And while international focus was on the German-born Pope Benedict May 28 when he visited the Nazis' Auschwitz-Birkenau camp, he referred to his predecessor there as well.

"Pope John Paul came here as a son of that people which, along with the Jewish people, suffered most in this place and, in general, throughout the war," Pope Benedict said. "I come here today as a son of the German people.

"To speak in this place of horror, in this place where unprecedented mass crimes were committed against God and man is almost impossible — and it is particularly difficult and troubling for a Christian, for a pope from Germany," he said,

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Superintendent Michelle Hittie bids farewell

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Michelle Hittie, the superintendent of schools of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for the past five years, will bid a fond farewell to the Catholic school system as she retires at the end of this school year. It's a position she never dreamed she would hold, and she loved every minute of it.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pa., Hittie is proud of her 16 years of Catholic education. Following high school graduation from Elizabeth Seton High School, Hittie attended Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa., and earned a degree in elementary education in 1962. She and Bill, her husband of 43 years, were married that same year.

Hittie's first teaching assignment was in Philadelphia, where she was a first grade teacher for one year before "the babies" began to arrive. Subsequently, for the next 17 years she was happy to be a stay-at-home-mom. Following seven moves in nine years, the Hittie family landed in Fort Wayne where they have resided and enjoyed membership at St. Charles Parish since 1971.

In 1976, Bill's beloved mother, Mickie, came to share the lives and home of the Hittie

family, which now had grown to include three sons and two daughters. Then with the support of husband and help of stay-at-home grandma, Hittie returned to school and earned her master of education degree from Indiana-Purdue Universities at Fort Wayne (IPFW) in 1980.

Following graduation, as her youngest child entered kindergarten, Hittie reentered the teaching profession full-time, as junior high language arts teacher at St. John the Baptist School, New Haven. What began as a temporary contract for a maternity leave, soon stretched into eight years. With the encouragement of the Sisters of St. Agnes present at St. John, Hittie, who still adamantly contends that she was very happy as a teacher, returned once again to IPFW, this time to pursue an administrative license. With the attainment of her license she accepted the position as principal of the school, which she held for the next four years. "As principal, you get to know all the kids. I just loved that," she says.

In 1994, Hittie took the opportunity to use her administrative skills in another school, this time St. John the Baptist, Fort

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DECODING DA VINCI'S CODE



MARK WEBER

Amy Welborn, a Fort Wayne resident who gained national prominence for explaining the fact behind the fiction of "The Da Vinci Code," spoke to a packed audience on May 23 at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center. Jenny Murray and five other participants from Education for Ministry organized the event.

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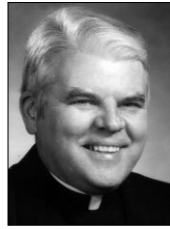
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Adoration to Blessed Sacrament offers blessings to the diocese



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Pentecost

We have celebrated the birthday of the church. Some contend that the church was born from the side of Christ on Good Friday, and this is certainly true. For others, the key moment is the gift of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday. Of course, it is both. Never would there be the pouring out of the Holy Spirit without Christ's offering himself as a gift to God the Father for our salvation.

For me, Pentecost was blessed.

I was off to South Bend on Saturday for the confirmation of about 35 adults and back the next day to Fort Wayne for a similar event. What a privilege to celebrate Pentecost Mass at our two cathedrals and to confer the gift of the Holy Spirit in the midst of two beautiful liturgies.

Now, Corpus Christi

After celebrating the feast of the Holy Trinity this week, we prepare for the feast of Corpus Christi. This feast developed later in the church. It came from the people. In the beginning, the church reserved the Blessed Sacrament for the sick. If it were reserved for the sick, that means that Christ remained present as at Mass. Thus this popular devotion grew. There were excesses in some places. The church made the necessary refinements. Now this devotion and adoration of Christ in the Blessed Sacrament is growing. It is coming from the people, and especially from the young people. In our diocese, we are blessed with two parishes under the patronage of this mystery — Blessed Sacrament Parish, Albion and Corpus Christi Parish, South Bend.

We must not forget the sisters

However, we must not forget the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration situated on a beautiful hill overlooking Marian High School. Their adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, around the clock, has long been a blessing for our diocese. They are truly missionary sisters serving in education, health care and various pastoral efforts. They are becoming widely known throughout the state and beyond for their efforts in bringing young people closer to Christ, through prayer and adoration in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. They work in campus ministry in our diocese and with young adults. They are a blessing. There is no doubt that their time in adoration and prayer strengthens them for these other ministries.

As part of the preparation for our jubilee year, I have asked the Office of Vocations to take up several initiatives as well as to strengthen those efforts they are already making. One new initiative will be that every parish will be asked to have prayer for vocations in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament. Our Office of Vocations, work-

ing with the Office of Worship, will apply appropriate prayers. I am working on a prayer which we hope can be said at all Masses during all, or part, of the Jubilee Year.

I hope everyone will spend some time in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament on this great feast. I am grateful to parishes, like St. Jude and St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne; Corpus Christi, South Bend; St. Mary, Bristol; and Immaculate Conception, Auburn, where adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is perpetual, or close to perpetual.

If you want a fine book, easy to read but very substantive, you might want to try "God Is Near Us" by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, written before he was chosen to be Bishop of Rome, successor of St. Peter. It is a book which I sent to our priests this past Christmas. In this book, the cardinal has laid out clearly the link between prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament and the Mass. In one place, he speaks of his own prayer before the Blessed Sacrament during long evenings in the seminary chapel, to which he returned after the terrible war.

Speaking of confirmations and bishops

I have had the privilege and joy of conferring the sacrament of confirmation in 34 parishes, with two left at St. Dominic, Bremen, and at St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart. I am grateful to Bishop Houck, director of the Extension Society and retired bishop of the Diocese of Jackson, Miss., for conferring confirmation in six parishes. I am grateful to the good Lord, and I must say to my dear parents, for strong health. However, when the schedule slows, more walking and an improved diet will be necessary. Taking care of one's health is an obligation.

I have never found confirmations a burden. It is a joy to see the vitality of the parishes and it is a tremendous opportunity to preach the Gospel.

Visiting bishops

I had lunch this week with two visiting bishops. The first one was at my home with Bishop Felix Toppo, SJ. He is responsible for two exemplary parishes in our diocese — Father Cyril Fernandes, pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Arcola; and Father Joachim Quadros, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish, Albion, and St. Patrick Parish, Ligonier. He will confer the sacrament of confirmation for St. Patrick, Ligonier, and Blessed Sacrament, Albion. He is a native of India, as are the two priests.

Two days later at the Morris Inn on the campus of the University of Notre Dame, I had lunch with Bishop Carlos Garfias Merlos of Mexico. He has been responsible for us having Father Constantino Rocha, associate pastor of St. John the Evangelist, Goshen. We hope we can give some help to these bishops in their mission posts. We are grateful that they have allowed their priests to serve in our diocese. If I am correct, 15 of our parishes are now cared for by priests from other countries. This shows the great need we have to foster vocations in our own diocese.

It was a great blessing also to offer the baccalaureate Mass for our Catholic high schools. We have four exemplary princi-

pals, and it was a joy to salute Susan Richter, principal of Saint Joseph's High, as she completed her first year.

A special responsibility

In these days, after intense consultation with our Priest Personnel Board, I am working on the assignment of our priests. Nothing is more moving for a bishop and nothing more essential than the pastoral care of the diocese. A priest becomes attached to his parish. It is his family. Then the bishop, after consultation and prayer, believes he must ask the priest to accept another mission. My experience in this diocese with the willingness of priests even when it is painful to accept such a change has been, for me, very humbling. It is as if the promise of obedience that they made and that they have seen others make over the years is very real to them. A moment of grace.

It is also a time of the year when I am interviewing candidates to the priesthood. I have always said that the two most important things a bishop does are 1) deciding who to admit to the seminary as well as who to ordain, and 2) giving a parish a good priest. Pray for me and for our priests during this time.

Also, as I write this, our priests are beginning their annual retreat. I hope to be with them most of this time. Our preacher will be Father John Coughlin, OFM, professor of canon law at the Notre Dame Law School. He is a confessor at the basilica and does much work in spiritual direction with young students on the graduate and undergraduate level. Most of all, he is a good priest and will be a blessing for our priests as they complete their retreat.

Of Irish things

My dad was an Irish patriot. As a young man in 1922, he carried the Tricolor through the streets of Oughterard, his hometown, and led the procession on the night that Ireland, his beloved country, achieved its independence. Later came a terrible civil war, which he chose to avail. Irishmen killing Irishmen. It was not his style. My mother, too, had the same spirit. So, it was a joy to have a few moments with the president of Ireland before her speech at the Notre Dame graduation. I was pleased to note that she, too, like my parents, was devoted to the "Men of 1916." Those romantic heroes — poets, professors and writers who staked a claim to sovereignty. As one of them said, "We have saved the soul of Ireland." The speech brought back memories of my parents, who, despite such intense loyalty to the land of their faith and their native culture, always believed that this country of their adoption was, indeed, the land of opportunity and freedom. Citizenship here was, for them, a great prize. They were grateful.

Half a game behind the Yankees. It is ever thus. When they hear I am home in July, they may call me to pitch batting practice. The Red Sox, that is. I will be ready.

See you all next week.

Diocese celebrates jubilee with regional confirmations in 2007

BY KAY COZAD

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend moves forward toward its 150th jubilee celebration in 2007 with such activities as the Traveling Pilgrim Cross, ongoing parish-wide missions and the "Disciples in Mission" process. Bishop John M. D'Arcy, who is devoted to shepherding his regional church, is encouraged by these events, which bring unity to the local parishes.

"The term 'jubilee' speaks of joy, not just inner joy, but a jubilation, which is manifested outwardly, for the coming of God is also an outward, visible, audible and tangible event," says Bishop D'Arcy as he quotes Pope John Paul II.

Another exciting jubilee event, now in the planning stages, is the regional confirmations that will take place in the fall of 2007.

"This will be a unique historical event in the diocese where we will visibly celebrate our unity as a diocese with the large groups," says Linda Furge, director of the Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry. The confirmandi of the South Bend and surrounding area parishes will be confirmed on Sept. 16, during a special Mass celebrated by Bishop D'Arcy at the Joyce Athletic Conference Center on the University of Notre Dame Campus. Those from the Fort Wayne area will join Bishop D'Arcy in a confirmation Mass at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum on Sept. 30.

September was chosen for this joyous event so that the many spring events, such as first Communion and graduations, would not interfere with attendance.

In preparation for these special confirmation ceremonies, each of the parishes of the diocese will be encouraged to create a banner uniquely depicting their church, to lead their confirmandi as they process to their prospective confirmations. Parish priests and guest bishops will be joining Bishop D'Arcy in conferring the gift of the Holy Spirit on area youth. Each confirmation student will receive a commemorative medallion and be listed by name for this historic occasion.

Both ceremonies will be reverently celebrated with liturgical choices prepared by representatives from many of the parishes from across the diocese that form the planning committee.

Musicians from around the area will present inspiring music specifically chosen for this most holy occasion. Beverly Rieger, director of the Office of Worship, says, "The music will be sacred and joyous." Parishes across the diocese will receive a Rite of Sending to be used before the confirmation ceremony to bless the confirmandi as they prepare to travel to their designated halls.

Because the regional confirmation Masses are late in the year, each parish is encouraged to support their youth through the



TODAY'S CATHOLIC ARCHIVE PHOTOS

In 2000, regional confirmations were part of the great jubilee celebrations that celebrated 2,000 years of Christianity. The success of the regional confirmations in 2000 prompted the diocese to celebrate regional confirmations as part of the sesquicentennial celebrations slated for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in 2007. The photo at top shows the regional confirmation held at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum and below the regional confirmation held at the Joyce Center at Notre Dame with Bishop Daniel Jenky performing the rite.

summer with activities, such as youth Mass and cookout or a summer service project, held at the parish level to provide continuity in their religious formation. Also offered is an invitation to the youth of each parish to attend the junior-high confirmation rally to be held on Aug. 18, 2007 at the Eucharistic Congress at the University of Notre Dame.

The 2007 jubilee confirmation ceremonies are inspired by the regional confirmations that took place in 2000.

Father Derrick Sneyd, pastor of St. Jude Parish in South Bend, participated in the celebrations of 2000 and says, "The experience

was just inspirational... This was truly a time of prayer and praise."

Director of religious education at Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw, Cathy Smith, attended both jubilee confirmation ceremonies in 2000 and says, "I found them both very reverent and moving liturgies."

Bishop D'Arcy is delighted that this will be a celebration for the whole diocese, saying, "It is important for young people today that they be in the presence of large groups of their peers to whom Christ and the church are important... I believe that the young people will remember this confirmation all their lives."

Today's Catholic receives CPA honors

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — *Today's Catholic*, the official publication of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, was honored with a second-place award in the general excellence category for newspapers with circulation up to 17,000.

Judges reported in *The Catholic Journalist*, "*Today's Catholic* covers a lot of ground and it offers readers a well-rounded picture of the community. Strong design completes the package. An excellent all-around effort."

"This award reflects a team effort," said *Today's Catholic* editor Tim Johnson. "From our publisher, to the staff, to our freelance writers and photographers, the award reflects the commitment of people who love our faith and want to bring the stories of the faith to our readers."

The National Catholic Reporter, based in Kansas City, Mo., won the first-place general excellence award for the seventh year in a row in Catholic Press Association judging for national newspapers.

Diocesan newspapers winning first-place general excellence awards were *The Catholic Spirit*, St. Paul, Minn., 40,001-plus cir-

ulation; *The Colorado Catholic Herald*, Colorado Springs, Colo., 17,001-40,000 circulation; and *Hawaii Catholic Herald*, Honolulu, circulation up to 17,000.

Among other newspapers with circulation up to 17,000, *The Catholic Northwest Progress* in Seattle was third. *Catholic East Texas* in Tyler, Texas, received an honorable mention.

The awards were announced May 26 at the 2006 Catholic Media Convocation in Nashville.

In the national newspaper category for general excellence, *The Catholic Register* in Toronto won second place and the *National Catholic Register* in North Haven, Conn., took third.

In the 40,001-plus circulation category, *The Catholic Advocate*, Newark, N.J., received second place for general excellence. *The Catholic Sun* in Phoenix took third place and the *Clarion Herald* in New Orleans got an honorable mention.

In the 17,001-40,000 circulation category, *The Michigan Catholic* in Detroit took second place and *The Southern Cross* in San Diego was named the third-place winner.

ND Teaching Award to Father Michael Heintz

BY ANN CAREY

SOUTH BEND — Father Michael Heintz, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral, has been awarded the University of Notre Dame Alumni Association Graduate Teaching Award for 2006. Father Heintz is studying for his doctorate in theology and has taught theology at Notre Dame for the past three years.

The teaching honor is given annually to one Notre Dame graduate student who teaches while pursuing his own doctoral work. Father Heintz is the first theology teacher in recent memory to receive the honor, according to Theology Department chair John Cavadini.

"It's an honor for our department for one of our students to be recognized in this way, because it's a university-wide competition," Cavadini told *Today's Catholic*. "So, we're proud of Michael."

Matthew Ashley, director of the graduate theology program, nominated Father Heintz for the award because of his strong teaching record.

The nomination noted that Father Heintz had taught graduate level seminars at Notre Dame, but was nominated particularly for teaching a course required of all freshmen: Foundations of Theology. Father Heintz was praised for "brilliant" organization of the course work, which gives students a grounding in the foundational documents of the faith and practice in "doing" theology.

