

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

'Wells of Hope' offers invitation to faith renewal and healing

BY KAY COZAD

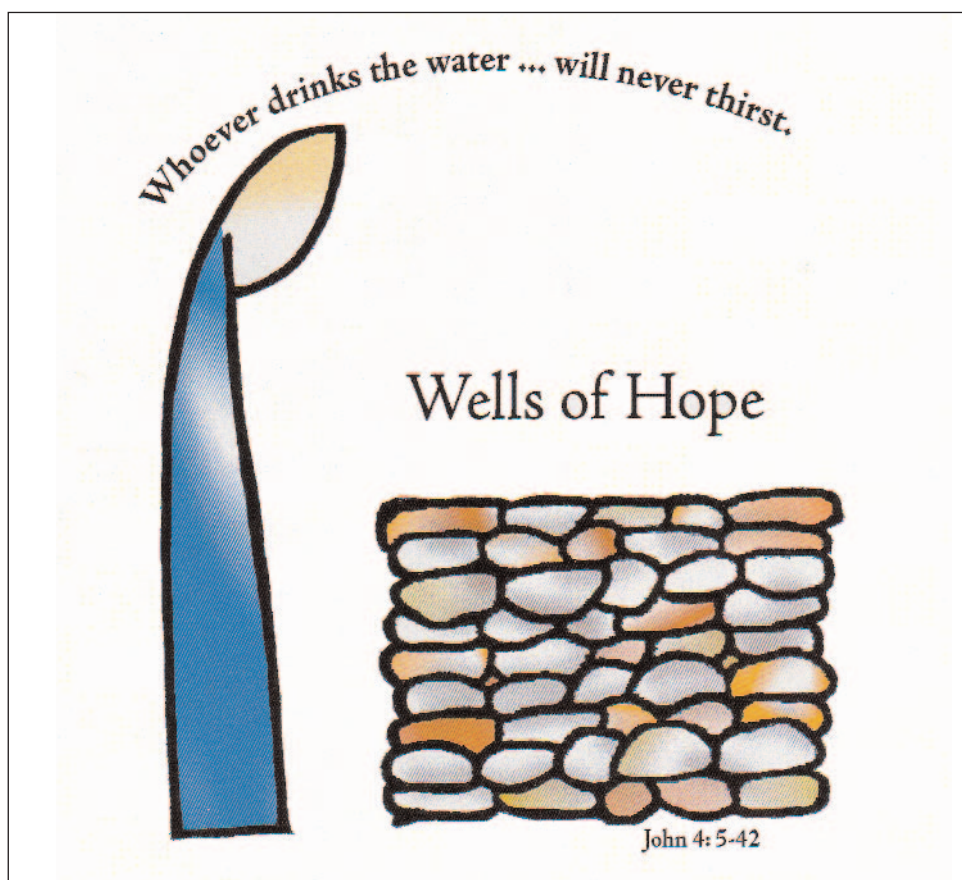
FORT WAYNE — With the coming of Advent this year, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will celebrate its sesquicentennial jubilee — the 150th anniversary of the diocese. The celebration is already underway with the traveling Jubilee Pilgrim Cross marking a path across the diocese. Other programs include Disciples in Mission, which began an internal spiritual renewal in the diocese and the desire to reach out to those who no longer actively practice their faith.

In response to this desire, with the enthusiastic approval of Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Ginny Kohrman and Sister Jolene Heiden, SSND, of the Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization, along with Linda Furge of the Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry, spiritual director Gervaise Bastian and Father Ed Erpelding, pastor consultant, have developed Wells of Hope, a process they hope will assist active Catholics across the diocese to reach out to others in the name of Jesus Christ.

Wells of Hope was designed as an outreach evangelical tool that would identify and invite persons who have left the church to reestablish contact with the faith once again. The essence of the process is based in Scripture, says Kohrman, inspired by the story of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, found in the Gospel of John 4:5-42.

Following two years of program development, a letter from the bishop was recently sent to all diocesan pastors inviting them to investigate the process of Wells of Hope. Currently 32 parishes will be participating in the training and outreach mission.

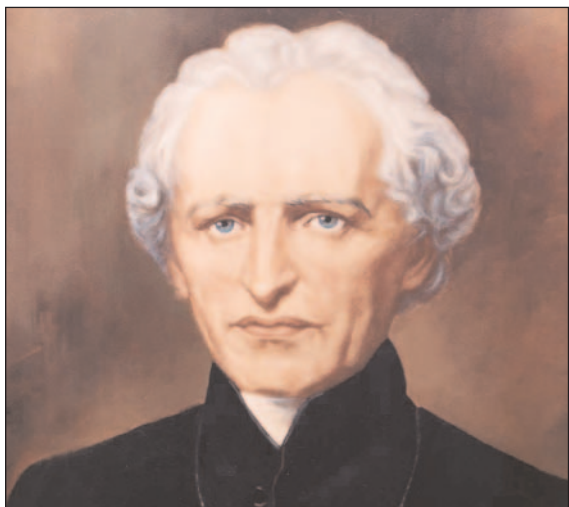
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PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE OF CAMPUS AND YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

Wells of Hope is a process of encouragement and healing for those who have fallen away from the Catholic faith. Father Ed Erpelding says, "When we enter into the Samaritan woman at the well and understand it and take it on, we become wellsprings of hope for others."

FATHER MOREAU TO BE BEATIFIED IN 2007



PROVIDED BY CONGREGATION OF HOLY CROSS

With the announcement of the beatification of Father Basil Moreau, founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, the congregation families have declared a year of rejoicing and spiritual renewal. Story on page 5.

New faces minister to the diocesan Hispanic population

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

SOUTH BEND — When Guadalupe Zepeta and Humberto Delgado were doing volunteer ministry in their respective parishes, little did they dream that someday they would work for the diocese.

Guadalupe Zepeta

Guadalupe, Lupita for short, Zepeta was recently hired to serve as a campus and young adult minister.

Speaking of Zepeta's position, Linda Furge, director of campus and young adult ministry for the diocese, says, "With a substantial increase in numbers of Hispanic teens and young adults in the South Bend area, we are hoping that Lupita will encourage and strengthen Hispanic Catholic young adult ministry in area parishes and across the diocese."

"She will also enhance our long-standing Catholic presence at Bethel and Goshen Colleges with her ability to effectively

interact with and relate to Catholic young adults and college students from both cultures," adds Furge.

Zepeta comes to this position with a rich background. She is a native of Mexico City and studied dentistry and public health. She practiced dentistry there for several years — some of them working with the poor — before she and her husband, Jesus, came to the United States.

When they arrived in the area, she continued her education. At Ivy Tech she took an academic skills advancement course and studied English as a second language at Elkhart Community Schools, Goshen College and Indiana University, South Bend.

She and her husband and their two sons are parishioners at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Elkhart where she has ministered for several years.

"I think the Holy Spirit, through angels without wings, put me in this position," she

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Rock-n-Soul Fest draws area teens

Michigan City festival kicks off with concerts, prayer

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Remembering 9/11

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Extreme faith

Oasis park shares Christ through skateboarding

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Huntington Catholic cooks up recipes for success

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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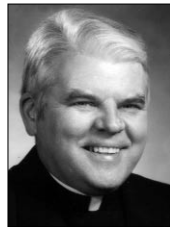
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With great anticipation diocese looks forward to sesquicentennial



NEWS
& NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Coming soon

Very shortly we will begin the observation of our sesquicentennial. These 150 years since Pope Pius IX founded with a solemn decree the Diocese of Fort Wayne have been a journey of faithful worship and service. As you know, for many years this decree included what is now the Diocese of Gary (which will also be celebrating its 50th this year) and the Diocese of Lafayette. There were two dioceses in the state at that time — Indianapolis and Fort Wayne. Lafayette was declared a diocese in 1945 and Gary in 1957. Lafayette at that time was largely a rural area crossing the state. The second bishop, remarkably came from Brooklyn, N.Y. His name was John Carberry. He was later the cardinal-archbishop of St. Louis. Lafayette now includes areas north of Indianapolis, which expanded in recent decades, so it is both urban and rural. The original diocese was Vincennes.

Gary was cut off in 1957, and the original bishop was Andrew Gregory Grutka, who had been a priest of this diocese and, among other things, served as pastor in St. Vincent in Elkhart. In 1960, Bishop Leo Pursley successfully petitioned the Holy See to have the name changed to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, with a co-cathedral — St. Matthew in South Bend.

Plans going forward

Linda Furge, who directed our observance of the millennium, with such extraordinary efficiency and wisdom is also our coordinator and director of our plans for the 2007 jubilee. Some of the things that are going on now are worthy of note.

A cross

A cross is being carried from parish to parish. This is to emphasize a central theme, which is taken from the direction given by Pope John Paul II during the millennium. The theme is, "Behold the Face of Christ. His steadfast love endures forever." Pope John Paul II said he only had one pastoral plan for the new millennium, and it was holiness.

All holiness and graces come from Christ; so a beautiful image has been designed, under the guidance of Linda Furge, by Kristina Schott, a Purdue graduate and a member of our Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Parish. The image was taken in great part from a beautiful sculpture at our St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne. The reference to Christ's "steadfast love" came from Psalm 117, and is what I chose as an episcopal motto when I was ordained a bishop 31 years ago. Thus, we hope that our focus during the year of celebration will be centered on Christ, for all holiness comes through him.

The centerpiece

On Aug. 18, 2007, we will have a Eucharistic Congress, as we did in the Jubilee Year 2000. That day is remembered with great joy. It will be celebrated at Notre Dame, and we hope that the whole diocese will pilgrimage to that holy ground. There will be no Saturday afternoon Masses and no sporting events that day, but all will gather for a day of prayer, instruction and worship.

As was done previously, there will be catechesees, or instruction, throughout the day given by theologians and pastors on various topics. There will be eucharistic adoration at one of the university chapels and the rosary will be prayed every half hour at the Grotto of Our Lady. Also, as celebrated in 2000, the sacrament of penance will be available throughout the campus grounds as well as in the more traditional confessionals within the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Other events

As previously announced in all our parishes, the sacrament of confirmation will be conferred in September in each of our two major cities — at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne and at the Joyce Athletic Center in South Bend. Priests will do the anointing, and bishops from other dioceses will be invited as well. I will have the privilege of presiding and leading this beautiful event.

There will be special Masses of anointing of the sick, so the infirm and elderly will be made a central part of this celebration. We hope that the video for the Annual Bishop's Appeal next year will take up the theme of this anniversary.

History

Joseph White, Ph.D., a well-known historian and a native Hoosier has been working for four years on the history of this diocese. It is nearing completion, and now we are discussing what should be done in recording the past 22 years, when I have had the privilege of being the bishop here. Dr. White explained to me that since it is a jubilee of 150 years, it must be written up to the present. He explained to me, and other historians have agreed, that a historian does not like to write about what we call current events, yet the past 22 years have been fascinating and historic. He said it would be more journalism than history. I am presently writing a kind of afterword, touching on big events of these 22 years. It is like being back in the doctoral studies, except that I am working in great part from memory, keeping it general and, I hope, objective.

Vocations

There is also the matter of vocations. I have met with Father Bernie Galic and his excellent assistant, Mary Szymczak; and we are planning a strong effort focusing on vocations to the priesthood. As I told you recently, we are blessed to have six men enter the seminary this year, bringing to 19 those in preparation for the priesthood. That includes Deacon Anthony Steinacker, who is scheduled to be ordained a priest on Oct. 28. Presently, we hope to ordain two young men during the jubilee year. They are currently deacons. Father Galic will be presenting a write up in this newspaper about our seminarians and also about the parishes

they come from.

