

Faith in the workplace

How does your workplace rate?

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Katrina's challenges, chances for renewal linger, says Biloxi bishop



PROVIDED BY LITTLE FLOWER PARISH

Young people from Little Flower Parish in South Bend assist with cleanup and recovery efforts at Our Mother of Mercy Parish in Pass Christian, Miss., while on a mission trip to the Hurricane Katrina-stricken Gulf Coast. Twenty-eight people from Little Flower recently spent 14 days of service to assist the region.

BILOXI, Miss. — Bishop Thomas J. Rodi of Biloxi said many people probably have mixed feelings about the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

"There is some wisdom in wanting to get on with our lives and not giving attention to Aug. 29," the day the hurricane made landfall in 2005, he wrote in the Aug. 18 issue of the *Gulf Pine Catholic*, Biloxi's diocesan newspaper. "It may feel to some that we are giving the storm too much power over us if we recall and observe the day it hit."

But he also noted that there is a need to "pause and to remember," reflecting on all that was lost and destroyed by Katrina and remembering what was learned from the disaster.

He said the extensive losses from the storm caused many to reflect upon "what is truly important and what is truly lasting."

"We have been reminded that people are more important than things. We have also been reminded how important it is to tell people we love them. We never know when we will be separated from them. Our priests and religious have been outstanding both in helping us to rebuild and to discern the greatest values in life," he said.

The bishop also stressed that the hurricane demonstrated people's compassion especially as volunteers arrived from across the world to help out.

"It has been difficult at times to be on the receiving end of this generosity, but it has been a blessing to see so many people who wish to lend a helping hand to others. We are fortunate to be able to see so much goodness in the world," he added.

Bishop Rodi also noted that those directly impacted by the storm have had the opportunity to grow in faith even as they question why God would

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Diocesan offices

closed Monday, Sept. 4, to observe labor day

'Latin isn't dead,' says pope's Latin secretary at Notre Dame

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — People of a certain age will recall that a year or two of studying Latin used to be required in Catholic high schools and sometimes in public high schools. Thus, many freshmen Latin students were known to express the maxim that "Latin is a dead, dead language, and it's killing me."

Carmelite Father Reginald Foster, a Latin scholar who is the Latin secretary for Pope Benedict XVI, is quick to refute that maxim, and he did so with wit and enthusiasm at an Aug. 24 talk at the University of Notre Dame.

"Latin is about as dead as a Bach or Handel concerto," Father Foster told a standing-room-only audience of about 150 people in the courtroom of the Notre Dame School of Law. "Latin isn't dead, and it isn't going to die," he insisted in his often-curmudgeonly style.

Father Foster has held the position of the pope's Latin secretary for the past 37 years.

He appeared at Notre Dame at the invitation of law and theology professor Cathleen Kaveny while he was on a brief visit to the United States. His home monastery is at Holy Hill, Wis.

Latin is too important a part of our western civilization to die out, the priest said, explaining that our language, our culture and our mentality are all connected to the great thinkers and theologians who wrote in Latin. And, of course, since Latin is the official language of the Catholic Church, all of the important church documents are in Latin, he reminded the audience.

One must read the great geniuses of the Western world, such as Augustine and Erasmus, in the Latin language in which they wrote in order "to feel their thoughts and souls," Father Foster said. "Translation doesn't do it," for attempting to translate such great ideas would be "like a piano teacher doing a Schubert sonata."

The priest called Gregorian chant and the

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BAVARIA PREPARES FOR POPE BENEDICT'S VISIT



CNS PHOTO/MICHAELA REHLE, REUTERS

An altar is prepared in the Bavarian village of Altotting, Germany, Aug. 25, in advance of Pope Benedict XVI's Sept. 11 visit. In a Sept. 9-14 homecoming visit, the pope will stop in the town where he was born, lecture at the university where he once taught and celebrate Mass in the city where he was a bishop.

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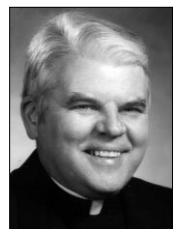
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Pastoral support brings success to the Annual Bishop's Appeal



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

The 20th time

We have begun in earnest our 20th Annual Bishop's Appeal. I think back with gratitude to those early days. In my early months here, several priests approached me. Father Robert Epping, CSC, at that time the pastor of Christ the King Parish, South Bend, and Father John Pfister, then pastor of St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, expressed concern about the method of financing the diocese and how it needed to be reconsidered. We formed a committee of 10 priests and six laity with Father Bill Schooler, at the time pastor of St. Paul of the Cross, Columbia City, as chair. I recall Father Gene Kazmierczak, now retired and still in great spirits, served on the committee, as did Art Decio of St. Thomas Parish, Elkhart. When I asked Art by telephone if he would help us, I said, "I understand you don't like meetings, Art." He replied, "Bishop, I like meetings if something good happens." Dick Rosenthal, a respected figure in both Fort Wayne and South Bend who served with distinction as athletic director at Notre Dame, was also on the committee and was the first South Bend chair of our Annual Bishop's Appeal.

I received a full report and drove to a meeting of the committee in Warsaw telling them that I accepted the report. I only made one addition. The report said that the bishop needed to be out front and visible on this effort. I promised that I would, but I said that would not do it. What would ensure success was if the parish priest was out front. It is the priest who says the Sunday Mass, visits the school, goes to the grave to lead prayers for the deceased and visits the sick and the dying — if he supports the appeal and makes it his own, it will be successful.

We made many important decisions in the early days and then refined and improved it as the years went on. We indicated that all funds over goal would be kept in the local parish. We consulted with priests during the early years. We later made changes that took into account the pressure of parish schools. It was all very collaborative. Most of all, it relieved the pressure on parishes. There was always close communion between the diocese and the parish, and between the pastors and their people.

I recalled all this at our recent dinners, first in Fort Wayne and then in South Bend. We had a joyous night in South Bend when the turnout was, for the second time, even slightly larger than the excellent turnout in Fort Wayne. This is significant because at the beginning a few people said to me, "South Bend will not give to this effort." I always am in awe of the relationship

which our priests have forged with their people. There is such great communion on the parish level between shepherd and flock.

At the South Bend dinner, I recalled the beautiful phrase that Art Decio repeated in the six meetings we had with our priests that first year — one in each of our vicariates. "Will Rogers said he never met a man he didn't like. I never met a priest I didn't love."

Our new video

The new video put together by our partners from New Group Media and our communications director, Vince LaBarbera, is excellent and shows the progress of these past 20 years. It should all make us humble, not proud. It is God's work. As we step away from the Legacy of Faith, we hope we can increase our total. Remember, everything over \$4 million is returned to the parishes. Last year, we were able to return about \$1 million to parishes. This year we hope that will increase significantly. John and Marjorie Bycraft, who are giving outstanding leadership as diocesan chairs, said they hope to make this the highest appeal ever, which means we will have to go over \$5.6 million. We are also working hard to increase the number of donors. Everyone can give something. We never want it to become an appeal that is made up entirely of major givers. The significant increases in teachers' salaries over five years would have been impossible

This year, we accepted six students.

This means that

at the opening of the seminary year,

we will have 19 students

in formation for the priesthood.

without the appeal. Last year, we gave grants from the appeal to 30 parishes with schools and, of course, we give \$1.7 million every year divided among our four Catholic high schools.

These two dinners in each of our major cities were a joy.

A mission completed

I have now visited with every one of our candidates for the priesthood. This is a summer task, which usually begins when I return from vacation in late July. Earlier in the spring, I visited with the new applicants after they had completed preliminary steps, which include interviews with Father Bernard Galic, director of the Office of Vocations, and assembling recommendations from the pastor and various other people, such as teachers and friends.

Most important, they had a series of psychological tests and interviews with Dr. Susan Steibe-Pasalich. Susan, a good friend, is director of the counseling services

at Notre Dame and is a clinical psychologist. Several years ago, she and I agreed that she should go to St. Luke's Institute in Maryland for further training so that she could be helped to find serious problems which, as you know, have caused the church so much anguish in recent years. I have all these reports compiled by Father Galic and his excellent assistant, Mary Szymczak. I read them carefully and then interview each candidate myself.

This year, we accepted six students. This means that at the opening of the seminary year, we will have 19 students in formation for the priesthood. This includes Deacon Anthony Steinacker, who is scheduled to be ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Oct. 28. I believe this is the largest number in my 21 years as your bishop. I attribute it, under God's grace, to two factors. The prayers of so many throughout the diocese, private prayers by individuals and parish prayers; rosary for vocations before Mass; and eucharistic adoration. The other factor is the example and inspiration of our parish priests, along with the devoted work of Father Galic.

The fostering of vocations to the priesthood is not easy. Many things must happen. Putting posters on walls or advertising does not do it. Here are some of the things that have to happen, which are ongoing in our diocese.

- Catechesis must be strengthened. There is need for strong religious education in schools and in religious education programs in parishes and in Catholic high schools.

How could one give his life for the faith if he did not know it.

- There is need for effective programs of youth ministry in parishes, which include prayer, catechesis and service of those in need. Parents must be catechized about the priesthood. Pope John Paul II wrote, "The whole church needs to have clearly in focus the meaning of the ministerial priesthood."

- There must be efforts also for vocations to the consecrated life, especially among young women.

- There needs to be parish retreats and missions where the focus is on prayer and faith.

We are encouraged by these good numbers and by the work being done for vocations in our parishes.

Speaking of vocations

What a joy and privilege to ordain four young Holy Cross religious to the diaconate last Sunday in the Chapel at Moreau Seminary. The previous day, they had offered their lives to God as religious with vows of poverty, chastity and obedience. Notre Dame was a factor in the decision of each to consider a priestly vocation in the Holy Cross Congregation. A special joy that one of the new deacons was a native of Christ the King Parish. Great blessings to Jim Gallagher, Gregory Haake, Stephen Koeth and Peter McCormick.

See you all next week.

FDA permission to sell Plan B over the counter called unacceptable

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Food and Drug Administration's Aug. 24 decision, with the apparent support of President George W. Bush, to allow over-the-counter sales of Plan B, the "morning-after pill," to women 18 and older defies common sense and is "completely unacceptable," according to a pro-life official of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Deirdre McQuade, director of planning and information for the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, urged pharmacists "not to confuse FDA approval with a right to access" and said they should "refuse to stock this potent drug for distribution on demand."

Plan B uses large doses of birth-control pills to prevent conception up to 72 hours after unprotected sex. Over-the-counter sales of the drug were expected to begin before the end of the year.

In its Aug. 24 announcement the FDA said that, "when used as directed, Plan B effectively and safely prevents pregnancy." But McQuade said that ignores the "potentially abortifacient" effects of the drug.

"While Plan B can prevent fertilization, the manufacturer admits it may also prevent a newly conceived embryo from implanting and surviving in the womb," she said. "This is properly understood as causing an early abortion."

"Without the benefit of a doctor's supervision, many women will be unaware of this abortifacient action and the other risks posed by Plan B," McQuade added.

The FDA said the drug would be made available "with a rigorous labeling, packaging, education, distribution and monitoring program" called Convenient Access, Responsible Education, or CARE.

McQuade said Plan B "is a powerful dose of the artificial



CNS PHOTO/HANDOUT

The Plan B emergency contraceptive is seen in an undated handout photo. The Food and Drug Administration's Aug. 24 decision, with the apparent support of President George W. Bush, to allow over-the-counter sales of the "morning-after pill" to women 18 and older defies common sense and is "completely unacceptable," according to an official of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

hormone levonorgestrel — 40 times the amount found in comparable prescription-only birth-control pills."

"Making the more potent dosage available to women upon request simply offends common sense, especially when the drug is not designed to treat a disease or pathological condition," she said.

In an Aug. 21 press conference, Bush said he supported whatever decision is made about Plan B by Dr. Andrew von Eschenbach, acting FDA commissioner, but added he believes the drug "ought to require a prescription for minors."

After the FDA decision was announced Aug. 24, White House spokeswoman Dana Perino said the president "appreciates that the FDA did an exhaustive review, that they recognize the critical distinction between minors and adults and the risks a drug like this can pose."

"The FDA made clear that it

will insist on stringent conditions and restrictions on access to reduce both health risks and opportunities for abuse, especially to protect minors," Perino added. "I'm sure the FDA will follow through on that and make sure these important conditions are established and enforced."

The FDA announced July 31 that it would work with Duramed, a subsidiary of Barr Pharmaceuticals that manufactures the drug marketed as Plan B, to develop a "framework for moving emergency contraception medication to over-the-counter status" for women 18 and older.

Barr Pharmaceuticals originally had sought approval for over-the-counter sales of Plan B to anyone 16 or over. Then-FDA Commissioner Lester M. Crawford announced in August 2005 that the agency would not grant such approval and set a 60-day period for comment. Crawford resigned his post that October.

Von Eschenbach said in a July 31 letter to Duramed that the agency had received approximately 47,000 comments, and "we concur with the overwhelming majority of the comments ... that it is not necessary to engage in rule-making to resolve the novel regulatory issues raised by your application."

together build a new future for our beloved Mississippi."

He said the trees will take time to grow, just as recovery takes time. "The road of recovery will be long and challenging," Bishop Rodi wrote. "With neighbor helping neighbor, with the assistance we are receiving throughout our nation and our world, and with God's help, we will rebuild wonderful communities with a great sense of place and a wonderful quality of life."

see the hand of God guiding, helping and strengthening us," he added. "We are not the same after Katrina, but we can each be better. God can lead us to grow in wisdom, compassion and faith because of all we have and are enduring."

The bishop pointed out that many parishes and schools are planting an oak tree to observe Katrina's anniversary as a memorial to those who have died and a tangible sign of "our commitment to continue to grow and

Collection for Catholic University set Sept. 9-10

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Next weekend, we will be joining with dioceses all over the country in taking up the annual collection for the Catholic University of America, which was founded by the bishops of the United States and chartered by the Holy See over a century ago.

Catholic University is dedicated to forming its students in the Catholic intellectual tradition for the purpose of serving the church and society as a whole. For decades, many religious educators, theologians, priests, sisters and bishops in our country assumed their positions of leadership with the support of the education they received at Catholic University. Today's graduates go onto careers not just in the church but in the fields of government, architecture, law, health care and many others.

Catholic University's School of Philosophy offers one of the oldest doctoral programs in the country and is known especially for its work in classical and medieval philosophy. The undergraduate program of its School of Nursing is ranked among the top 10 in the nation. Besides being one of the premier Catholic universities in the country, Catholic University provides several unique contributions in service to the church in this country. Catholic University's

School of Canon Law is the only graduate school of canon law in the United States and its National Catholic School of Social Service is one of the preeminent schools of its kind in the country. The Center for Advancement of Catholic Education provides strategic planning related to Catholic schools for dioceses around the country, and the University's Department of Education offers a graduate degree in Catholic school leadership that enables students to take their place as administrators, principals and presidents of Catholic elementary and high schools. Finally, Catholic University's Life Cycle Institute provides social science research to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on many church-related issues.

Catholic University depends greatly on the financial support of the Catholic faithful in this country. I ask you to be as generous as you can towards this collection which will be taken up next weekend, Sept. 9-10, thus contributing in a personal way to the mission of Catholic higher education in our country.

Sincerely yours in Our Lord,

Most Rev. John M. D'Arcy

Pope: Worried parents should take heart in St. Augustine's path

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said parents worried about the waywardness of their children should take heart in the circuitous spiritual path of St. Augustine.

After a youth spent in pleasure-seeking and self-indulgence, St. Augustine embraced the faith and went on to become one of the most important figures in the development of Christianity, the pope said Aug. 27.

Much of the credit belongs to his mother, St. Monica, who despite her son's "rebellious temperament" never gave up on him and accompanied him for years with "prayers and tears," he said.

"How many problems there are today in family relations, and how many mothers are anguished because their children take the wrong road," the pope said.

"Monica, a wise woman and solid in her faith, invites them not to be discouraged, but to persevere in the mission of wife and mother, keeping firm trust in God and holding with perseverance to prayer," he said.

He said St. Augustine, despite his selfish behavior in his early years, dedicated his life to the search for truth. The saint's discovery of Christ came only after a long inner torment, he said.