Students in the course, the nomination notes, are "unfailingly engaged, and Father Heintz's success can be measured by the quality of the questions his students ask." Student evaluations of the course indicate that Father Heintz is successful in presenting difficult material in a clear and concise way, and students express appreciation for his enthusiasm, patience, sense of humor and accessibility. Moreover, "the ultimate measure of success," according to the nomination, is that students recommend Father Heintz's course to their friends.

Father Heintz told *Today's Catholic* that he enjoys explaining the faith to students and he likes the interaction with students.

He has also taught at the high school level, teaching theology and Greek at Saint Joseph's High School here from 1998 to 2003.

"I like teaching because it makes you keep learning," Father Heintz explained. "You can't become complacent because they're always going to ask questions or come up with issues that you hadn't thought about before."

If you want to learn something, Father Heintz said, "Try to teach it, because you have to learn it inside out."

Father Heintz has completed his course work for his doctorate in theology, with a specialty in patristics — the study of the early church fathers. He hopes to complete his doctoral dissertation this summer and graduate from Notre Dame with his doctorate either in December of this year or May of 2007.

St. Mary's Heritage Fund awards 31 grants totaling \$199,000

BY VINCE LABARBERA

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has awarded 31 grants totaling \$199,000 from the St. Mary's Heritage Fund to various organizations from throughout the diocese. A total of 62 application requests were received this year from 17 parishes, 23 schools and nine agencies. The following were awarded grants upon the approval of Bishop John D'Arcy:

Parishes

Fort Wayne

- St. Therese — \$3,000 for tuition assistance for parishioners with children at St. Therese School
- St. Mary — \$2,500 for start-up costs for Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award
- St. Joseph — \$12,000 toward part-time salary for someone fluent in Spanish to work with Hispanic community in youth ministry and liturgy
- St. Henry — \$9,000 for tuition assistance debt to Benoit

South Bend

- St. Augustine — \$1,000 for tuition assistance for parishioners to attend a parochial school
- St. Casimir — \$2,500 for parish coordinator of adult education

Area

- St. Patrick, Ligonier — \$2,000 toward Spanish Good Shepherd training for 2007
- St. Mary, Huntington — \$1,000 for tuition assistance for parishioners with children at St. Mary School

- St. Vincent, Elkhart — \$10,000 to help offset expenses involved in operating Hispanic ministry programs and salary for Deacon Ramiro Reyes

Schools

Fort Wayne

- St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth — \$5,000 for financial aid for low-income and Hispanic students
- Queen of Angels — \$10,000 for financial aid
- Benoit Academy — \$10,000 for tuition assistance for Catholic and non-Catholic students
- St. John — \$4,000 for financial aid to African American and Hispanic students
- Bishop Luers High School — \$20,000 for tuition assistance

South Bend

- Saint Joseph's High School — \$10,000 for financial aid
- Our Lady of Hungary — \$7,000 for a resource teacher
- St. John — \$5,000 for financial aid
- Holy Family — \$5,000 for tuition assistance for 31 children
- Holy Cross — \$3,000 for tuition assistance
- St. Adalbert — \$25,000 for scholarship assistance

Area

- St. John, Goshen — \$3,000 for salary for bilingual teacher's aid
- St. Joseph, Garrett — \$5,000 for tuition assistance
- St. Monica, Mishawaka — \$6,000 for financial aid
- St. Bavo, Mishawaka — \$7,000 for school counselor one day a week
- St. Aloysius, Yoder —

\$6,000 for financial aid

- St. Patrick, Walkerton — \$7,000 for tuition assistance
- St. Vincent, Elkhart — \$8,000 for tuition assistance

Agencies

Fort Wayne

- Vincent House — \$3,000 for homeless children to attend summer camp
- Catholic Charities — \$4,000 for Villa of the Woods to remove debris, unsafe timber in trees and fence area for residents
- Franciscan Center — \$1,000 to purchase food and other items for St. Peter's Sack Lunch ministry

South Bend

- St. Vincent de Paul Society — \$2,000 to provide emergency food assistance
- The \$3-million endowment fund was established in 1997 at the groundbreaking for the new St. Mary Catholic Church in downtown Fort Wayne to help provide financial assistance to the poor and needy throughout the diocese. The new St. Mary parish complex was completed in October 1998 and dedicated on May 2, 1999, after a fire destroyed the church and soup kitchen on Sept. 2, 1993. The St. Mary's Heritage Fund was created through the collaboration and planning of the late St. Mary's pastor, Father Tom O'Connor, and parishioners using money received from fire insurance on the historic church. Since its inception, the St. Mary's Heritage fund has awarded annual grants totaling \$1,892,914 from interest gained on the fund's principal.



Draft Proposal to Restructure

U.S. bishops are looking to consolidate more than 50 current conference committees into these 14.

CANONICAL AFFAIRS AND CHURCH GOVERNANCE Canonical affairs, Latin and Eastern church relations, boundaries of dioceses, provinces, selection of bishops, diocesan audits, conciliation and arbitration	ECUMENICAL AND INTERRELIGIOUS AFFAIRS Ecumenical and interreligious affairs
CATECHESIS AND CATHOLIC EDUCATION Catechesis, education, evangelization, world mission, use of catechism	HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND WORLD PEACE International policy, domestic policy, Catholic Campaign for Human Development
CLERGY AND CONSECRATED LIFE Vocations, priestly formation, priestly life and ministry, diaconate, consecrated life, bishops' life and ministry	LAITY, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE Laity, marriage and family life, women in society and church
COMMUNICATIONS Communications	MIGRATION Migration
CULTURALLY DIVERSE COMMUNITIES Hispanic affairs, African-American Catholics, Native American Catholics	NATIONAL COLLECTIONS Catholic Campaign for Human Development, church in Latin America, Catholic Relief Services, home missions, religious retirement, Catholic Communication Campaign, church in Central and Eastern Europe, church in Africa, economic concerns of the Holy See
DIVINE WORSHIP Liturgy, charismatic renewal, national shrines, stewardship	PRO-LIFE ACTIVITIES Pro-life activities
DOCTRINE Doctrine, science and human values, Catholic health care issues, review of Scripture translations, Spanish Bible	PROTECTION OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE Protection of children and young people

Committees in italic are ad hoc

These committees overseeing management of the conference are to be retained: administrative; executive; budget and finance; priorities and plans. The current committee on pastoral practices would be dissolved.

Source: USCCB committee on priorities and plans

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Bishops to meet in Los Angeles June 15-17

BY JERRY FILTEAU

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The biggest church issue the U.S. bishops will face when they meet this June is a new English translation of the Order of Mass.

They will also be asked to approve a 10-year extension of the annual collection for retired religious and a plan to write a message to teenagers on stewardship.

They will be asked to approve a no-increase 2007 assessment on dioceses for support of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

They will discuss — but not vote on — plans for a major restructuring of the way the USCCB operates. The main focus of the discussion in June will be a reconfiguring of USCCB committees, with a major reduction in their number.

The bishops are to meet June 15-17 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles.

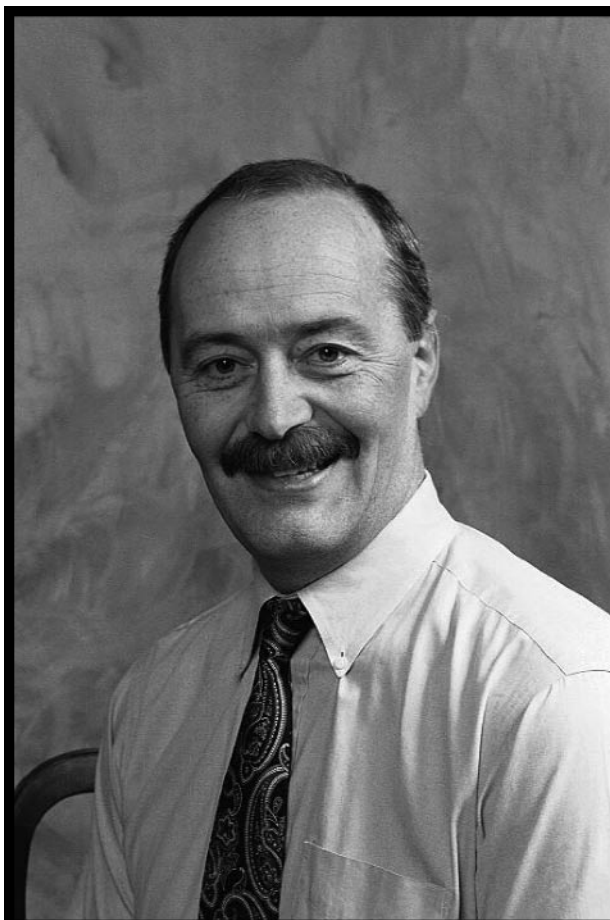
The meeting will give Archbishop Pietro Sambi, who just

arrived in February as apostolic nuncio to the United States, his first opportunity to address the entire U.S. hierarchy.

The bishops will hear several oral reports: from Catholic Relief Services, their Task Force on Catholic Bishops and Politicians and their Hurricane Task Force.

Archbishop Michael J. Sheehan of Santa Fe, N.M., is to present a proposal from the Committee on Priorities and Plans that would reduce the number of standing and ad hoc committees of the USCCB from more than 50 currently to 14. The bishops are to discuss the issue in June but not vote on a final plan until they meet again in November.

A reconfiguration of committees is to be followed by national staff changes as part of an effort by the bishops to curb expenses and limit the number of national projects and activities they undertake as a conference. The bishops want their national offices to be more focused on limited projects and priorities mandated by the Vatican or the bishops themselves.



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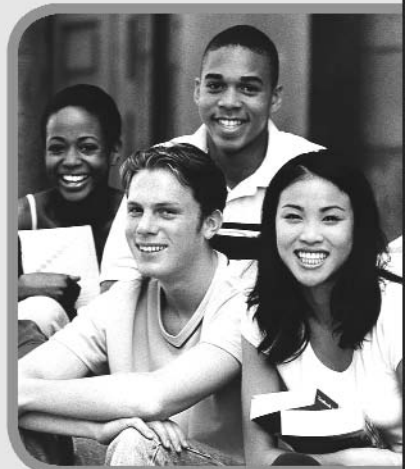
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Children in our community deserve the chance to belong to a loving home.

For details about becoming a foster parent, join The Villages for an information night **Tuesday, June 20, 6:30 p.m.**, at 2250 Lake Ave., Suite 160 in Fort Wayne.

For more information, call 800.831.4154 or visit www.villageskids.org.



The Villages
Foster Care • Adoption • Family Services

Three teens receive Organist Training Program certificates

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Organ music is the mainstay of so many of the traditional Catholic compositions and enhances any liturgical celebration. In an effort to continue that rich musical legacy, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend supports the Organist Training Program, (OTP).

Established in 1993, with a partnership between the Diocesan Music Committee and the University of Notre Dame Preparatory Department, the OTP offers those interested an opportunity to advance their level of skills and deepen their understanding of the liturgy. The program is currently sponsored by the the Office of Worship, under the administration of Beverly Rieger.

Currently there are 11 students enrolled in the program across the diocese, with seven teachers. Students range from sophomore in high school to adult age. The program requires that an applicant have advanced piano or organ skills, be active in a parish music ministry and have a willingness to commit to the time, sometimes up to five years, to meet the requirements.

Each year recitals are held to showcase the students and their talents. The Fort Wayne recital was held on June 6 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. The recital for South Bend will be held at St. Pius X Church in Granger on June 13. This year three teens have completed the program and are being awarded certificates. They are Gregory Shannon, Kelly Landrigan and Victor Morman.

Gregory Shannon, son of Ron and Marilyn Shannon, is 18 and a graduating home-schooled senior

this year. He and his parents, along with his seven siblings are parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish in Fort Wayne. Music has always been a part of his life, with organ lessons coming on the heels of the family's acquisition of a small used organ in 1998.

After playing Latin Low Mass at his church for a year, Shannon's mother encouraged him to audition for the OTP. "I was interested in the OTP because I could focus more on the liturgy with Catholic teachers," he says.

For the past four years Shannon has committed to weekly half-hour lessons with the talented teachings of Jeremy Hoy, Sister Margaret Andre Waechtler, CSC, and Dr. Wayne Peterson. He plays the organ for Sacred Heart's Saturday Mass including Latin High Mass and practices with the choir there several times each month.

Finding satisfaction in participating in the program Shannon says, "I have learned a lot of organ technique, organ music and liturgy... I would definitely recommend this program for interested musicians..." Future plans for Shannon include attending Indiana-Purdue Universities at Fort Wayne (IPFW) in the fall and continued work with Dr. Peterson through out his college career.

Of his music he says, "Playing at Mass is for me a way of serving God and is a way of worship. Beautiful church music helps others to worship."

Kelly Landrigan recently completed her junior year at

Homestead High School, and with her parents, Dan and Linda, and four brothers and one sister, is a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne. At 17, Landrigan plays piano, clarinet and organ, and says her parents encouraged music at an early age. With eight years of piano lessons, six years of clarinet and three years of

secondary education with a minor in music following high school graduation.

Victor Morman, 18, is the oldest of five children born to James and Jeri Morman. The family attends St. Therese Parish in Fort Wayne, where he plays piano or organ for Mass and special occasions.

Morman's musical background dates back to piano lessons beginning when he was just six years old. "My parents were musical. Mom

played piano. Dad sings in choirs. My family encouraged me," says Morman.

After reading about the Organist Training Program in *Today's Catholic*, Morman became interested, saying, "I wanted to learn to play the organ and learn the different Mass parts." So for the past four years, after acceptance into the program in 2002, Morman has studied under Tim

Robinson, who he reports is wonderful to work with. He believes his piano experience helped him transition to the organ, though he too, found the addition of pedaling to be challenging.

After participation in the training, Morman feels his music is becoming a "major thing" in his life. "It helps me with everything I do."

He recommends the Organist Training Program for those who wish to learn more about the Mass and the musical technique involved. With the completion of home schooling this spring, the senior anticipates attending Ball State University in the fall to pursue a piano performance degree and hopes to continue to play at church wherever he is needed.

The program is grateful to the commitment of the outstanding teachers this year, who are: Jeremy Hoy, Andrew McShane and Dr. Betty Woodland in South Bend and Sister Margaret Andre Waechtler, CSC, Irene Ator, Tim Robinson and Dr. Wayne Peterson in Fort Wayne.

"Beautiful church music helps others to worship."

GREGORY SHANNON

organ lessons, she currently teaches seven students piano and plays piano and organ at St. Aloysius Parish.

Interest in the OTP was sparked initially by a cousin who had participated in the program, and after being accepted Landrigan studied under Sister Margaret Andre Waechtler, CSC, for three years. "She's very nice, energetic and dependable," says Landrigan of Sister Margaret.

Mastering play with the combination of the hands and the feet was the most difficult for this musician but she feels learning the different techniques the organ requires, as well as the liturgical training, was well worth the effort.

Music, she says, enables her to give something back to God. "I'm glad my music training has allowed me to further my faith on a different level and hopefully minister to others," she adds, hoping to continue to play for the church in the future.