A time of prayer

Two prayers have been written and will be presented on one prayer card. One is the prayer for the jubilee year, and on the reverse side is a prayer for vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life. These prayer cards will be offered in our parishes throughout the jubilee year, and we hope to make enough available so that people can take them home to pray in their homes.

Wells of Hope

Our Office of Spiritual Development has put together a beautiful book explaining a program to be offered to parishes as a method of evangelization. It is a follow up to Disciples in Mission, and the focus is to draw back to the practice of faith the many lapsed Catholics. It is rooted in the conversation of Christ with the woman at the well as disclosed in John's Gospel.

Other publications

Our Office of Catechesis has just completed the second edition of "Making Disciples." As you know, the Rite of Christian Initiation has been a blessing for the church and for this diocese. Hundreds join our church every year through the sacrament of baptism, or for those already baptized, entrance into the church through profession of faith. One of the most moving moments for the bishop is the Rite of Election held each year in our cathedral and co-cathedral. At that time, I always hope and pray that our instruction and teaching is thorough, comprehensive and sound.

This beautiful new document, which has been found to be in full compliance with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, also is consistent with the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. Many improvements have been made in this second edition. I have sent it to all parishes, and it is available in our Cathedral Bookstore.

Home schooling

A significant phenomenon in recent years, has been home schooling, or as it is called by the Congregation of Catholic Education, home-based catechesis. After consulting with our Presbyteral Council, parents who teach their children at home and others, I have prepared a pastoral letter with statutes for guidance on this matter. It is faithful to canon law and the teaching of the church. Father Mark Gurtner, who recently completed his canon law studies and wrote his thesis on this topic, was especially helpful. Copies have been sent to our parishes, and you can receive them from your pastor, or by writing to me directly. This document is also being published in this edition, and can be found on our diocesan Web site. This document is sensitive about the right and responsibility of parents, while also clear about the responsibility of pastors.

So many things happening and keeping your bishop and others busy and active. That is probably a good thing in light of what has happened to a certain baseball team. However, I thought Notre Dame did a good job of pulling out a tough victory. And now come the home games with exciting moments around South Bend. See you all next week.

Pastoral letter on homeschooling with appropriate statutes

Bishop D'Arcy, after intense consultation, has prepared a document for those who catechize their children at home. Copies can be obtained from the bishop's office or the diocesan Web site www.diocesefwsb.org.

One of the most serious responsibilities of a bishop is that of teaching the faith. In recent years, we have been blessed with a series of documents, which have called the whole church to a deeper understanding of the art, science and holy ministry of religious instruction, more properly called catechesis.

Always in first place, there is the command of Christ who, before ascending into heaven, entrusted to the apostles the command to make disciples of all nations and "to proclaim to humanity what they had heard, what they had seen with their eyes, what they had looked upon and touched with their hands." (Pope John Paul II "Apostolic Constitution Catechesi Tradendae" 1) This mission is always before us, and is before the bishop in a special way.

In our own time, we have had the example of that exemplary catechist, Pope John Paul II, who, at the very beginning of his pontificate, entrusted to the church this ministry that he, himself, had embraced as a young priest.

"Catechesis has always been a central care in my ministry as a priest and as a bishop." ("Catechesi Tradendae" 4) During his pontificate, he presented us with the Catechism of the Catholic Church, which he described as a "sure norm for teaching the faith," as well as a "sure and authentic text for preparing local catechists."

— Pope John Paul II, "Apostolic Constitution: Fidei Depositum," 3 on the "Publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church"

In our diocese, with the help of a grant from Our Sunday Visitor, there have been extensive programs of preparation of catechists for, without well-trained teachers, the documents will not come alive. One initiative, linked originally to the University of Dayton and more recently to the theology department at the University of Notre Dame, leads to a master of arts in theology. Many of these graduates teach in the two-year certification program, Education for Ministry. Also funded by Our Sunday Visitor and facilitated by the Office of Catechesis, the Education for Ministry begins a new program each fall in both Fort Wayne and South Bend. Home-schooling parents have found this very advantageous to their role as catechists to their children.

It is important before speaking of a particular form of catechesis to understand clearly the purpose of catechesis.

"Accordingly, the definitive aim of catechesis is to put people not only in touch but in communion, in intimacy with Jesus Christ: only he can lead us to the Father in the Spirit and make us share in the life of the Holy Trinity."

— Pope John Paul II, "Catechesi Tradendae," 5



KATHY DENICE

This statue of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton is found at the parish in Fort Wayne. This extraordinary woman represents a fine patroness for both parish-based and home-based catechesis.

This Christocentric purpose of catechesis is central. It binds all of us — bishop, priest and those who teach in Catholic schools or programs of religious instruction. It also binds parents. Thus, in prayer and personal communion with Jesus Christ, as well as in reading and study, the catechist finds the source of this ministry in Christ.

"We must therefore say that in catechesis it is Christ, the Incarnate Word and Son of God, who is taught — everything else is taught with reference to him — and it is Christ alone who teaches — anyone else teaches to the extent that he is Christ's spokesman, enabling Christ to teach with his lips."

"Every catechist should be able to apply to himself the mysterious words of Jesus: 'My teaching is not mine, but his who sent me.'"

— Pope John Paul II, "Catechesi Tradendae," 6

All catechists, then, are called to present a word that is not their own but one that they have received, accepted and believed. Through prayer and study, they grow in their ability to teach the faith that comes from Christ. Indeed, they are teaching Christ himself, and their communion with him, with his teaching and with his church remains always the source of their instruction.

Home-based catechesis

In our country, there has arisen the phenomenon called "home-schooling" or, as referred to in the National Directory of Catechesis, "home-based catechesis." In preparing these guidelines, I have

consulted on two occasions with our Presbyteral Council and sought the advice of our priests, as is my obligation. I also met with a group of parents who believe in and practice home-based catechesis.

In addition, one of our priests, Father Mark Gurtner, JCL, has written his licentiate thesis in canon law on this subject, and I have consulted with him and read his dissertation.

I have also consulted closely with our Office of Catechesis and with the director of this office, Sister Jane Carew, an experienced catechist, known for her leadership in the formation of catechists.

The need for collaboration and harmony

The goal of all must be a harmonious and collaborative effort for the child. Always the child. He or she is the recipient of the word of God. It is the word of God, and the child receiving the word of God, that must always be before us. We must honor the right of the child to receive sound catechesis. The right of Christ to see that the child receives sound and comprehensive instruction in full communion with church teaching must also be honored and given the first place.

Then there is the right of parents. As the primary educators of their children, parents have the right and duty to choose the kind of educational environment that they determine best suits their chil-

Bishop D'Arcy encourages 9/11 memorial Masses, prayers

Dear Pastors,

I know you are all aware of the painful date of Sept. 11 when we will observe the fifth year since that terrible attack on our country, resulting in the deaths of so many people from this country and all around the world.

There should be some observance in our parishes. May I recommend prayers on the previous day, Sept. 10 and a Mass for peace and for the eternal salvation of those who were killed in this terrible attack. Such a Mass can be on Sept. 10 or 11, or both.

I will celebrate the regular noon Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for this purpose. So please be sure we draw, for these two days, our people to prayer for peace and also for those so terribly afflicted and for their families.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Most Reverend John M. D'Arcy

Nuncio says church is fighting terrorism by examining its root causes

BY BENEDICTA CIPOLLA

NEW YORK (CNS) — Since Sept. 11, 2001, the Catholic Church has worked steadily to overcome terrorism by examining the root causes behind the phenomenon, said the Vatican's nuncio to the United Nations.

Archbishop Celestino Migliore compared the crashing noise of a falling tree to the quieter sound of a growing forest. "What the Catholic Church has been doing in the aftermath of 9/11 is more in the order of a forest that grows and expands every day without much fanfare," he said.

In written comments to Catholic News Service, Archbishop Migliore mentioned in particular the 2002 interreligious peace gathering that Pope John Paul II convened in Assisi, Italy, as well as Pope Benedict XVI's call for people to band together to overcome terrorism not only through analysis of its political and social causes, but also its "deeper cultural, religious and ideological motivations."

For example, he said, the church's commitment to migrants is "certainly not grounded on economic nor electoral interests, but on the conviction that by

resolving such questions, swiftly and justly, nations can rob terrorists of the oxygen of hatred and of grievances, real or imagined, by which they attempt to legitimize their evil deeds and recruit the impressionable."

Archbishop Migliore, who has served at the United Nations since 2003, was at the Vatican on the day of the attacks in 2001, working as undersecretary for relations with states. He immediately called the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See to express his concern and solidarity.

"At the very beginning nothing was known about the motives nor the perpetrators, but from the circumstances, the target and the modalities of the attack, there was a clear perception that this was going to be an event full of consequences," he said.

As for the notion that the events of Sept. 11 "changed everything," the archbishop said that at the time such a statement meant little. Five years later, he said, it is clear that Sept. 11 "was an epoch-making event that upset the priorities of the world community and quickly skyrocketed security as our top concern."

But we must examine the attacks of Sept. 11 critically, he

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HOME

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dren's educational needs.

"If Catholic parents choose to provide catechesis for the children in their home, the catechesis must be both complete and authentic. The bishop of the diocese, the pastor of the parish, the parents and children, all have God-given responsibilities that must be respected and considered in home-based catechesis.

The home-based catechesis of children is a cooperative effort between the children, their parents, parish leadership and the diocesan bishop. Parents who choose to be not only the primary educators of their children but also their catechists must adhere to all guidelines for catechists as outlined by the diocesan bishop."

— National Directory of Catechesis 61.3

The church always respects the rights of the parents as the first educators. Parents also must respect the right and obligation of the bishop to oversee and guide the catechetical instruction. The bishop is the primary catechist in the diocese. His mission comes from Christ and the apostles to preach the Gospel to every creature, and also to see that the faith is taught accurately in his diocese.

The local pastor, while always recognizing the right of parents to teach the faith to their own children, has the serious responsibility of overseeing the catechesis of all the children in his parish at every stage and, in particular, determining if they are properly prepared for first penance, Eucharist and confirmation.

While it may never be made a condition for reception of first penance, first holy Communion and confirmation, I strongly encourage all parents who catechize at home to see that their children participate in the parish program for reception of these sacraments. In entrusting their children to the parish, they are making an act of ecclesial faith. The parish will be richer for their collaboration, and the families will also be drawn more fully into the life of the parish, which Pope John Paul II called "A Family of Families." The church is a community. It is the body of Christ, and the presence of the children who are being home-schooled in the preparation for reception of the sacraments, while not a requirement for the reception of the sacraments, should always be strongly encouraged.

Those who are schooled at home can contribute and add to the work being done in the parish while coming in contact with

priests, the catechetical leader and other children who will also enrich them spiritually. It is also true that the presence of those who are catechized at home will strengthen and enrich those in the catechetical programs in the parish.

"Since the celebration of the sacraments continually integrates children into the body of Christ, preparing children for reception of the sacraments should always be undertaken in collaboration with the local pastor and catechetical leaders."

— National Directory for Catechesis 61.3

Responsibilities of the pastor

The pastor, in close communion with the bishop, has the responsibility to see that all the children in his parish are properly catechized and prepared for the sacraments. At all stages, but particularly at the time of preparation of the sacraments, he must, through his own efforts assisted by others, be sure that the children have a sound and proper understanding of the sacrament that is to be received.

Parents who intend to home school should present themselves and identify themselves to the pastor at the beginning of the first grade. If one parent is non-Catholic, that parent should also be made welcome. At this meeting with the pastor or his delegate, parents should share with the priests the methods they are choosing to employ and the texts they will be using.