CNS PHOTO/TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI waves to the faithful gathered for recitation of the Angelus at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Aug. 27. The pope said that parents worried about the waywardness of their children should take heart in the circuitous spiritual path of St. Augustine.

The pope made the comments to several hundred pilgrims inside the courtyard of his summer villa outside Rome. The church celebrates the feast days of St. Monica Aug. 27 and St. Augustine Aug. 28.

KATRINA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

allow bad things to happen.

"We have had the opportunity to learn that God is with us both in the good times and in the struggles of life," he said. "We have also had the opportunity to learn that God can bring good even out of the worst of times."

"If we open our eyes we can

Pro-life official dismisses latest stem-cell announcement as a sham

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Highly touted research claiming that human embryonic stem-cell lines can be derived without harming the embryos is a sham, according to a pro-life official of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"They didn't do anything like what the headlines are saying they did," said Richard Doerflinger, deputy director of the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, in an Aug. 24 interview with Catholic News Service. "All they showed was that you can kill an embryo at an earlier stage than they did before."

At the Vatican, Bishop Elio Sgreccia, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, said the new technique did not remove ethical objections and may increase them.

Advanced Cell Technology Inc., based in Alameda, Calif., and Worcester, Mass., announced Aug. 23 that a team of its scientists had "successfully generated human embryonic stem cells using an approach that does not harm embryos."

An article on the research was published Aug. 23 in the online edition of the science journal *Nature*.

The technique involves removal of a single cell from an early, eight-cell embryo called a blastomere. The researchers claimed that the method has been successfully used in more than 1,000 cases of preimplantation genetic diagnosis, in which one cell is removed to test for genetic dis-

eases and the embryo is implanted if no disease is found.

Up to now, stem-cell research involving the destruction of human embryos has taken place when the embryo is made up of about 150 cells.

But no embryo survived the research carried out by the Advanced Cell Technology scientists, Doerflinger said. Sixteen embryos were killed to retrieve 91 blastomeres, from which two stem-cell lines were derived, the research showed.

The scientists postulated that the single-cell technique used in preimplantation genetic diagnosis would carry over to stem-cell research and that the technique doesn't harm the embryos, "but we don't know that either is true," Doerflinger said.

It will take many years to determine whether children born following implantation after the single-cell removal technique are truly healthy, he added, noting that it was only after 1 million live births from in vitro fertilization that scientists felt they had a large enough sample size to test for abnormalities in those children.

Bishop Sgreccia told Vatican Radio Aug. 26 that removal of the single cell may damage the embryo. He said experimentation on animals was needed to exclude this possibility.

On a more general level, he said the new technique represents an additional manipulation of the human embryo and is therefore unethical. It adds another layer of artificiality to an already artificial process, he said.

He said it was incomprehen-

sible why scientists were continuing to focus on the production of embryos for stem cells, instead of using stem cells obtained from umbilical cords and other parts of the human body.

"One reason there is a big race to do these experiments on the human embryos is because funds are being made available. To obtain these funds, experiments are being exempted from ethical considerations, even when the outcome is uncertain and when, in my opinion, the ethical objections are multiplied," he said.

In a press release, Dr. Robert Lanza, vice president of research and scientific development at Advanced Cell Technology and the study's senior author, said the research "demonstrated, for the first time, that human embryonic stem cells can be generated without interfering with the embryo's potential for life."

William M. Caldwell IV, CEO of the company, said in the release that the research "should assuage the ethical concerns of many Americans." Ronald Green, director of the Ethics Institute at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., and chairman of the company's Ethics Advisory Board, said it "appears to be a way out of the current political impasse in this country and elsewhere."

But Doerflinger disagreed, saying that even if the company had accomplished what it said it did there is no way to assure the embryos would not be harmed.

"Embryos deserve the same protection from being used solely for the benefit of others that we all do," he said.



ANN CAREY

Carmelite Father Reginald Foster chats with one of the students who attended his presentation, "Is Latin Really Dead? Why the Academy and the Church should Preserve the Latin Language." His lecture at Notre Dame attracted so many students, faculty and guests that it had to be moved to a larger room that overflowed with about 150 people.

LATIN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

writings of people like Thomas Aquinas and Bonaventure "glorious treasures that are just sitting there," ready to enrich those who discover them. And the people who become skilled enough in Latin to dip into these treasures are not "old codgers," he insisted, but the most broadminded people in history.

"Once you get into it, you won't put it down," Father Foster assured the audience.

A crisis is coming because the last generation schooled in Latin is starting to die off, Father Foster warned. And when that happens, he said, Western civilization and the Roman Catholic Church will be without the scholars to read their very sources.

Interest in Latin has suffered because priorities have shifted, and "the baby got thrown out with the bath water," Father Foster explained, adding that the loss of interest in Latin has resulted in the loss of many things, including "standard, correct English." Even today's Catholic seminarians generally do not study Latin, he said, which is quite a contrast to his own seminary training that includ-

ed 14 years of Latin study.

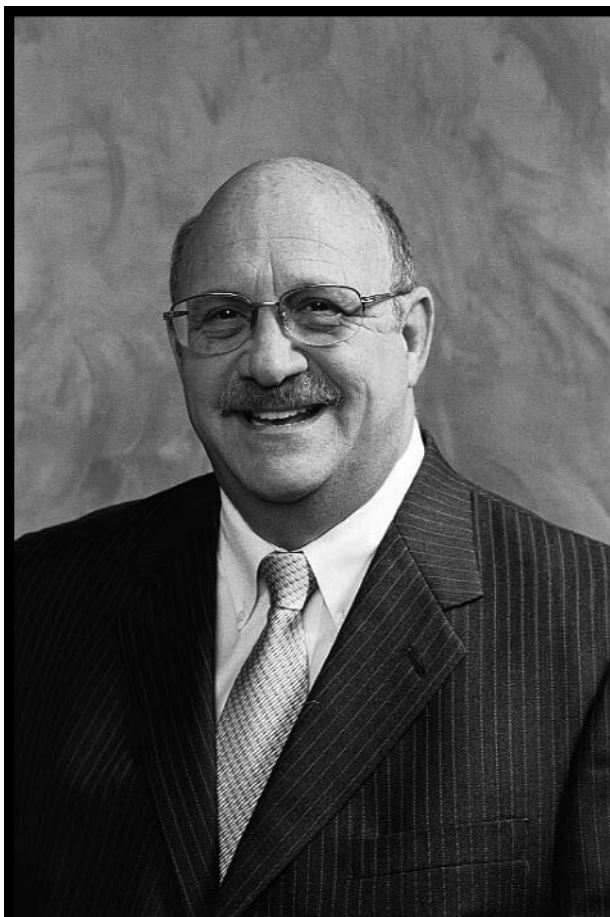
Father Foster said that Popes Paul VI, John Paul II and Benedict XVI were skilled in Latin and took Latin for granted. However, he said, he does not believe any of those three popes realized that the Catholic people generally don't have a knowledge of Latin.

Rather than just criticize this state of affairs, Father Foster, continued, he is out to "remedy" the situation, for knowledge of Latin "is just too precious to lose." Thus, Father Foster has taught an intensive Latin course in Rome for the past 25 summers in which he exposes his students to a range of works in Latin from B.C. 200 to the current writings of Pope Benedict XVI.

"If Latin suffers," he said, "it's because we're not learning or teaching Latin."

Father Foster's unique teaching methods, which he says do not require memorizing the declensions and conjugations that most Latin students remember with dread, serve as a model for Latin programs in several American universities.

If the enthusiasm of his former students and the many young people who lined up to shake his hand after the lecture is any indication, Father Foster may just be onto the right prescription to keep Latin alive.



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St. Vincent de Paul Society — a history of service throughout the world and South Bend

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND — It all began in May of 1833 with a challenge from a local newspaper to Frederick Ozanam in Europe.

"In former times, Christianity worked wonders. But what is it doing for humanity today? And you who pride yourselves on your Catholicity, what are you doing to show its vitality and efficacy, to prove the worth of your faith?" was the passage written in the newspaper.

A young law student at the University of Paris, Ozanam, heard these words and realized there was a great need for positive action in the name of the church and gathered six other dedicated Catholic men to create a charity that would add deeds to words and demonstrate the truth of their faith.

The group was determined to go out to the poor thus creating the first conference of the organization. It was later co-dedicated to their Blessed Mother and to the patron of charity, St. Vincent de Paul.

"Do not be content to say: I am a Christian. But live in such a way that it may be said of you: we have seen a man who loves God with all his heart and keeps his commandments," said St. Vincent de Paul. "One of the principal acts of charity is to bear with our neighbor; and we must realize this undoubted truth, that the difficulties we have with our neighbor spring more from our own poorly mortified tempers than from anything else."

This special society, dedicated to helping the poor in France, established the following aims:

- To bear witness to their religion by showing that their faith inspires them to work for the good of humanity;
- To bring together men of good will for cooperative work toward the divine ideal by fulfilling love of God in person of their fellow men who are less fortunate;

nate;

- To establish personal contact between society members and those who suffer, providing the most effective brotherly aid possible.

In less than two years, over 100 men were drawn to the conference. Eventually, because the numbers became so great separate working teams were formed and from this beginning sprung the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

"Thus we may, gentleman, bind together with new bonds our Christian and friendly unit. It is our strength as well as our joy. Isolated virtues wither but too readily; they must be gathered and woven together if they are to make immortal crowns," wrote Ozanam to other members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

The society evolved into an international organization without boundaries or restrictions.

Calling themselves Vincentians, members work in pairs delivering food to the needy. They also provide clothing, furniture and financial assistance to people during their time of need.

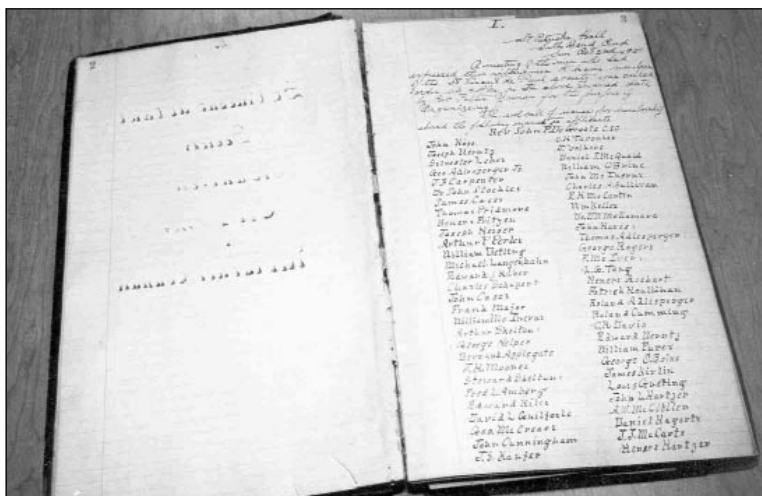
In 1836, a conference was formed in Rome. The society expanded into England and Ireland in 1844.

The first conference in the United States was started in St. Louis, Mo., in 1845 and over 5,000 conferences exist in the United States today.

One hundred years of service in South Bend

It wasn't until 1904 that South Bend saw their first St. Vincent de Paul Society conference emerge at St. Patrick Church. There were 70 men in the conference when it started.

Eventually, other Catholic churches began forming conferences within their parishes, creating a network of 19 conferences that work with the district council



office.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society has been in the Michiana area for over 100 years. Through the district council office, Vincentians can get baskets of food and vouchers for free clothing and furniture to their clients. Needy people can also get financial assistance through the Emergency Assistance program at the district council office.

The society's mission statement states: Inspired by Gospel values, the St. Vincent de Paul Society brings people together in prayer and person-to-person service to those who are in need and suffering — providing food, clothing and financial assistance to families in our community. Vincentians witness God's love by embracing all works of charity and justice and collaborate with others who share this vision.

"We continue to respond to people who contact us because they and their families are hungry. Many work, or live on a fixed income, but with rising energy, housing and food costs they just don't have the income to pay the bills and still put food on the table. The number of calls for emergency food assistance rises in the summer because children are at home and they don't, or can't, access food programs for lunch or breakfast. We, along with other emergency food providers in the area, are struggling to meet the need this summer and keep our food pantry stocked," said Sean Wendlinder, current executive director of the St. Vincent de Paul Society. "Along with helping people with food, we also provide free clothing and furniture through our thrift store, to families in need. Plus we continue to offer financial assistance for rent, utilities, medical expenses, etc., so that families in crisis keep their housing, their water, electricity and heat / air conditioning, or so they can get the medication they need. Our Vincentian volunteers make a home visit and work with families to help them access those items they need to make it through the day and find the services that might help them in the future."

The society has seen a number of changes over the years.

"We now offer free bread, through our Bread Basket, six days a week to people in need. We collaborate with several other service organizations in the community to provide free clothing for their clients or residents. We are trying to provide more service to our Vincentian volunteers — recruiting, training and consultation, so that we are a stronger society in the future. We are also developing a grassroots group to advocate for just social policies that seek the common good with a preferential option for those who are poor and suffering — a voice for those who don't have a

The St. Vincent de Paul Society is celebrating over 100 years of service in the Michiana community with a Legacy Luncheon on Thursday, Sept. 7, from 11:30 a.m. till 1 p.m. at the University of Notre Dame's Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center. The special guest speaker for the event is Reverend Edward "Monk" Malloy, CSC, President Emeritus of the University of Notre Dame. Unique items will also be available at the silent auction. For more information call Sean Wendlinder at (574) 251-4908.

strong of a voice in Indianapolis or Washington as do those who are rich and powerful," said Wendlinder about the changes the society has seen over the years.

The outlook is bright for the St. Vincent de Paul Society and they predict a prosperous next 100 years.

"Looking to the next 100 years we hope to recruit even more new

Vincentians for our work in the community. The society is a group of people who respond to those in need with compassion, and we need to train and form new leaders for the future who will live out their faith by their loving actions. We realize there will always be people who need our help, so we are working to cultivate the necessary resources and partners so that we will be able to respond when needed," said Wendlinder.

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Sister Mary Luke Tobin dies; played role at Second Vatican Council

NERINX, Ky. (CNS) — Loretto Sister Mary Luke Tobin, who played a leading role in the U.S. renewal of religious life and was one of a handful of female observers at the Second Vatican Council, died at the Loretto motherhouse in Nerinx Aug. 24. She was 98 years old. Sister Tobin donated her body to science. A memorial service is to be held at the motherhouse Oct. 7. An ardent ecumenist and advocate of church renewal, peace, social justice and women's rights in church and society, Sister Tobin was president of her order from 1958 to 1970 and was head of what is now the Leadership Conference of Women Religious during Vatican II. She was one of only 15 women worldwide invited to attend the council's last two sessions as an auditor, and she was part of the commission that drafted "Gaudium et Spes," the council's Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World. Only two other women were members of commissions that drafted council documents. Born in Denver May 16, 1908, Ruth Marie Tobin joined the Loretto community and took the religious name Mary Luke when she professed her vows in 1927.

China releases underground bishop after 10 years in prison

ROME (CNS) — After 10 years in prison, an underground Chinese bishop has been released and has received government permission to carry out his pastoral duties without registering with the country's state-sanctioned Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association. Chinese authorities freed 57-year-old Auxiliary Bishop Francis An Shuxin of Baoding in Hebei province Aug. 24. The bishop had been arrested in 1996 following a government-ordered raid on the diocese's underground seminary, which he headed. According to an Aug. 26 report by the Italian-based missionary news agency, AsiaNews, Bishop An was released because he accepted government recognition for being a Catholic bishop in China. He did not have to become a member of the government-approved patriotic association, which rejects papal authority and elects bishops without Vatican approval. The U.S.-based Cardinal Kung Foundation said in an Aug. 24 statement that the bishop now has a work permit to serve as a Catholic bishop and to carry out his pastoral duties in China.