Landrigan will be a senior in the fall and aspires to study sec-

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Cardinal says marriage amendment an opportunity not to be squandered

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As President George W. Bush called on the Senate to pass the Marriage Protection Amendment, Philadelphia Cardinal Justin Rigali said the vote was “an opportunity which should not be squandered.” In a June 5 event at the Eisenhower Executive Office Building next door to the White House, Bush said amending the Constitution was the only way to “take this issue out of the hands of over-reaching judges and put it back where it belongs — in the hands of the American people.” Cardinal Rigali was among a coalition of religious and civic leaders who attended the White House event. Bush called marriage between a man and a woman the most enduring and important human institution. He noted that 45 states have passed laws or constitutional amendments defining marriage as only between a man and a woman. The bill on the Senate calendar for a June 6 vote would add a two-sentence amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It reads: “Marriage in the United States shall consist only of the union of a man and a woman. Neither this Constitution, nor the constitution of any state, shall be construed to require that marriage or the legal incidents thereof be conferred upon any union other than the union of a man and a woman.”

Pope, British prime minister meet, discuss dialogue with Islam

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair, Pope Benedict XVI underlined the need to keep dialogue open with “moderate Islam.” In a statement issued the same day, June 3, the Vatican said controversy over Iran’s nuclear program can and should be resolved through dialogue and diplomatic moves that “respect the honor and sensitivity of every country.” Blair’s government has backed U.S. efforts to pressure Iran into abandoning its nuclear program. The pope met one-on-one with Blair for 40 minutes at the Vatican and afterward greeted Blair’s wife, Cherie, and two of their four children. It was his first meeting as pope with the British leader. Vatican and British sources said afterward the private talks covered a wide range of issues, including the role of religion in politics and in society, the threat of global terrorism, international aid to Africa, and new developments in the Middle East and Northern Ireland.

Archbishop Hughes says pope sends blessings, prayers to New Orleans

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI sent his heartfelt blessings and assurances of his continued prayers to the residents of New Orleans still feeling the effects of Hurricane Katrina, said

NEWS BRIEFS

INDONESIAN PRIEST CELEBRATES MASS ON GROUNDS OF EARTHQUAKE-DAMAGED CHURCH



CNS PHOTO/DARREN WHITESIDE, REUTERS

A priest celebrates Mass on the grounds of an earthquake-damaged church near Bantul on the Indonesian island of Java June 4, just over a week after an earthquake killed more than 6,000 people in the area.

New Orleans Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes. After a private audience June 1, the archbishop told Catholic News Service that he wanted to personally thank the pope for his support in the aftermath of the crisis, which devastated the Louisiana seaport. He said he also thanked the pope for having sent funding and a special envoy, Archbishop Paul Cordes, head of the Vatican’s charity arm, the Pontifical Council Cor Unum. “The Holy Father was wonderful in his expression of concern and support,” Archbishop Hughes told CNS, and “he wanted me to send back his blessings” and tell people that his prayers for everyone there continue. The archbishop, who was in Rome to attend meetings of the Vox Clara commission, said the private audience also gave him a chance to give the pope a detailed assessment of the damage to his archdiocese and what kind of recovery has been made.

Coordinator of U.S. seminary visitations expects report this fall

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — Archbishop Edwin F. O’Brien of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services said May 26 that the Vatican’s visitations to U.S. seminaries and houses of formation are nearly complete, and he hopes the resulting reports will be released this fall. “Bottom line, I think this visitation was most successful,” Archbishop O’Brien said in a talk to the 2006 Catholic Media Convocation in Nashville. A former head of two seminaries, he was coordinator of the visitations for the Vatican’s Congregation for Catholic Education, which oversees seminary formation. The objectives of the visitations, which were sparked by the sexual abuse crisis

that hit the U.S. church in 2002, were to examine the criteria for admission of candidates and various aspects of priestly formation, including the intellectual formation of seminarians in the field of moral theology and the programs of human and spiritual formation aimed at ensuring they can faithfully live chaste, celibate lives.

Pope says married Christians of different faiths can signal unity

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A marriage between Christians of different denominations can be “a practical laboratory of unity” if the husband and wife are guided and supported by both their churches, Pope Benedict XVI said. Although some 95 percent of Poles are Catholic and marry Catholics, the pope said ecumenical dialogue in Poland could bring practical benefits to the country by helping couples understand common Christian teaching on family life and the importance of giving a religious education to their children. Pope Benedict met May 25 with members of the Catholic Church’s official dialogue partner in Poland, an ecumenical council that includes Orthodox, Lutheran, Baptist, Methodist and Old Catholic communities. The meeting was held in Warsaw’s Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity, the same church where Pope John Paul II met ecumenical leaders during his 1991 trip to Poland.

Chinese bishop, known for work toward unified church, dies of cancer

HONG KONG (CNS) — Chinese Bishop Anthony Li Du’an of Xi’an, a church leader who

enjoyed both papal approval and government recognition, died May 25 of liver cancer. The 79-year-old bishop contributed to the formation of priests and nuns and the reconciliation of the government-approved Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association and the underground Catholic Church in mainland China. Father Stephen Chen Ruixue of Xi’an told UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, that hundreds of Catholics and government officials joined in a prayer service and Mass for Bishop Li. Father Chen, chancellor of the Xi’an Diocese, said Coadjutor Bishop Anthony Dang Mingyan of Xi’an and Bishop Joseph Tong Changping of Weinan, also in Shaanxi province, led the prayer service and concelebrated the Mass at St. Francis Cathedral in Xi’an city. Bishop Li’s body has been placed in the cathedral, locally known as South Church, for people to pay their respects.

Father Wintz wins Franny award; McGovern receives special honor

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — Franciscan Father Jack Wintz, a member of the staff of *St. Anthony Messenger* magazine in Cincinnati for 33 years, is the 2006 winner of the St. Francis de Sales Award, the highest honor given to an individual by the Catholic Press Association. Owen McGovern, executive director of the Catholic Press Association from 1988 to 2005, also received a special St. Francis de Sales Award for his service to the Catholic press. The awards were presented May 26 during the Catholic Media Convocation in Nashville. The St. Francis de Sales Award is given annually for “outstanding contributions to Catholic journalism.”

Accepting the award, Father Wintz peppered his brief remarks with jokes, noting that he had been nominated each of the past four years and that his notes had improved each year. “Why does the name Susan Lucci come to mind?” he said, referring to the daytime soap opera star who won an Emmy Award for best actress in a daytime drama in 1999 after being nominated 18 times without a win. Father Wintz praised the other finalists and his colleagues at *St. Anthony Messenger*.

Retired bishop among clergy named in Iowa sex abuse claims

DAVENPORT, Iowa (CNS) — The Davenport Diocese received notice May 22 of 14 claims against it for clerical sexual abuse of minors. They included seven more claims against retired Bishop Lawrence D. Soens of Sioux City, who was a Davenport priest before he was made a bishop. Deacon David Montgomery, diocesan spokesman, said the diocese would have to review the claims before making any comment on them. The law firm of Betty, Neuman & McMahon, which served notice of the claims, said in a news release that the seven claims against Bishop Soens date from his days as principal of Regina High School in Iowa City, 1959-67. All of the new claims were by males. Of the seven that did not name Bishop Soens, four were against the late Msgr. Thomas Feeney, who died in 1981. Two claimants said they were abused by William Wiebler, who was recently defrocked, and one said he was abused in the 1940s by the late Msgr. Carl Meinberg, who died in 1975.

Catholic-Lutheran dialogue discusses death, judgment, resurrection

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic and Lutheran scholars discussed death, judgment and resurrection at a four-day session of the U.S. Lutheran-Roman Catholic Dialogue. The April 20-23 meeting in Phoenix was the second session of the 11th round of the dialogue. The theme for this round is “The Hope for Eternal Life.” Among questions the group plans to address in future sessions are Catholic-Lutheran differences over issues relating to life after death, including purgatory, indulgences and Masses and prayers for the dead. “The members of the dialogue team have established solid foundations for further discussion and development,” said the Rev. Lowell G. Almen, secretary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and Lutheran co-chair of the dialogue. Auxiliary Bishop Richard J. Sklba of Milwaukee, Catholic co-chair, said, “One of the more illuminating and instructive aspects of the meeting was the manner in which both Lutheran and Catholic scholars were able to reflect on the developing history of their own respective practices since the Reformation.”

New social group welcomes mature singles

FORT WAYNE — "The GAP" is a new faith-based social group for widowed, divorced and single men and women who range in age from the 40s to the 60s, who have fallen through the cracks of the church between the young adult ministries and the senior citizen groups.

Over 80 single men and women from several Fort Wayne parishes and surrounding area gathered at St. Elizabeth parish hall on May 12. Those in attendance enjoyed socializing, games and refreshments, and shared ideas of interest for future gatherings.

The group plans to meet on the third Friday of every month beginning at 7 p.m., with additional activities scheduled as they occur. Meeting places may vary.

The mission of this ministry outreach is to provide a safe environment where mature single Catholic-Christian men and women can enjoy Christian fellowship within group activities.

The next "GAP" gathering will be held at St. Elizabeth parish hall on June 16, at 7 p.m. For more information please e-mail gap4565@msn.com or call (260) 432-7346.

Elizabeth Everett wins scholarship

SOUTH BEND — Elizabeth Everett, a home school student, was named the winner of a four-year scholarship to Saint Joseph's High School beginning this fall.

The scholarship is the prestigious award from Santa Maria Council No. 553, Knights of Columbus, which launched the award more than 30 years ago as a part of its Catholic Education program.

The award is named in honor of Stanley Prebys and J. Frank Miles, two members who promoted a four-year scholarship to either Saint Joseph's High School or Marian High School with the sole stipulation that the winning student be the son or daughter of a K. of C. member.

Elizabeth Everett is the daughter of Fred and Lisa Everett and is the first home-school student to win the award in council history.

Fred Everett holds the position of advocate of the council. — EJD

St. Joseph School announces math awards, Washington trip

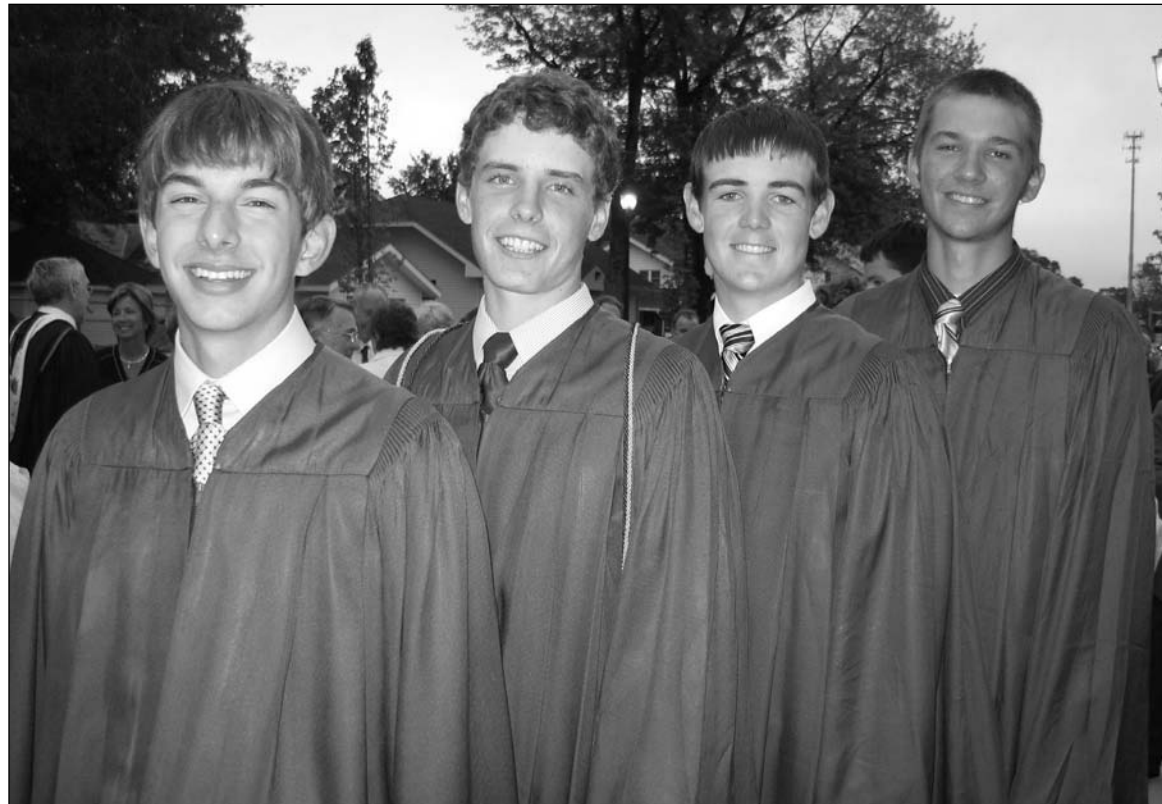
DECATUR — St. Joseph School and the Indiana Council of Teachers of Mathematics (ICTM) have awarded Tyler Staub and Carlin Hormann an ICTM math award for excellence in mathematics for the 2005-2006 school year.

Forty students and over 30 chaperones from St. Joseph School recently visited Washington D.C. The trip began with an all-night bus ride to the nation's capital, followed by three days of touring the sights.

Students toured Ford's Theatre, the Holocaust Museum, Mount Vernon, the Capitol Building, the Washington Monument, the National Police Officer's

AROUND THE DIOCESE

MARIAN HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATES BACCALAUREATE



MARY KAY DANCE

Bishop John M. D'Arcy celebrated the Marian High School baccalaureate Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral on June 1. Commencement followed June 2 at the Morris Center for Performing Arts in South Bend. St. Jude Elementary School graduates and soon-to-be Marian graduates Adam Prister, Stephen Jagla, Michael McShane and Shane Fye gather for a photo. They posed for the same picture four years ago when they graduated from St. Jude School together.

Memorial, FDR's Memorial, the World War II Memorial, Arlington Cemetery, the Korean and Vietnam War Memorials, the Smithsonian Museums and wrapped up the visit with a night tour of the Lincoln Monument, the Jefferson Monument and the Kennedy Center.

The students were greeted by Congressman Mike Pence at the Capitol Building. He gave them a personal tour and told the students about the rich history of the building.

Holy Cross College scholarship to benefit Notre Dame employees and their children

NOTRE DAME — The bond of the Congregation of Holy Cross stretches around the world, but the Holy Cross community in Notre Dame has a special closeness. This friendship was demonstrated earlier this year, when University of Notre Dame President Emeritus, Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, CSC, supported a major Holy Cross College fundraiser. With the money raised, Holy Cross College has been able to establish the Hesburgh Scholarship Fund.

In response to Father Hesburgh's kindness, Holy Cross College President Brother Richard Gilman, CSC, has designated the dollars from that fund to assist

only the children of Notre Dame employees who wish to attend Holy Cross College.

For more information about financial aid at Holy Cross College, please call Doug Irvine at (574) 239-8362 or send an e-mail to dirvine@hcc-nd.edu. To speak with an admissions counselor, call (574) 239-8400.

Sisters of Providence open Providence Associates program

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS — The Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, have established an associates program that provides an opportunity for lay adults to have a close connection with the congregation without taking the vows that are required for religious life.

Providence Associates is open to women and men age 18 and older of diverse faith traditions who seek a formal relationship with the Sisters of Providence. The associates will share their talents and abilities with the Congregation to honor Divine Providence through works of love, mercy and justice.

The program has been in development about two years.

"There is very high interest from people alumnae of our schools, former members and friends of the sisters in becoming partners in a spiritual sense, as well as having an opportunity to

share their giftedness with others to make a difference in people's lives," said Sister of Providence Mary Alice Zander, who is the director of Providence Associates.

Providence Associates will be able to share in mutual and intentional prayer, appropriate community gatherings and prayer groups, Sisters of Providence retreats and spiritual enrichment programs, social justice activities, eco-justice projects and other congregation ministries.

Commitments are for one year and can be renewed annually. There is no canonical, financial or legal obligation to one another on the part of the associate or the congregation.