The same procedure should be used for the sacrament of confirmation. Those who are home-schooling should meet with the pastor or his delegate at the beginning of the year that confirmation is normally received in the parish. At this meeting they should share with the pastor or delegate the methods they are choosing to employ and the text they are planning to use. The text should be consistent with the Catechism of the Catholic Church and should be among those texts approved by the Bishops Ad Hoc Committee to Oversee the Use of the Catechism.

Catechetical guidelines and texts

The diocese provides catechetical guidelines that indicate the content required at each of the grade levels. These guidelines precede textbooks, which are a significant tool in the teaching of catechesis. The guidelines can be obtained from the parish catechetical leader.

The diocesan Office of Catechesis recommends text books, but not just any text books.

It recommends those that have gone through a review, under episcopal guidance, to determine if they are consistent with the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

I consider it preferable that parents employ the text used by the parish. As with any good catechist, they will strengthen this with their own examples and experience. Fidelity to church teaching is assured by using texts consistent with the Catechism of the Catholic Church and approved by the bishop.

The time before reception of first penance, first Eucharist and confirmation should be a sacred time. In most parishes before confirmation, for example, there is a retreat, which includes the opportunity for the sacrament of penance. Emphasis is placed on the needs of the poor and service to those in need. This has recently been emphasized by Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical, "God Is Love."

"The church cannot neglect the service of charity any more than she can neglect the sacrament and the word."

— Pope Benedict XVI, "God Is Love," 22

While such initiatives cannot be required of home-schooled children as a condition for receiving the sacrament of confirmation, pastors should explain these efforts to parents, and parents are strongly encouraged to see that their children participate. The national directory makes clear the importance of such efforts as retreats and service projects: "children should be encouraged to participate in non-instructional preparatory activities of the parish peer group preparing for the sacrament." — National Directory for Catechesis 61.3

There should be a meeting between the home-schooling parent and the pastor or his catechetical leader a few months prior to the reception of the particular sacrament. The main purpose of this meeting prior to reception of the sacraments is to fulfill an obligation shared jointly, in different but similar ways, by the parents, who are the catechists in this case, and the pastor, who is also a catechist and who acts and teaches in persona Christi — in the person of Christ.

The parents should indicate the readiness of the child to receive the Sacrament in question. If they feel the child is not ready, they should give reasons for this. The pastor has the responsibility of determining the readiness of the child and may ask appropriate questions based on the diocesan catechetical outline for the sacraments. If the pastor feels the child is not ready to receive the sacrament, he must work with the parents to bring the child to this posi-

tion. If the parents feel the child is not ready for the sacrament, the pastor should offer whatever help is needed in order to bring about this readiness.

There is an ancient principle in the church on matters like this. In Latin, it reads, "Sacramenta Propter Homines." It can be translated, "Sacraments are for Human Beings." So, every effort should be made to help the child move toward a state where he or she is ready for the sacraments.

In general, the pastor is to make the spiritual richness of the parish available to the parents so they can best fulfill their catechetical duty.

As bishop, I am very encouraged by the programs for training catechists in this diocese. Those who home-school are catechists, and are hereby encouraged to participate in every opportunity to form themselves and grow as catechists. This diocese offers a significant number of such opportunities, such as the following:

- Education for Ministry Program (two years of formation based on the Catechism of the Catholic Church)
- Special formation days and events for training catechists

I also recommend that home-schooling parents have their own copy of the "National Directory of Catechesis." This is an excellent catechetical resource.

If it is the wish of the parents and their child, home-catechized children are to be included in solemn reception of first holy Communion along with every other parish child. It would be wrong, for example, to say that those who are home schooled should receive at another time. They are also invited and encouraged to participate in the penance service in preparation for first Communion. Those to be confirmed are to receive this sacrament with the parish confirmation class.

If conflicts should arise between parents and the pastor concerning the implementation of these norms, they can be avoided if kindness and understanding are present between pastors and home-schooling parents. If such a conflict continues, the matter may be referred to the regional vicar.

The instruction of children in the home from the youngest age remains a great blessing in the Catholic Church. Most of us were home schooled from the moment when our parents knelt down with us at night and taught us to pray, make the Sign of the Cross, brought us to church to show us the Christmas crib, explained the crucifix and pointed out the place and meaning of the tabernacle and the sanctuary lamp. Here we have the church at its catechetical best — the parent in the home teaching in a loving way; the parish church and its Christian art; and the living icon, the parish priest — fulfilling

their responsibilities in love, respecting each other and concerned with one thing above everything else, that the child learn about Jesus Christ and believe in him.

All parents are setting a solid example for their children when they instruct them in the truths of the faith in their home from the very beginning, but also join them to the community of the parish church. The same Christ who is present in the home greets and touches the child in the parish church. What is needed is kindness, love and understanding on both sides. Parents should look to the guidance of their pastors and welcome it in helping them live their Christian vocation. Pastor and parents together are obliged to embrace the vision of the local bishop, which must always be rooted in the Scriptures, the teachings of the church and, in recent times, the Catechism of the Catholic Church and related texts of national and international directories for catechesis. Pastors should respect and offer guidance to parents who are instructing their children at home.

The "National Catholic Directory for Catechesis" states: "Since their children are being initiated into the life of the Church which is fundamentally realized in the local parish, parents who provide catechesis for children in their homes should participate fully in the life of the parish."

— National Directory of Catechesis, 61.3

A concluding word

I recently visited the grave of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton. This extraordinary woman represents a fine patroness for both parish-based and home-based catechesis. She taught the faith to her own children. I also saw the rock on top of a high hill on which it is said she sat while giving religious instruction to the children of the parish.

I ask her prayerful intercession and that of the great catechist, Pope John Paul II, that all our children may learn the faith of the church and live it all their lives.

I hereby promulgate these statutes and this pastoral letter on Aug. 15, 2006, the solemnity of the Assumption. They will be effective as particular law for the Diocese of Fort Wayne—South Bend on Sept. 15, 2006.



Bishop John M. D'Arcy

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Congregation of Holy Cross declares year of rejoicing, spiritual renewal

Father Basil Moreau, founder of Priests, Brothers and Sisters of Holy Cross, to be beatified in 2007

NOTRE DAME — The Venerable Basil Anthony Moreau, CSC, (1799-1873), founder of the Priests, Brothers and Sisters of Holy Cross will be beatified in Le Mans, France, in 2007.

On April 28, 2006, Pope Benedict XVI approved the promulgation of the miracle attributed to the intercession of the Venerable Basil Anthony Moreau (1799-1873), founder of the men and women's congregations of Holy Cross. This promulgation prepares the way for the eventual beatification of the venerable founder of the Holy Cross Family that will take place in the diocese of Le Mans, France, during the year 2007. The date of the beatification, has yet to be confirmed by the Vatican authorities.

Father Hugh W. Cleary, CSC, superior general of the Congregation of Holy Cross, along with the congregational leaders of the Marianites of Holy Cross (LeMans, France), Sister Mary Kay Kinberger, MSC; Sisters of Holy Cross (Montreal, Canada), Sister Kesta Occident, CSC; and Sisters of the Holy Cross, (Notre Dame), Sister Joy O'Grady, CSC, declared, "In preparation for Father Moreau's beatification, the congregational leaders of our Holy Cross family declare a year of prayerful rejoicing and spiritual renewal beginning on the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross, Sept. 14, 2006, and ending on the feast of our Lady of Sorrows, Sept. 15, 2007."

They added, "Let us celebrate together the life and rich legacy of our founder. During this year of spiritual animation and grace, let us recommit ourselves to our extraordinary vocation as apostolic consecrated religious of Holy Cross."

Father Cleary also called for the Congregation of Holy Cross (priests and brothers) to intensify its prayers as individuals and local communities for vocations throughout the congregation this coming year. He called for each institution to sponsor at least one major vocation gathering to encourage young people to reflect prayerfully and seriously on the possibility of God's invitation to them as consecrated life within the church.

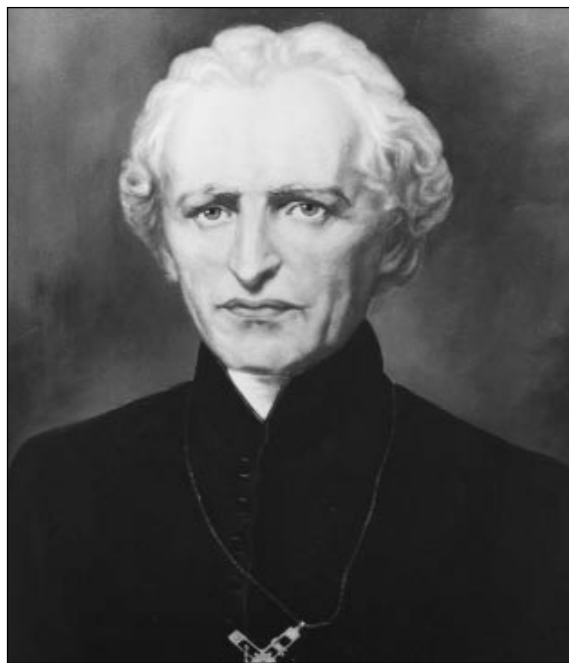
Father Basil Moreau's cause for beatification was first introduced on the diocesan level in Le Mans, France in 1946. However, it was not until 1955, that the cause was presented for consideration by the Congregation for the Causes of Saints in Rome.

This congregation studied the life, the writings and the spirituality of Basil Moreau, and after a definitive presentation of the study on the founder's virtues in 1994, the congregation recommended to the late Pope John Paul II on Jan. 11, 2003, that he declare Basil Moreau's practice of the theological and cardinal virtues to be heroic in nature.

Pope John Paul II issued the declaration and bestowed on the founder of Holy Cross the title venerable on April 12, 2003. After further study and the unanimous acceptance of a miraculous cure attributed to Venerable Basil Moreau's intercession, the Congregation for the Causes of Saints recommended to Pope Benedict XVI on Nov. 8, 2005 that Basil Moreau be declared Blessed.

Background on Father Moreau

Basil Moreau was born in Laigné-en-Belin, a town in the diocese of Le Mans, France on Feb. 11, 1799. He died in Le Mans on Jan. 20, 1873. As a priest of the diocese of Le Mans and seminary professor, he established the Association of Holy Cross



VENERABLE BASIL ANTHONY MOREAU, CSC

consisting of two societies, one of men (brothers and priests) and the other of women, both having as principal ministries the education of youth and evangelization. The congregation of priests and brothers of Holy Cross received definitive approbation by the Holy See in 1857. The Marianites of Holy Cross were approved 10 years later in 1867.

In 1869 the Marianites of Holy Cross in Indiana received their autonomy and became the Congregation of the Sisters of the Holy Cross; in 1883 the Marianites in Canada became the branch known as the Congregation of the Sisters of Holy Cross (Soeurs de Sainte-Croix).

Since their inception, the four congregations making up the Holy Cross Family have grown and spread throughout the world.

The men and women of Holy Cross have begun and still maintain educational institutions as well as important social and pastoral ministries in North and South America, Africa and Asia. It is through their commitment to the vowed life, their zeal for the mission and the diversity of ministry that the priests, sisters and brothers of Holy Cross continue to live out the vision of Venerable Basil Moreau, who saw his religious family as a "a mighty tree that constantly shoots forth new limbs and branches and is nourished by the same life-giving sap" (Moreau, 1854) and as visible manifestation of the union and interdependence of both the Holy Trinity and the Holy Family.

It is for this reason that he dedicated the priests to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the sisters to the heart of Mary and the brothers to St. Joseph and the entire congregation to Mary under the title of Our Lady of Sorrows.