Catholic peace group leaders say protests not helping terrorists

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Leaders of Catholic peace groups bristle when asked if their opposition to the Iraq War and their criticisms of the Bush administration's war on terrorism are harming efforts to keep the U.S. safe. Saying that protesters help terrorists is a "bogus assertion," said Dave Robinson, executive director of Pax Christi USA. Accusing protesters of help-

NEWS BRIEFS

MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY PRAY AT TOMB OF FOUNDRESS



CNS PHOTO/JAYANTA SHAW, REUTERS

Missionaries of Charity nuns pray at the tomb of Blessed Mother Teresa on what would have been her 96th birthday in Calcutta, India, Aug. 26. Mother Teresa, who died in 1997, was beatified by Pope John Paul II in 2003.

ing the enemy "is always used in wartime by the war-makers against those who call for government accountability," he said. Robinson and several other leaders of Catholic peace groups interviewed by Catholic News Service argued that President George W. Bush's approach to fighting terrorism is counterproductive. They said it overemphasizes a military response that fails to deal with the underlying causes that seduce people to become terrorists. Robinson criticized the label "war on terror" as a "marketing ploy." He preferred the phrase "war against terrorists" to describe what is needed. "Terrorists employ specific means to cause harm and spread terror among certain people. They have goals — to remove occupation troops, to change policies," he said.

Lefebvrite bishop says no progress on reconciliation with Vatican

ROME (CNS) — A year after his meeting with Pope Benedict XVI, the head of the Society of St. Pius X, Bishop Bernard Fellay, said there had been no substantial progress on reconciliation with the Vatican. Bishop Fellay said that after the terms of a possible agreement were discussed by cardinals and Roman Curia officials in meetings last spring "there's been no development" on the issue. "I think probably the pope would like things to go quicker, and he's probably facing a lot of opposition from the cardinals, from within," Bishop Fellay said Aug. 24. "Right now, there's not much happening in either direction," he said. Bishop Fellay spoke by phone to Catholic News Service from the society's headquarters in Ecône, Switzerland. In late August 2005,

he and another official of his order met privately with the pope for 35 minutes, an encounter that prompted speculation about possible reconciliation. The society, which rejects many of the changes introduced by the Second Vatican Council, broke with the Vatican in 1988 when its late founder, French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, ordained four bishops against papal instructions. Bishop Fellay was one of those ordained.

Pope warns against environmental damage, says it burdens world's poor

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI delivered a strong warning against environmental damage, saying it was aggravating the already heavy burden on the world's poor. The pope, speaking at his summer villa outside Rome Aug. 27, expressed support for the Italian church's first day dedicated to the protection of creation, which was to be celebrated Sept. 1. The pope said the created world was a great gift of God but is presently "exposed to serious risks by life choices and lifestyles that can degrade it." He said, "In particular, environmental degradation makes poor people's existence intolerable." The Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church says the world's poor, who often live in polluted slums, are connected to the environmental crisis. In cases of poverty and hunger, it is "virtually impossible" to avoid environmental exploitation, said the 2004 social doctrine. Pope Benedict said, "In dialogue with Christians of various churches, we need to commit ourselves to caring for the created world, without squandering its resources, and sharing them in a cooperative way."

Austrian cardinal says Darwinism should be studied as science

RIMINI, Italy (CNS) — Austrian Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna said he thought Darwin's theories on evolution deserve to be studied in schools, along with the scientific question marks that remain. It is right to teach "the science of Darwin, not ideological Darwinism," Cardinal Schonborn said Aug. 23. He spoke at a meeting in Rimini sponsored by the Catholic lay movement Communion and Liberation, and his remarks were reported by Italian newspapers. In 2005, Cardinal Schonborn helped fuel the debate over evolution and intelligent design when he wrote in *The New York Times* that science offers "overwhelming evidence for design in biology." He later said some scientists had turned Darwin's teachings into an ideological "dogma" that admitted no possibility of a divine design in the created world. In Rimini, the cardinal said he did not regret writing *The New York Times* article, but said that in retrospect he might have been more nuanced. "Perhaps it was too much crafted with a hatchet," he said.

Syro-Malabar Catholics call for more dioceses, end to restrictions

COCHIN, India (CNS) — Syro-Malabar Catholics from around the world called for an end to restrictions on the Oriental church's administration and demanded more dioceses. Cardinal Varkey Vithayathil, head of India's Syro-Malabar church, called for an end to "dominance of the Latin-rite" over the Syro-Malabar church, reported UCA News, an Asian

church news agency based in Thailand. Cardinal Vithayathil spoke at an Aug. 18-20 international meeting that brought together Syro-Malabar church leaders in Cochin, in Kerala state, the base of the Syro-Malabar church. The 400 delegates represented Syro-Malabar communities in Australia, Canada, Germany, Persian Gulf nations, the United Kingdom and the United States, as well as in major Indian cities outside Kerala. Organized by the Syro-Malabar Catholic Commission for Evangelization and Pastoral Care of Migrants, the Cochin meeting was the first gathering of its kind.

Former Catholic Charities head among jet crash victims

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (CNS) — A retired Catholic Charities executive, Arnold Andrews, was among the 49 people who died Aug. 27 in a commuter jet crash in Lexington, Ky., said Catholic Charities USA president Father Larry Snyder. "Arnold was a true leader in the Catholic Charities movement. ... His commitment to people who are poor and vulnerable was an inescapable part of who he was and was evident in even the briefest conversation with him," Father Snyder said. Andrews, 64, retired last year as executive director of Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Petersburg, Fla. From 1999 to 2005 he was a member of the national organization's board of trustees. The early Sunday morning crash occurred at Lexington's Blue Grass Airport when Comair Flight 5191 mistakenly tried to take off from Runway 26, a 3,500-foot general aviation runway, instead of Runway 22, the 7,000-foot strip it was supposed to use.

Conscientious objection still possible in all-volunteer U.S. military

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Conscientious objection to fighting wars is still a possibility 33 years after the U.S. ended obligatory military service. But objectors in the all-volunteer U.S. armed forces have to be opposed to all wars and not just to a particular one such as Iraq. Even with volunteers, where the presumption is that someone enlisting is willing to fight, the law allows troops to change their minds for religious or philosophical reasons. One result has been that after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks activities picked up at the Catholic Peace Fellowship, which helps military personnel filing for conscientious-objector status or just wanting information about Catholic moral teachings on war. "Sept. 11 shaped what we have done since," said Holy Cross Father Michael Baxter, national secretary of the Catholic Peace Fellowship, based in South Bend. Through e-mails, telephone calls and personal contacts, the once-dormant Catholic group has actively aided about 60 people seeking conscientious-objector status since Sept. 11 and fielded more than 1,500 requests for information, said Father Baxter, also an assistant theology professor at the University of Notre Dame.

Cancer survivors want to 'sack' breast cancer

SOUTH BEND — Nearly 20 local cancer survivors boarded a Transpo Trolley bus on Wednesday, Aug. 16, for the third annual Secret Sisters Society media tour, in an effort to raise awareness about how women can receive free mammograms.

The Secret Sisters Society, an arm of the Women's Task Force of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center (SJRCM), took to the streets of South Bend aboard the trolley to promote their fifth annual luncheon and style show. The Secret Sisters Society Luncheon & Style Show will be held on Wednesday, Sept. 20, at the University of Notre Dame's Joyce Center at 12 p.m. The classy and festive event is organized by SJRCM's Women's Task Force (WTF), which is comprised completely of volunteers who are all cancer survivors.

"Every one of us on the trolley is a cancer survivor," said Joan Lennon, WTF coordinator for SJRCM. "We all have a pink 'sack pack,' which is the official breast cancer color, because we want to 'sack' breast cancer."

The sack packs symbolize the Secret Sisters Society's concern for other local women who need life-saving mammograms but cannot afford them. Michiana women are encouraged to take advantage of the many benefits offered by the upcoming Secret Sisters Society Luncheon & Style Show, as it raises funds to assist underserved women, age 40-49, in receiving a free screening mammogram. Women can receive their mammograms at SJRCM/South Bend, S J R M C / M i s h a w a k a , SJRCM/Plymouth, Memorial Hospital of South Bend and Elkhart General Hospital.

Since March 2003, nearly 1,300 free mammograms have been provided or scheduled as a result of the Secret Sisters Society Luncheon & Style Show. The event celebrates survivorship, provides education regarding the importance of early detection, and raises funds to ensure that all women seeking to be proactive and responsible for their health are able to receive a mammogram. All models in the event are cancer survivors themselves with uplifting stories.

The WTF is assisted in this event by community volunteers who share in their goal to provide opportunities for early detection. For ticket information on the Secret Sisters Society Luncheon & Style Show and for details on sponsorship opportunities, please call the Women's Task Force of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center at (574) 472-6095.

Remembering 9/11

FORT WAYNE — Bishop John M. D'Arcy will celebrate the 12:05 p.m. Mass in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Monday, Sept. 11, as a memorial of the fifth anniversary of the Sept 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in New York City, Washington, D.C. and Pennsylvania. Bishop D'Arcy has also asked that parishes hold a similar memorial Mass.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

CANCER SURVIVORS PROMOTE FREE MAMMOGRAMS



PROVIDED BY SAINT JOSEPH REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

Nearly 20 local cancer survivors boarded a Transpo Trolley bus on Wednesday, Aug. 16, for the third annual Secret Sisters Society media tour, in an effort to raise awareness about how women can receive free mammograms.

Junior high confirmation rally set Oct. 7

NORTH MANCHESTER — Manchester College will be the host site for the 2006 Junior High Retreat. This retreat is sponsored by the diocesan offices of catechesis and youth ministry. The theme of this confirmation preparatory retreat is "Catch the Spirit."

The day will include the sacrament of reconciliation and other round-robin sessions. The event will also include a praise and worship concert, a keynote address with Apex Ministries and closing Mass with Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

Registration forms must be returned to Janice Martin, the Office of Catechesis by Friday, Sept. 22. For additional information, contact Martin at (260) 399-1411 or jmartin@fw.diocesefwsb.org. Visit the diocesan Web site at www.diocesefwsb.org/jrhighrally for information.

Three is a charm: Another "Best College" ranking for Saint Mary's College

NOTRE DAME — *The Princeton Review* names Saint Mary's College as a Best Midwestern College for 2007. This comes just on the heels of another top ranking by *U.S. News & World Report* and a *Golf Digest* ranking recognizing Saint Mary's as the third best school for student-athletes interested in playing collegiate golf (Princeton and Yale ranked first and second, respectively). *The Princeton Review's* rankings are

based largely on student opinion data collected via survey and posted on their Web site.

The Princeton Review's "Best Colleges: Region by Region" section of princetonreview.com identifies colleges that "stand out as academically excellent institutions of higher learning," according to the Web site. Each college selected had to meet *The Princeton Review's* standards for excellence, based on admissions selectivity, fire safety, academics, financial aid and quality of life. Colleges on the list were also required to allow *The Princeton Review* to survey students anonymously.

SJRCM announces Web site

SOUTH BEND — In preparation for excavation at the site of its new hospital at Edison Lakes, Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center went live Aug. 18 with a brand new Web site, www.mynewhospital.org, dedicated entirely to the project.

The Web site contains a wide variety of information, including time line of project events; the design process; renderings of the new hospital and patient and procedure rooms; answers to frequently asked questions about the project; as well as some fun statistics.

"We will constantly keep this comprehensive Web site updated as we realize that this is a very exciting project, not just for Saint Joseph, but for the entire community," said Nancy R. Hellyer, Saint Joseph's CEO.

Ground preparation for Saint Joseph's new hospital will begin this fall with the foundation being

poured in the winter. Saint Joseph plans on opening its new hospital in August of 2009.

Visit www.mynewhospital.org for all the information.

Lecture series presents "Bringing Tradition to Life"

NOTRE DAME — The Saint Mary's College Center for Spirituality presents three evening programs as part of its annual fall lecture series. This year's theme is "Bringing Tradition to Life." Admission is free and open to the public.

• Wednesday, Sept. 6 — Ana Maria Pineda from the theology department of Santa Clara University will deliver a talk titled "Welcoming the Stranger: Hospitality in the Christian Tradition." It will address issues related to comprehensive and responsible immigration reform. Pineda has extensive experience in Hispanic ministry.

• Wednesday, Oct. 25 — Claire Wolfteich of Boston University's School of Theology will discuss "Women, Spirituality and the Workplace." In her talk, Wolfteich explores spirituality not only in terms of prayer and the interior life, but also in terms of work, family, community and public life.

• Monday, Nov. 6 — St. Catherine of Siena (as portrayed by actress Nancy Murray, OP) will talk about "Voices from the Past, Wisdom for Today, Hope for Tomorrow." St. Catherine of Siena was a 14th century saint and advisor to princes and popes on social and political issues of the day. Sister Nancy Murray, who has portrayed St. Catherine hundreds

of times, is the sister of comedian Bill Murray.

All presentations begin at 7:30 p.m. in Stapleton Lounge, Le Mans Hall, Saint Mary's College.

SJRCM to sponsor two-day pastoral crisis intervention training

SOUTH BEND — On Sept. 14-15, Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center (SJRCM) is providing a two-day training program, Pastoral Crisis Intervention Training.

The program is designed to prepare participants to provide basic crisis intervention services to individuals in acute crisis using a structured system. Saint Joseph's Crisis Intervention Training, which will be in the Education Center of the South Bend Campus from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. both days, is being organized by Sister Laureen Painter, Saint Joseph's vice president of mission integration. The workshop is open to all educators, mental health professionals, clergy, social workers and fire/rescue personnel in the community.

The idea came about as a way to localize Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM). CISM is an intervention protocol developed specifically for dealing with traumatic events. It is a formal, highly structured and professionally recognized process for helping those involved in a critical incident to share their experiences, vent emotions, and learn about stress reactions, symptoms, and given referrals for further help if required.

The cost of attending the conference is \$75 per participant, and includes lunch and breaks, as well as a workbook and Certificate of Participation. For more information, please contact Janet Kenyon at Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center at (574) 237-7205.

Leadership conference celebrates 50 years of service

HUNTINGTON — The leaders of U.S. orders of Catholic sisters met in Atlanta, Ga., Aug. 18-21, to commemorate the 50th anniversary year of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR).



SISTER MARY JO NELSON, OLM

During this meeting new board members were installed including Victory Noll Sister Mary Jo Nelson. Sister Mary Jo is also the new LCWR chair for Region 7, which includes Michigan and Indiana. Sister Mary Jo serves on the leadership team of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters in Huntington. Sister Virginia Kampwerth, PHJC, also serves as secretary on the executive committee for Region 7.

More than 800 leaders from across the country gathered in assembly and discussed key religious life issues. A special feature was the participation in part of the assembly of approximately 100 local Atlanta women leaders from various faiths and professions.



PROVIDED BY THE MISSIONARIES OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD

Brother Matthew Schaefer, CPPS, second from left, poses with CPPS candidates, from left, Vincent Wirtner, Kevin Scalf and Antonio Sison after a liturgy in which Brother Matthew was definitively incorporated into the Missionaries of the Precious Blood.

Wirtner makes temporary incorporation to Missionaries of the Precious Blood

CARTHAGENA, Ohio — Fort Wayne native Vincent Wirtner was temporarily incorporated with the Missionaries of the Precious Blood on Aug. 13 during a liturgy at St. Charles Center in Carthagena, Ohio.

During the same ceremony, Brother Matthew Schaefer, CPPS, made his profession before Father Angelo Anthony, CPPS, provincial director of the Cincinnati Province of the Missionaries, becoming the newest brother of the congregation.

Also making their temporary incorporations to the congregation during the same liturgy were Cincinnati native Kevin Scalf and Antonio Sison of Manila, the Philippines.

Wirtner, 43, is the son of Vince and Charlyne Wirtner, members of St. Joseph Church in Fort Wayne where Father Tim Wrozek is the pastor. He credits many people

with helping him in his vocational journey. "God has blessed me with many people and mentors in my life," Wirtner said.

"My family and friends, St. Joseph Parish, Bishop Luers High School, priests and religious of the diocese have all played a significant part in my vocation. I am able to make this commitment only because God has spoken through the people in my life and each of these people were willing to share their faith journey with me," Wirtner said. "I make the next step to theological studies with confidence because of the love and support of all these people and now with the added support of the members of the Precious Blood family."

Wirtner, Scalf and Sison will begin advanced formation this fall at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago.