Associate candidates and appointed companions will meet every four to six weeks for 10 or 11 months. Candidates will be invited to participate in congregation programs, activities and celebrations.

"We have had a small associates program available to people in the Chicago area for many years. We have decided that the time is right to expand and strengthen it to welcome and invite people in many other places that have had a Sisters of Providence presence. Even people who live in areas where there are no members of the congregation currently ministering are welcome to become a candidate," Sister Mary Alice said.

More information about Providence Associates and what

opportunities are available can be obtained from Sister Mary Alice Zander at (812) 535-2862. She also may be contacted by e-mail at mazander@spsmw.org. Further information is available at the Sisters of Providence Web site which is www.spsmw.org and at www.catholic-church.org/nacar which has information from the North American Conference of Associates and Religious (NACAR).

Holy Cross College will be adding men's and women's varsity soccer

NOTRE DAME — The Holy Cross College (HCC) athletic program continues to grow. Plans have been made to recruit a men's and women's soccer team and coaching staff for next fall.

This move comes after the recent addition of customized soccer fields right on the college's main campus. Those fields are currently being used by the club soccer team.

Nathan Walker, director of student activities and athletics, says, "Soccer has become one of the premier sports for young people. With HCC having the facilities already in place, the addition of soccer to the Saints athletic program was a natural next step."

For information about the Holy Cross College soccer program or the soccer coaching positions, please contact Nathan Walker at nwalker@hcc-nd.edu or call (574) 239-8335.

Niezgodski named president of Nieuwland assembly

SOUTH BEND — William E. Niezgodski, who has served in several official capacities, is the new president of the nine-member Father Julius A. Nieuwland Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus.

He succeeds Stephen Elek Jr., who recently completed a two-year term as faith navigator of the assembly, which was named in 1943 in honor of Father Nieuwland, professor of organic chemistry at the University of Notre Dame and a founder of synthetic rubber during World War II. At the time, he also had served as pastor of Sacred Heart Church on West Thomas Street in South Bend in the heart of the Belgian community. The church was closed later and today is the home of the Christ Child Society.

The assembly was originally established in 1903 as South Bend Assembly 242 and remained so until it petitioned for a change in name to honor Father Nieuwland for his outstanding work in organic chemistry.

Other elected officers were: John J. Lehner, faithful captain; James R. Berger, faithful pilot; Stephen Elek Jr., faithful admiral; Raymond R. Sommer, faithful controller; Larry Landy, faithful purser; Michael G. Walmsley, faithful scribe; William E. Szajko, inner sentinel; Joseph R. Ortega, outer sentinel; William C. Sright, outer sentinel; and Thomas A. Lesniak, three year trustee. — EJD

Lay chaplain addresses Serrans

SOUTH BEND — "Being a Catholic chaplain in a hospital involves a myriad of both spirituality and responses to emergencies around the clock," said Mary Gallagher, a member of Christ the King Parish, who detailed much of her responsibilities as a chaplain at St. Joseph Regional Medical Center to members of the South Bend Serra Club.

The National Association of Catholic Chaplains came into being in 1965, and in 1973 the organization voted to add religious brothers, religious sisters and Catholic laypeople. And the responsibility shared by laypeople who serve as chaplains places a heavy trust on them in administering to the needs of patients, she said.

Holy Cross College will host Youth Summer Enrichment program June 19-23

NOTRE DAME — While many Holy Cross College (HCC) students take a break for the summer, some South Bend area young people will be filling the college halls. This June HCC hosts the fifth annual Youth Summer Enrichment program. Students ages 9-14 can sign up for classes like "Watercolor Painting," "Jazz and Hip Hop Dance," "Fun with Cooking," "Police Camp," "Survivor Group Skills," "Basketball Fundamentals," "Aerobics for Kids" and more.

The program runs from June 19-23 with classes from 1 to 5 p.m. This year Holy Cross College has joined with Saint Joseph's High School, so students can enjoy a full day of fun if they choose.

SJHS will be running an art camp in the morning and will then be escorting students to Holy Cross College for the afternoon.

Each program costs \$100 for the full week of three classes, but students can also elect to take one or two classes for \$40 each. A tee-shirt is included in the fee.

Enrollment information is available online at www.hcc-nd.edu, and click on "Youth Summer Enrichment." Parents can also call the college's community education coordinator, Pat Adams, at (574) 239-8364.

Serra Club honors altar servers

SOUTH BEND — A total of 138 altar servers, including both boys and girls, were cited for exemplary services to their parishes by the Serra Club of South Bend, which honored them with special certificates.

The servers represented 18 parishes in the western end of the diocese.

Deacon Ron Moser of St. Joseph Parish in Mishawaka has served as general chairman of the program for the past three years. He pointed out that both boys and girls at Catholic schools soon discover that assisting the priest as an altar server provides them with a deep sense of spirituality, as well as an outreach to others to set an example.

The servers were, from St. Patrick, Walkerton, Schuyler Awaid, Rafael Castro, Ben Elch, Mollie Rudecki, Kaysi O'Brien and Alivia Hesters; from Corpus Christi, Devree Stopczynski and Josh McMillan; from Holy Family, Abigail Anastos, Joshua Bathon, Zachary Kaser, Chantel Orlowski and Andrew Zack; from St. Monica, Mishawaka, Mary Ganser, Kourtnei Gruber, Jackson

McManus, Maddison Mueller, Aaron Rosneck, Catlin Saros, Emily Schmid, Tyler Semons and Rosa Zappia; from Christ the King, Luke O'Connor, Lisa Bella, Andrew Bokhart, Ann Wasikowski, Erich Gorn and Jonathon Daniel; from St. Jude-St. Mary of the Assumption, Rebecca Badowski, Luke Chartier, Brian Klockow, Nicholas Kwiatkowski, Elizabeth Lehman, Ryan Luczkowski, Michael McGuire, Nicholas McGuire, Nicholas Stancombe, Brandon Weisser and James Badowski; from St. Pius X, Tyler Loeffelholz, Michael Krizman, Joe Sharkey and Chris Brennan; from St. Patrick, South Bend, Alicia Verstraete, Elise Waldschmidt, Adelle Weber, Anita Weber and Kathryn Campbell; from St. Joseph, South Bend, Kevin Barrett, Allison D'Ambrosia, Peter Doyle, Giuliana Corozza and Christian Harmon; from St. John the Evangelist, Goshen, Keith Guthrie, Kevin Makowsky and Kathryn Longacre; from St. Anthony de Padua, South Bend, Kate Dalton, Bridget Liddel, Jacob Ta, Kate Taelman, Audrey Page and Katie Schmidt; from Queen of Peace, Mishawaka, Michele Weldy, Philip Weldy, Joseph Monhaut and Aleshia Faulstich; from Our Lady of Hungary, Chris Stockberger, Victoria Gruber, Carter Lubelski, Chris Shaw and Joseph R. Molnar; St. Joseph, Mishawaka, Aaron Bulger, Andrew Ross and Philip Sheperd; from St. Michael, Plymouth, Marc Adams, Kaylee Kopetski, Ashley Lenne, Danielle Lenne and William Kopetski; and from St. John the Baptist, South Bend, Aaron Bauer, Grant Niezgodski, Joseph Pecs, Kyle Sera and Jacob Kuczanski. Twenty-one altar servers from St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart, were also recognized. — EJD



PROVIDED BY BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL

Demolition of the former convent, Saints Alive! and diocesan Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry building recently took place to make way for a fine arts wing and classrooms to Bishop Dwenger High School. Expected enrollment for 2006-2007 is 1,050, making the school the largest of the four Catholic diocesan high schools.

Bishop Dwenger clears room for its future

FORT WAYNE — The first steps in Bishop Dwenger High School's expansion efforts began the week of May 22 with the demolition of the convent on the Dwenger campus.

Over the past several years, the convent has been home to offices and storage for the school's Saints Alive! auction as well as the diocesan campus ministry offices. The latter offices moved when the diocese moved into the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in downtown Fort Wayne in June 2005.

Bishop Dwenger High School will break ground on the initial phase of its expansion project on Tuesday, June 13, at 11 a.m. Bishop John M. D'Arcy will join principal, J. Fred Tone, and other school and diocesan officials as the school prepares to add a 26,000 square foot fine arts addition to the existing building.

Work is expected to begin on the fine arts academic wing sometime in June with a scheduled completion date of August 2007.

The fine arts wing will house three visual arts classrooms as well as separate vocal and instrumental music areas. The band room will accommodate up to 120 students and the choir room 90 students. The space will also include storage space for uni-

forms, instruments and music. There will also be individual practice rooms and an ensemble room to help accommodate the growing demand for the arts at Dwenger.

Dwenger has already generated nearly \$4 million in gifts and pledges towards is \$7.75 million goal in its ONE Family Committed to the Future Campaign. Two pacesetter gifts of \$1 million and \$500,000 respectively have helped make the first phase of expansion a reality. Additional funding is still needed to begin construction of the classroom wing, which will add 13 new classrooms to the school.

Once expansion is complete, the school will be capable of housing up to 1,200 students. Expected enrollment for the 2006-07 school year is 1,050 students. Dwenger is the largest of the four high schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and enrollment has grown steadily over the past 15 years. Continued growth in the areas surrounding Bishop Dwenger especially in the Leo-Cedarville area as well as Perry Township have contributed to the increased demand for Catholic secondary education on the north side of Fort Wayne.

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Reproductive technologies: Assisting or replacing marital relations?

In the last article, we considered why sexual relations between spouses is the only setting worthy of the procreation of a person. The dignity of a child demands that he or she be given life through a personal act that expresses the total self-giving of his or her parents. From this conviction follows the principle that medical interventions that assist marital intercourse to achieve conception are morally good, while reproductive technologies that replace or substitute for marital relations are morally wrong.

It should be fairly easy to see from this principle that in vitro fertilization (IVF) fails to be a morally acceptable method for treating infertility. This is because IVF achieves conception by having technicians join sperm and ova in a laboratory petri dish, rather than through the loving, sexual embrace of husband and wife. The Catechism of the Catholic Church spells out why this widely used reproductive technology is seriously wrong, even moreso when it relies on donor sperm or ova:

"Techniques that entail the dissociation of husband and wife, by the intrusion of a person other than the couple (donation of sperm or ovum, surrogate uterus), are gravely immoral. These techniques (heterologous artificial insemination and fertilization) infringe the child's right to be born of a father and mother known to him and bound to each

other by marriage. They betray the spouses' right to become a father and a mother only through each other.

Techniques involving only the married couple (homologous artificial insemination and fertilization) are perhaps less reprehensible, yet remain morally unacceptable. They dissociate the sexual act from the procreative act. The act, which brings the child into existence, is no longer an act by which two persons give themselves to one another. ... Only respect for the link between the meanings of the conjugal act and

the purpose of analysis.

Secondly, the practice of IVF commonly involves the creation of "spare" embryos that are subsequently examined to determine which seem the "best." Those embryos that are deemed "sub-standard" are typically destroyed, while those that seem healthy are either donated or frozen for future use. Typically two to four embryos are implanted in the woman's womb to increase the chances of producing a successful pregnancy. If more than one embryo thrives and a multiple pregnancy results, some clinics then offer "selective reduction," a euphemism for aborting however many "excess" embryos the couple desires to do away with.

This link between giving life and taking life may seem contradictory, but it is really quite logical, and reveals the radical nature of this reproductive technology. When human beings play God and begin to dispense life, they can just as readily begin to dispense death. The document "Donum Vitae" described it like this: "The connection between in vitro fertilization and the voluntary destruction of human embryos occurs too often. This is significant: through these procedures, with apparently contrary purposes, life and death are subjected to the decision of man, who thus sets himself up as the giver of life and death by decree."

While IVF is by far the most

While the church has clearly condemned in vitro fertilization, it has not formally passed judgment on the GIFT procedure.

respect for the unity of the human being make possible procreation in conformity with the dignity of the person." — #2376-2377.

The way in which IVF is often carried out in fertility clinics adds to the moral evil involved. First, semen from the man is usually obtained through an act of masturbation, which remains morally wrong even when done for the purpose of procreation. The only morally acceptable way to obtain a semen sample for the purpose of evaluating or treating infertility is to use a non-lubricated, perforated condom during a normal act of intercourse. This procedure maintains the procreative potential of marital relations while retaining some seminal fluid for

commonly used "assisted reproductive technology" (ART) today, an earlier and simpler procedure called GIFT was developed in the 1980s. GIFT is an acronym that stands for Gamete Intra-Fallopian Transfer. It requires at least one fallopian tube that is not obstructed on the part of the woman. The procedure involves obtaining nearly ripe ova from the woman through needle aspiration and a sample of semen that is obtained during normal marital relations with the help of a perforated condom. The prepared semen sample and one or more ova are placed in plastic tubing, but separated by an air bubble to prevent conception. The contents of the tubing are then immediately inserted into the woman's fallopian tube so that conception can take place inside her body.

Pregnancy rates with GIFT are similar to those with IVF: 16-20 percent of women who undergo these reproductive procedures go on to give birth.

While the church has clearly condemned in vitro fertilization, it has not formally passed judgment on the GIFT procedure. However, many Catholic moral theologians, including ethicists from the National Catholic Bioethics Center, have serious reservations. They argue that even though GIFT joins sperm

FAITH AND FERTILITY

WHAT THE CHURCH TEACHES AND WHY

BY LISA EVERETT


and ova in the woman's body rather than a petri dish, conception is really the result of a technical procedure rather than the marital relations that preceded it.

In the absence of a definitive judgment by the church, it is up to local bishops whether to permit the GIFT procedure in Catholic health care facilities and up to married couples whether to pursue it.

Next week, with the help of a Fort Wayne physician, this series will explore a new reproductive technology that is clearly ethical and is far more effective than either IVF or GIFT in helping couples conceive.

Lisa Everett is the co-director of the Office of Family Life for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

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Family Faith

USF OFFERS ART CLASSES FOR CHILDREN The School of Creative Arts at the University of Saint Francis has announced summer art classes for children in grades 1-6 in the Art in the Morning Youth Art Program from 9 to 11:30 a.m., Monday through Friday, July 5-28, at the Rolland Center on Leesburg Road. The cost is \$75 for one child and includes all materials and instructional fees. Registrations needed by June 23. For information, call (260) 434-7591.

Multigenerational valedictorians: Brains and character are family legacy

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Have you ever done something so reminiscent of one of your parents that your first thought was, "I've become my mother"? Well, that's not such a bad thing for 18-year-old Claire Ensley, who is following in her mother Susan's footsteps as Bishop Dwenger's valedictorian this year.

Susan held that honor when she graduated from Dwenger in 1981. But the intelligence gene goes even further back to Claire's grandmother, Mary (Stout) Carroll, who graduated top in her class in 1947 from Elmhurst High School. The family resemblance is evident when the three are together, but a closer look shows they share similarities that go much deeper.

Mary Carroll was born the oldest of three children to Ray and Dorothy Stout in 1929. The members of her family were all avid readers, she recalls. "I loved to read Nancy Drew and imagined myself as a detective." English was her favorite class in high school where she graduated with top honors in her class of 99 students.

She smiles when reporting that there were many valedictorians on her father's side. Her great grandmother, Lusettie Stout was valedictorian of her eighth grade class and there are several cousins who have earned the honor through the years as well.

Following graduation, Carroll studied languages at Ball State University until she met her husband, Robert, and in 1951, they were married. That same year, Carroll converted to the Catholic faith. "I've been a Catholic for 54 years. To know the church is to love it," she says proudly. She was a full-time stay-at-home-mom after their children were born.