It should be noted also that Pope John Paul II beatified two Canadian members of the Holy Cross family: Blessed Brother André Bessette, founder of Saint Joseph Oratory in Montréal, and Blessed Mother Marie Léonie Paradis, foundress of the Little Sisters of the Holy Family.

For further information on Basil Moreau and the Congregations of Holy Cross, please contact: www.holycrosscongregation.org; www.marianites.org; www.cscsisters.org; or www.sistersofholycross.org.

MIGLIORE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

said, rather than simply denounce them.

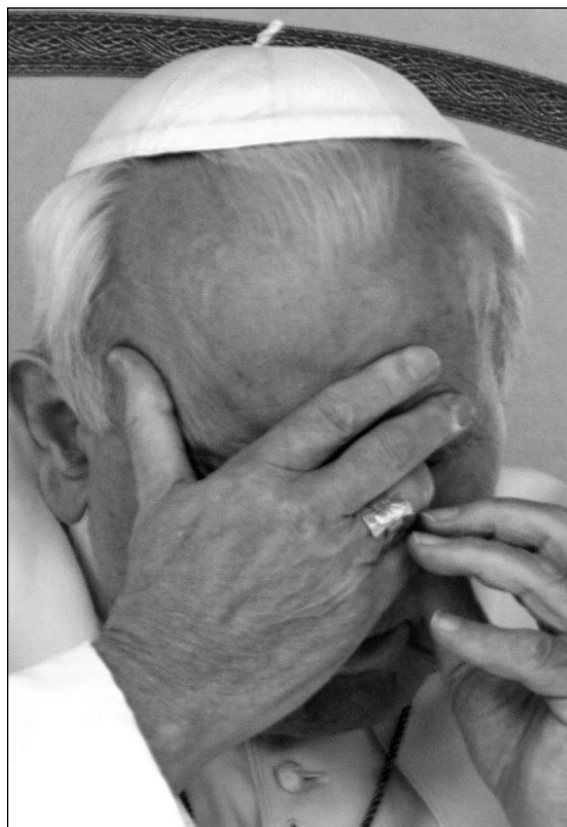
"Just as every other epoch-making event — various totalitarianisms, the Holocaust and genocides of the 20th century, the collapse of the Berlin Wall — lead us to reflect, to remember and to draw lessons, likewise the whole human family is called to reflect on 9/11, to delve into its unconventional root causes, and to not be afraid of tackling first those root causes that most bruise and hurt our good conscience," said the archbishop.

Because the war on terror often involves stateless enemies, the United Nations has had to

adapt itself to this new reality.

Archbishop Migliore said the world body is drafting a convention on terrorism that will identify "means to dissuade groups from resorting to terrorism or supporting it, denying terrorists the means to carry out an attack; deter states from supporting terrorist groups; develop state capacity to prevent terrorism; and defend human rights in the context of terrorism and counterterrorism." So far disagreement has surfaced on the definition of terrorism, the issue of noncombatants and the right of self-determination, he said.

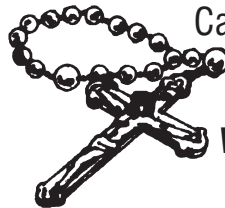
One of the tests of the document, if and when approved, will be the implementation of the U.N. Security Council resolution that requires the disarmament of the Hezbollah militia in Lebanon, Archbishop Migliore said.



Pope John Paul II covers his face during his general audience at the Vatican Sept. 12, 2001. The pope — whose audiences were usually filled with cheering — addressed a silent crowd that day. He said the Sept. 11 attacks in the United States marked "a dark day in the history of humanity" and asked pilgrims to join him in prayer.

CNS PHOTO/VINCENZO PINTO, REUTERS

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New beginnings: Italian cardinal to take over as secretary of state

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI's papacy opens a new chapter Sept. 15, when Italian Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone takes over as secretary of state. It's arguably the pope's biggest appointment to date, and it reunites him with a man who for many years was his No. 2 at the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. Does that mean the Vatican is about to turn into one great big doctrinal congregation? An Italian journalist dared to pose that question to Cardinal Bertone in August. The cardinal didn't really answer, but he suggested the doctrinal experience wouldn't hurt in the great task of announcing the Gospel "in its entirety" in every country of the world. Cardinal Bertone, 71, is at the center of what might be the longest and most scrutinized transition in Vatican history. The pope offered him the position last December, he mulled it over and accepted earlier this year, and the pope announced the appointment in June — three months before it took effect.

Two cases of alleged miracles claim intercession of Archbishop Sheen

PEORIA, Ill. (CNS) — Documentation of two alleged miracles attributed to the intercession of the late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen were sent to Rome this summer as part of the promotion of his sainthood cause. The cases claiming the archbishop's intercession involve a woman from Champaign and a baby in Pittsburgh. The cases were investigated and documented and, following ceremonies in Peoria and Pittsburgh, documentation was sealed and prepared for delivery to the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes for further study. The ceremony in Peoria was witnessed by several members of the Sheen family and officials promoting the sainthood cause. During the ceremony, folders containing more than 500 pages of witness testimony and medical data regarding the Champaign case were packaged and sealed. Archbishop Sheen, a native of El Paso in the Diocese of Peoria, gained worldwide fame as a radio and television host and author. He died Oct. 3, 1979. The Diocese of Peoria officially launched his cause for canonization in September 2003.

Pope urges priests to take heart in church's history of survival

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said parish priests discouraged by a decline in religious practice should take heart in the fact that the church has survived centuries of persecutions and trials. Not even the Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler could destroy Catholicism, although he wanted to, the pope said. The pope made the com-

POPE WALKS IN FRONT OF 'VERONICA'S VEIL'



CNS PHOTO/MAX ROSSI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI walks in front of "Veronica's Veil" during a brief visit Sept. 1 to the Sanctuary of the Holy Face in Manoppello, Italy. According to tradition, the veil portrays the image of Christ's face and no pigments or paints were used to create the image.

ments in a question-and-answer session Aug. 31 with priests of the Diocese of Albano. The encounter took place at the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, which is part of the Albano Diocese. Most of the questions touched on pastoral problems common across Italy, including the challenge of getting Catholics to Mass on Sunday and attracting young people to church activities. The pope said it was important for pastors to draw encouragement from the church's long history. The church's early flowering in North Africa and Asia Minor, for example, has long disappeared, but Catholicism has gained new strength and vigor in the rest of Africa and other parts of the world, he said. "The faith is stronger than all the currents that come and go," he said.

Pope says visit to Germany to be personal, chance to thank people

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI's September pilgrimage to southern Germany features 14 liturgies or religious encounters and only three public secular events. That fact alone says a lot about the pope's homecoming visit and about his entire papacy to date. From Sept. 9 to 14, the 79-year-old pontiff will return to his Bavarian roots, stopping in Marktl am Inn where he was born, in Altötting where he used to pray at a local shrine, in Regensburg where he taught and in Munich where he was a bishop. Along the way, he will preside over a string of public Masses, prayer services, processions and blessings. The visit is predominantly personal and religious, and the pope explained why in a recent interview with German TV and

radio. "I want to see again the places where I grew up, the people who touched and shaped my life. I want to thank these people," the pope said.

Aid workers say situation in Darfur not yet resolved

YAOUNDE, Cameroon (CNS) — Despite a May peace agreement meant to end the conflict in the Sudanese region of Darfur, refugees who fled into neighboring Chad are not returning to Sudan, said aid workers. Small groups of refugees are still staggering into Chad, and huge numbers may be preparing to leave if a threatened Sudanese government offensive starts, said a Catholic Relief Services representative in eastern Chad. "The number of refugees is increasing," said Fortune Agboton, the team leader for CRS' emergency team in Abeche, in eastern Chad. "The situation in Darfur is not solved." In an Aug. 31 telephone interview, Agboton said that at the moment refugees are crossing the border in groups of 10 or 20. Fighting among rebel groups, some of which did not sign the May 5 Darfur Peace Accord, and increased banditry by militias and armed gangs have increased since the peace deal was signed. The United Nations says the number of areas in Darfur inaccessible to aid workers is rising steadily because of the upsurge in violence as well as a lack of funds.

Vatican to discontinue annual Christmas concert

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After a 13-year run, the annual Christmas concert at the Vatican will not be continued. The Vatican did not say

who made the decision, which was reported by Italian media Aug. 31. In recent years some church officials have viewed the concert as a distraction because of minor controversies involving performers. Last year, church officials dropped Brazilian pop singer Daniela Mercury because they feared she would use the concert to promote the use of condoms as an anti-AIDS measure. Those who did perform were disappointed that Pope Benedict XVI did not make time for the traditional papal audience with the artists. The annual event was taped in the Vatican audience hall in early December and rebroadcast on Christmas Eve. It always drew a sellout crowd of about 6,000 people, including many cardinals, bishops and Vatican officials. The concert was an initiative of the Diocese of Rome, which used proceeds to help build new churches in the city. Pope John Paul II made it a point to greet the artists, lending publicity to the event.

On eve of immigration hearing, religious leaders pray for justice

OWENSBORO, Ky. (CNS) — "We do not pray in anger," said Ed Monahan at an ecumenical prayer service in Owensboro the night before a congressional hearing was held in Evansville on immigration. "We do not pray in despair," he added. "We pray in hope that all will be treated justly by our laws." The Aug. 29 congressional hearing was one of 21 scheduled throughout the country. It was led by Rep. F. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., who chairs the House Committee on the Judiciary. Reps. John Hostettler, R-Ind., and Steve King, R-Iowa, were present, as

was Rep. John Conyers Jr., D-Mich., the ranking minority member in the House. The hearing's topic was "The Reid-Kennedy Bill: The Effect on American Workers' Wages and Employment Opportunities." Four preselected witnesses gave prepared testimony. No one from the audience was permitted to speak. Monahan, executive director of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, was one of the speakers at the Aug. 28 evening service at St. Stephen Cathedral in Owensboro. The theme of the service — "Every Man and Woman Is the Image of God" — was also the title of a joint pastoral letter of the Kentucky bishops issued Aug. 29.

Bishop grateful for S.D. governor's stay of execution

PIERRE, S.D. (CNS) — South Dakota Gov. Mike Rounds issued a reprieve Aug. 29 in what would have been the state's first execution in 59 years. Rounds said the state's law outlining protocols for execution by lethal injection was outdated. The stay of execution for 24-year-old Elijah Page lasts until after July 1, 2007. Bishop Samuel J. Aquila of Fargo, N.D., apostolic administrator of Sioux Falls, S.D., said he was grateful for the stay and hoped it would "allow time for an even fuller discussion about the appropriateness of the death penalty in South Dakota." In a statement after the reprieve was issued, he said, "The Catholic faith teaches that the death penalty is rarely, if ever, justified. The legal system in the United States is capable of protecting society by incarcerating violent offenders for life."

Vicar general in Madison Diocese named bishop of Sioux Falls, S.D.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Msgr. Paul J. Swain, vicar general of the Diocese of Madison, Wis., as bishop of Sioux Falls, S.D. Bishop-designate Swain succeeds Bishop Robert J. Carlson, who was appointed bishop of Saginaw, Mich., in December 2004. Msgr. Martin Krebs, charge d'affaires at the apostolic nunciature in Washington, announced the appointment Aug. 31. Bishop-designate Swain, who turns 63 Sept. 12, became a Catholic at age 39 and was ordained to the priesthood five years later. Prior to entering the church, he had been an Air Force intelligence officer serving in Vietnam from 1967 to 1972, winning the Bronze Star Medal. He was also legal counsel and policy director for Wisconsin Gov. Lee Dreyfus, a Republican, from 1979 to 1983. Bishop-designate Swain also practiced law in Madison. In an Aug. 31 statement Bishop-designate Swain described his adult life as being marked by two phases. "One was in the secular sphere that included military service, civil law practice and government office. The second came after undergoing a spiritual conversion that changed and refocused my life," he said.