'Live the life of Christ,' participants are encouraged at Eucharistic Congress

BY KRISTI WARD

ELKHART — The parking lot was full. The high school hallways echoed with enthusiastic applause. A masculine voice led hundreds of voices in heartfelt songs of praise and team spirit.

Was it a pep rally? In a way, it was — and a whole lot more.

The second annual Catholic Eucharistic Congress brought together hundreds of Hispanic Catholics from area parishes to learn more about their faith and encourage their participation in the life of the church.

"The purpose is that people be converted and have a (relationship) with their church," said Lupita Zepeda, spokesperson for congress organizers. "Also, to be more available to the Eucharist and to know more about their religion and to be more devoted to our Blessed Mother, the Virgin Mary."

Held during the weekend of Aug. 12-13 at Memorial High School in Elkhart, the Congress alternated inspirational speakers with times of music and worship, including holy hour and a closing Mass.

Speakers included Deacon Eliut Casanova and his wife Marie of New Jersey, Miquel Aquino from the Charismatic Center in New York, Felipe Rocha of Fort Wayne, Father Phil DeVolder, pastor, Father Wilson Corzo, associate pastor, and Deacon Ramiro Reyes, all of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Elkhart. Felipe Rocha and Miguel Aquino also provided inspirational music.



KRISTI R. WARD

Father Phil DeVolder, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Elkhart, addresses more than 300 participants and 60 volunteers at the Hispanic Catholic Eucharistic Congress held at Memorial High School in Elkhart on Aug. 12-13. The two-day event included speakers, music and worship and drew participants from seven area parishes.

"Three years ago Deacon Reyes and I had the idea to organize a congress," Zepeda explained. "Last year they made it a reality ... this year Miguel Reyes was the organizer with the support of our associate pastor Father Wilson Corzo and Deacon Ramiro."

The congress was sponsored by the Hispanic Pastoral Group of St. Vincent. More than 300 people attended the sessions, along with about 60 volunteers who helped organize and kept things running smoothly, Zepeda said.

Throughout the Congress, participants were taught, encouraged and challenged to live the life of Christ. And the response from the audience was overwhelmingly positive as they cheered and applauded, raised their hands in prayer, and passionately sang along with the music leaders.

The last speaker before the closing Mass, Father DeVolder started his reflection by apologizing for not speaking Spanish very well and then continued with a simple, heartfelt message for everyone present.

"Of all the sacraments, the Eucharist is the most important," he said. "The reason is simple — we don't receive bread, we don't receive wine — we could go to Martin's or Kroger's for that!"

After the light laughter died down, Father DeVolder continued. "In the church of Christ, we receive Christ ... we are Catholics — we have the Eucharist."

It's that active identity as Catholics organizers dreamed of when they planned the congress — and as they look to the future.

"We hope the Hispanic Catholic people get more involved and active in our church," Zepeda said. "We hope the Holy Spirit and our Blessed Mother will assist in growing the spirituality in the Hispanic community."

The Hispanic Congress will skip next year because of jubilee celebrations — but they'll be back the following year.

For more information on future congresses, contact Deacon Ramiro Reyes at (574) 389-9634.

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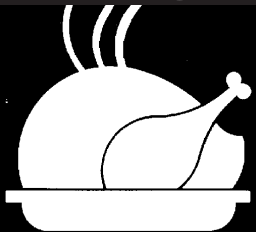
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Lead us not into temptation

BY GINNY KOHRMAN

Opening prayer

Lord Jesus Christ, son of the living God, please have mercy on me, a poor sinner. Amen

Scripture: Lk. 4: 1-13

Commentary

One of my greatest food temptations is ice cream ... light, of course ... especially if it's chucked full of chocolate and nuts. I have been known to say that "a day is not complete without a little ice cream" ... in a cone or bowl ... summer, fall, winter and spring. Why do I call ice cream a temptation? Because this creamy, smooth, cold, yummy food entices me to eat too many carbohydrate calories that eventually end up on my hips. I am "over-attracted" to what might — by itself — be a delicious, good and somewhat nutritious food when eaten in moderation. Why does it seem that things that look, feel and taste so good have the potential to lead us into temptation and sometimes even sin? If ice cream was the only temptation on our spiritual journeys, life would be a whole lot easier, and I think we would all reach perfection a lot faster ... but, unfortunately, it's not.

Tempted?

Temptations seem to slither through our senses in so many ways in today's world. It is diffi-

cult to know where to look or what to listen to without being led into temptation. Healthy human interactions and touch are confused with the constant bombardment of inappropriate physical behaviors we see all around us. In some ways we have almost become numb to the cunningness of everyday temptations. But all is not doom and gloom.

Temptations can be allowed by God to help us to grow in Christian virtue. Father Jean Nicolas Grou, a French Jesuit priest who wrote "The Spiritual Life" during the time of the French Revolution, says: "Temptations are the reward of your previous fidelity; and God allows them on purpose to make you still more agreeable in his eyes and consequently more holy and perfect." — page 98.

Father Grou reminds us that in our spiritual journey we should really expect to be tried with every sort of temptation, particularly in the areas of our lives where we think we're strongest.

Father Grou asks, "What is a virtue worth that has never been exercised?" — page 99.

Holiness would be easier to achieve and less rare if it was never challenged by temptation. Virtue would be "less virtuous" if it was never tried. Temptations, if handled with the Holy Spirit's gift of fortitude, strengthen the virtues of faith, hope and love and carry these virtues to a higher level.

When we try to handle even the smallest of temptations alone, we may be setting ourselves up to fail. Father Grou explains: "God knows perfectly, and infinitely better than we do, what our

strength really is, for we derive our strength solely from him and his grace." — page 102. In our hectic lives and individualistic society, we often think we can — and should — go it alone. Many of us fail to ask for God's assistance in overcoming temptations. We live in a "if it feels good, do it" world where a life of virtue is often considered abnormal. But with God's help, temptations do not have to lead us into sin.

Dealing with our temptations

If we are truly honest with ourselves about our temptations, we would probably admit that there are times when we like "playing with fire." There is a bit of a "rush" in regurgitating unkind or impure, totally sensual thoughts and desires. Getting burned by playing too long — or too confidently — with temptations can be very painful and can affect our spiritual maturity and growth.

The sacred Scriptures reveal that Jesus, like us, was tempted, but that he never allowed the temptations to lead him to sin. Jesus, although both fully human and fully divine, demonstrates throughout his life on earth a virtuous self discipline that we, too, can use to deal with our temptations. In the book "Deliver Me," Richard Exley writes, "After a thorough study of the Gospels, I am convinced that the source of Jesus' strength lay in the spiritual disciplines he practiced: prayer, study of the Scriptures, public worship and obedience to the Father's will." — page 108.

Reflection and connection

Perhaps it might help us to reflect on how often we have practiced the spiritual disciplines of Christ in the last two weeks. Where am I now, and how might I improve in the areas of praying, reading Scripture, attending Mass and obeying God's will? How well am I prepared to deal with my temptations when they come?

Evangelization and action

For interior renewal

During your prayer time this week, reflect on the disciplines of Christ in the sacred Scriptures. Might I suggest: Mk 1:35; Mk 6:46; Lk 4: 1-13; Lk 5:16; Lk 6:12; Lk 22:39-40; Lk 22:44; Jn 4:34; Jn 5:19; Ps 119.

Reaching out to others

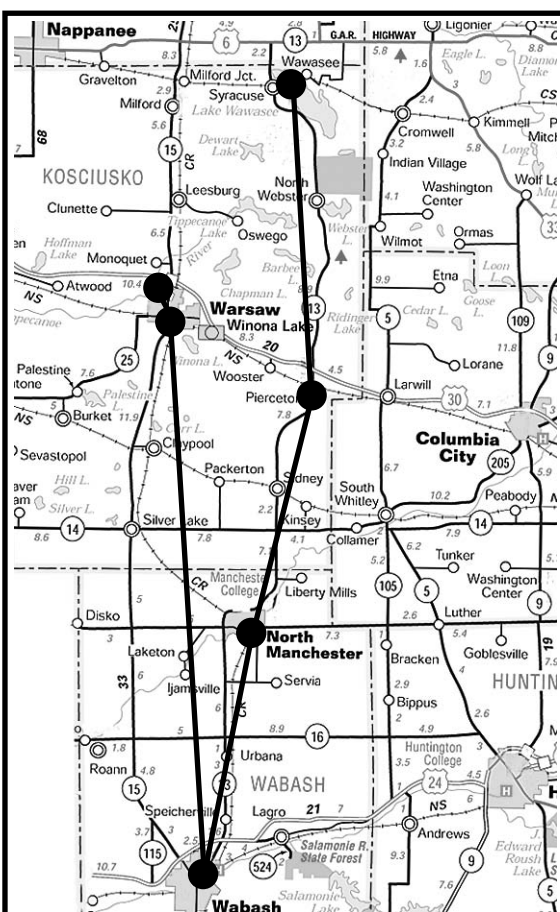
Consider how you — or what you say and do — may lead others into temptation and the possibility of sin. How might you respond virtuously to the temptations introduced by others? How can you avoid being a temptation to someone else?

Transforming society

Dare to be radically different from mainstream America. Dress modestly; communicate with kindness and love; remain pure in thought and deed; proclaim the Gospel by your attitude, your habits and spiritual self disciplines.

Closing Prayer:

Our Father, who art in heaven ... lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.



Jubilee Pilgrim Cross

- Aug. 25-Sept. 1
Our Lady of Guadalupe Warsaw
- Sept. 1-8
Sacred Heart Warsaw
- Sept. 8-15
St. Bernard Wabash
- Sept. 15-22
St. Robert Bellarmine/
Manchester College North Manchester
- Sept. 22-29
St. Francis Xavier Pierceton
- Sept. 29-Oct. 6
St. Martin de Porres Syracuse

JUBILEE PILGRIM CROSS VISITS ALBION PARISH



PROVIDED BY BLESSED SACRAMENT PARISH

Blessed Sacrament Parish in Albion receives and processes the traveling Jubilee Pilgrim Cross in the LaGrange County community on Aug. 12.

FAITH

in the workplace

Ercoline dedicated to providing break in the storm for those in need

BY KAY COZAD

SOUTH BEND — Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has been in the business of serving those in the community who struggle with the adversity of life since 1922. Services range from pregnancy, adoption and foster care programs to community services, including emergency food pantry, to immigration and retired volunteer programs.

A nonprofit, church-affiliated agency, Catholic Charities assists individuals regardless of religious preference, race, gender or national origin. It takes dedicated, caring people to orchestrate these programs.

West Region Director Rob Ercoline, is one of those dedicated people.

Ercoline, who holds a graduate degree in theology from the University of Notre Dame, has a passion for social justice. His work with the underprivileged began in the late 1980s as a teacher at Marian High School, Mishawaka. "I was teaching Scripture, church history and social justice. I began to realize I had a calling to not just teach about the struggles of the poor, but to work more hands-on with them," he recalls.

Ercoline's early volunteer work began at the Advocacy Center in South Bend and included spending overnights at the Center for the Homeless. He next found himself as pastoral associate at Little Flower Parish, where he and his wife Conni and their three children are currently members. There, as director of outreach ministries to the poor, he worked daily with volunteers, local social service and government agencies to meet the needs of the poor for the next 12 years. He worked as the director of adult faith formation at the parish as well.

Following the closure of the Michiana food bank in 1992, Ercoline stepped up to assist in the establishment of what is now the Food Bank of Northern Indiana. Currently, the food bank serves 11 counties in northwest Indiana, distributing five million pounds of food each year to 300-member food pantry agencies, one of which is located at the Miami Street Catholic Charities office site. He

was also instrumental in opening and directing the food pantry at Little Flower Parish, which is located in a high need area of St. Joseph County and has served on the board of directors for the food bank since 1994.

Ercoline's impressive resume includes spiritual direction at several sites, retreat planning, teaching, co-coordinating the St. Joseph County Crop Walk, sitting on several service agency boards and much more. But his main focus is meeting with Catholic Charities clients in his office on Miami Street in hopes of meeting their most desperate needs. There, since becoming director in 2003, he has been responsible for all departments in the west region, including budgeting, fundraising, supervision of employee staff and volunteers and coordinating the brief services program and food pantry.

His faith plays a large role in how he conducts business and is not only evident in his gentle, humble demeanor but radiates throughout his office. Scripture verses and framed Catholic artwork grace the walls there along with action figures and other toys for the youngsters who accompany their parents to the office.

"My office is kid-friendly," he says. "Experience has helped me recognize the stresses people are under when they come here."

One may even encounter the sounds of Gregorian chant played softly in the background. All this intentionally creates the peaceful environment in which this man ministers to the poor.

"The artwork and music are conversation starters. It gives them a break in the storm," says Ercoline.

Ercoline's formal training in spiritual direction has equipped him with the tools to guide his clients with the hard questions of life as he hopes many who seek emergency services at this faith-based organization will feel safe in sharing their burdens and worries.

"There are all types of poverty in the world — emotional, spiritual and financial," he concedes. The training, he says, has helped him recognize from his own personal life experience, a deeper compassion and empathy for those he serves.

Meeting the needs of the poor has had a tremendous impact on

his faith, but even he admits the stress can occasionally become overwhelming. "We see so many more than we can help," he laments. In prayer and meditation, Ercoline finds a way to remember that "the responsibility is all of ours, but God will provide." Working with the staff of Catholic Charities helps. "Most of the staff is here because they want to be. They are mission and value driven," he reports.

This faith-filled man is "pleased and proud to walk with Catholic Charities" and looks forward to additional growth in coming years. "The journey with the poor is a long-term journey," he says, adding that he's definitely in it for the long term. His work at Catholic Charities bears witness, he asserts, "to the connection between what we believe and how we live our lives."

For more information on the programs at Catholic Charities visit their Web site at www.ccfwsb.org



KAY COZAD

Rob Ercoline sits at his desk in his office at Catholic Charities in South Bend where he meets with clients with various needs. He intentionally creates a peaceful environment with artwork and music to provide a "break in the storm" for those in need. Ercoline has been the West Region director for Catholic Charities since 2003.

Communities United — a good workplace for concerned Catholics

BY JILL BOUGHTON

SOUTH BEND — Jenario Morgan and Jerry Niezgodski say their faith and interest in Catholic social teaching made it easy for them to come to work as outreach coordinators for Communities United to Strengthen America, which opened a South Bend office in March. Niezgodski grew up at St. John the Baptist on the west side of South Bend and now attends Holy Family. Morgan moved here from Detroit and is active at St. Augustine.

Communities United, a national organization, which currently has offices in 14 locations including Bloomington and Evansville, sees its mission as educating and mobilizing middle-class Americans about three issues that directly affect them — health care, retirement and economic prosperity. The local organization has sponsored public seminars on each of these issues.

Communities United encourages the poor to move into what

Morgan prefers to call the working class. Niezgodski worries that the middle class is shrinking, squeezed by government taxes and policies.

Besides an open house introducing the office at 207 W. Colfax, Communities United invites people to drop in for "community conversation and coffee" on Saturday mornings and express their concerns. The outreach coordinators network with neighborhood organizations, churches, colleges and fraternal organizations, and they encourage people to sign petitions urging their elected representatives to take action. They talk with individuals and sponsor surveys to find out about people's actual concerns, priorities and opinions. They hope to become a center where people can register to vote.

Shelly Haggerty, communications director, records local stories about people who have been personally affected by these issues: the couple whose retirement savings were decimated by a major illness, the college student who will wind up \$75,000 in debt, the

Vietnam vet who has no insurance to cover the knee replacement he needs, the worker whose job has been outsourced to China, the soldier who re-enlisted only to preserve the health care benefits his family needs.

A recent meeting at the downtown library showed a PBS documentary that raises the pointed question, "Can you afford to retire?" Director Kathy Liggett points out that most people have confidence in their pension plans and Social Security even though the latter is approaching insolvency and the government's Pension Benefit Guarantee Corporation, now responsible for 44 million Americans whose companies can no longer pay their pensions, is \$23 billion in debt. More and more Americans are relying on 401(K)'s, yet few of us are savvy enough to invest wisely or wealthy enough to weather the vicissitudes of the stock market.