Susan was born in 1963 and is the youngest of the three Carroll



KAY COZAD

The 2006 Bishop Dwenger valedictorian Claire Ensley, center, stands with her grandmother, Mary Stout Carroll, left, and mother, Susan Ensley, in Susan's first-grade classroom at St. Charles School where they are all members of the parish. Claire is the most recent generation of her family to earn valedictorian status. Carroll was valedictorian of Elmhurst class of 1947. Susan Ensley earned top rank at Dwenger in 1981.

children. She admits she was not a very interested student in her early years. But she recalls one event that changed her life. "I remember one Christmas when I was about 12 years old. I got 16 books as gifts, all individually wrapped. I read them all."

Susan reports that she learns best by reading books rather than studying formally. Upon entering high school at Bishop Dwenger she had earned an all-A grade card and thought "it was fun." Susan shared her mother's love for English and she participated in band as well. Her continuing academic excellence earned her co-valedictorian status in 1981 along with classmate and friend, Peggy Bass. Though her grades were evidence of her academic savvy, Susan was surprised that she was named top in her class.

the past seven years she has held the first grade teaching position at St. Charles School where she and her family are members.

Claire, born in spring of 1988, is the oldest of the three Ensley children. She has attended St. Charles School and Bishop Dwenger High School.

Her earliest memories are of her mom teaching her to read. "We had pre-school at home with friends and cousins," Claire says. That language-enriched nurturing at home set the stage for a fruitful academic career for this young intellect.

"I've always enjoyed school. My favorite is French," reports Claire, who adds that she participated in an honors exchange program where she visited France as her mother Susan had done over two decades earlier. Claire is listed as second in the nation on the National French Test. She participates in band as did her mother, French and calculus clubs and National Honors Society, as well.

On being named valedictorian for 2006 at a special Mass in January, Ensley says she was not surprised. "With on-line grade postings, you can keep up with where you are." And she feels she's done her best. "I worked hard because I wouldn't have been happy with myself if I wasn't reaching my potential."

Though this young valedictorian was awarded a full scholarship

to Ball State University to study telecommunications, she has opted to pursue the study of theology at Marian College in Indianapolis.

"I enjoy film-making," Claire says, "but we had good religion classes at Dwenger. I think it will be interesting to study." Her dream

in life is "to please God."

Ensley's grandmother and mother are both very proud of the family's newest valedictorian.

But intelligence isn't the only thing passed down through the generations in this family.

These three women share a quiet strength and spirit that comes from a place other than text books. It's evident that their shared faith is very important to the trio, when they say it's just a way of life for them.

"Religion is very important to me. It's much more important than grades. It's so much bigger than school," says Claire.

Her mother Susan agrees, saying, "Doing for others is more important to us than making money."

The future looks bright for the modest Claire Ensley. Her grandmother is thrilled that she is valedictorian and "always knew she was awfully smart." Mom Susan can't wait to see what exciting options for the future will be open to her daughter. With Claire, the legacy lives on.

These three women share
a quiet strength and spirit
that comes from a place
other than text books.

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THE Young Voice

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST SCHOOL is located in Goshen. The school has 141 students in preschool through fifth grade. Adele Kretchmer is our principal. Additional information is available on the Web site www.stjohncatholic.com or by e-mailing the school office at schooloffice@stjohncatholic.com, or by calling the school at (574) 533-9480.

St. John the Evangelist: The beloved disciple

BY MATTHEW LEITZ

GOSHEN — We are proud that St. John is our patron saint. We have a powerful example by which we are led here at St. John the Evangelist School. St. John was blessed in many ways as Jesus made him the caretaker of his own Mother, Mary, as he was dying on the cross. He was also the first one at the tomb when he heard about Jesus' resurrection. These were two very dynamic things to happen to a simple fisherman.

He is the patron saint of writers and booksellers. He wrote the Gospel according to John, three letters and the Book of Revelation. The evangelist's symbol, the eagle, stands beside him holding in his beak the ink pot that enabled John to record his account of Christ's life and his vision. We can imagine St. John's eagle assisting us in our everyday writing and education. (Our after school program at St. John's is lovingly called "Eagle's Nest.")

In his old age, he had a simple message, "Little children, love one another." When asked for another lesson, he said that if they followed this simple lesson, that was enough.

In our school philosophy St. John states, in part... "Love one another ... Love others as Jesus loves us. ... In the awareness of others, the sensitivity to the needs of our parish and community, we are called to serve others by prayer, sacrifice, and the various calls to action."

Prayer: Dear Lord, through the power



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

of the Holy Spirit, allow St. John to assist the students of our school and all other schools in their studying about you. Amen.

Taking a break from our studies over the summer, I asked some of my classmates about their summer plans. These are just a few of their comments: Miguel is going to Chicago to see grandparents there who are visiting from Mexico; Spencer is going to North Carolina to go fishing with family and friends; Juan C. is going to Mexico, going to friends' houses, and visiting with an aunt from

Wyoming; Haley will be swimming in her backyard pool and I will be going to Shanklin Park (local park in Goshen) every Friday with classmates, and celebrating July 4th with family and relatives from out of state. As you can see, our summertime treat will involve spending time with relatives and family, loving one another, just as St. John requested.

Matthew Leitz is a fourth grader at St. John the Evangelist School in Goshen.

Heard Around the School. . .

What's your favorite thing about summer?

- Swimming Olivia Thomas - Kindergarten
- Fishing Kyle Isenhardt - Kindergarten
- Playing in the park Tammy Rivas - Kindergarten
- The pool Caityn Doyle - 1st grade
- Going to the beach Jarod Rodden - 1st grade
- Going to Niagara Falls Cain Mendoza - 1st grade
- Swimming in my pool Karen Ramos - 2nd grade
- You get to stay up late Sam Brown - 2nd grade
- Having a lot of sleepovers Elizabeth Erickson - 2nd grade
- Basketball Luis Rivas - 3rd grade
- Horseback riding Alison Kelly - 3rd grade
- Visiting Italy Isaac Torres - Villa - 3rd grade
- I like to go swimming Mackenzie Robinson - 4th grade
- No school! Eric Prucinsky - 4th grade
- Playing soccer Juan Cerezo - 4th grade
- Going to Kentucky Nick Wiederman - 5th grade
- Going to Montana Siara Rogers - Sharkey - 5th grade
- Going to Disney World Emily Halley - 5th grade

Summer Fun

BY ANNA MAGALLANES, GRADE 5

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

Summer Fun

S is for Summer when you catch lightning bugs, swim and enjoy sunshine each day.
 U is for Under the sprinklers where you will find us on hot summer days.
 M is for Mosquitos, Making lemonade, and More vacations.
 M is for More time to do the things we love like, making crafts, swimming, playing and eating ice cream.
 E is for Exercise and everyone gets to play.
 R is for Reading good books, Running around, and Roller-blading.
 F is for Fishing, evenings spent at barbecues, staying up late, and kids free of homework.
 U is for under a shade tree during the heat of the day. That is where you will find me reading a good book!
 N is for No doubt about it, Summer is the best!



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Churches urged to apply for funding available for marriage programs

BY BEN GRUVER

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic and Protestant leaders praised the Bush administration for making \$100 million in new funds available to programs that strengthen marriage in America.

After four years of rejecting President George W. Bush's Healthy Marriage Initiative, Congress passed the proposal May 16.

Five religious leaders and marriage advocates spoke about the initiative at a May 25 press conference in Washington hosted by Marriage Savers, a nonprofit organization that aims to reduce the nation's growing divorce rate.

"Marriage is the community's

responsibility," said Bishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Knoxville, Tenn., chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family Life. "Good marriages cannot exist in a vacuum. We need to ... take action."

Mike McManus, founder and co-chair of Marriage Savers, said the purpose of the press event was to encourage Protestant and Catholic leaders to apply for federal aid to fund marriage programs and to urge their colleagues to consider doing the same.

Since 1986, McManus and his wife, Harriet, have created 202 Community Marriage Policies involving 10,000 pastors and priests. Under the policy, a pastor sends three couples to a marriage

training program to learn how to help other couples.

With half of all marriages in the country ending in divorce, McManus believes churches need to take action.

Churches teach that marriage was the first institution created by God but they have been doing more work in areas other than marriage, according to McManus, who is Presbyterian.

Church leaders cannot just maintain "marriages between a man and a woman," but must "strengthen marriage," McManus said.

He hopes his Community Marriage Policies will encourage churches to "give marriages a shot in the arm."

Credit scores: Understanding an unrecognized asset

Assets are things of value that we own or possess. Most are easy to spot such as homes and investments. A consumer's credit score is not the type of asset that appears on a financial statement.

However, it can be a major factor in deciding whether or not credit is extended or insurance coverage granted. An individual's credit score is viewed in many quarters as a tool to assess a consumer's integrity. The pervasive use of credit scores influences mortgage and lease decisions, rental applications and insurance underwriting. It is important that consumers understand and care for their credit score in order to secure the most favorable terms.

Fair Isaac Corporation (FICO) is a statistical scoring firm that calculates the three digit score. The raw data is gathered and distributed via the three major credit reporting firms: Trans Union, Equifax and Experian. FICO utilizes a proprietary methodology to determine the score.

The top score is 850. Scores of 700 and above allow consumers to access the best rates and terms. Scores in the 600s and less result in higher rates and fees. It is important to note that these lower scores do not necessarily result in denial.

The result is often premium pricing, which can limit the borrower's options. This is especially true in the mortgage market where higher rates can mean the buyer must settle for a lesser home. Scores below 600 are very unfavorable and consumers in this category will find it difficult to do business in many ways.

There are changes at hand in the scoring world. The three leading credit bureaus have grown weary of paying FICO

DOLLARS AND SENSE

BY KEITH E. DAVIS

for their rating. They have worked together and are now coming forward with their own ranking called the VantageScore.

This new methodology seeks to eliminate confusion and discrepancies by assigning consumers letter grades based upon their scores. Grades from A to F will be utilized. Any resemblance to school marks is purely intentional.

Regardless of the scoring method used, it is important for individuals to recognize their credit scores as an important asset. Federal law requires that the reporting agencies provide free annual credit reports to consumers upon their request.

Anyone concerned about their ranking should obtain one of these reports and review it for accuracy and correctness. It is not unusual to find erroneous information.

It will also reveal open credit accounts that have gone unused for long periods. These accounts should be closed by the consumer for security and rating purposes.

Regular maintenance by the consumer can help assure the most accurate and fair result.

Keith E. Davis is president of STAR Wealth Management in Fort Wayne and a member of St. Vincent Parish, Fort Wayne.



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EDITORIAL

Catholic media spreads its wings

When we think of all the means to communicate the Gospel in this day and age of information-savvy, truth hungry individuals, the scope is broad and ever changing.

From the many centuries when the word was spread from person to person, to today in an electronic individualistic means — readership of the newspaper, the Internet, e-mail, radio, television, videos, DVDs, even Podcasts — the means seem endless.

What was discussed with Catholic communicators at a recent convention in Nashville, Tenn., was that any or all of these tools should be utilized to evangelize.

We are interested in the best methods of spreading the message of our diocese to the masses. Print has been the diocesan standard since 1926 when the paper was founded. Recently, several young adults have volunteered to be part of a pilot study and receive the newspaper electronically through e-mail. Early reports indicate that this is a popular means of transfer to the younger audience.

We also learned of a few advantages of offering a Podcast of the newspaper — a short newsclip with some news highlights for the week that are featured in *Today's Catholic*. The Podcast could be downloaded to an iPod from our Web site, www.diocesefwsb.org and lure readers to the newspaper for more in-depth coverage.

We also plan to incorporate some video coverage on the Web site in the future.

As always, we would enjoy hearing from our readers. How can we best serve you? What stories and information about the church do you want the paper to cover? What teachings of the church do you want greater understanding? What is the best means of getting diocesan news to you, to your children and to your grandchildren? Let us know; we're listening. When it comes to the tools of communications, we are eager to share the Gospel for the church as a whole.

Cardinal makes a pitch for civility

Cardinal Theodore Edgar McCarrick, archbishop emeritus of Washington, D.C., spoke at the recent Catholic Media Convocation in Nashville, Tenn., attended by staff members of *Today's Catholic*, as well as over 400 other members of the Catholic media. In his remarks, the cardinal offered what he called 10 "Wouldn't it be nice ifs," in which he discussed specific areas and issues where he felt the Catholic press could really make a difference.

The first was the promotion of civility — a powerful force in a church, country and world so divided. And so, in this space, *Today's Catholic* will take the cardinal's words at face value and address this specific area.

Civility extends beyond superficial politeness. While it is true that so much more good could be accomplished in the world if opposing sides would just refrain from namecalling, demonizing and other nastiness, this is only a start. Even when displaying their best manners, people can still be cold, judgmental, arrogant and ruthless in their pursuit of the cause or agenda they feel is so terribly worth it. This feeble take on civility will never last.

True civility runs deeper. It is the climate of respect that flourishes naturally when people respect one another from the heart, hoping to reconcile differences and move forward. This is done out of an appreciation for one another as children of God and a realization that only when people lovingly work together (as opposed to dividing ourselves and marginalizing each other) can we tackle the truly significant issues in our time and find solutions that will respect the dignity and consciences of all people.

The need for civility today, if nothing else, should empower the church and tell it that its message is still needed, that it still has as big a part as ever in the goings on of society. After all, loving one's enemies and associating even with those deemed evil or sinful — e.g. tax collectors and prostitutes — is at the heart of the example and teachings of Christ.

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

Book offers insight in Catholic identity

As a frequent reader of your newspaper, I would like to share with your readership a most enjoyable book that I have just read. The last few years have witnessed unprecedented negative press coverage of the Catholic Church. Furthermore, recent events at Catholic universities like the University of Notre Dame and others, has made many Catholics curious about what constitutes a Catholic college or university. Last month saw the publication of "Catholic Higher Education: A Culture in Crisis" by Father John J. Piderit, SJ, and Melanie M. Morey, which was published by the Oxford Press.

Father Piderit is the former president of Loyola University in

Chicago and now directs Catholic After School Academies in the New York metropolitan area. Open to all Catholic children, these programs are designed primarily for Catholic students attending public school whose parents need daily after-school care.

Father Piderit and Morey give an eye-opening history of Catholic education in the United States. In fact, the third part of the book deals with the collapse of congregations of religious women and the devastating effect it has had on all levels of Catholic education over the last three decades. Piderit and Morey are right on target when they credit Catholic nuns for creating the strongest Catholic culture in the U.S. It made me realize how lucky past generations were to have had so many nuns ready to serve in educational capacities.

For me, I am always mystified when I read about things similar to the recent events at Notre Dame, such as colleges allowing pro-choice commencement speakers as well as internal policies that show disregard for Catholic values. The authors give a thorough and thought-provoking examination of such events and offer firm strategies that will be essential for keeping Catholic colleges and universities "Catholic" in years to come.

Although the book spewed out much information, all was presented in a fast-flowing and easy-to-read style reminiscent of a John Grisham novel. "Catholic Higher Education" was a definite breath of fresh air for me at a time when the Catholic Church and Catholic culture is under attack from all sides.

James Fernandez
East Lyme, CT

Not always easy

BY FATHER WILLIAM PEIL

There I am. In all my glory — not too long after ordination, in Crown Point at the house of a parishioner of St. Mary.

But it wasn't always easy.

You may wonder how old I was. I mean when I went to Most Precious Blood Church with my mother at an evening benediction service — that's when I really wanted to be a priest for the first time. And maybe the only time.

I'd say I was 12 or 13. The priest had talked about the Sacred Heart of Jesus — I remember that much.