Little Flower to hold Bible study on Genesis

SOUTH BEND — Little Flower Parish will present a Bible study titled "Genesis, A Living Conversation." The study will focus on creation; the fall, evil and sin; the flood; covenant; what it means to be chosen; what about the unchosen; heroes of Genesis; and how the central theme of Genesis deeply connects to Jesus Christ and to us.

The study will begin Sept. 11 and continue into early December. A Bible and a newspaper are needed at the first session. Jay Freeland will offer two study sessions with the same material starting Monday, Sept. 11, at 7 p.m. or Tuesday, Sept. 12, at 9:15 a.m.

Child care is available during the Tuesday morning session. Please call Landry at (574) 273-9722 to make child care arrangements.

Bishop Luers sponsors Walk-A-Thon

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne will hold its annual student fundraiser, the 26th Annual Walk-A-Thon on Friday, Sept. 29. The event is scheduled to begin in the school gymnasium at 9:15 a.m. following an all school Mass.

The walk travels through south Fort Wayne area neighborhoods and Foster Park. Each of Luers' 555 students is asked to raise a minimum of \$75 in order to participate in the walk.

The money raised is to support general operating expenses for Bishop Luers High School. The goal for the school this year is \$47,000. To make a donation, contact the school (260) 456-1261.

Parenthood presentations scheduled in Berne

BERNE — John Rosemond, nationally recognized author of "Assuming the Power of Parenthood" will come to Berne to present six free public presentations as part of the Homan Forum for Families this fall.

The forum, coordinated by Catholic Social Services of the Miami Valley, is being sponsored by the St. Henry Tile Co. and its subsidiaries as a tribute to the late Al Homan, the company's cofounder.

Catholic Social Services Director Elaine Jelly announced, "With the input of social service partners, educators and community leaders in six area counties and with the support of the Homan family, we hope to focus on the impact and importance of positive parenting," explained Jelly. "With the support of the Homan family and St. Henry Tile, we will present the slate of Rosemond appearances as fitting memorial tribute to Al Homan who served as a trustee and advisor to our agency."

The Homan Forum for Families will hold free presentations by Rosemond on Oct. 6 in Berne. In addition, a presentation for parents will be held in Shelby, Miami, Auglaize, Mercer and Darke Counties in Ohio.

For information about the

AROUND THE DIOCESE

NEW UNIVERSITY OF SAINT FRANCIS CHAPLAIN INSTALLED



DON CLEMMER

Bishop John M. D'Arcy officially installs Father John Stecher as chaplain of the University of Saint Francis at the university's opening convocation Mass Aug. 30. Father Stecher, formerly of the Diocese of Davenport, Iowa, has worked in campus and young adult ministry for most of his career and will be a part of the Campus Ministry program at USF.

Matthew 25's new technology benefits area diabetes patients

FORT WAYNE — Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic's new, state-of-the-art retinal camera used with diabetes patients allows the clinic to provide more screenings and earlier intervention — benefiting its 680 patients with diabetes.

According to the American Diabetes Association, patients with diabetes are much more likely to suffer from glaucoma, cataracts and retinopathy, which can cause anything from vision loss to blindness. For this reason, annual eye exams are critical.

"Before the retinal camera, we were able to provide only 30 percent of our patients with retinal screenings through ophthalmology appointments," said Dr. Amy Dawson, medical director. "Within the first two months of having the camera, we added another 15 percent onsite. Our goal is 100 percent."

What's more, the retinal camera enables Matthew 25 to maximize the time and expertise of those ophthalmologists donating their time to screen patients.

"With the retinal camera, we can save our ophthalmologist visits for patients with problems — not just for routine retinal screenings. Plus, with our electronic medical record, we can forward information about the patient's eye problems before their visit."

The retinal camera takes just a couple of minutes, and the photos are taken during the patient's regular diabetes visit.

The photos enter into Matthew



PROVIDED BY MATTHEW 25 HEALTH AND DENTAL CLINIC

Matthew 25's new retinal camera provides crucial screenings that can help prevent vision loss or eye complications in hundreds of patients with diabetes.

25's electronic records and are forwarded to Dr. Jonathan Walker, retinal specialist, who logs on once a week and reads all the films. If he sees any abnormality, he contacts Matthew 25's staff so they can arrange an ophthalmology appointment for the patient.

"Good diabetes care is very intensive for the patient and the healthcare provider," said Dawson. "The retinal camera makes it less of a burden for the patient in terms of convenience

and for Matthew 25 in terms of resources. The more we can get done in one sitting, the better.

"The camera also benefits our community — because with the screenings, we reduce the percentage of blindness and eye complications. It's a preventable problem with this screen."

The Lutheran Foundation donated the \$18,000 for the retinal camera, and Walker was instrumental in writing the grant.

Homan Forum for Families, call the Catholic Social Services offices at (800) 521-6419 ext. 128.

National speakers to address Catholic men at the Indiana Convention Center

INDIANAPOLIS — The Marian Center of Indianapolis has announced its First Annual Indiana Catholic Men's Conference; "Lions Breathing Fire," which will be held at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis on Saturday, Sept. 23. Most Reverend Daniel M. Buechlein, OSB, archbishop of Indianapolis, will open the day, followed by nationally known speakers:

- Tim Staples from "Catholic Answers."
- Dr. Jerry Kirk, chairman of the National Coalition for the Protection of Children and Families.
- Bowie Kuhn, former Commissioner of Major League Baseball and board member of the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame.
- Father Francis Mary Stone, host of Eternal Word Television Network's, (EWTN) "Life on the Rock."
- Msgr. Joseph Schaedel, vicar general and moderator of the curia, will be the main celebrant and homilist at the holy sacrifice of the Mass. The Archdiocese of Indianapolis priests, Father Daniel Mahan and Father Jonathan Meyer, will also address the participants.

The conference goals are to strengthen family life by strengthening husbands and fathers and to help inform men of all ages, including high school students:

- Of the obstacles that keep men from a strong relationship with God and with their families.
- Of ways to deal with the obstacles that secular society offers us.
- Of the theological hope that brings the strength to be real men of faith.
- Of help to better prioritize how we can serve God, home and society.

Cost for registering is \$40 per person, and groups of 10 or more cost \$35 per person. There is a student rate of \$15 for high school and college students. Registered clergy and seminarians are free. Lunch is included with all registrations prior to Sept. 18.

Men can register online at www.indianacatholicmen.com. To mail in a registration, a form can also be obtained online or by contacting the Marian Center of Indianapolis by mail or calling (317) 924-3982 or (317) 888-0873. Checks need to be made to the St. Michael Foundation, and mailed to the Marian Center of Indianapolis, Indiana Catholic Men's Conference, 3356 W. 30th Street, Indianapolis, IN 46222.

Little Flower Youth Group reaches out to hurricane victims during summer

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

SOUTH BEND — “Seeing all the destruction, seeing signs saying ‘do not demo’ made me realize that these were people’s lives. It was so hard to see. The power of it was enough to drive the vans full of normally chatty teens to silence. Nothing left but a foundation where someone’s home used to be. Buildings stripped down to their skeletons. Cemeteries with headstones lying pell mell across the lawn. Debris lying everywhere. At certain points, I had to put down my camera. It just wasn’t right to take pictures. It was too heart-breaking to snap a picture,” said Allie, one of the youth of the Kingdom Construction Company Mission Trip 2006 to Mississippi.

Thirty-two people including 23 youth from Kingdom Construction Company Youth Group from Little Flower Parish and five adults from the parish as well as three youth and one adult from St. Mary’s Mission at Red Lake Indian Reservation in Northern Minnesota traveled to the Gulf Coast to help out those in need.

“We were originally thinking of a trip to Italy, but after Katrina, our discernment process indicated more that we were supposed to go somewhere along the Gulf Coast. The final decision was made in late winter or early spring. This was the 30th consecutive summer mission trip of the Kingdom Construction Company, the youth group of Little Flower Catholic Church,” said Youth Director Bill Odell. The group left Indiana on June 14 for a two-week trip that would be fun and would open the youth’s eyes to the love of the people who were left with little.

During their time in Mississippi, the groups stayed and ate at “Camp Hope,” St. Ann’s Church in Lisana, Miss. The church had responded to the dire situation by building a facility that houses those who come to help.

“There were two other groups there when we were there, a Baptist group and another Catholic group. The day we left, a group of 120 came,” noted Odell.

The work that the group was “assigned” was primarily at Our Mother of Mercy Church in Pass Christian, Miss., and some work was done at four local homes.



PROVIDED BY LITTLE FLOWER PARISH

Volunteers from Little Flower Church pose for a picture while moving a pile of rubble left by Hurricane Katrina away from a house to the road where it was to be picked up. This was one of the odd jobs the group did around and in between their main work at Our Mother of Mercy Parish in Pass Christian, Miss.

There the church was moved off its foundation and badly damaged by over 12 feet of water, and the rectory was destroyed. The social hall at the church was the only building standing, and it was badly damaged.

“Our work there was preparing walls in the hall and classrooms for painting, assembling office furniture, mold remediation, cleaning kitchen equipment and bathrooms, cleaning out mountains of debris outside, scraping and cleaning windows, putting down baseboard. In other local homes some groups tore old roofing off and put new on, built a shed and moved wood piles. They moved mountains of debris into dumpsters.

“Probably the most interesting story about the work we did is that the kids felt like they hadn’t done that much,” said Odell. “In the prayer service I led before we began our work, I told everyone that if they were there to simply do work and show how much they could do, they would be disappointed. They needed not only to love these people by working, but by also listening to their stories and just be present to them.”

When asked what their “highs” and “lows” during the trip were and what touched them, the youth were quick to give their answers.

Ethan, like Allie, couldn’t keep taking pictures of the devastation. “Pictures just don’t do justice, see-

ing 10 foundations in a row and no grass,” he said noting that the best point of the trip was “getting a lot of work done, looking at a destruction with hindsight, brings you back to earth, we take for granted what we have, Mother Nature can take it all away.”

“Of all the missions trips (he’s been on) this one was the hardest,” said Dan, who said he was touched “meeting one of the ladies at church, wasn’t somber, but still content even though they had lost everything, not giving up hope.”

“Meeting all the people we did, they didn’t complain with the little they had. It is hard to accept all the reasons now why I complain,” said Luke.

Ivana said her greatest “high” was “working and seeing the happy faces. And hearing ‘thank you.’”

“We were surprised by the expressions of gratitude by the people we served directly, but were taken aback by expressions of gratitude by waitresses, service station attendants and just random people,” said Odell. “Everyone was deeply moved by the outpouring of generosity and love they experienced not only from us, but from many groups over the last months. We are very glad we went to Mississippi, and I think we’d be open to doing it again. Another group is considering a trip over the Christmas break. We’ll see.”

Pope: Interreligious prayer meetings are needed even more today

BY JOHN THAVIS

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — On the 20th anniversary of the first interreligious prayer meeting in Assisi, Pope Benedict XVI said the initiative had been a “prophetic” way for various faiths to witness against conflict and war.

The pope said such gatherings were needed even more today, when younger generations of all faiths must learn that prayer “does not divide, but unites” and that religion must never be used as an excuse for violence.

The pope made his comments in a message Sept. 4 to the 20th Interreligious Prayer Meeting for Peace in Assisi, Italy. Sponsored by the Sant’Egidio Community, the two-day encounter brought together more than 150 representatives of various world religions.