At a follow-up meeting, Jack

Growing number of corporations have workplace chaplaincy programs

BY MARILYN LANFORD

SPRINGDALE, Ark. (CNS) — Across the United States and overseas, there is a growing trend in large corporations and smaller businesses to offer a workplace chaplaincy program.

While chaplains have served hospitals, prisons and police departments for a while, having interfaith ministers in the corporate world is a relatively new concept. Companies are hiring or contracting with chaplains as a way to address employee issues, including mental health, retention rates, productivity and morale.

One of the largest American companies, Tyson Foods Inc., with corporate offices in northwest Arkansas, now has a chaplaincy program that serves employees in 81 plants and 161 locations. Tyson is the world's largest processor and marketer of chicken, beef and pork.

Workplace chaplaincy programs also exist at Coca-Cola Bottling Co., the Federal Bureau of Investigation and other major employers. Some companies contract with organizations such as Corporate Chaplains of America of Wake Forest, N.C., and Marketplace Ministries of Dallas for chaplains.

The Tyson program is overseen by director Alan Tyson (no relation to the Tyson Food family), and managers of chaplain operations Charles White and Justo Gonzalez II. In addition to these full-time corporate chaplains, there are 126 part-time chaplains available to employees at Tyson plants in the United States, Canada and Mexico.

Gonzalez, in charge of the western division, took the position in February after serving as clinical coordinator of the pastoral care program at All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Fla. White was a pastor in a Baptist church in Kentucky for 20 years.

"Tyson did a national search for this position and I saw their ad," said Gonzalez, who has master's



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF TYSON FOODS

Justo Gonzalez II, right, is pictured with Tyson Foods chaplaincy director Alan Tyson, seated, and Larry Petton, a part-time chaplain who works at the world headquarters in Springdale, Ark. Gonzalez, a member of St. Raphael Church in Springdale, is a manager of chaplain operations at Tyson Foods Inc. The company now has in place a chaplaincy program that serves employees in 81 plants and 161 locations. Director Tyson is no relation to the Tyson Food family.

degrees in divinity and pastoral ministry. "When I first saw it, I said this is me. It is a position where you recruit, train, supervise, provide pastoral ministry and walk alongside the hurting, the broken — and just offer some grace and love."

An empathic and personable man, Gonzalez wears many hats and travels a great deal in covering his territory.

He said the chaplains are a diverse group, "not only in terms of faith traditions but in terms of cultures and linguistic abilities."

Among them are 60 Caucasians, 42 Hispanics, 18 African-Americans and four Asians, he said. Fifty-one are bilingual and 11 are women, added Gonzalez, who is bilingual.

When the chaplains are at Tyson plants, they are there to walk the production lines and check on the employees.

"It is amazing what happens when people get to know you and trust you. One little conversation of 'how are you today?' and other things come out," he told the *Arkansas Catholic*, newspaper of the Little Rock Diocese. "People talk to us about a variety of issues."

"In many ways it is a spiritual employee assistance program. We walk with folks on short-term crises and counseling intervention. We will probably do up to four sessions with them, he said. "Then if we find they need other services or services beyond the skill set of the chaplains, we tap into the community resources — spiritual or secular."

Gonzalez is a member of St. Raphael Church in Springdale. He has contacted the pastor, Father John Antony, to see how the community and Tyson can share resources to help employees.

Father Antony said he sees a lot of merit in combining efforts.

"I know that we will be working a lot with Tyson just because we have so many people who work with Tyson — not only in white collar jobs but also the blue collar jobs — the ones who work in the plants — a lot of whom are

Hispanic," he said.

Key factors in the chaplaincy program's success are requiring confidentiality and prohibiting chaplains from proselytizing.

"You will never see me carrying a Bible," Gonzalez said. "Spirituality and faith is best lived out by your actions than spoken through your words."

He said his faith comes with him into a room. "It is who I am — the essence of my soul," he said.

Even in the brief time Gonzalez has been involved with the program, he has dealt with marriage issues and counseled an employee who was talking about suicide.

Last August, Tyson Foods was a sponsor for the first Workplace Chaplaincy Conference at Yale Divinity School in New Haven, Conn. Participants discussed issues, problems and trends in the various programs around the country. A second conference is planned for Nov. 9-11 at the school.

"Tyson was one of the movers and shakers in bringing that meeting together," Gonzalez said, "I think we are on the cutting edge of workplace chaplaincy."

A chaplaincy program is a win-win situation for both employer and employee, he said.

"It is also good business because an employee that is taken care of doesn't have to carry a two-ton crisis on their back and is better able to be focused and more productive and able to stay with us longer," Gonzalez said.

UNITED

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

Meyers presented a practical retirement planning seminar.

Communities United has a wealth of information available online and in print. Some of it breaks down government budgets and applies them to local issues.

Economic prosperity issues include rising prices and minimum wage legislation. One issue that affects everyone these days is the price of gasoline. At a recent seminar, people spilled out of the office to check the air pressure in their tires. Every vehicle was low, which directly affects fuel efficiency.

IUSB provided the location for a June 24 forum on health care.

Rather than advocating one particular plan, Communities United tries to raise awareness of the issue and how the large number of Americans without health insurance affects all of us.

Morgan sees his work with Communities United as similar to neighborhood organizing he did in Detroit. It's an outgrowth of Catholic social teaching, a way to go about putting it into action by being accountable and making others accountable. "After I leave work, I can go home and sleep, knowing I've helped people."

Niezgodski, whose father was a police officer and politician, says his whole family has social action "in our blood." He sees this job as "100 percent connected with my faith" and also talks about accountability, ethical and moral values.

*Work is not
an end to itself.
It must be
performed
with God.*

TIPPMANN GROUP

Faith and prayer abound at Redeemer Radio

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — With the advent of the new millennium, mass media was recognized as an important venue for the “new evangelization” of the world, as proclaimed by the late Pope John Paul II. Fort Wayne has been active in fulfilling that mandate with the premiere of its first all Catholic radio station, Redeemer Radio, WLYV 1450 AM, on January 1.

Redeemer Radio President Chris Langford appreciates the work environment at the station saying, “It’s nice to work in a Catholic environment. I get to work with people who share a great zeal for the faith.”

Langford, a longtime member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, says even as a young adult he wanted to share the “precious gift” of his faith with others.

His “day job” office at ITT is open to anyone who wishes to discuss the faith. “People at work know I’m Catholic and they ask questions,” he told *Today’s Catholic*. Langford has participated for years in a weekly Bible study at ITT and prays before every meeting.

As he has evangelized over the years he became acquainted with Catholic radio. “I thought I could put my time into radio and reach more people,” says Langford. After receiving approval from Bishop John M. D’Arcy, he and friend Jim Roy raised funds to buy air time on Christian radio to broadcast the popular syndicated Catholic pro-



PROVIDED BY REDEEMER RADIO

Redeemer Radio Executive Director Kris Billingsley, seated, and Redeemer Radio President Chris Langford find sharing their faith to be a tool of evangelization both on and off the air.

gram, “Catholic Answers Live.” An outgrowth of buying air time was the realization that he could buy the station for a little more than adding a new Catholic program and be able to share the faith more effectively. With permission from the financial donors, the station changed hands late in 2005.

The station is staffed mainly by volunteers with one paid position. Langford, who is a volunteer himself, finds the radio staff

has an appreciation for their faith and “are willing to make sacrifices to bring the faith to others.” His own faith has grown since the purchase of the station, he says. “We’ve encountered difficulties and challenges technically and it becomes clear that God makes this happen.”

There is a freedom to working in a Catholic workplace, says the president. “The staff can go to daily Mass or adoration when they can.” The station has a poli-

cy that Catholic holy days are holidays for the staff. Prayer begins each meeting and the staff continually prays for the special intentions shared in the workplace.

Kris Billingsley, who holds the only paid position at the Catholic station, is executive director. She is responsible for fund raising, development, community engagement, marketing and volunteer coordination.

After working in the secular workplace she humbly says, “It’s a blessing to work here where you can be open with your faith.” Prayer, she finds, is the key to her day.

“If I keep up regular devotions and daily holy hour, it’s amazing what my day is like. God orchestrates if you just give him your time,” says Billingsley, who is also a parishioner at St. Elizabeth Parish. She admits she prays about everything and feels God always answers her prayers.

The power of prayer is illustrated as she recalls the day the station was hit by lightning. “We immediately fell into prayer,” she says. The broadcast was up and running soon after.

Billingsley, like Langford, feels her faith continues to grow as she and the volunteers at Redeemer Radio are free to share their faith. “I see miracles all the

time. I’m never disappointed in God.” The staff is encouraged by President Langford himself to spend time in prayer and the result, Billingsley says brightly, is “no one panics when problems arise — they just go forth with peacefulness.”

The outward mission of Redeemer Catholic Radio is to evangelize, bring inactive Catholics back to the church and make good Catholics better by sharing the fullness of the faith. At the foundation, Billingsley says, “It’s a joy and a blessing to work in a Catholic environment. It’s freeing. I can be myself and experience my faith — it’s a big part of who I am.”

Redeemer Radio provides Catholic programming 24 hours a day, seven days a week, including Spanish broadcasts and has recently added local broadcasting to its syndicated lineup.

It is a lay apostolate and is not owned or sponsored by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

For more information on the station or to view its broadcasting schedule, visit their Web site at RedeemerRadio.com.

Marketing professor publishes ethics guide for job interviews

BY MARY HAMANN AND DENNIS BROWN

NOTRE DAME — Recent research shows that only one in 20 corporate recruiters includes ethics inquiries when interviewing job candidates.

In addition, recruiters report that a rising number of job applicants act unethically during the interview process, such as embellishing a résumé or renegeing on a job offer.

Patrick Murphy, professor of marketing and co-director of the Institute for Ethical Business Worldwide at the University of Notre Dame, has written a brief guide on ethics for the recruitment process to inform job seekers and recruiters. The guide covers the benefits of ethical work environments, includes sample questions which recruiters and job seekers can pose during an interview, and lists unethical behaviors to be avoided.

“This guide will be widely used and valued by our organization in its recruiting efforts,” said Harold Tinkler, chief ethics and compliance officer for Deloitte & Touche USA. “The clear, simple and professional approach for providing guidelines to both interviewers and interviewees will help us to more fully integrate ethical considerations into the interview process.”

The two-sided guide will be distributed to Notre Dame stu-

dents as well as to recruiters through college and university career centers. It also is available online at

www.ethicalbusiness.nd.edu and will be distributed more widely by the project’s cosponsors, the fellows program of the Ethics Resource Center and the Business Roundtable Institute for Corporate Ethics.

Founded in 1922 and based in Washington, D.C., the Ethics Resource Center is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement of organizational ethics through research and the measurement of ethics and compliance programs in corporations.

The Business Roundtable Institute for Corporate Ethics is an independent entity established in partnership with Business Roundtable — an association of 160 chief executive officers from leading companies. Based in Charlottesville, Va., the institute brings together leaders from business and academics to fulfill its mission to enhance the link between ethical behavior and business practice through executive education programs, practitioner-focused research and outreach.

Notre Dame’s Institute for Ethical Business Worldwide, founded in 2001, brings business leaders to campus, holds an annual ethical dimensions in research conference, and encourages dialogue among students, faculty, alumni and business executives to promote ethical business behavior.

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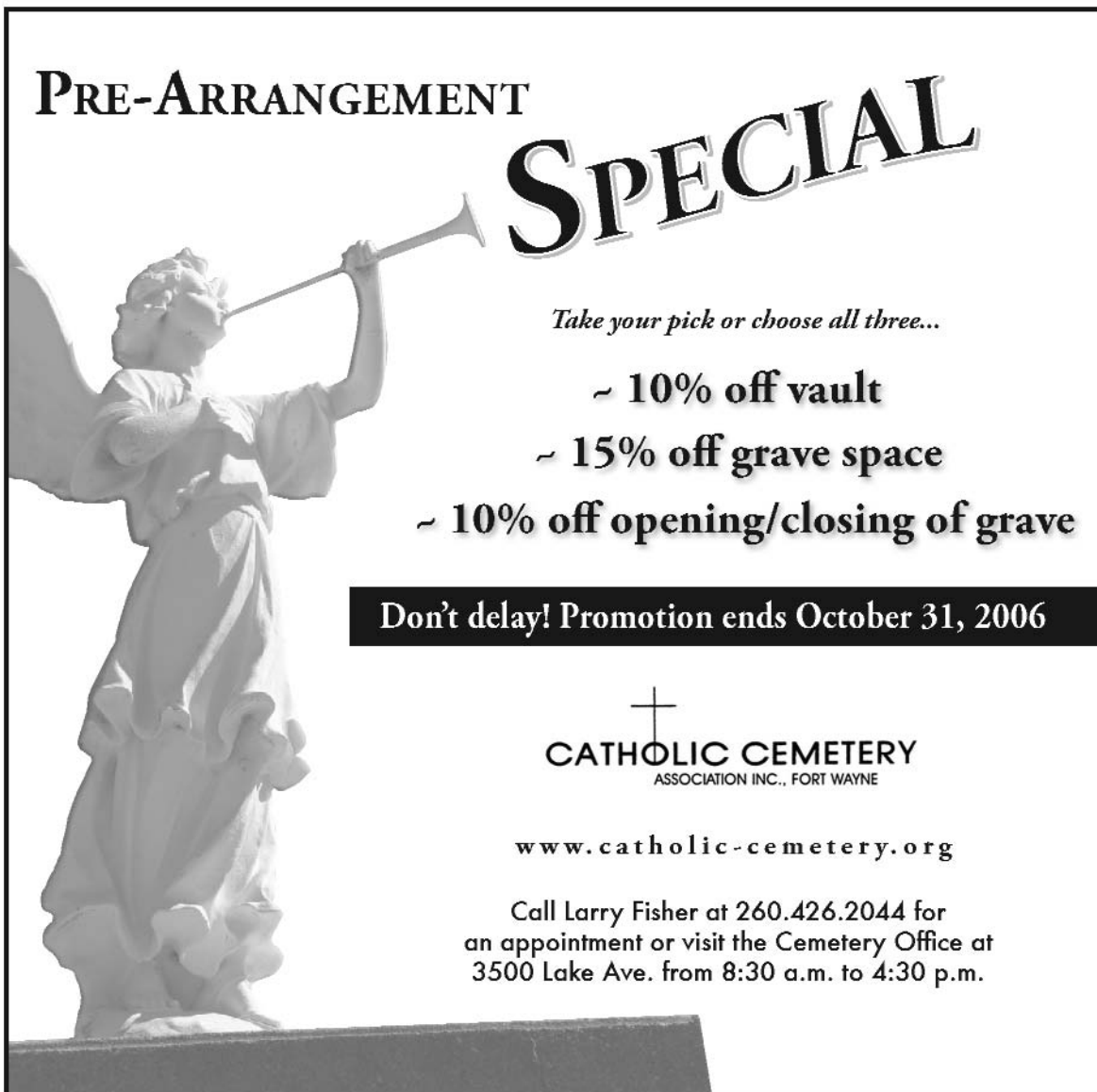
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EDITORIAL

Promotion of ethics to young is encouraging

It is encouraging to see the various new initiatives by the University of Notre Dame to teach and encourage ethical behavior in young people and in adults.

We reported in our Aug. 13 issue about a new program originating with Notre Dame psychology professor Clark Power to motivate children and their parents to view youth sports as recreational play that develops virtue and Christian behavior. Power, director of Notre Dame's Center for Ethical Education, teaches that one should be motivated to play sports primarily for the joy of the activity, with respect for rules, self and opponent.

Thus, winning should be a secondary goal, and rude and offensive behavior should be out of bounds for spectators as well as participants.

In this week's special section on Faith in the Workplace, we report on another Notre Dame initiative created by Patrick Murphy, professor of marketing and co-director of Notre Dame's Institute for Ethical Business Worldwide. Murphy has written a guide on ethics in job seeking and recruiting, in which he identifies unethical behaviors and points out the benefits of an ethical work environment.

Since our culture glorifies personalities from the sports and entertainment industries who often act unethically and immorally, it is essential to stress the importance of ethical behavior and to teach these values to children and young adults. The Notre Dame programs attempt to do this, but these programs alone can't do the job: The responsibility for teaching ethical behavior to young people and encouraging it among other adults rests on every one of us, and should guide our daily actions.