And as I was walking down the aisle afterwards with my mother at my side I remember telling her how much I wanted to be a priest at that time, after hearing the priest talk about the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

But that was it, as far as I remember. After that, it was mostly struggle and conflict and hesitancy.

After I finished the senior year of high school at Central Catholic, I thought I'd give it a try in the seminary.

Seven years later, skipping over a lot of blood, sweat and tears, I was ordained on June 11, 1949 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

Maybe that's why I am now "hosting" a holy hour before the Blessed Sacrament at 7 p.m. every Wednesday before the first Friday of each month at Most Precious Blood Church — next one on July 5, if the reader can make it. It's for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, since Jesus did say (according to Mt 9:38) to "pray the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into

his harvest," possibly the only time he ever asked his followers to pray for a special intention in all the Gospel pages.

Nevertheless, after that evening at Most Precious Blood Church, frankly, it was all "should" or "shouldn't" about becoming a priest, and it really wasn't until I had to make up my mind one way or another, when I was up for ordination as a sub-deacon, that I came up with "should."

And that was only after making the 54-day novena of rosaries to Our Blessed Mother and reflecting upon the fact that "I couldn't (keep celibacy and pray a 45-minute "office" in Latin every day before midnight for the rest of my life) but "we" — Our Lord and I — could.

So, on June 11, 1949 — the same June 11 date of this issue of *Today's Catholic* — I was ordained and shortly after sent to Crown Point as my first assignment.

There should be a post script to all this. Otherwise, it wouldn't make sense that I'm still a priest, though now retired, offering Masses and hearing confessions and whatever 57 years later.

It happened when I was in a choir loft in East Chicago, Ind. where a priest was being buried and I was one of the priests singing in the choir.

I can still remember myself standing there at a lull in the Requiem Mass, looking down there at the tabernacle and telling the Lord Jesus how little I felt I was becoming the saint I felt I was supposed to be.

And clearly came the words into my consciousness: "Abandon yourself to my mother." So, shortly after, I made the true devotion to Mary pledge for the rest of my life.



FATHER WILLIAM PEIL

But that was the only "calling" I experienced.

But then again the prophet Elijah, up on that ancient Mount Carmel long ago found that the voice of the Lord God was not in a strong or heavy wind that was crushing rocks, and not in the earthquake that followed, or in the fire that came next, but in a tiny whispering sound he then heard. (1 Kgs 19:12)

For Elijah, it was on a mountain in ancient Israel. For me, it was in a choir loft in East Chicago.

Father William Peil is a retired priest from the Gary Diocese who now lives in Fort Wayne.

Ecumenical plate-spinner: Cardinal coordinates dozens of dialogues

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Ecumenism is a work in progress, which explains why Cardinal Walter Kasper's days are never dull.

Cardinal Kasper, the Vatican's ecumenical point man, coordinates more than a dozen dialogues at any given time — a bit like the plate-spinner in a circus.

When one dialogue starts to wobble, it calls for some delicate attention that can include theological exchange, personal visits or simple prayer meetings. The last thing anyone wants to hear is the sound of breaking china.

Cardinal Kasper recently took time for a wider view of the ecumenical scene under Pope Benedict XVI. In a major address a few steps from the Vatican May 30, he offered a realistic assessment of where dialogue is spinning smoothly and where it's starting to waver.

Surprisingly, perhaps, the German cardinal saw great promise in relations with separated Eastern churches, including the Russian Orthodox.

After a period of coldness with the Orthodox, he said, has come a "new fraternal climate." One con-

crete sign is the return of theological dialogue at a meeting of Catholic-Orthodox experts in Belgrade, Serbia and Montenegro, scheduled for September.

The Catholic Church already has much in common with the Orthodox, including the sacraments, the Eucharist and priestly ministry. Now, Cardinal Kasper said, attention will turn to a crucial issue: the ministry of the pope as the visible foundation of unity.

"We don't have a lot of doctrinal problems with the Orthodox; they are rather problems of mentality. But the Petrine ministry is the central problem," he said.

In the meantime, the cardinal said, Catholic and Orthodox are cooperating more frequently to counter what is seen as a common challenge: Europe's drift from its Christian roots. This joint effort could help heal the long East-West divide in Europe, he added.

"Today we have a historic chance to grow again together," he said.

Relations with the churches of the Reformation — Anglicans, Lutherans, Methodists and others — have also shown progress, Cardinal

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

Kasper said. Probably the most noteworthy accomplishment was the 1999 agreement with the Lutheran church on justification by faith; the Methodist church is expected to adopt that statement when it meets in plenary session in July.

But here Cardinal Kasper warned of new problems, and he was blunt. He spoke of "the internal fragmentation of some ecclesial communities and their loss of substance in ethical areas, especially on questions of life and the family."

He said an obvious example was seen in the current "crisis" of the Anglican community — a reference to the Anglican ordination of a gay bishop in North America and the blessing of homosexual

LETTER, PAGE 15

God reveals detail of divinity to us



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Feast of the Trinity Mt. 28:16-20.

The Book of Deuteronomy is the source of this feast's first reading. Deuteronomy is the fifth book now in sequence in the Old Testament. It is one of the five books that form for Jews the basic revelation by God.

This reading describes an instruction given by Moses to the Hebrew people as they wandered across the Sinai Peninsula, fleeing Egypt where they had been slaves, and in search of the land God had promised them.

In this reading, Moses is quoted as having told the people that God created all. God had spoken to them. God is in heaven. Finally, Moses said that the people must obey God's commandments.

Hearing a reading of these verses thousands of years after the fact causes us to lose at least some of the force within them. At the time, these words were extraordinarily powerful. They revealed God. Moreover, they were God's own revelation.

For the second reading this weekend, the church presents a passage from the Epistle to the Romans. By the time St. Paul wrote this letter to the Christians of Rome, the reality of God, certainly as understood in the Jewish tradition and in the Christian tradi-

tion beginning to form, was accepted.

The marvel in Paul's message is that Christians share the divine life. They are more than creatures of God. They are God's children. God is the father. Indeed, disciples are encouraged to address God as "Father," indeed as "Abba," an ancient term for fathers that was a particular gentle and loving endearment.

Paul continues. As children of God, the faithful are heirs to the eternal life of God. All this, of course, is accomplished in and through the individual Christian's bond with the Lord Jesus.

St. Matthew's Gospel supplies the last reading.

It is a Resurrection narrative, clear and compelling. The risen Lord appears before the eleven surviving apostles on a mountain. He spoke to them in human words. They understood. He conferred upon them all authority on earth and in heaven. He then commissioned them to go into the entire world, bringing all whom they would meet into the one body, "in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

Then, Jesus promised to be with them until the end of the world.

Reflection

Overall, the teaching in these lessons is that God lives, and that God unites with us. He communicates with us. He meets us in our world. He speaks our language.

We belong to God, because we are God's children. We are much, much more than creatures or possessions. We are God's children, heirs to God's eternal life, and one with Jesus, the Son of God and savior.

The church makes these reas-

suring points. It tells us about God. It tells us about ourselves.

It tells us that God loves us. How? By giving us the Lord Jesus as our redeemer. God loves us by giving us bearers of the divine word, such as Moses and Paul.

God loves us by giving us the apostles. They were more than humans who simply had the opportunity to meet Jesus and to learn from Jesus. Jesus sent them into the world, to us, to give us the words of salvation, the words by which to live.

Their tradition, indeed their presence, endures among us. It continues in their successors, the bishops, and in the church guided by the bishops.

In these lessons, the church is frank. God is everything. He alone gives life and peace. Nothing else is lasting, secure or real. God loves us. He reveals the most intimate detail of divinity to us, the Trinity, that we might truly know God. He reaches to us in Jesus. Jesus reaches to us, and meets us, in the apostles.

READINGS

Tenth Week of Ordinary Time

Monday: 1 Kgs 17:1-6 Ps 121:1-8 Mt 5:1-12

Tuesday: 1 Kgs 17:7-16 Ps 4:2-5, 7-8 Mt 5:13-16

Wednesday: 1 Kgs 18:20-39 Ps 16:1-2, 4-5, 8, 11 Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: 1 Kgs 18:41-46 Ps 65:10-13 Mt 5:20-26

Friday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-16 Ps 27:7-9, 13-14 Mt 5:27-32

Saturday: 1 Kgs 19:19-21 Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-10 Mt 5:33-37

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

On June 5, the church remembers St. Boniface, bishop and martyr. He was consecrated the first bishop of Germany. This quiz looks at Catholicism in that important region.

1. In the latter days of the Roman Empire, this heresy held sway amongst the Teutonic (German) tribes:

- a. Aryanism b. Arianism c. Anti-Semitism

2. This "big" man was the ruler of much of what is modern Germany and used Catholic monks as administrators:

- a. Frederick the Great b. Hossehea Cartwrightus
c. Charlemagne

3. In the split between East and West, where did Germany land?

- a. In the Catholic sphere; it was west of significant Orthodox influence.
b. It was spilt down the middle, between Hanover and Bremen.
c. It was mostly Orthodox, due the proximity of the Ukraine.

4. What Catholic Empire emerged in Germany in the shadow of the fallen Roman Empire?

- a. The Holy Roman Empire b. Kievian Russ
c. The Byzantine Empire

5. What military religious order expanded the borders of Christian Germany?

- a. the Hospitallers b. the Crusaders c. the Teutonic Knights

6. This Catholic priest began a movement in Germany that would shake the foundations of the church:

- a. The Cure D'Ar's b. Martin Luther c. Wilhelm Penn

7. His religious notions were summed up in "confessions" named for this Southern German city:

- a. Nuremberg b. Salzburg c. Augsburg

8. This invention is credited with helping his ideas to spread in Germany:

- a. The TV (Fernsehen Apparat)
b. The printing press
c. The bingo card

9. The _____ Interim, a compromise settlement between Catholics and Protestants pending the Council of Trent, was named for this southern German city:

- a. Nuremberg b. Salzburg c. Augsburg

10. What (partly) religious war raged in Germany in the early 17th century?

- a. The Thirty Years War b. The Hundred Years War
c. The Six Day War

11. The Peace of Augsburg in 1555 recognized the existence in Germany of both

- a. Catholicism and Lutheranism
b. Catholicism and Orthodoxy
c. Catholicism and Calvinism

12. In the 19th century trouble again arose for Catholics in Germany, in an anti-Catholic struggle called the

- a. Kulturkampf b. Blitzkrieg c. Drang Nach Osten

13. This was led by this man, the so-called Iron Chancellor:

- a. Adolf Hitler b. Otto Von Bismarck
c. Dirigible Von Hindenburg

14. More troubles in Germany came about in the regime led by this political party, which opposed the church and eventually put thousands of priests in death camps:

- a. The Weimar Republic
b. The KDP (German Communist Party)
c. The NSDAP (Nazi Party)

15. Germany (formerly the Bundes Republik) became less Catholic in 1990. Why?

- a. Once the Iron Curtain came down millions of Catholics fled to Poland.
b. The newly united nation, (now just "Deutschland") acquired millions of former GDR citizens, only 5 percent of whom were Catholic.
c. The government expelled 3,000 Catholics for talking during Mass.

16. Who is the highest ranking German churchman?

- a. Cardinal Errher of Pressburg
b. The Archbishop of Batavia
c. Benedict XVI

ANSWERS:

- 1.b, 2.c, 3.a, 4.a, 5.b, 6.b, 7.c, 8.b, 9.c, 10.a, 11.a, 12.a, 13.b, 14.c, 15.b, 16.c

Happiness and joy of heaven is indescribable in human terms

A friend believes we will not know anyone in heaven whom we knew on earth because St. Paul says "Eye has not seen what God has prepared for us." Is he right?, S.C., South Bend

In St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he writes: "Eye has not seen, ear has not heard, nor has it so much as dawned on man what God has prepared for those who love him." St. Paul is saying here that the happiness and joy of heaven is indescribable in human terms. He mentions that many rulers in the ancient world did not realize the beauty of heavenly life to which people are called.

St. Paul's point here fits in well with the myriad of life-after-death experiences of people today who, when they recover, say that were so happy on the other side that they did not want to come back to this life.

Elsewhere in First Corinthians, St. Paul says we will see God in heaven. "Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have

now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known."

In other words, the beauty of this world is merely a reflection of what lies beyond the grave. The human person himself is but an image or likeness of God.

The Apostle St. John, in his First Epistle, also says we will see God. "We are God's children now; what we shall later be has not yet come to light. We know that when it comes to light we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is."

St. John is speaking here of the beatific vision, namely the vision that makes us happy when we see God face-to-face in heaven. Pope Benedict XII (1336) defined that the blessed in heaven "see the divine essence with an intuitive and even face-to-face vision, without the interposition of any creature in the function of the object seen; rather the divine essence immediately manifests itself to them plainly, clearly, openly ... Those who see the divine essence in this way take great joy from it ... are truly

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

blessed and possess life and eternal rest."

The early Fathers of the Church also describe heaven as union with God. St. Augustine of Hippo (d. A.D. 430) writes: "You have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find rest in you." St. Clement of Alexandria (d. A.D. 215) says the blessed become "pure in heart and near to the Lord."

Besides us and God, there are other beings, too, in heaven. There are the good angels, the Blessed Mother and the human saints. St. Matthew describes the general judgment at the end of the world, when Jesus separates the good from the wicked, and

the good go to heaven. The Book of Revelation says the saints in heaven wear long white robes, implying there are many people in heaven.

Similarly, the church's doctrine of the "communion of saints" shows the connection between the holy people on earth, the souls in purgatory and the blessed in heaven. The blessed in heaven are basically all those who have died in the state of grace and have made it to heaven, even if they had to be first purified in purgatory. Among these blessed can be many of our family, friends and acquaintances whom we knew on earth.

Heaven is a truly loving community, where we will be able to know and love God, Jesus, the Blessed Mother, the angels, the saints, as well as our family and friends who have preceded us to this state. We will love as God loves, by using our free will only to do good. So in heaven there will be no sin, no temptation to sin, no suffering, no sadness.

This is possible because God

strengthens and perfects our mind by which we know and our will by which we love. A. Winklhofer says, "God brings to perfection his rational creatures so that they may give him perfect adoration and honor by their love for him. This love far surpasses what a creature is capable of by himself. To perfect his creature, God raises it by grace above itself and bestows his own power on it for it to love him."

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.

Tales from the Vienna woods

During a conversation in Cracow last July, Cardinal Christoph Schoenborn, OP, the archbishop of Vienna, proposed that he and I organize a conference to discuss the growing gap between America and Europe, the roots of that gap as analyzed in my book "The Cube and the Cathedral," and the possibilities of strengthening the transatlantic Catholic dialogue and the new evangelization on both continents. I readily agreed, and the conference, which included some 50 public intellectuals from "Old Europe," "New Europe," and the United States, met in April in the archbishop's palace in Vienna. Many of us were housed in a former barracks of the Teutonic Knights; to have come from Poland, where I had been visiting, to the barracks of the Teutonic Knights was ... historically interesting, to say the least. (Why? Google "Battle of Grunwald, 1410.") But the Deutschordenshaus is a story for another day.

Cardinal Schoenborn, who makes great sense in a half-dozen languages, provided the intellectual glue that held an international, interdisciplinary conversation together; as an American present, Dr. William Hurlbut of Stanford, put it, "Coming from California, it's refreshing and amazing to hear words of truth and light in the accents of Arnold Schwarzenegger." But perhaps the most intriguing intervention of the conference came from my friend Rémi Brague, who divides his time between the Sorbonne in Paris, where he teaches philosophy, and Munich, where he holds the chair of the late, great Romano Guardini. Professor Brague's name would rightly appear on any list of Ten Most Intelligent Catholics in the World, and in Vienna, he didn't

disappoint.