The pope’s message offered a strong endorsement of the interfaith meetings that began in Assisi in 1986, surprising some observers. Vittorio Messori, a well-known Italian Catholic writer, had reported that as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the future pope had strong doubts about the 1986 meeting and felt it emphasized spectacle over faith.

But in his message, Pope Benedict said Pope John Paul II had correctly perceived the value of having leaders of different faiths gather to send a message that true religion builds bridges and has nothing to do with violence.

“His invitation for a choral witness to peace served to clarify, without any possibility of misunderstanding, that religion can only be a source of peace,” he said.

The 1986 meeting and those that followed have also highlighted the importance of prayer in changing human hearts and helping to clear the often difficult path to peace, the pope said.

“We need this ‘education to peace’ more than ever, especially looking at the new generations,” the pope said.

“Many young people in areas of the world marked by conflict are educated in sentiments of hatred and vengeance, in ideological contexts that cultivate the seeds of ancient animosities and prepare hearts for future violence,” he said.

He noted that 20 years ago Pope John Paul emphasized that the religious leaders had not come together to seek a religious consensus or “negotiate” their faith convictions. Pope Benedict said the policy chosen in 1986, which continues today, is for the various religions to pray in their own distinct way even as they gather to witness in the same place. In this way, confusion is avoided, he said.

“The convergence of diverse representatives should not give the impression of a concession to that relativism which negates the very meaning of truth and the possibility of taking it in,” he said.

The pope also offered a historical perspective on the 20 years that have followed the first interreligious prayer meeting. He said the fall of European communism and the promise of a more cooperative globalized economy generated hope for a new era of peace.

“Unfortunately, this dream of peace did not come true. On the contrary, the third millennium opened with scenarios of terrorism and violence that show no sign of dissolving,” he said.

He said the fact that many conflicts today occur along regional geopolitical fault lines may give the impression that religious differences themselves constitute elements of instability or a threat to peace.

That only gives added relevance to the interreligious prayer meetings for peace, he said.



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Family Faith

CREATE HEALTHY BEDTIME HABITS FOR A LIFETIME To help families create fun, healthy habits, Colgate-Palmolive Company has teamed up with Reading Is Fundamental (RIF), to launch a new Web site offering online tools and tips for parents. To take advantage of the free program, log on to www.colgatehealthyhabits.com. When bedtime is fun, your child will embrace the routine, making it an enjoyable way for the whole family to end the day.

Teens find Michigan City concert to be 'soulful' event

BY DIANE FREEBY

*"For too long, we've kept our God to ourselves
Put the shields of faith he gave us
Up on the shelf
But now we wanna live for
Christ, wanna do what's right
Gonna join his army rise up
and fight."*

MICHIGAN CITY — Those are the lyrics to Ben Govero's anthem "Rise Up," one of many the guitarist performed Aug. 19 at Rock-n-Soul Fest 2006. Govero joined Catholic funk band Crispin, Father Stan Fortuna, Amanda Vernon and others for an all-day concert held at Michigan City Marquette High School. Oh, and don't forget the real presence.

"God was in the house," reported one Amare Vitam, Promotions spokesperson. "We were definitely riding on a wave of prayer!"

About 400 young people, families and religious gathered at the Scholl Center for a day featuring all kinds of Catholic music, from rap to rock and everything in between. A youth band sang stirring renditions of both the rosary and the Divine Mercy chaplet. A chapel for perpetual adoration was onsite, with a monstration blessed by Pope John Paul II himself. There were also opportunities for confession and Father Stan concelebrated the vigil Mass.

While the concert was geared for all ages, the focus was clearly on the youth. Teenagers read at Mass and no fewer than six young men served as altar boys. It was the epitome of new evangelization ... inviting young Catholics to embrace their faith in all its orthodoxy.

People came from all over the Midwest — Iowa, Illinois, Michigan and Indiana. A group from Corpus Christi Parish in South Bend arrived just in time to hear Vernon sing.

"I love how she can get down and get funky and still be worshipping," said sixth-grader Elizabeth Norton. "I love how she can be serious one minute, and then rock on."

Norton's classmate Erica Veen



PHOTOS BY DIANE FREEBY

Artists sign autographs at the Rock-n-Soul Fest in Michigan City.

added, "Amanda could reach us ... not just the adults, but the kids, too."

Vernon's message of chastity and the gift of saving oneself for marriage especially resounded with the girls, who later sported stickers reading "I'm worth waiting for!"

Vernon wrapped up her session with a touching song and the story of how two young people met in college, became friends and fell in love. They defied cultural pressures and remained

chaste until after they were married. Then Vernon revealed how 20-years and seven children later, her parents were still reaping the rewards.

Catholic radio talk-show host Dr. Colleen Kelly-Mast used skits and humor to drive home the idea that our sexuality is truly a gift from God.

"Our beauty reflects the beauty of our Creator," she reminded the crowd. "Our problem in today's society is not that we desire too much, but that we desire too little. Chastity provides us with true freedom."

Rock-n-Soul Fest is the culmination of months of prayer and hard work. Through generous donations, creative fund raising and ticket sales, Amare Vitam raised enough money to bring bands and musicians from as far away as Texas and New York. But concertgoers were treated to so much more.

(or B-16 as Father Stan affectionately calls the pontiff.) "Evil cannot exist by itself. The only way there can be evil is to take away something good. Evil has no power on its own."

Father Stan elaborated, "If there was no good in the world ... do the math ... there would be no evil. When God made men and women in his own image, that was good. But we have to be vigilant against the attacks of evil, which come in all shapes and forms."

Following Mass, Father Stan tuned up his guitar and with a crowd of young people at his feet and the lights dimmed.

Crispin closed out the evening, keeping even the group of Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual

Adoration from Mishawaka out way past their normal bedtime. They take turns getting up around the clock to be with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament of the altar.

"I think it was nice to see all ages here," said Sister Ruth. "It was neat to see the kids involved in the music and praising the Lord. I loved the spontaneity of the musicians and how they are spreading the Gospel through music."

Plans are already in the works to make Rock-n-Soul Fest an annual event, with musicians already making plans to return and new groups lining up. For more information, go to www.wordgallery.net/amarevitam or call Rachel at (574) 232-7047.

The joyful noise continued from within the Scholl Center all afternoon and into the evening. Crispin lead singer Daniel Di Silva gave a talk on the theology of the body just prior to Mass. "This Mass, this night, your very life will never be the same. It's up to you," he said.

Worshippers then took part in a reverent but spirited eucharistic celebration. Father Stan Fortuna, in his animated New York accent, had everyone's rapt attention.

In his homily, Father Stan talked about the spiritual warfare going on every day. "Deception and lies are the devil's methods," he explained, then pointed to the war on terrorism. "Today, we can't see the enemy. What airplane? Which airport? What suitcase?"

But also reminded us the devil does not have the last word. Father Stan quoted Pope John Paul II: "The Eucharist is the mystery of light ... be not afraid!"

Father Stan also referred to writings of Pope Benedict XVI



Corpus Christi eighth-grader Pete Freeby reads the prayers of the faithful at Mass with Father Stan next to him at the Rock-n-Soul celebration for teens at Marquette High School in Michigan City. Several young people from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend attended the first-time event.

**"Deception
and lies
are the
devil's methods."**

FATHER STAN FORTUNA

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.

THE Young Voice

HUNTINGTON CATHOLIC SCHOOL is located in Huntington. The school has 210 students in grades preschool through eighth. Jason Woolard is the principal. Additional information is available at www.huntingtoncatholic.org, e-mail to fwahcs@comcast.net or by calling the school at (260) 356-1926.

History of Huntington Catholic

Huntington Catholic School has a long history of educating students in Huntington area. Ss. Peter & Paul School began in 1849. Ten years later, the actual school building was erected and in 1858 the parish school was established. St. Mary School began in 1897 with the Sisters of Providence teaching 116 children. In 1921, the Sisters of Providence left and the Sisters of St. Francis Seraph (now the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration) came to teach at St. Mary School.

During the 1985-87 school years, Ss. Peter and Paul and St. Mary Catholic Churches consolidated their schools, with Ss Peter and Paul housing grades prekindergarten to four, and St. Mary housing grades five through eight. The name of Ss Peter and Paul's school building was changed to the Primary Building. The name of St. Mary's school building was changed to the Middle Building. Huntington Catholic School is one school with two buildings.

The two parish schools were consolidated to improve the overall educational process by better utilizing financial resources, teacher talents and promote Catholic unity in the community. Huntington Catholic School serves families from Huntington, Whitley, Allen and Wells Counties. Enrollment today at Huntington Catholic in grades prekindergarten through eight is approximately 210. Huntington Catholic School is the most viable nonpublic and parochial school in Huntington County.



Recipe for a terrific teacher

By Kenzie Stephan, Fourth grade

Here is how to make a terrific teacher:

- 9 cups of happy
- 4 cups of funny
- 4 cups of nice
- A pinch of only gives one page of homework a night
- 1 bag full of terrific
- A helping of her noticing and being impressed with your good work
- Pour the ingredients into a bowl. Mix it well, and you will have a terrific teacher.

By Matt Hunt, Fourth grade

- 10 cups of homework giving
- 1 cup of fun
- 3 cups of good cursive writing
- 2 tablespoons of thinking and knowledge
- 300 cups of paying attention to her students
- Mix it all up. Bake it for about 30 minutes. Take it out and you will have a successful teacher.

By Alec Justice, Fourth grade

- 5 cups of telling funny jokes
- 10 cups of niceness
- 9 cups of no yelling
- 7 cups of fun homework
- 11 cups of helping us understand our homework
- 20 cups of good teaching
- Mix it all together and out comes Mrs. Grube.



If I were in charge of the world

BY JESSICA MOLITOR, FOURTH GRADE

If I were in charge of the world, I'd cancel Boy Scouts, shots, tutoring and also bad shows.

If I were in charge of the world, there would be elevators, one million Nintendos, driving for 9 year olds and up, and cell phones for 9 year olds and up.

If I were in charge of the world, you wouldn't have school, you wouldn't have homework, you wouldn't have brothers that are annoying, or cursive. You wouldn't even have detention.

If I were in charge of the world, there would be free ice-cream for 9 year olds and up. All toys would be free. And a person who sometimes forgot to brush, and sometimes forgot to decorate their locker, would still be allowed to be in charge of the world.

BY KATELYN NISWANDER, FOURTH GRADE

If I were in charge of the world, I'd cancel dress code, stairs, littering and also trash.

If I were in charge of the world, there would be money raining down from the sky, no sickness, and no sadness.

If I were in charge of the world, you wouldn't have bugs, you wouldn't have autism, you wouldn't have fighting, or cursive writing. You wouldn't even have homework.

If I were in charge of the world, a weekend would be a week long. All people would be able to fly.

And a person who sometimes forgot to love, and sometimes forgot to hug, would still be allowed to be in charge of the world.

BY CONNIE ZAY, FOURTH GRADE

If I were in charge of the world, I'd cancel cursive writing, school on Fridays, chores and homework.

If I were in charge of the world, there would be peace, watches with TVs and Jesus living with us.

If I were in charge of the world, you wouldn't have drugs, you wouldn't have alcohol, you wouldn't have bad guys, or police because you wouldn't need them since there would be peace in the world.

If I were in charge of the world, a cookie would be a fruit. All animals would be able to talk. And a person who sometime forgot to wash their hands, and sometimes forgot to wear shoes, would still be allowed to be in charge of the world.

BY BLAINE CUTSHALL, FOURTH GRADE

If I were in charge of the world, I'd cancel homework, cursive writing, crime and also war.