For example, if children see their parents steal products from their job sites, this sends the message that stealing is appropriate if it is done discreetly. If children see adults accept excessive change from a cashier, they assume that one has no obligation to correct such an error. If children see adults lie their way out of sticky situations, they will learn to do the same thing. And if children see adults take credit for someone else's work, they will perceive this as the easy way out of a tough assignment.

If we want our children's heroes and heroines to be the everyday people who act with honor in the difficult situations of day-to-day life, we must continually model ethical behavior ourselves and praise it in other people. Then, our children's sports heroes will become the athletes who gives their all for their teams and act with dignity, rather than the mouthy athletes who get television time because they behave outrageously.

And their role models will be the everyday people who act heroically, like the cash-strapped young mother who returns the wallet full of money she finds, or the struggling student who rejects a chance to cheat on a test.

Life can be hard. Oftentimes we are tempted to take unethical shortcuts to ease our burdens, but unethical shortcuts ultimately harm the individual and society.

It is good to be reminded by the Notre Dame initiatives that ethical behavior, on the other hand, builds character and self-esteem and infuses Christian values into a world that too often lacks values of any kind.

The fact that many people make the playing field uneven by their unethical behavior should not tempt us to act in a similar manner: It should reinforce the necessity to act with honor and virtue, always.

Plan B poses risks and ethical concerns

We are dismayed to see that the Food and Drug Administration has approved over-the-counter sale of the Plan B "morning after pill" to women 18 and older. The fact that this medication will cause an abortion if a woman is pregnant is reason enough to object to this decision, but there are plenty of other reasons, too.

It will be impossible to keep minors from obtaining the drug, for teens can easily get other adult products like alcohol from complicit non-parental adults. And Planned Parenthood has announced already it will push to have the age limit lowered, further eroding the role of parents in medical decisions affecting their children.

Furthermore, the lack of medical supervision for any female taking this powerful drug, apparently as frequently as she pleases, presents great health risks. The easy availability of the drug also facilitates coercive behavior by sexual partners who reject the responsibilities of possible parenthood.

We also are concerned about the pressure already put on pharmacists to dispense the drug, even if they have a conscientious objection because of its abortifacient qualities.

This is a harmful decision that should not stand.

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

Real steps must be taken toward Mideast peace

When will we have enough killing and rampage? When will all countries of our world realize that terrorism and war benefit none of us?

We, as members of the General Council of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, add our voice to those of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, a national organization of 850 leaders of communities of Catholic sisters, in calling for an immediate and unconditional ceasefire by the Israeli army and the Hezbollah militia currently engaged in violent combat in Lebanon, Israel and Gaza.

Each day when we open our newspapers, or watch television news, attacks in the Middle East seem to be extremely brutal, randomly killing dozens and dozens of innocent civilians each day who are trying desperately to flee from harm's way.

If we all raise our voices loud enough, perhaps Hezbollah will hear the condemnation of their

deliberate invasion of Israeli borders, abduction of two Israeli soldiers and the targeting of Israeli citizens. The Hezbollah militia, which does not act in the name of the Lebanese government, has gravely endangered the citizens of Lebanon, the fragile democracy of that nation and the infrastructure that supports the country.

If we raise our voices simultaneously in a different direction, perhaps Israel will hear our condemnation of disproportionate response, killing and wounding hundreds of citizens of Lebanon, and inflicting massive damage on the essential infrastructure of that country.

If we raise our voices in unison to President George W. Bush and our lawmakers, perhaps his administration will stop its obstructionist postures and delaying tactics at the United Nations and within the international community. The deliberate postponement of any efforts to bring violence to an immediate halt before beginning diplomatic negotiations prolongs the terrible suffering of the Lebanese and Israeli peoples and worsens an already horrific humanitarian crisis. We call upon members of the United States Congress to act decisively and immediately mandate that the

United States join with the international community to end the violence now.

As the killing continues, humanitarian efforts are limited. Food and medical supplies are in critically short supply. Vehicles carrying food and medicine are often mistaken or misidentified for military transport vehicles, therefore becoming targets for attack.

We commit ourselves along with those from other religious communities to exercise all of our rights and duties as citizens to urge our leaders to act as responsible members of the world community. We join our prayer with religious people of all faiths who long for peace, who believe in a God of peace, and who are working to make God's dream for a world at peace a reality.

Let peace prevail!
Sincerely in Providence,

Ann Margaret O'Hara, SP,
general superior
Denise Wilkinson, SP,
vicar/general officer
Marsha Speth, SP, general officer
Nancy Reynolds, SP,
general officer
Paula Damiano, SP, general officer
Marie McCarthy, SP,
general officer

Drawing peace closer

BY FATHER WILLIAM PEIL

If Dec. 8 is the feast of the Immaculate Conception of Mary, it makes sense that nine months later, this coming Friday, Sept. 8, is the feast of her birth.

It's a good time to recall a promise she made.

After telling the three children at Fatima that if her requests were not heeded, Russia would spread its errors throughout the world, that there would be many martyrs, and whole nations would be destroyed — which has happened — she said: "In the end, my Immaculate Heart will win out. The holy father will consecrate Russia to me. Russia will be converted, and a certain period of peace will be given to the world."

A certain period of peace. Can that time be hastened?

Why not? In describing the anguish of the last days of planet earth, our Lord said: "For the sake of the elect, those days will be shortened." — Mt 24:22.

If more people would heed the requests Mary made at Fatima, why not say the time between now and the promised period of peace can be shortened and that blessed peace for the world, so now shattered by violence and bloodshed, can be drawn closer?

What requests? The daily rosary. "Terco." Every time Mary requested the daily rosary through the three children, according to Lucy, the oldest, she

used the word "terco," in Portuguese meaning "a third," in other words the third part of the rosary, the five decades either of the joyful, the sorrowful or the glorious mysteries — which was the composition of the rosary at that time in 1917. Now there are the mysteries of light added by Pope John Paul II. But only five decades were ever indicated by Mary to be prayed daily.

Other requests were sacrifices "for poor sinners" (Mary's own words) so they wouldn't go to hell, the vision of which the three children were shown briefly, to their utter distress. Lucy said: "This sight lasted only a moment, and we must thank Our Lady for having promised beforehand to take us to heaven, or I believe we would have died of fright and horror."

And, in a later apparition to Lucy in 1925, receiving Communion on the first Saturday of each month, promising "at the hour of death, with the graces needed for their salvation, all those who on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, shall confess and receive holy Communion, recite five decades of the rosary, and, besides, keep me company for 15 minutes while meditating on the mysteries of the rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me." The "confess" part has been interpreted as meaning within eight days before or after.

Shorten the time. If not by the

first Saturdays, at least by the daily rosary and offering for "poor sinners" some huge disappointment, or deprivation, in one's life.

Russia has not yet been "converted" as far as can be discerned, but ever since Pope John Paul II consecrated the human race, including Russia, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary March 25, 1984 in St. Peter's Square, things have changed. Within only a few months afterwards, there was a change in Russian leadership that led to the collapse of the Soviet Union and freedom for many previously enslaved nations. The atmosphere is fertile for the conversion of Russia. If not yet accomplished, it can be said, hopefully, to be "on the way."

The "period of peace" awaits the human race. The gap between then and now can be shortened — by alert elect.

Father William Peil is a retired priest of the Diocese of Gary. He resides in Fort Wayne.

Catholics have been given the greatest of treasures in the Mass

I belong to a parish where a large percentage of the parishioners are in the upper economic scale. My observation is that the majority have few children, mostly two. I should not be judgmental, but common sense says that birth control is being practiced. Should they be receiving Communion if this is a moral sin? — J.C., South Bend

In order for a person to commit a mortal sin, three things must be present. First, the action must be grave matter. God's word, which comes to us through Scripture and the tradition of the church, tells us those things that are grave matter. Second, one must have sufficient knowledge that a particular action is grave matter. Finally, a person must be free in choosing that action.

With this being said, it is certainly true that the use of artificial birth control in order to render a couple sterile is grave matter. Thus, if a person uses contraception, having sufficient knowledge that contraception is grave matter and having freely chosen that action, that person has committed a mortal sin, that is, that person has separated himself from God. A person in a state of mortal sin should never receive holy

Communion until they have repented and, generally speaking, have received the sacrament of reconciliation.

I believe, then, that there are two separate issues in your question. First, are many Catholic married couples using contraception? You imply that the answer is yes, and I think that this is not an unreasonable assumption.

However, it must be kept in mind also that there are a good number of Catholic couples who would like to have more children but carry the cross of infertility.

Second, this is a question that cannot be answered because from the outside one cannot judge whether another person is in a state of mortal sin. Only God knows the person's true knowledge of an evil act or the freedom with which a person acted. Therefore, for all these reasons you are right in implying that we should not be judgmental.

This does highlight the need for the church continually to proclaim the Gospel in this area. It should continually be proclaimed that contraception is a grave evil, which destroys marriages and society, as Pope Paul VI warned, and that freely choosing the use of contraception

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

with full knowledge, also destroys one's relationship with God.

If we go to Mass throughout the week and then miss Sunday Mass due to an insignificant reason, does the Catholic Church still believe that it is a mortal sin and that if unconfessed, God will condemn us to hell? Also, if Catholics must go to Mass in order to be saved, how are members of other religions saved who do not have that rule? — K.M., Fort Wayne.

Yes, purposefully missing Sunday Mass is a grave sin. And yes, if one dies unrepentant of a mortal sin committed, then God judges that that person has chosen to be separated from him forever in hell. Please, though, refer to the answer to the previous question concerning what is necessary to commit a mortal sin. By the way,

any Mass attended after 4 p.m. on Saturday evening or anytime on Sunday fulfills the obligation to attend Mass. A wedding Mass on Saturday evening, for example, would fulfill the obligation.

As for the second part of your question, we believe that in the Catholic Church, God has given us the fullness of the Christian faith. This means that in the Catholic Church can be found everything that God wants us to have in order to be saved and to live the Christian life. So purposefully to reject something, which is essential to the living of the Christian life is like saying, "God, I want to live as a Christian on my own terms." Sunday Mass is one of those things that is essential to what it means to be a Christian.

Unfortunately, because of the divisions in the body of Christ, not all Christians have access to everything that God wants them to have in order to live the Christian life, such as the Eucharist. However, God does not hold us accountable for those things that are beyond our control or for those things that we do in true ignorance or with lack of freedom. Therefore, those that are not Catholic are not held responsible for Sunday Mass

because they do not have true access to the Mass.

We as Catholics, though, are held responsible because we do have access to what God has given us in order to live the fullness of the Christian life. We should recall Christ's words from Luke 12:48, "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much, and still more will be demanded of the person entrusted with more."

We as Catholics have been given the greatest of treasures in the Mass, and God wishes this gift to bear great fruit in our lives.

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.

Great places — Chicago's Catholic architecture

When I was a choirboy, one of the most ethereal motets we sang was Anton Bruckner's setting of a text from the old Mass for the Dedication of a Church, "Locus iste a Deo factus est" ("This dwelling is God's handiwork"). Once, there were no shortage of Catholic churches where Bruckner's "Locus iste" could be sung without a sense of irony. That's no longer the case, alas, given the train wreck that is Catholic Church architecture in America these past two generations. I am not nostalgic about the pre-Vatican II liturgy. It was often celebrated in execrable Latin with saccharine music and little sense of ritual propriety; "lost like a Jesuit during Holy Week" was a happy put-down of rubrical incompetence that, in truth, applied far beyond the Society of Jesus. Still, sloppy liturgy was often celebrated in magnificent churches: embodiments of the conviction that this place was, indeed, God's handiwork, and that here the human met the divine in a singular way. Nor is all the bad architecture we find in today's church a byproduct of the Second Vatican Council. St. John's Abbey Church in Collegeville, Minn., is a case in point: designed in a brutalist form of the International Style by Marcel Breuer, it was begun in 1953, when no one imagined a Vatican II. And for all that St. John's Abbey has given the church in America, Breuer's composition strikes me as a telling example of how certain architectural forms simply do not lend themselves to Christian worship, because they cannot convey a sense of the tran-

scendent or of this world's permeability to the transcendent. Of course, measured against the Pizza Hut-imitation churches that now clutter the U.S. Catholic landscape, St. John's Abbey Church has a certain ... distinction. But that is damning with very faint praise indeed.

All of which is by way of grumpy introduction to something splendid: a wonderful new book, "Heavenly City: The Architectural Tradition of Catholic Chicago." The text, by Denis McNamara of Chicago's Mundelein Seminary, explains how Catholics built magnificent urban churches, once upon a time, and why those churches are decorated the way they are; James Morris's stunning photographs bring the results to light for those unfortunate enough not to spend enough time in the Great American City. "Heavenly City" is so beautifully illustrated that I can imagine using it as a source of prayer — as many Catholics pray with icons today. It would be fatuous to pick a favorite from the riches that McNamara and Morris lay before the reader. Suffice it to say that they offer almost 70 examples of churches, built in various styles over more than a century, which testify to their builders' belief that a church is the "domus Dei et porta coeli" ("the house of God and the gate to heaven"), not simply the "domus ecclesiae" ("the house of the church"). And that, I suggest, is the key to understanding the demise of church architecture in our time: like much else that has gone awry with the once-bright promise of mid-century liturgical renewal (which was rarely taken more seriously than in



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

some of those Chicago churches), the idea that the liturgy is something we do, rather than our privileged participation in something God is doing, is the nub of the problem. Or as one prominent liturgist recently wrote, "If material edifices have any intrinsic meaning, it is because of the community who assembles there and what they do when they are gathered — namely, hear the word of God proclaimed, break that word for one another, and celebrate the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ in the various sacramental rites."

In other words, it's all about us. Or mostly about us, with the occasional nod toward the incarnate word of God, whose body and blood we receive in the most holy Eucharist. "Heavenly City" reminds us that, because our churches are homes for the Blessed Sacrament, it is God himself who gives those buildings their real and full depth of meaning. If we remembered that, we might start building beautiful churches again.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for September 3, 2006

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: concern about what we put into ourselves and what we give from our hearts. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

JERUSALEM	ATE	DO NOT EAT
HANDS	TRADITION	ELDERS
MARKETPLACE	CUPS	WELL DID
ISAIAH	HONORS	WORSHIP ME
SAID TO THEM	HEAR ME	OUTSIDE
EVIL THOUGHTS	THEFT	MURDER
ADULTERY	DECEIT	ENVY

EVIL THOUGHTS

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

LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Paola Fabrizi, who has worked at the council since 1969.

Like many at the council, Fabrizi is ambivalent about the move.

"Naturally, there's an emotional attachment to these offices, because they are a reminder of all that's been accomplished. But the new office is also beautiful, and it's good to turn the page," she said.

Some of the most precious memories were captured in photos that have long hung on the walls of the council's office: sessions of

Vatican II, Pope Paul VI's historic meeting with Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Athenagoras, and Pope John Paul II seated with ecumenical leaders in Assisi, Italy.

They'll all be dusted off and placed in the new locale, which has a better display area.

As workers wrapped up the last of the furniture, still hanging on the wall of the old conference room was a gilded icon showing the embrace of Sts. Peter and Andrew — the patron saints of the Western and Eastern churches. It was a gift of Patriarch Athenagoras to Pope Paul.

"Don't worry, we're taking that with us," said Fabrizi.

Sports

CYO ATHLETES ENCOURAGED TO ENTER NFL-SPONSORED COMPETITION An NFL-sponsored Punt-Pass-Kick Competition will be held at Homestead High School on Sunday, Sept. 17, at 10 a.m. All proceeds will benefit the Boys and Girls Clubs of Fort Wayne. All CYO students age 8-15 are encouraged to attend. For more information contact Sofia Rodriguez at sofia@visionsmkt.com or (260) 466-3600.

New Haven CYO team opens with 'family affair'

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Coach Joe Wharton is pleased the St. John the Baptist New Haven team "finally has some eighth graders." This year's roster includes 19 of them as compared to just four a year ago. There are also 10 seventh graders on the team who came up from a winning-sixth-grade season.