Picking up on a phrase I had used in "The Cube and the Cathedral," that Europe is "dying from a false story," Brague suggested a fascinating way of looking at the last two centuries of western history. The 19th century, he proposed, was focused on the question of good-and-evil: the "social question," posed by the industrial revolution, the emergence of an urban working class, and the demise of traditional society, dominated the landscape. The 20th century, he argued, had been the century of the question of true-and-false: totalitarian ideologies, built on perverse misunderstandings of the human person, defined the contest for the human future that drove history from the aftermath of World War I until the Soviet crackup in 1991.

And the 21st century? Ours, Professor Brague said, is the century of the question of being-and-nothingness — the century of the metaphysical question.

Which may sound extremely abstract, but is, in fact, very concrete. For if nothing is "given" in the human condition, then everything is up-for-grabs. If, to take a salient example on both sides of the Atlantic, maleness and femaleness are mere "social constructs," then "marriage" can mean anything someone wants it to mean, including not only "gay marriage" but polygamy and polyandry — and to deny that is an act of irrational bigotry.

Brague, who knows a great deal about Islamic philosophy, knows all about the threat to the West from jihadist Islam. In Vienna, however, he insisted that nihilism — a soured cynicism about the mystery and wonder of being — is the prior enemy-within-the-gates. For



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

nihilism leads to deep skepticism about the human capacity to know the truth of anything; skepticism leads to what Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger described on April 18, 2005, as the "dictatorship of relativism"; and relativism is a solvent eating away the foundations of western self-understanding, western civilizational morale — and the western capacity for intelligent self-defense.

An Enlightenment intellectual, cited by Professor Brague, once said that he didn't have children because begetting children was a criminal act — a matter of condemning another human being to death, to oblivion. That is the kind of nihilism that lies beneath Europe's demographic suicide of recent decades. That is the kind of nihilism that occupies some of the commanding heights of American culture. That is the kind of nihilism that makes the defense of western civilization difficult today — and would make it impossible tomorrow, were it to triumph culturally.

The very goodness of life, the goodness of being — that is "the issue" beneath all the other issues of the 21st century. So suggested Rémi Brague. I'm afraid he's right.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for June 11, 2006

Matthew 28:16-20

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Trinity Sunday, Cycle B: the end of Matthew, the great commissioning. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

ELEVEN	DISCIPLES	GALILEE
MOUNTAIN	SAW HIM	SOME
DOUBTED	EARTH	GIVEN TO ME
THEREFORE	MAKE	BAPTIZING
THE NAME	FATHER	THE SON
SPIRIT	TEACHING	OBSERVE
COMMANDED	WITH YOU	THE AGE

OBSERVE

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

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LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

unions, issues that have caused a split among Anglicans.

Cardinal Kasper said an even deeper problem was that many Protestant communities had developed a concept of unity no longer in line with the Catholic understanding of ecclesiology.

"We don't agree on the goal of the ecumenical path and thus there is a risk of going in different directions and, in the end, finding ourselves farther away from each other than we were before," he said.

He said the ongoing discussions with the World Council of Churches on the nature and mis-

sion of the church were "more urgent and important than ever" in resolving this question.

Cardinal Kasper pointed to one often-overlooked positive development in ecumenism: the growth of Protestant ecumenical groups, fraternities and movements that "are grateful for the firm position of the Catholic Church on ethical questions" and which often collaborate with like-minded Catholic groups.

He pointed to a 2004 meeting of more than 10,000 representatives from various European churches in Stuttgart, Germany, as the first public sign of this grassroots movement.

"Thus, alongside official ecumenism, a spiritual ecumenical network is growing quickly and is perhaps more important and promising than the other," the cardinal said.

Sports

ST. VINCENT PANTHERS TAKE CYO SOFTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP In the CYO softball championship game on May 16, St. Vincent defeated St. Charles 5-1. The Panthers first defeated St. Joseph Hessen Cassel, 17-1, then knocked off Queen of Angels, 8-0. Coach Dan Filler was pleased with his girls' 30 runs to two efforts during the three-game tournament. The pitching ace for the Panthers struck out 37 of the 59 batters. "We practiced hard and had great pitching this season," he summarized. St. Joseph, Decatur, was the only team to beat St. Vincent during the regular season. — *Michelle Castleman*

Christ the King, St. Anthony win ICCL baseball tournaments

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — In the nick of time before the close of the school year, the Inter-City Catholic League crowned its two post season baseball tournament champions for the 2006 season, and in the process, wound up its 60th successive diamond year.

Unbeaten Christ the King, winner of the John Bosco Division, won the varsity championship by nipping once-beaten Corpus Christi Red, 4-2. And St. Anthony won the Second Chance affair for teams finishing in the lower half of the league by defeating St. Anthony Maroon, 8-1.

Coach Ron Ratkay's Kings chalked up their 12th successive win of the season and became one of the few ICCL teams to wind up a perfect season with a 12-0 mark.

The Kings were paced by the strong pitching combination of Robert Jamieson and Robby Fontenot and a tight defense behind Steve Solkey, Tim Bishop, Tyler Bliha and Gage Ratkay who snuffed out numerous Corpus Christi chances.

Matt Petsche and Adam Dyczko combined five hits in the clutches to keep the Kings in front. Christ the King downed St. Thomas of Elkhart, 8-5, in the semifinal round.

'Fabulous five' student-athletes honored with Division I scholarships

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND — Five student-athletes from Saint Joseph's High School in South Bend have given the institution a road map to success and bequeathed inspirations for classmates left behind to aspire to.

The student-athletes, all females, have honored their school and their sports by receiving Division I scholarships in volleyball, basketball, soccer and swimming.

Name: **Emily Lindborg**
Sport: Volleyball
GPA: 3.4
College: University of North Carolina-Greensboro
Saint Joe experience: "Going to state two years in a row will hopefully give me a competitive edge."

Name: **Morgan Cox**
Sport: Soccer
GPA: 4.1
College: Butler University
Saint Joe experience: "Going to state my sophomore year and fighting through surgery my senior year, makes me want to compete harder at the next level."

Name: **Mary Grace Godfrey**
Sport: Swimming
GPA: 3.8
College: Notre Dame

Director of Communications

The Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana seeks a Director of Communications who will serve as editor-in-chief of its 27,500 circulation weekly diocesan newspaper, The Catholic Moment, will coordinate diocesan communication projects, and serve as public relations officer. This person will be a member of the Curia and be responsible directly to the Bishop.

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EOE



JOE KOZINSKI

Saint Joseph's High School's "fabulous five" athletes include, front, Morgan Cox; back, from left, Mary Grace Godfrey, Ali Nellis, Emily Lindborg and Melissa Lechlitner.

Saint Joe experience: "I have had the opportunity to represent a small Catholic school and excel, I have the same expectations at Notre Dame."

Name: **Melissa Lechlitner**
Sport: Basketball

GPA: 3.9
College: Notre Dame
Saint Joe experience: "We went to the Final Four every year I was here and won the state title my junior year. Hopefully we will get to the NCAA tournament and do well."

Name: **Ali Nellis**
Sport: Soccer
GPA: 3.5
College: Xavier University
Saint Joe experience: "Being able to be a part of five girls from a small Catholic school to go on to a Division I college."

"It's really funny that we all competed against each other in the Inter-City Catholic League and choose different sports in high school," commented Godfrey. "We all stayed pretty close as friends throughout our four years at Saint Joe."

"They are all good kids with no egos interfering with their personalities," stated Eric Gohlke, athletic director of Saint Joseph's. "They all seem excited about the opportunities ahead of them, not necessarily on the field of sport but in the classroom."

"These girls epitomize what Saint Joseph's High School and sports are all about," Gohlke added. "For a small school, five Division I scholarships, is a tremendous accomplishment."

Pastoral Care Associate

Saint Anne Home & Retirement Community seeks a practicing Catholic who is a Eucharistic Minister. This full-time position requires someone with experience in pastoral ministry; must enjoy working with the elderly, addressing their spiritual needs; be a team worker and skilled in Microsoft Office products. Hours are 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. weekdays and every other Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Salary is commensurate with experience. Great benefits and personal reward.

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The advocate: Our spirit of love

BY GINNY KOHRMAN

Opening prayer

Come Holy Spirit — as the wind — to move and stir our hearts to love.

Come Holy Spirit — as the water — to create and renew life in all of creation.

Come Holy Spirit — as the fire — to illumine your eternal presence to the whole world.

O Holy Spirit, unite our lives into yours, so that we may be transformed with your truth and love. Amen

Scripture: Jn 14: 15-31

Commentary

My daughter, who is currently taking an etiquette course in college, demonstrated a very interesting point on a recent mother-daughter shopping trip. Each time she approached a sales person or a waiter or waitress, she greeted them with a smile, an upbeat attitude and appropriate "pleases" and "thank yous." It was interesting to watch the responses of others. In many of her encounters, she received good service and many smiles in return. Her kindness, gratitude and respect for others were reciprocated time after time. By the end of the day, she had even begun to affect and infect her once hurried and tired mother with her joyous energy and spirit. She had also made the day a little easier for those working behind the counters.

It is often difficult to understand or describe the Holy Spirit. But in a very simple way, my daughter's experience reveals something about the Trinity, especially the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Spirit is often described as the love between the

Father and the Son. This is particularly obvious in the Gospel of St. John. Jesus tells his disciples, "I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will realize that I am in my Father and you are in me and I in you." — Jn 14: 18-20.

The loving connection between the Father and the Son is eternally and powerfully united and overflowing. As the love between the Father and Son is generated and intensified, an energy, fire, force — the Holy Spirit — is born and let loose into the heart of all creation. This love overflows into all of creation and humankind through both the visible word of God, Jesus Christ, and the invisible breath of God, the Holy Spirit.

Jesus, the visible image of the Spirit

Jesus tells Nicodemus, "You must be born from above. The wind blows where it wills, and you can hear the sound it makes, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes; so it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." — Jn 3:7-8.

The love of the Trinity is like the wind: an invisible moving Spirit that generates love "where it wills." The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "The word of God and his breath are the origin of the being and life of every creature." In the creation stories we read of the "mighty wind" that swept over the waters (Gen. 1:2) and the "breath of life" that God blew into the nostrils of Adam. From the very beginning of time, God's Spirit was preparing for "the fullness of time" when the overflowing love of God would be made visible to humankind through Jesus Christ. Through the word of God spoken in the Old Testament, particularly the

prophets, the coming of the messiah and a new Spirit are foretold. In time, the Father's plan of loving goodness, through Mary of Nazareth, is fulfilled through the Holy Spirit. The catechism says, "Through Mary, the Holy Spirit begins to bring men, the objects of God's merciful love, into communion with Christ." (726)

All that Jesus teaches and reveals throughout his ministry is a joint effort with God's Holy Spirit. Jesus alludes to the Holy Spirit throughout the Gospels, but it is primarily through Christ's works and words that the Holy Spirit is manifested. As his death draws near and out of love for us, Jesus promises an advocate, who will remain with us forever and teach us everything. Today all of Christ's words and actions are kept alive through the Holy Spirit who leads us into all truth.

The Holy Spirit, God's gift of love

Jesus said, "And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate to be with you always, the Spirit of truth, which the world cannot accept, because it neither sees nor knows it. But you know it, because it remains with you and will be in you." — Jn 14: 16-17. We recognize and know "the Spirit of truth" from the love that flows from the source of all life and goodness, God the Father. Through the gift of our redemption, made possible by Jesus Christ, we are able to share in the love of the Trinity. "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us." — Rom. 5:5.

On Pentecost the Holy Spirit is fully revealed. The coming of the Holy Spirit never ceases, and the promise of Christ remains. Like the spirit of my daughter, the Holy Spirit affects and infects every heart open and ready to receive God's incredible love. The Holy

Spirit, the breath and power of God, transforms us, makes us a new creation, and changes our perceptions, our hearts, and our lives. We become infected and affected by the fruits of the Holy Spirit and become more loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, gentle, faithful, good and loving. We are radically changed by God's love.

Our love and goodness, like the love within the Trinity, overflows and ignites love among all peoples. Through the Holy Spirit we are united with the Father and the Son into a community of loving believers. Through the Scriptures, tradition and teachings of the church, our sacramental liturgies, prayer, the witness of charity and the holiness of our lives, God's Holy Spirit is revealed and made visible to others. Through our baptism into the church, we as disciples in mission inherit and share in the mission of Jesus and His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, who "has grafted us onto the true vine will make us bear the fruit of the Spirit: ... love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control." (CCC 736) Disciples in mission must boldly share God's love and Holy Spirit, much like my daughter did on our mother-daughter shopping day.

Reflection and connection

How might you purposefully reveal to others the fruits of God's Spirit alive within you? How

might you adjust your attitudes to more fully reflect the Holy Spirit alive in your heart: to be more loving, more peaceful, more just, etc.?

Evangelization and action challenge

For interior renewal

This evening as you pray, do a short examination of conscience: Have I lived today in the spirit of Christ? Through my attitudes and actions, have I helped the people with whom I've interacted grow a little closer to God?

Reaching out and transforming society

The gifts of the Holy Spirit are given to all and are very personal, to be shaped by each individual. They include wisdom, understanding, right judgment, courage, knowledge, reverence, wonder and awe. Just as you are pleased if someone uses a gift which you have given them, so I imagine God is pleased when we use these seven gifts of the Holy Spirit. Reflect on ways you can use the Gifts of the Spirit you have been given and then transform your gifts into actions that foster the kingdom of God.

Closing prayer

Together in a Strange Land

I am spirit, I am breath, I am fire for your light.
You are boldness, you are passion, you are strength in my plight.
Awakening, enriching, igniting our hearts.
Disciples: we are more and more free
Responding to holy combustion
Hand in hand, I lead you leading me.

By Edward J. Farrell

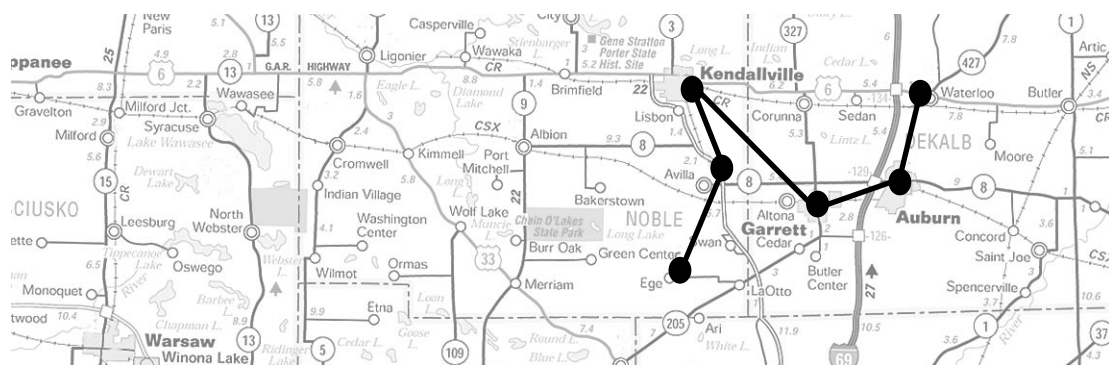
TRAVELING JUBILEE PILGRIMAGE CROSS VISITS BISHOP DWENGER



BARB LOOMIS

The Jubilee Pilgrimage Cross came to Bishop Dwenger from St. Vincent's Parish on May 16. The students held a brief prayer service over the TV announcements and then processed through the school reciting portions of Psalm 136 from where the theme for the cross came.