If I were in charge of the world, there would be a game room in every house, a laptop for every person and a pop machine on every corner.

If I were in charge of the world, you wouldn't have school. You wouldn't have sisters. You wouldn't have brothers or bedtimes. You wouldn't even have parents.

If I were in charge of the world, a pizza would be a vegetable. All brussel sprouts will be fed to dogs. And a person who sometimes forgot to make pizza a veggie, and sometimes forgot to feed brussel sprouts to dogs, would still be allowed to be in charge of the world.



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NORTHEAST IN GEORGETOWN ----- NORTHWEST IN PINE VALLEY

Extreme outreach

Oasis skate park takes Christ into the world

BY DON CLEMMER

FORT WAYNE — The sprawling mass of dilapidated buildings that make up the old Tokheim complex off of Wabash Avenue aren't the first place a person would look for a safe and healthy recreational atmosphere for young people. Nor is the cavernous gym space, complete with grinding rails, ramps, chain-link fencing and graffiti, the sort of place one might hope to find a Christ-centered ministry. But these are exactly the goals of the directors of the Oasis Xtreme Park, the indoor park for young skateboarders, inline skaters and BMX bikers.

Now in its second year of operation, the nonprofit interdenominational ministry is open four days a week and staffed by volunteers, mostly from its board of directors.

"Most of the guys on the board have a passion for it through their kids," explains Tom Trentadue, a parishioner of St. Jude Catholic Church, Fort Wayne, whose work supervising at the park began through his son, Austin. Now a freshman at Snider High School, Austin was one of many area youth who were attracted to a makeshift skate park set up by Pastor Per Guldbek in the parking lot of Grace Christian Church on Reed Road in Fort Wayne. Guldbek too had set up the facility because his son was interested in skateboarding and soon realized that, with so many young people regularly congregating in one place, it was the perfect outlet for a Bible study.

In time, accordingly to Trentadue, God provided the new ministry with a building, the old

recreation center for Tokheim employees. Through a generous grant from John Popp of Perfection Bakeries, the ministry was able to obtain the building at a reduced price and set to work on the massive renovation required.

According to Trentadue, this is where the diverse professional backgrounds of the men on the board proved useful. A certified public accountant, Trentadue can readily handle finances. The other Catholic on the board, Jim Robertson Jr. of St. Peter Parish, is an electrician who helped to rewire the building and continues to do electrical work where needed around the facility.

The building and the park itself have a raw, unfinished feel to them, which is just the right atmosphere for skateboarding and BMX biking, Trentadue notes. The park has attracted increasing numbers of young people, so much so that it may be time for some changes.

"We're trying to get enough money so that we can hire a full-time director," says Trentadue, who traveled to Lubbock, Texas, with Pastor Guldbek in late August to make a presentation for a grant they've requested from a Christian organization. They have yet to hear the outcome, but Trentadue says they are hopeful for what it could do for their ministry.

"We're at that level where you really need that full-time person to take it to that next step." He explains that the person would be in charge of promotions, finding sponsors, finances, supervision and other areas.

The ministry at Oasis Xtreme Park is refreshingly simple. Outside of just providing a safe, supervised place for young peo-



PHOTOS BY DON CLEMMER

Jim Robertson Jr. and Tom Trentadue, the two Catholics on the Oasis Xtreme Park board, stand next to a graffiti design done by Trentadue's son, Austin, at the park. Both Robertson and Trentadue were drawn into work with this interdenominational ministry through their kids' love of skateboarding.

ple, the park holds short Bible studies prior to its Wednesday and Thursday night skating and biking sessions. During the weekend open skating and biking sessions, the park holds "180 sessions," where the park is closed down midway through the night

to go through a Scripture reading. This is followed by discussion, fellowship and a prayer.

These sessions, notes Trentadue, are where it is most significant that the young people at Oasis Xtreme Park range from those who go to church every

week to those who do not go at all.

"Our approach is the evangelistic approach. It's been a soft approach. We're just sharing. And it's been really neat to do some Bible readings with some of these kids. You know, the first time, they're just sitting there. But they come back. And they're curious. And then the fourth or fifth time that we're doing these things, these guys are really into it."

That it is presenting Christ to those who may not know him, Trentadue adds, is one of the really beautiful aspects of the Oasis Xtreme Park ministry.

Another part of the ministry that could be considered profound is its interdenominational nature, that it has managed to bring together Christians of different backgrounds to work side by side in ministry. The answer seems to lie in a path that even Pope Benedict XVI has recommended for Christian unity, to remain focused on Christ.

"It's been smooth," Trentadue says of the relations between churches, noting that the park hopes to reach out to more church communities as their membership grows.

"No one group or teaching or belief has come in other than that Jesus is here. That's number one. And we're here for the kids. Everybody loves the kids with a passion. They want to provide a place for the kids."



Young people navigate the ramps and floor of Oasis Xtreme Park on skateboards and in-line skates during a recent session. The park, which incorporates Bible study and faith sharing into its ministry, began in the parking lot of Grace Christian Church and quickly acquired its interdenominational status.

Moms nurture Catholic motherhood

BY DAVID A. WEMHOFF

NOTRE DAME — There's a new addition to the family at Sacred Heart Parish, Notre Dame. It's called "Catholic Moms in Action."

"We want to build and nurture the idea of being a mother and living like a Catholic mother," said Michelle Joyce.

"The group is about being Catholic and supporting each other while our children see their moms being of service to others in accordance with the faith," explained Kristi Kubicki.

And, Kristi added "Catholic Moms in Action gives mothers an opportunity to be involved with those of the same faith and holding the same value system." Michelle and Kristi are cofounders of Catholic Moms in Action.

Michelle is the mother of Ian, the wife of Timothy, and a scientist in the chemistry department at the

University of Notre Dame. Kristi the mother of Aubren, Silas and Ealin, the wife of Brian, and is a social worker who helps at Hannah's House, a home for unwed mothers. Kristi is from the South Bend area, and Michelle moved to the area about two years ago.

Being a mother is tough especially in this day and age, and one of the things that families have lost over the years is the ready availability of helpful advice. "Now, so many are transplants from other places and they are away from their families. In the old days, family and strong neighborhoods were there to support Catholic moms," said Michelle.

Infants, youngsters, teenagers and adult children all come with their unique challenges, and it is a sure thing that someone, somewhere in the parish has encountered any of a number of the different issues that each phase of life

brings. So, Catholic Moms in Action remedies this situation by inviting mothers, of all ages, to join and to share their wisdom with other moms in the parish. That way, years of practical experience are not lost, but are put to good use.

"We are not restricted to young mothers. We can learn so much from older mothers and get support from each other," said Kristi. Indeed, whether your children are in diapers or in college, all moms are welcome.

Earlier this year, when the Sacred Heart Parish nurse, Diane Beach, said the mothers' group was starting to disband and needed help, Michelle and Kristi were faced with a question: What do we do? Kristi said that question was answered when she said to Michelle, "If you do it, I'll do it." And so the rest is history, but not without some excitement.

For instance, at the first meet-

ing on Aug. 3, Kristi and Michelle thought they would be the only ones there with Diane Beach. But they were wrong. Five mothers showed up. And, since then, two more have expressed a concern to join. They've had their second meeting and they are planning a lot more events this fall, to include a fundraiser.

The group plans on having guest speakers address specific parenting issues, religious topics, or other current concerns moms and families may have. One of the present areas of interest is to identify the good schools in the South Bend area, and how to enroll one's children in them.

And there will be plenty of opportunities for socializing and service, too. Planned are a Mom's Night Out, which is an opportunity for mothers to support one another through an evening activity; an Expectant Mothers' Night, which is a chance for mothers to ask

questions or discuss concerns with experienced mothers or a guest speaker; Meals for Moms, in which meals are provided for mothers with newborns or expectant mothers on bed rest; family gatherings at which moms and their families come together every few months for Mass or a potluck supper; and service projects that allow moms to live out their Catholic faith by providing service to other families, children, parents or local service agencies.

Michelle summarizes it all by saying, "We celebrate the vocation to motherhood and set a good example for our children." Certainly an idea whose time is now. Catholic Moms in Action is something which, as Kristi and Michelle both hope, will spread to other parishes. "We hope to build and nurture the idea of being a mother and living life as a Catholic mother."



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Financial advise in funding a Catholic education

As Catholics we have long known the value of parochial schools and faith-centered institutions of higher education. We are thankful for the opportunity to bring up our young people with a solid spiritual and academic foundation. We also know that the price of that education continues to climb.

The pain is especially keen when we look at sending the children off to college. Be it a secular state school or a private Catholic college, the one constant is the ever-increasing cost of a good education. Academic and athletic scholarships may be in the prayers of parents and students as they confront this reality. However, planning and pre-funding an education is the best strategy and easier today than most realize.

Many have started using 529 College Savings Plans. These are programs sponsored by individual states that allow for the tax-free growth of dollars invested for college education. The 529-plan allows the donor to control the funds and to change the designated educational beneficiary of the account if necessary. This is a desirable feature as an account owner may redirect the dollars to another beneficiary if the original designee experiences a change in educational outlook.

These accounts may be funded by parents, grandparents or anyone else committed to the child's education. The earnings on the account are free from taxes as long as the dollars are used for approved educational expenses.

While all states currently offer a program, they are not necessarily created equal. Some states offer tax breaks at the state income tax level for contributions made. Indiana law has recently changed to allow a 20 percent tax credit up to \$1,000 effective January of 2007. The contribution limits to a 529 plan vary from state to state, and such contributions are subject

DOLLARS AND SENSE

BY KEITH E. DAVIS

to the federal gift tax laws.

Each state that sponsors a plan has aligned itself with a fund provider. Some offer very good value in the form investment performance and cost. Some are expensive and underperforming. As such, it pays to do one's homework in selecting a 529 plan or seek the counsel of a financial advisor.

Another vehicle available to savers is the Coverdell Education Savings Account. This is the modern iteration of the Education IRA.

Deposits are limited to \$2,000 per year and are nondeductible. If the contributor is an individual, the \$2,000 limit phases out ratably between \$95,000 and \$110,000 of modified adjusted gross income (\$190,000 and \$220,000 for joint filers). The investment choices with Coverdell ESA's are far broader than the 529 plans as they may be invested in virtually any marketable security.

Withdrawals are free of federal income tax and may be used for primary education expenses as well as college and technical schools. This is a powerful point of differentiation for families planning on a parochial high school. Contributions must cease when the beneficiary reaches 18 and any unused funds are paid directly to the beneficiary at age 30.

It is possible to establish both plans for a student and may be an effective strategy to fund a Catholic education at the primary and college level.

EDITORIAL

Five years later, where are we spiritually?

As readers will see on page 3 of this issue of *Today's Catholic*, Bishop John M. D'Arcy will have a 9/11 memorial Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne at 12:05 p.m. remembering those who lost their lives at the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in Shanksville, Pa., five years ago.

Our bishop has asked parishes to have a similar Mass over the weekend or on Sept. 11.

Almost everyone remembers where they were, what they were doing at the moment of the disaster. Most of us spent that day in fear and wondering what would happen next. Many said, "I am afraid." Many turned to God for solace.

Bishop D'Arcy reminded us that week, "We see here the presence of evil, but our faith tells us that where sin abounded, grace did more abound, that good is more powerful than evil."

Pope John Paul II said at the time his hope was that "this incredible and desperate act would lead everyone to reflect on the anti-human, anti-Christian nature of violence, of all violence, which leads to nothing."

And as part of a papal message that following Sunday, Pope John Paul II said, "To all I solemnly repeat the Gospel injunction not to be conquered by evil, but to conquer evil with good."