"We're experienced, lack a little in size, but have great team speed," Wharton said before the season opener against Holy

Cross. He also said, "We are looking to build on the 2005 win total of one."

And build they did. The Raiders laid a great foundation with a big win over Holy Cross in the first game of the day at Zollner Stadium on Sunday, Aug. 27. Wharton summarized after the Sunday game, "It was kind of a McCarthy show."

Brothers Mike and Nick McCarthy scored all five Raider touchdowns, and cousin Greg McCarthy added the 3-point-after-touchdowns. Nick scored a rushing touchdown and a reception from quarterback Kyle

Sovine. Two of Mike's touchdowns came from rushing, while the third came on the opening kick off return at the start the second half.

The Raiders led 22-0 at the half and the final was 36-8.

Holding Holy Cross to just a touchdown, Wharton feels strong about his defense this season. Tim Tippman had an interception and Leighton Painter had some big receptions for the Raiders in Sunday's game.

Other volunteers coaching this year include Brad Bodette, Steve Henry, Mark Watts, Troy Hoffer and Ed Brames.

St. Rose-St. Louis CYO volleyball team has high expectations

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE— The 2005 St. Rose-St. Louis Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) volleyball team had an impressive 21-3 finish in what was predicted to be a "rebuilding year." They won the blue league (small school) CYO tournament for the second year in a row. And they lost just two eighth graders. This year, in her rookie season as varsity coach, Lori Wagner has "very high expectations."

The Twins return five eighth graders: Abby Gerardot and Katie Kayser who will play middle; Elizabeth Swygart, setter; and outside setters, Jenna Scott and Madison Smith. Rounding out the lineup will be seventh-grade-setter Alisha Gerardot. The rest of the roster includes seventh graders: Allyssa Bosler (who played as a sixth grader), Tessa Kayser, Abby Heimann, Katie Griebel, Madeline Jacquay and Kristina Lay.

With practices just underway

for the 2006 season, Coach Wagner is looking to her eighth graders for leadership. She hopes to "work the bugs out of the rotation" before the games officially begin.

Wagner has coached with Laure Gerardot at the fifth-and-sixth level for the past eight years. Gerardot's daughters have moved on to the college and high school levels now, so Wagner has moved up with her daughters and is adjusting to the more competitive style of varsity play.

Wagner says she has been used to the "learning" league at the fifth-and-sixth-grade level. This year, Wagner has 12 players on her team. She says, "It is going to be a challenge. Not everyone will get as much playing time as they would like but that is what has to happen in order for us to stay competitive and have a good season." Wagner's daughter, Ashleigh Gerardot, will assist her while Tina Voors has taken on the fifth-and-sixth-grade spot.



Poor Handmaids ministry assists poor children in Africa with toys, balls

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

DONALDSON — It may not seem like a lot to children here in the United States, but in an African school, balls bring joy and smiles to children, some who have nothing to play with. Unfortunately, the balls are now sitting waiting to be sent.

"Money is still needed to pay for balls to be shipped," noted Julie Dowd, communications director of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ (PHJC).

The project, which has been coordinated in Donaldson, was started after Sister Germaine Hustedde, a Poor Handmaids sister who ministers at the St. Francis of Assisi School in Mintunguu, Kenya, mentioned the lack of toys available to her students.

"The older children use the few balls they do have and the younger children have nothing," Sister Germaine told Susie Black, the coordinator of the PHJC Ministry Services during a recent visit.

The African school, which is private, has approximately 250

students, 80 of which are boarders and the others are day students. Many of the boarders are orphans whose parents have died of AIDS. The school is kindergarten through eighth grade and includes both boys and girls.

Friends and families of those who work and volunteer with the Poor Handmaids donated approximately 300 balls.

To offer assistance call Sister Mary Jo Shingler, PHJC development director at (574) 935-1737.

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USF's Kurtz, Knepper on VSN Preseason Super Six

GRAND ISLAND, Neb. — University of Saint Francis senior Brian Kurtz and junior William Knepper have been named No. 1 at their respective positions in the Victory Sports Network Preseason 'Super Six.' Kurtz (Fort Wayne, Bishop Luers High School) has played inside linebacker for the Cougars the last three seasons and was No. 4 on the 2005 VSN Super Six Linebacker list. Knepper (Warsaw, Warsaw High School) was an NAIA All-American at interior defensive line in 2005, is No. 1 at that position to start the 2006 season.

This is the fifth football season that VSN (formerly NAIAFOOTBALL.NET) has released the list known as the "Super Six."

Keeping kids safe on the Internet — at school or away

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

It's back to school time — a time when kids get back to communicating regularly with their friends, often online. They also may enjoy talking to other people besides their classmates at school, and they may enjoy expressing themselves without parents watching from over their shoulders whenever possible.

While you want your kids to have freedom, you don't want to worry that an Internet predator is just around the corner waiting for your child to make the wrong move.

MySpace.com, a popular Internet hangout for kids, is one of those places where kids spend time with their friends and peers. While most of the time such sites have no problems, parents and students should use caution when posting personal information on the Internet, advises school administrators from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

"We tell students not to assume that other people viewing information on blogging sites are who they portray themselves to be. I encourage them to care for each other and to be charitable in what they post about others, both classmates and adults," notes Marian High School, Mishawaka, Principal Carl Loesch.

Loesch and other school administrators at Marian made sure last school year that students understood the risk of chat and information rooms by inviting a special guest to a convocation. "We had a wonderful presentation for our entire student body from Mitch Kajzer of the St. Joseph County High Tech crimes unit. He focused on providing information for our students to make safe choices, relaying information of cases in our area that involved adults soliciting children through the Internet. Our students responded positively to this presentation," notes Loesch.

At Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne, newsletters were sent to parents on the issue of "dangers of the Internet," says Principal

Mary Keefer. At Bishop Luers, she points out that the schools takes measures to keep kids safe.

"We are very careful with the blocking of all sites that could be unsafe for our students. No student may use our school computers for any e-mailing of any kind," says Keefer. She adds that they have had "no problems with the issue (use of Internet) in house. Our handbook tells parents and students of our rules, regulations and concerns."

Keefer says she has simple words of wisdom that parents should take to heart when allowing their children unlimited use of the computer at home: "Our advice is always the same. Parents must be tuned in to what their children are doing on the computer. They must inform their young people of the dangers of placing personal information into cyberspace for anyone and everyone to see."

"We tell students that once you post a blog on myspace.com, it is in cyberspace forever," says Saint Joseph's High School Principal and Director of Student Life, Susan Richter. "Students do not know who may read it — we tell them never to give physical description, address, phone number, school name, etc. We used 'Learn the Four-Rs of Internet Safety' from www.isafe.org."

Saint Joseph's also held an assembly with Commander Mitchell Kajzer (High Tech Crimes Unit and a representative from the prosecutor's office), which Richter says "was well received by students."

"We hope to have a similar program this fall for our parents," she says. "Unfortunately, the school cannot control what students do after they leave school, but with the Internet, many issues do come back into the school."

"We handle each case the best way possible," Richter says.

"High tech does create more problems. I always tell students to know who they are talking with online and be careful who has their e-mail address," Richter says.

At school, Richter notes there

are "safeguards and security to prevent students from using sites like MySpace.com while at school. We are checking where students are surfing while in school. Students also have to sign an agreement that they will use the Internet responsibly while in school."

"Our 'Student-Parent Handbook' has an entire section on computer usage — what is acceptable vs. nonacceptable. Consequences are spelled out and our technology director is working with our faculty to monitor student computer use," she adds.

Internet safety tips from MySpace.com

Taking time today is well worth it to ensure that your children, no matter what their age, are safe on the Internet.

MySpace.com has several tips that can help kids and parents feel comfortable about Internet use:

- "Talk to your kids about why they use MySpace, how they communicate with others and how they represent themselves on MySpace," notes MySpace.com.

- While using the Web site, MySpace notes that kids "should not lie about how old they are. MySpace members must be 14 years of age or older," says MySpace, and notes that they take special precautions to protect younger members and are "not able to do so if they do not identify themselves as such. MySpace will delete users whom we find to be younger than 14, or those misrepresenting their age."

- Kids, because of their openness, often say things that adults

would never consider saying. But it can be a safety detriment that they should be reminded about. Parents should always remind their children not to post anything that could embarrass them later or expose them to any danger. Although MySpace is public, teens sometimes think that adults can't see what they post. Tell them that they shouldn't post photos or any other information about themselves.

- Teens are often more trusting than adults as well. Remind them that people aren't always who they say they are, so they should be careful when adding "strangers to their friends list. It's fun to connect with new MySpace friends from all over the world, but members should be cautious when communicating with people they don't know. Teens should talk to parents if they want to meet an on line friend in person, and if the parent thinks it is safe, a meeting should take place in public and with friends or a trusted adult present, notes MySpace.com's safety tips.

- If your child ever does encounter a problems with harassment, hate speech or inappropriate content, it should be reported. "They should report it to MySpace or to the authorities," says MySpace Safety Tips.

Are you worried?

What Are Signs That Your Child Might Be At Risk On-line?

- Your child spends large amounts of time on-line, especially at night.
- You find pornography on your child's computer.
- Your child receives phone calls from men you don't know

or is making calls, sometimes long distance, to numbers you don't recognize.

- Your child receives mail, gifts, or packages from someone you don't know.
- Your child turns the computer monitor off or quickly changes the screen on the monitor when you come into the room.
- Your child becomes withdrawn from the family.
- Your child is using an on line account belonging to someone else.

Attributed to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (F.B.I.) pamphlet, www.fbi.gov/publications/pguide/pguidee.htm

Cutting off Internet use not always the best idea

While many parents wonder whether it is worth the risk letting their child online by themselves or if there are special sites that they should block, the F.B.I. notes that "sex offenders have contacted children via most of the major online services and the Internet. The most important factors in keeping your child safe online are the utilization of appropriate blocking software and/or parental controls, along with open, honest discussions with your child, monitoring his or her online activity, and following the tips (in this pamphlet.)"

"Forbidding your child totally is not the answer says the F.B.I. There are dangers in every part of our society. By educating your children to these dangers and taking appropriate steps to protect them, they can benefit from the wealth of information now available on line."

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Book explores bringing Christian values into business

BY YORK YOUNG

Anyone serious about living their faith will look to the Lord and the church for guidance and direction, especially so when difficulties arise, whether in the area of personal relationships, illness, financial problems or even the workplace. The last of that list is the focus of "Doing the Right Thing at Work," by James L. Nolan (St. Anthony Messenger Press, \$12.95).

What are your core values? How do you implement those in the workplace? How do you treat others fairly — Christianly, if you will — when business is not going well? The questions and answers put forth by Nolan concerning the meshing of faith, business and ethics into Catholic living are adequate, but are targeted at too small of a demographic.

St. Anthony Messenger has done a noble job over the past several years releasing spiritual books with a practical focus that helps Catholic live more faith-filled lives. This time, though, they missed the boat a bit. If you are a business owner and/or are dealing with big corporations and lots of huge deci-

sions concerning employees, money and business practices, you may find some useful suggestions here. But for the rest of us — those trying to keep God at the center of our workday — the writing feels almost too pretentious. A lot of big words and ideas leaves the reader felling unsatisfied.

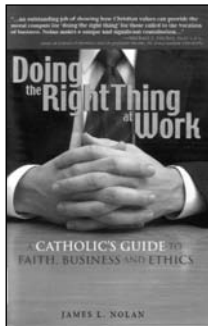
Nolan wraps his musings around reports of what occurred at sessions of the Woodstock Business Conference, an organization he has directed for several years. The majority of us are not going to connect very well with problems of corporate politics or making sure ethics are followed during million-dollar deals. We just want to learn how to get along with our coworkers, confront situations in a Christlike manner or fight for rights of employees (often ourselves) in the correct fashion.

To be fair, Nolan contributes a few good suggestions. For example: "As Christians in the world of work we are called by God to contribute to the sanctification of the world. This is a heavy-duty assignment. This is the mission to build

the kingdom of Christ." Nolan, however, just a paragraph before that quote, recounted Pope John Paul II's teaching, which could have much more impact if followed: "Christians charged with responsibility in the business world are challenged to combine the legitimate pursuit of profit with a deeper concern for the spread of solidarity and elimination of the scourge of poverty which continues to afflict so many members of the human family."

Oh, that our business leaders of the world would take that comment to heart. As I write this, the news is reporting that three of the major oil companies made more than \$5 billion in profits for the second quarter of 2006. While the working poor continues to try to make ends meet as their transportation expenses increase, it would seem the pursuit of profit has passed the legitimate stage in the oil-industry world.

With the revelation of corruption in major companies such as Enron, World.com, etc., it'd be nice if we got wind of some of the big-wigs doing the right thing.



'Curious George' premieres Sept. 4, PBS

BY DAVID DICERTO

NEW YORK (CNS) — PBS continues its long tradition of quality children's programming with "Curious George" a delightful educational series premiering Monday, Sept. 4, on public television stations (check local listings).

Based on the beloved books by Margret and H.A. Rey, and narrated by Emmy Award-winning actor William H. Macy, each of the 30 half-hour episodes contains two animated adventures involving the mischievous chimp and his friend,

the Man in the Yellow Hat, followed by classroom segments which apply concepts from the cartoon to the real world.

In the first installment, George finds himself in high-flying trouble when he gets entangled in a kite string, and later, craving cannoli, solves a mystery in an Italian restaurant.

The bite-size lessons are entertainingly incorporated into the stories in a way that avoids making learning feel like a chore.

Beyond teaching children about math, science and engineering, the series encourages young viewers to

follow George's insatiably inquisitive lead in being curious about the world around them.

Visually, fans of the "nice little monkey" will be happy that this nice little series stays true to the color palette and simplicity of the original storybooks.

With so many other kids' shows trying to outdo the competition with "cool" computer-animated effects, the gentle and refreshingly unflashy "Curious George" is all the more charming for its decidedly "unhip" approach.

PBS will also host a companion site at pbskids.org/curiousgeorge.

"Faith and Doubt at Ground Zero," Sept. 11, PBS

BY ANNE NAVARRO

NEW YORK (CNS) — The powerful yet emotionally draining "Frontline" program "Faith and Doubt at Ground Zero" examines the question of spirituality and evil in the aftermath of the horrific attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

The program, to be rerun Monday, Sept. 11, 10 p.m.-midnight EDT on PBS (check local listings), explores the challenges confronted by believers and nonbelievers as they try to cope with the difficult questions of good and evil, God's power in the face of malevolence and the potential for darkness within religion itself.

As with a lot of programs, specials and media coverage of Sept. 11, "Faith and Doubt" subjects its viewers to the dreadful images of the day: the twin towers sliced by planes then collapsing in a cloud of blinding debris and dirt; the confusion and chaos as people, covered in a thick layer of dust, flee to safety; and the tear-stained faces of family and friends desperate to know about their missing loved ones. This initial part of the film is difficult to watch, naturally, but it serves to set up the circumstances for the discussion that follows.

The program grapples with the questions of religion and faith through the reflections of a variety of people from survivors to the widow of a firefighter; from priests and rabbis to security guards and opera divas; from Christians and Jews to Buddhists, Muslims and atheists. Those interviewed speak with an unexpected candor about the challenges the horrible acts of Sept. 11 have placed on their faith.

A woman who lost her mother explains that despite being raised Irish-Catholic she had fallen away from the church. After Sept. 11, she found solace and comfort in her Catholic faith and its traditions, particularly the belief that her mother was in heaven.

But others speak of the futility of believing in a God who could not be bothered to intervene or simply isn't strong enough to pre-

vent evil of this magnitude. This particular point — whether God physically enters our lives or merely watches — is volleyed back and forth. The participants' words are heartfelt and poignant, whether they relate that the tragedy only affirms their belief in a higher power or affirms that there is no God at all. "How could a God be in the horror of what I saw?" one man sincerely asks.

"Faith and Doubt" also ponders the existence of evil and its connection to the potential for violence within the context of religion. "From the first moment I looked into that horror ... I recognized religion," says Msgr. Lorenzo Albacete. Rabbi Brad Hirschfield agrees. "Religion drove those planes into those buildings," he says.