Jubilee Pilgrim Cross



May 26-June 2	Immaculate Conception	Ege
June 2-9	St. Mary/Assumption-Sacred Heart Home	Avilla
June 9-16	Immaculate Conception	Kendallville
June 16-23	St. Joseph	Garrett
June 23-30	Immaculate Conception	Auburn
June 30- July 7	St. Michael the Archangel	Waterloo

Are you ashamed of Jesus' presence in your life?



THE CUTTING EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

"Whoever is ashamed of me and my words in this faithless and sinful generation, the Son of Man will be ashamed of when he comes in his Father's glory with the Holy Angels."

— Mt. 8:38.

As I was praying the other day, this verse from Matthew almost jumped off the page of my Bible. That is always a sure sign that God is trying to tell me something and wants me to probe for the deeper message. What is Jesus saying?

My initial reaction was that I am not ashamed of Jesus or his words. I am grateful to be a Catholic and a Christian. Then it dawned on me that sometimes I don't always act like it. If I am not ashamed, then why don't I share about him more with others? Why do many of us leave that task to Billy Graham and other evangelists or to our clergy and pastoral ministers? What is the problem?

Too many of us live like "closet Catholics." We seem to think, "What would my friends think if I started to openly share my faith in God?" Some of them might think I am some kind of fundamentalist or "Bible thumper!" We act like we have the attitude that religion is a private affair or that it is enough to go to Mass on Sunday?

This is not the ideal way for a true disciple of Christ to live. As baptized Christians — and that is what Catholics are, in case anyone has told you otherwise — we share in the mission

of Jesus. This mission is to reveal God's love, which comes to us through Jesus.

As his body on earth we are commissioned to show that love.

The call to proclaim and evangelize is a call that we all share. It is not reserved for a select few like clergy people, religious sisters and brothers or professional lay ministers. Each of us is called to exercise this Christian responsibility. Jesus tells us this over and over. It is almost like a broken record.

One important way we exercise this command is by the way we live our lives. In graduate school, I read a little book by John Westerhoff, a Protestant theologian. In it he coined the phrase that "faith is caught, not taught." Another phrase I like is that in some cases our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read. How we live our faith can have a great influence on others.

This witness of our lives is just the first step. There comes a time when we need to be explicit about our faith in Jesus. If we truly love Jesus and believe in him, it makes sense that we would want to share this love with others. Just like when a person falls in love with someone he or she wants everyone around to know. Do we share our love of Jesus in that way?

How do we do this? Maybe it might be to extend an invitation to someone go to Mass with us, especially to someone who does not attend a particular church or to a Catholic friend who rarely goes to church anymore. It might be as simple as not being embarrassed to pray before eating with friends, even in public. Another way is to share the importance of Jesus in our lives or the fact that we are striving to know him better. It can be as simple as offering to pray for another's intentions.

If others, especially your friends, have no idea that you are a Christian or a Catholic, then something is wrong. Why are you hiding? No one expects you to preach on a street corner but

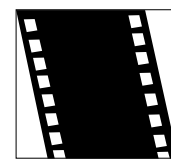


YOUNG ADULT PERSPECTIVES

somehow your life should proclaim that you are a friend of Jesus. One of the best ways is to be a loving person as he was.

On that last day we sure hope Jesus will acknowledge us as his friends.

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



MOVIE CAPSULE

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

"The Break-Up" (Universal)

Tepid but fitfully affable romantic comedy charting the deterioration of the relationship of an art gallery assistant (Jennifer Aniston) and a loutish Chicago tour bus operator (Vince Vaughn) who ultimately learns to be a more considerate person. Director Peyton Reed draws good work from the stars, especially the effortlessly appealing Aniston and a scene-stealing Judy Davis, though the protagonists from the start seem distinctly incompatible. Underneath the not-very-funny funny business, there are some universal truths about relationships, but the setup never quite rings true, and the script should be way sharper. Considerable profanity and crude language and an instance of rough language, some crass sexual banter, partial nudity and a permissive view of premarital relationship. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

MISC. HAPPENINGS

ACCW plans meeting

South Bend — The Area Council of Catholic Women will meet Wednesday, June 21, at St. Mary of the Assumption Church for Mass at 12:30 p.m. A potluck meal will follow. Reservations required to Rosemary at (574) 291-2395 or Sharon at (574) 251-0206 by June 18. All women are welcome.

Center for Hospice to offer grief group

Elkhart — The Center for Hospice and Palliative Care will begin a Living with Loss group on Tuesday, June 6, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Elkhart General Health Education Center — Goshen Campus, 2222 Rieth Blvd. This group will meet for eight weeks. There is no charge to attend and the group is open to the general public. Registration is requested by calling Greg Suderman at (574) 264-3321 or (866) 264-3321.

Living the Faith Series

Fort Wayne — The Young Adults of the St. John the Baptist, Cathedral and St. Joseph will host an event at St. John the Baptist on Fairfield on Tuesday, June 13 at 7 p.m. All are welcome. The speaker this month will be Michael Dubriel from Our Sunday Visitor. He will be speaking on "How to Get More out of the Mass." Michael Dubriel is the author of "The How-to Book of the Mass," and also "How to Get the Most Out of the Eucharist."

Evening of reflection and concert planned

Bristol — An evening of reflection with Mark Forrest, Irish tenor will be Thursday, June 15, at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary of the Annunciation Church. Light snacks will follow. A concert with Mark Forrest will be held on Friday, June 16, at 7:30 p.m. Reception to follow. Free will offering will be collected. For information call the church office at (574) 848-4305.

Conference for separated and divorced planned at Notre Dame

Notre Dame — The North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics will be held June 29-July 1 on the Notre Dame campus. For information call (574) 631-6691.

NCCW plans June conference

LaGrange — The National Council of Catholic Women will have a conference Thursday, June 15, at St. Joseph Parish. Rosary begins at 10:40 a.m. with Mass and luncheon meeting to follow. Meal \$5. Call (260) 367-2359 for reservations or information.

Wednesday night live premiers

Columbia City — A free summer series of informal discussions about the Catholic faith begins Wednesday, June 21, with Father Larry Kramer on "How is the real presence real?" Mass at 6:15 p.m. is followed by discussion. Future programs will be every other Wednesday. Refreshments will be served.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, June 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$6, children (5-12) \$3.

Daughters of Isabella announce June events

South Bend — On Sunday, June 11, the Daughters of Isabella Notre Dame Circle 572 will celebrate Corporate Communion at the 10:30 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick Church followed by brunch at LePeep's on Michigan St. A tour of the Hope Rescue Mission Family Life Center, 432 S. Lafayette Blvd. is set for June 14.

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.

Garage Sale to support Christ Child Society

Fort Wayne — A garage sale will be held on Friday, June 9, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday, June 10, from 8 a.m. to noon at Queen of Angels Activity Center, 1500 W. State Blvd.

Living history day to celebrate St. Patrick anniversary

Walkerton — A living history day will celebrate 150 years of St. Patrick Parish at the Freedom Fest at Hester's Farm, 71880 SR 23 on July 1-4.

REST IN PEACE

Churubusco

Richard L. Maloney, 78, St. John Bosco

Elkhart

Elizabeth A. Montagano, 86, St. Thomas the Apostle

Fort Wayne

Ruth M. Bodnar, 75, Most Precious Blood

Larry J. Minneman, 63, St. Jude

James Ronald Snyder, 73, St. Charles Borromeo

Ralph F. Freiburger, 82, St. Joseph

Jude J. Heinkel, 74, St. Jude

Evelyn Jane Johnson, 93, St. Joseph

Kathleen A. Booker, 61, St. Charles Borromeo

Manuela Rivera, 57, St. Patrick

Genevieve E. Warner, 89, St. Vincent de Paul

Geri Lynn Gardner, 51, Our Lady of Good Hope

Sarah Lynn Atkinson, 41, St. Vincent de Paul

Stanley P. Frankewich, 87, Queen of Angels

Violet F. Loew, 79, St. Therese

Mary Ellen Dillon, 51, St. John the Baptist

Helen E. Daugherty, 89, St. Charles Borromeo

Lisa J. Beardsley, 47, St. Jude

Robert Paul Foster, 87, St. Joseph

Shannon K. Jogi, 33, St. Charles Borromeo

Norman N. Loney, 84, St. Vincent de Paul

Mishawaka
Charles W. Walter, 74, St. Joseph

Marcel A. Verspelt, 89, St. Monica

Leonard J. Micinski, 77, St. Joseph

New Carlisle
Richard F. Cortier, 84, St. Stanislaus Kostka

New Haven
Richard Huber, 69, St. John the Baptist

Carol A. Gilliom, 62, St. Louis, Besancon

Notre Dame
Sister M. Monica Wagner, CSC, 96, Our Lady of Loretto

South Bend
Irma A. Stoffelen, 91, Holy Family

Irene F. Janiszewski, 91, Holy Family

Martin J. Pace, 80, Holy Family

Sally S. Lape, 85, Christ the King

Berniece C. Smith, 96, St. Jude

Katherine E. Skubis, 92, Holy Family

Clara T. Meuleman, 88, Holy Family

Bella Marie Sohlke, 11 months, St. Adalbert

Daniel J. Radecki, 82, St. Stanislaus

Dr. John M. Stenger, 83, St. Matthew Cathedral

Shirley A. Van Dolick, 71, Christ the King

Ladislaus J. Borkowski, 73, St. Adalbert

Louis A. Horvath, 82, St. Jude

Raymond J. Arendt, 83, St. Adalbert

Mary A. Grix, 90, Christ the King

Mourice J. Roberts, 83, St. Augustine

Mary Jane Decker, 89, St. Matthew Cathedral

Katherine L. Zimmerman, 89, St. Augustine

Irene M. Hintz, 73, Christ the King

Barbara E. Foley, 83, St. Anthony de Padua

Sister Eileen Ruth Elliott, 78, Church of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Ind.



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HITTIE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Wayne. But when, in 1995, the principal's position became vacant at her home parish, St. Charles, Hittie applied and was accepted as administrator there for the next six years.

It was then, Hittie says, that things changed. "I didn't apply for the superintendent's job," she recalls. "I liked my job at St. Charles. Then I got a call from Father Bob Schulte, to consider the position."

Following much discernment and support from her family, she accepted the position. "My husband said, 'you have a gift, you have to do it.' I guess I think of the saying 'to whom much is given, much is expected.'"

Michelle Hittie became superintendent of Catholic schools in 2001 with the stipulation that she would hold it for three years until her husband retired. She stayed five. And what a five years it's been.

Her first year as superintendent, Hittie made a promise to visit all 44 schools in the diocesan system. She kept her promise, putting over 50,000 miles on her car in the past five years. "I've enjoyed working with the wonderful, supportive pastors, the great principals and the talented staff at each school," she says.

Her tenure as superintendent has brought much improvement to the schools around the diocese. One important initiative was the special education project. "We wanted to meet the needs of the children with disabilities," says Hittie, who adds that 75 percent of the 44 schools in the diocese now have a resource teacher on staff.



KAY COZAD

Superintendent of Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Michelle Hittie, stands by her favorite print of Jesus with a little child. Hittie, who has led the Catholic schools for five years, will be retiring at the end of this school year. Among her many accomplishments as superintendent is the special education initiative and enrollment marketing.

Marketing is the most current project the superintendent's office has undertaken, partnering with the University of Notre Dame to develop a strategy to encourage enrollment within the Catholic schools.

These projects showcase the innovative nature of this accomplished, professional woman. She is an accomplished presenter for many local and national educational conferences and has held seats on several boards and associations.

But Hittie is very much a people person as well, evidenced when she reports, "What I love the most is the (public relations). I like being with people. I like being in the classrooms with the principals,

teachers and students."

She has enjoyed various speaking engagements locally, such as, the Light of Learning Awards ceremonies, the All-School-Masses and the eighth grade graduation Masses, where she felt it was important to make herself visible.

Husband Bill, is back working full-time after only one month of retirement. So why step down now?

"I just knew it was time," says Hittie. "I've had 25 years in the diocese, and never dreamed I would be principal or superintendent. I think I can say I made a difference here."

She is "thrilled" with the choice for incoming superintendent, Father Steve Kempinger, CSC, and feels she is leaving him a well-orchestrated office.

The future looks bright for this retiring administrator, with her passion for hiking, golfing, reading and, of course, playing with her six grandchildren. Her dream is to have a lake cottage but Bill has other plans. RV (recreational vehicle) travel is the ticket, he says. So in August, much to Hittie's chagrin, the couple will rent an RV and travel to New York for 10 days. "I hope that gets it out of his system," chuckles Hittie. "Then we can move on to the lake cottage."

As she ponders the future, her thoughts turn to the pictures of Jesus with the little children that grace her office walls. "I love children. These pictures remind me of that. I may go back to teaching..."

Of her remarkable career in education, Hittie muses, "I've had a full life. I go where I'm needed. It's about service. The Lord's not done with me yet."

There will be a retirement celebration for Michelle Hittie at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center.

POLAND

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

standing at the Holocaust memorial at the end of the railroad tracks inside Birkenau.

Speaking after a prayer service during which the Jewish prayer for the dead was recited, Pope Benedict urged the world to remember the Holocaust as "the abyss of terror" and "unprecedented mass crimes."

Before arriving in Auschwitz, Pope Benedict spent three days visiting sites dear to Pope John Paul and meeting Polish bishops, priests, religious, faithful and ecumenical leaders.

The pope particularly dedicated May 27 to the life and ministry of his Polish predecessor, starting the day in Wadowice, Pope John Paul's hometown.

During a meeting with about 25,000 people gathered in Wadowice's main square and later visiting the nearby Kalwaria Zbrzydowska shrine, Pope Benedict said he hoped Pope John Paul would be beatified soon. Beatification is a step toward sainthood.

Meeting young people in Krakow in the evening, Pope Benedict told them the experience of having had a Polish pope made it easier for the youth of Krakow and of Poland in general to understand the importance of the papacy for the fidelity and unity of the Catholic Church.

Polish police estimated that 600,000 people were in Krakow's Blonie Park for the youth gather-

ing; wide papal smiles greeted their singing, chanting and cheers.

Pope Benedict assured the youths that, like Pope John Paul, "who is watching our gathering from the window of God the Father," he would offer his heart and his hands to help them build their lives on Christ and with Christ.

Except at Auschwitz, where he spoke in Italian and recited a prayer in German, Pope Benedict won the admiration and affection of the crowds by reading the first few lines and the last few lines of his speeches in Polish.

At a May 28 morning Mass in Krakow, where the late pope was ordained to the priesthood and served as archbishop and cardinal, Pope Benedict told an estimated 800,000 people that he had wanted "to breathe the air" of Pope John Paul's homeland, meet his predecessor's fellow Poles and experience their faith, "which gave him life and strength."

At a May 26 outdoor Mass under a downpour in Warsaw, Pope Benedict asked the crowd, "How can we not thank God today for all that was accomplished in your native land and in the whole world during the pontificate of John Paul II?"

"Before our eyes, changes occurred in entire political, economic and social systems," he said. "People in various countries regained their freedom and their sense of dignity."

After the Mass, Pope Benedict flew by helicopter to Czestochowa to visit Poland's national Marian shrine and meet with seminarians, members of religious orders and members of lay movements.

Feast of Corpus Christi

Eucharistic Adoration in Church 1 - 5 PM
Eucharistic Evensong procession with the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction 5 - 6 PM

Homilist - Deacon Fred Larson

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