This part of the program is more satisfyingly handled. The filmmakers speak with several religious leaders and scholars who now find themselves confronting the dark side of their faith and the potential danger of religious fervor. One Middle East expert described the attacks and the thought process leading up to it as a "rapturous celebration of death," which harkens back to Pope John Paul II's term "a culture of death." It seems to get at the heart of understanding what happened on Sept. 11.

The topic of faith is a difficult one — describing it, defining it, explaining it to those without any. "Faith and Doubt" manages to be thought-provoking and balanced in its presentation. One rabbi says his job is to help people live with the mystery of God, not unravel it, which seems close to the program's conclusion that there are no easy answers when it comes to faith.

Given graphic images and frank discussion about faith, religion and evil, parents should consider carefully whether their adolescent children will be able to handle watching the program.

Anne Navarro is a former staff member of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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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.

St. Therese Fall Festival

Fort Wayne — St. Therese Parish, 2304 Lower Huntington Rd., will have a fall festival on Saturday, Sept. 9, from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. Children's games and food booths open until 4:30 p.m. Madeline's Toybox will perform at noon and 3:30 p.m. Auction at 1 p.m. and bingo from noon to 3 p.m. and 50/50 cash raffle and other prizes. Dinner grilled from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mass at 5 p.m. followed by over 21 music and beverages until 11 p.m.

Little Flower Holy Hour

Fort Wayne — Father Daryl Rybicki, pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish, will celebrate the holy hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, Sept. 5, at 7:15 p.m. Join this special intention to pray for priests and vocations.

Charity luncheon held

South Bend — The Daughters of Isabella Notre Dame Circle 572 will hold their 59th annual charity luncheon "Lavender and Lace" on Sept. 16 at noon at the Blue Heron at Blackthorn. Tickets are \$25. Call (574) 287-1487 for reservations by Friday, Sept. 8. All proceeds benefit the developmentally challenged of St. Joseph County.

Hospice seeking volunteers

South Bend — CHAPC Chats: Volunteers are Mission Critical will be presented on Thursday, Sept. 7, from 9 to 10 a.m. and 6 to 7 p.m. for adults interested in exploring volunteer opportunities with The Center for Hospice and Palliative Care (CHAPC). These one hour programs offer an overview of the numerous volunteer openings at the agency. RSVP to Jackie at (574) 243-3100 by Sept. 6 if you plan to attend.

Card party and luncheon planned

South Bend — The Altar/Rosary Society of St. Casimir Parish,

1308 W. Dunham, is sponsoring a card party on Sunday, Sept. 10, at 1 p.m. A plate lunch and dessert will be served. Donation is \$4 and tickets available at the door. Bring your own cards.

Natural Family Planning classes

South Bend/Elkhart — Natural Family Planning classes will begin on Tuesday, Sept. 5, from 7-9 p.m. and Tuesday, Oct. 3, from 7-9 p.m. in the first floor Education Center of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center-South Bend. Classes in Spanish will begin on Monday, Sept. 11, from 6-8 p.m. at the St. Vincent Outreach Center in Elkhart. There is a \$15 fee for the initial session. For registration and information call The Natural Family Planning program office at (574) 234-5411 or Evelyn at St. Vincent's at (574) 389-9634 after 1 p.m. Individual appointments for instruction can also be arranged.

Traditional chicken dinner

Ege — A traditional fried chicken and ham dinner will be held at Immaculate Conception Parish, County Road 400S, 4 miles west of Laotto, on Sunday, Sept. 10, from noon to 5 p.m. Bingo, games, raffles and drawing for quilt.

Jewels from the treasure chest

Fort Wayne — A bookclub will meet at a local coffee house once a month beginning Sept. 18, and discuss and read excerpts from "The Treasury of Catholic Wisdom," by Father John Hardon, SJ. Call (260) 422-2959 or e-mail justadorehim@hotmail.com for information.

Vendors needed for craft bazaar

Fort Wayne — The Bishop Dwenger Music Boosters have openings for the craft bazaar to be held on Saturday, Nov. 11. Call Terry Luebke at (260) 483-5750 for information.

Legacy luncheon held

South Bend — The St. Vincent de Paul Society will celebrate its 100th anniversary with a Legacy Luncheon to be held at the University of Notre Dame Joyce Athletic and Convocation Center on Thursday, Sept. 7, from 11:30 a.m. till 1 p.m. The guest speaker will be Father Edward 'Monk' Malloy, CSC, president emeritus of the University of Notre Dame. Unique items will be available at a silent auction. For information contact Sean Wendlinder at (574) 251-4908.

Moving sale supports Holy Cross sisters

South Bend — The Sisters of the Holy Cross are having a moving sale on Saturday, Sept. 2, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Our Lady of Hungary Convent, 731 W. Calvert Street. Proceeds will benefit the Holy Cross ministry with the poor. For information call Sister Margie Lavonis at (574) 289-2531 or mlavonis@cscsisters.org.

Weekend retreat

Mishawaka — A weekend retreat will be held at St. Francis Convent on Friday evening and concludes Sunday noon Sept. 8-10. The theme of the retreat is "The Vibrancy of Life." The cost of the retreat is \$80. For registration and further details, please call Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

Mental illness educational classes and support group

South Bend — The local chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is offering a 12-week course beginning Tuesday, Sept. 12, for family members or friends of persons with mental illness as well as a nine week course for individuals with mental illness. Classes are free but registration is required. For more information call Kris at (574) 256-0725 (Family-to-Family Class) or Ann at (574) 259-3564

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Stephen G. Beck, 38, St. Vincent de Paul

Mary Ellen Smith, 81, St. Vincent de Paul

Carol Ann McLaughlin, 63, St. Charles Borromeo

Huntington

Harrold Wall, 79, St. Mary

Mishawaka

Susan L. Artusi, 59, St. Joseph

South Bend

Erma R. Gassensmith, 75, St. Anthony de Padua

Helen M. Majewski, 81, St. Adalbert

Charles P. McEndarfer, 85, St. Anthony de Padua

(Peer-to-Peer Class). Support groups are held twice a month for family members as well as support meetings for persons with the illness.

First Saturday devotions planned

Fort Wayne — The World Apostolate of Fatima will hold Devotions of Reparation at St. Joseph Church, corner of Brooklyn and Hale, on Saturday, Sept. 2. Reconciliation begins at 7:15 a.m., meditation at 7:30 a.m., rosary at 7:45 a.m. and Mass at 8 a.m. Breakfast and meeting will follow. All are welcome.

Birthday party for Our Lady

Fort Wayne — The Legion of Mary will have a birthday party for Mary 5:45-8 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 9, at the Our Lady of Good Hope parish hall, 7215 St. Joe Rd. The rosary with slides, a potluck dinner, door prizes, live music, games for children and a short talk about the history of the Legion of Mary are the planned activities. Call Connie Acierto at (260) 486-1001 by Sept. 5.

Diocesan guitar workshop planned

Fort Wayne — Demystifying Guitar Chords will be held Saturday, Sept. 16, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Church. Designed for intermediate and advanced players, the diocesan guitar workshop will teach you how chords are constructed and how to read advanced chord symbols. The workshop will also put reference materials in your hands that will aid you in your journey to chord mastery. Register online at www.diocesefwsb.org/WORSHIP/musicians.htm or by mail. Cost is \$15 per person. For further information, contact Ken Jehle at (260) 432-5113 ext. 325.

Knights plan fish fry

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, Sept. 1, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under. Fish, two sides and beverage are included.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Sept. 1, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$7, children (5-12) \$3. Chicken strips for \$7 and shrimp for \$8 will be available.

Alzheimer's memory walk

Fort Wayne — The Alzheimer's Association will have a memory walk on Saturday, Sept. 9, at Foster Park. Call (260) 420-5547 to register or make a donation.

Parish school celebrates 125 years

Elkhart — St. Vincent de Paul School, 1114 South Main St., is hosting a ribbon cutting ceremony and breakfast honoring special guests, which include community leaders and neighboring parishes, on Tuesday, Sept. 5. In 1881, St. Vincent de Paul School began with three Sisters of the Holy Cross.

First Sunday rosary for families

Fort Wayne — The first Sunday rosary for families will be at MacDougal Chapel on Sunday, Sept. 3, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. with Father Steve Colchin from St. Louis, Besancon-St. Rose, Monroeville attending.

St. Anne Society plans luncheon

South Bend — The St. Anne Society will have a luncheon card party on Sunday, Sept. 10, at 1 p.m. at Our Lady of Hungary School. Doors open at noon. Donation of \$5. Bring your own cards.

Fred Everett to Speak on Life Issues



Fred Everett, Co-Director of the diocesan Office of Family Life, will present an overview of Catholic teachings on life issues and the work of the Indiana Catholic Conference, Wednesday, September 13, 7 p.m., at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in the Cathedral Center. Refreshments will be served.

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Premed student collects supplies for mission trip

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Overwhelming health and medical needs both here and abroad make it difficult for any one person to know how to help those under served on the international scene. But one premed student, Jennifer Royal, has found a way to help.

This October, Royal, a sophomore at DePauw University in Greencastle, will be volunteering, along with 11 other students and 20 area medical doctors, on a mission trip to Quito, Ecuador.

The trip has been organized by the DePauw chapter of the Timmy Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides health-care and relevant medical and educational resources to specific international areas. The volunteer-supported foundation partners with medical facilities in countries such as Ecuador, Haiti, Honduras and others, to assist medically under-served children.

Royal, a 2005 graduate of Bishop Dwenger and lifelong member of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne, has always been interested in medicine. While adjusting to coursework in her biochemistry major last year at DePauw, she stumbled upon the Timmy Foundation.

"I saw an ad for the Timmy Foundation in the DePauw newsletter and decided to go to the meeting," says Royal.



JENNIFER ROYAL

DePauw, newly invested in the Timmy Foundation and their work, sent its first group of volunteers to Ecuador last year during fall break. Royal was able to learn about that trip through pic-

tures and stories relayed at the meeting.

"Though the children in the photos were living in poverty, they were still smiling," Royal says. "I had never been exposed to this. After hearing Dr. Chuck (Dietzen, founder of the Timmy Foundation) and seeing the slides I was deeply touched. I knew I had to go," she adds. And the wheels were put in motion.

Beginning this summer, Royal worked a summer job and did some babysitting to earn her fare for the mission trip. She has rallied the students at St. Vincent School to assist in fund raising for the effort as well. The sixth grade will hold a bake sale and donate the proceeds to the project. Bulletin requests have stimulated parish support in the form of tithe donations as well as gifts of vitamins to be offered to the children in Ecuador. Royal is orchestrating calls to area medical providers in hopes of obtaining sample medicines that will be

of help to the mission as well.

The trip will take place Oct. 14-21, during the week of DePauw's fall break. Royal and the 11 other students have been participating in training sessions in which they learn medical basics involving blood pressure checks, listening to the heart and pulse checks.

Royal is a trained emergency medical technician (EMT) and is excitedly anticipating her role in assisting the medical staff on the trip. "It's going to be really fun," she says. "Twenty doctors will be there to supervise. We will work with the children and help out with the basic stuff."

The group will live together in a camp and team with medical staff from the Tierra Nueva Foundation hospital, founded by Father Jose Carollo, to perform

medical exams on area children in school clinics from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. After returning to camp, the group will have the opportunity to attend daily Mass and tour the city.

Royal hopes to purchase locally-crafted products to sell back in the U.S. for a profit, which will immediately be sent back to Quito.

Parents Mike and Bea Royal and Jennifer's five siblings are excited that she will have this opportunity to help those in need. "My mom's a little nervous, but she really wanted me to do it," says Royal. "My brothers and sisters ... think it's cool."

Mom, Bea, explains this will be a humbling experience for her daughter, saying, "She already lives very frugally. But it will be good for her to see the world in a

different way."

Grandma, Jodie Butler-Koehl adds, "Jenni is resourceful and mature. She will be touched deeply by the Ecuador people. It will change her life."

Royal is grateful for the outpouring of assistance she is already receiving from her parish community and is currently accepting sample medications, Flintstone vitamins, medical supplies and equipment and monetary donations for this worthwhile mission.

For more information on the mission trip or to donate, contact Bea Royal at (260) 490-2149.

To learn about the Timmy Foundation visit their Web site at www.timmyfoundation.org.

Not ready for prime time catechism

'Wednesday Night Live' is a hit

BY DON CLEMMER

COLUMBIA CITY — The group that meets every other Wednesday night at St. Paul of the Cross Church is something of a dream come true for pastor Father Larry Kramer. The group, ranging from people in their 40s to their 70s, gathers to listen to presentations by Father Kramer on any of a number of faith-related issues, the sort of format Father Kramer had been trying — unsuccessfully — to set up since his early days as a priest.

"When I work with the kids in the schools, I always wish their parents were there," Father Kramer said, noting that many adults lack a deep understanding of their faith. This can be because they have not had any instruction since they were in school or that, for older people especially, much of it has changed since the Second Vatican Council.

And so, in the early summer of 2006, Father Kramer decided to give the idea another try. He pitched the idea to his congregation one Sunday, explaining that the format would entail only his presentation and questions — no comments.

"I reassured them that no one could run away with it," he said. To further ensure the group's success, the coordinator of activities, Kathy Kiester, suggested that they come up with a catchy name for the group, eventually going with "Wednesday Night Live with Father Larry."

"I said, 'Boy, that sounds just corny enough to work,'" Father Kramer recalls.

And it did work. The smallest nights have had over 20 people, and to the surprise of Father Kramer and everyone else, the group has been as large as 55 to 60 people.

Topics covered at Wednesday Night Live have included the real presence, marriage, the last



DON CLEMMER

Father Larry Kramer of St. Paul of the Cross Parish in Columbia City fields a question during a recent session of "Wednesday Night Live with Father Larry." This adult catechesis group has been a success at St. Paul of the Cross, thanks in part to its questions-only format and Father Kramer's insistence that learning about the church can be fun.

things (death, judgment, heaven and hell), war and, most recently, the priesthood.

"More people were interested in death than they were in marriage if you're going by numbers," Father Kramer notes of the sessions.

In the session on priesthood, attended by *Today's Catholic*, Father Kramer addressed the recent controversy caused by eight women in Pittsburgh who claimed to have been ordained priests, noting that John Paul II had said no to the question of women's ordination, making it just short of an infallible article of faith.

Father Kramer also spoke on the hierarchy, saying that there are really only three levels: deacon, priest and bishop. Beyond that, he said wryly, is decoration. For instance, a cardinal is simply a bishop who has been selected to be a special advisor to the pope who can vote to choose his successor. Or a monsignor is simply a priest bestowed with an honorary title by the pope, at the request of a bishop, either as a

way of thanking him for his service or giving him some clout.

"I call myself a non-signor," Father Kramer joked.

On the topic of sexual abuse of minors by priests, Father Kramer recalled how the attitude and response to that behavior has changed over the years and cited the importance of getting abusers out of active ministry but not turning them loose so that the diocese cannot locate them.

"We have to be a little less naive and keep working together," he concluded.

Reaction among parishioners at St. Paul of the Cross has been highly favorable, with many of them praising Father Kramer's knowledge of history, depth of thought and willingness to approach church issues in a way that respects them and gives them real answers.

"They expected the same old drill, but it wasn't the same old drill," Father Kramer said as one probable reason for Wednesday Night Live's success. "We can crash through that barrier of boredom. ... And they find out it's fun."

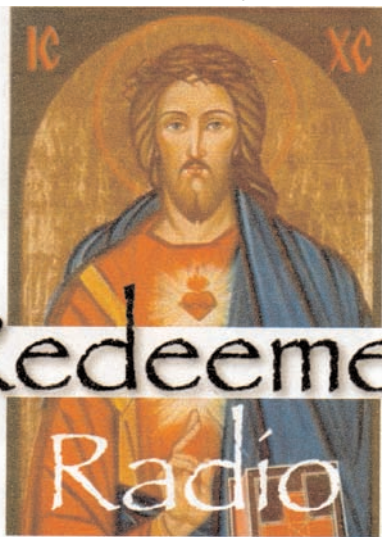
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