Five years later, let us take stock. What have we done to address injustice — in our own country, throughout the world? What have we done to uphold the dignity of every human, from conception to natural death? What have we done to uphold the dignity of every human throughout the world? Have we acted out of love for our fellow man? Have we acted out of revenge?

We are also reminded that if we truly want peace, we need to find peace within ourselves. That can only be done through our relationship with God. Our "Cutting Edge" this week gives us some tips in truly talking to God in a way we would talk to a friend.

We also need to know our God. We do this by hearing his word, receiving our Lord in the sacraments, especially the Eucharist in which Jesus becomes a part of us in such a way that we take him out to the world with us in everything we do. If we do this, we do not have anything to fear.

Interestingly, the first reading this Sunday, Is 35:4-7a, offers words of encouragement: "Thus says the Lord: Say to those whose hearts are frightened: Be strong, fear not! Here is your God, he comes with vindication; with divine recompense he comes to save you." — New American Bible.

The Gospel that day talks about Jesus putting his finger into the man's ears and, spitting and then touching his tongue, saying, "Be opened!"

May our ears, and our eyes as well, be open to the healing words of our Lord, and may our tongue proclaim his glory in all we do — in our workplaces, our homes, in our parishes, with our friends and colleagues. If we take to heart the church's teachings on love and justice, then will we become a people of God and terrorism will have no purpose throughout the world.

Bidding farewell to a faithful columnist

After this issue, Dr. James Davidson, who writes the column "Research for the Church," which is published every other issue in *Today's Catholic*, will no longer be offering his column. His column has been a part of *Today's Catholic* for almost eight years. Davidson is a renowned researcher on issues in the American Catholic Church.

Due to illness, he tells us he plans to spend more time with his family, travel and will cut back on his teaching obligations at Purdue University.

Today's Catholic would like to thank Dr. Davidson for his insights that often made our readers sincerely ponder the matters our church faces. As the church journeys onward into the future, let us all draw on the facts and numbers he offered in his column to make us be a truly evangelistic church in all we do and say as we travel on our Christian journey.

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

Spiritual warfare is the most powerful weapon

I was born on Sept. 11, so this date has always held particular significance to me. Five years ago, I had just given birth to my first son a few weeks before the terrorist attacks. I was getting him dressed that morning when my mother-in-law called with the news of the destruction of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

I felt like most Americans that day, frightened and angry. I would have done anything to exact revenge and make the world safer for my baby.

Five years later, however, I have to reflect on the ways of war and the consequences of violence. Whatever my political affiliations, I recognize that there is the will of humans and the will of God and that often these wills contradict. Furthermore, secular authority can never compare to a moral authority, which seeks not to be popular but to adhere to the truth as it is revealed. As an American Catholic, I should value the opinion of the highest religious authority on earth, the man I believe to be the vicar of Christ on earth. Through the acceptance of his word, I am aided in discerning God's will.

I must remember that both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI were young men during World War II, yet each sought to turn away from traditional weapons of war and seek solace in the church. Instead of guns and bombs, these men clung to the rosary and the power of the Catholic Church. They embraced the suffering of their day and prayed for the strength to do God's will.

Is this my prayer? Am I prepared to accept the challenge of the cross? This year I reflect on the five-year anniversary of the tragedies of Sept. 11. That newborn baby, whose safety in this world was uncertain, just celebrated his fifth birthday and grows strong through God's mercy.

While the day will certainly invoke sadness and anger within me once again, this year I have the benefit of perspective. I know that if I ask for Our Lady's intercession through the prayer of the rosary that she will not abandon me. I know that time spent in meditation in front of the Blessed Sacrament is not wasted.

I choose to mark this anniversary with a revival of spiritual warfare, a weapon more powerful than any created on earth.

Brittney Andersen
Fort Wayne

Parishes need more social justice efforts and actions

In James Davidson's article "The Catholic puzzle: What it is and why it exists" in the Aug. 27 issue, he summarizes the book, "Taking Faith Seriously." I agree with the summa-

ry given by the author Mary Jo Bane regarding the church's social teachings. I also strongly agree with Bane's research, which shows that Catholics score very low on community involvement on social action and justice.

I, along with Bane, am extremely disappointed at the lack of discussion, action and efforts regarding social justice in our parishes and dioceses in the United States. I feel it has become more profitable, more comfortable, and produces security for Catholics to go along with the current political climate than to do what is right for the common good in all lands.

As Davidson is looking at the pieces of the puzzle, please consider a piece of the puzzle that is working to improve the situation. Pax Christi USA is launching a project entitled Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good. The long-term effort of this project envisions a world in which public policy is shaped by core values of justice, human dignity and the common good — a world in which faithful Catholics in the U.S. will embrace the fullness of the Catholic Church's social teachings when acting in a democratic society.

Any parish is welcome to become a part of the alliance. Pax Christi will provide educational materials for use in parishes. These materials will provide what Davidson reports is missing in our Catholic parishes. And hopefully the education of Catholic adults and youth will make us realize that to live the words of Jesus Christ one must embrace a life where social justice is a concern in all matters.

To contact Pax Christi regarding the Catholic Alliance Initiative call (814) 453-4955 or e-mail at info@paxchristi.org.

As Pope John Paul said during his visit in 1995, "Democracy serves what is true and right when it safeguards the dignity of every human person, when it respects inviolable and inalienable human

rights, when it makes the common good the end and criterion regulating all public and social life."

Susan G. Berghoff
Warren

Commisariat of the Holy Land thanks diocese

Dear Bishop D'Arcy,
God give you peace!

I am in receipt of your check in the amount of \$72,990.23, representing the gifts of the people of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend to the Jerusalem Mother Church for the 2006 Good Friday collection. This gift will not only assist in the preservation of the Holy Places but will also help the people to whom the Franciscan Friars of the Holy Land Custody minister.

In the name of the friars and those to whom they minister, I express our deepest gratitude to you, Bishop D'Arcy, and to our sisters and brothers in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, who continue to give most generously to help those who are in need. May God bless and reward all of you.

The Good Friday Collection is a pontifical collection and is absolutely vital. News reports are received daily about the important challenges in the Middle East. The Christian community is urgently in need of our help. As you know, we are charged also with the protection, physical and pastoral care of the holy shrines, which we make accessible to pilgrims.

With deep appreciation, much gratitude and a promise of prayer for you and the people of God in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, I am yours

Sincerely and gratefully,
Brother Joe Rogenski, OFM
Commissary of the Holy Land St. Louis Region

Peter Claver

1580-1654
feast — September 9

This Spanish-born saint of the slave trade entered the Society of Jesus in 1601. After studies in Barcelona and on Mallorca, where the Jesuit porter, Alphonsus Rodriguez, urged him to go to the New World, Peter went to South America in 1610 and was the first Jesuit ordained in Cartagena, Colombia, a port of entry for West African slaves. Peter ministered to this desolate human cargo aboard the ships and ashore before they were sold, feeding, comforting and baptizing, by his own count, 300,000 slaves. He and St. Alphonsus were canonized in 1888.



Is evangelization taking root?

Evangelism has always been an important component of sectarian Protestantism. In the abstract, the term “evangelism” means to proclaim the Gospel and spread the faith. In more concrete terms, it refers to the methods sectarian Protestants have used to proselytize Catholics and others whom they think need to be “saved.”

These methods have included coming to your front door, asking if they could come in and talk about your relationship with Jesus, and leaving some literature emphasizing the need to have a personal relationship with the Lord. They also have included “witnessing” to people on street corners, giving Bibles or Bible tracts to perfect strangers, and asking friends and coworkers about their relationship with Christ.

Proclaiming the Gospel and spreading the faith also have been important to Catholicism. But, Catholics have gone about it differently. For one thing, they have had a more “live and let live” attitude about other people’s religions. They have not gone door-to-door inviting people to join their church. They also have not “witnessed” to people on street corners or handed out literature to strangers.

Instead, they have baptized



RESEARCH FOR THE CHURCH

JAMES D. DAVIDSON

their children at a young age and made sure they received the other sacraments at the proper time in life. They have sent their kids to religious education and parochial schools to learn about their faith. They have done whatever they could to see that their offspring marry Catholics and remain active in the church. They also have brought their faith to bear on important social issues, such as poverty and abortion.

Recent popes have urged Catholics to be more proactive in proclaiming the good news and sharing their faith with others. In 1975, Pope Paul VI issued an “apostolic exhortation” entitled “Evangelii Nuntiandi” (“On Evangelization in the Modern World”). Pope John Paul II reemphasized the importance of “evangelization” in his 1990 encyclical “Redemptoris Missio” (“On the Permanent Validity of the Church’s Missionary Mandate”) and in his

many visits to countries around the world. Bishops, priests and lay ministers increasingly talk about how central evangelization is to the church’s mission and how important it is for all Catholics to share their faith with others.

Given the authoritative nature of these initiatives, one would expect to find that many Catholic parishes have made evangelization a high priority. But, the introductory paragraphs in this column suggest at least two reasons why only a few parishes might have done so.

For one thing, many Catholics might be turned off by the term “evangelization,” associating it with sectarian Protestantism and wanting nothing to do with the methods sectarian Protestants use to spread their faith.

Also, given their “live and let live” attitude, many Catholics might be opposed to any program

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With love, compassion, Jesus restores us



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Mk 7:31-37

The Book of Isaiah is the source of this weekend’s first reading. When this second of the three sections of Isaiah was written, the circumstances of the Hebrew people were not good, to say the least.

Without question, much doubting of God’s mercy, and probably even of God’s existence, were underway. The task of prophets, such as the author of this part of Isaiah, was to reinforce the people’s trust in God’s goodness and love.

An important part of this process was to remind the people that being indifferent about God, or defying God, creates a life filled with difficulties. God’s law is not as much a set of rules and regulations as it is a following of logical steps toward harmony and propriety.

With this thought in the background, the prophets saw misfortunes, such as those rising from the people’s misconceived foreign alliances and flirtations with paganisms that prompted invasions from the outside, as the result of a human decision to ignore God. These misfortunes did not come because God willed

to destroy, or even make miserable, the Chosen People.

If instead of forsaking God, or instead of disobeying God, the people would return God’s love with their own love, and show their love for God by obeying the law of God, then all would be well.

For its second reading, the church again this weekend offers us a passage from the Epistle to James.

This passage from James is a splendid testament to the ancient preference of the church for the poor and heavily burdened. It also testifies without qualification to the equality of humans because every human, come what may, possesses a dignity not subject to abridgment by another person, a society or a philosophy.

The reading extols the early Christians to treat others in their midst with equal respect. It uses the examples of a rich person and a poor person. This advice must have seemed very novel for the first Christians. They lived in the Roman Empire, the prevailing culture of which glorified earthly gain and materialism.

St. Mark’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is a miracle narrative, one of many in the Gospels. In this particular story, Jesus is in an area now not part of modern Israel, but rather a region within the present boundaries of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. So, Jesus was outside the Jewish lands then as this territory of the Ten Cities would be outside Jewish lands today.

He frees a man of a speech impediment. Further, the man can hear. This story is more than a reporting of a miracle, as marvelous as it was. It is a report of the fact that the man was able, after the miracle, because of the

compassion and power of Jesus. It further means that the man was able to hear God’s word. The man was not alone, stranded as if lost at sea. He also was able to live within the society, communicating with others, not set apart and unable to interact with others.

Reflection

The first reading has a lesson for everyone and anyone, whether the time frame be a period millennia before Christ, or 2006. The lesson is that we bring heartache and even disaster upon ourselves, if we forget God or disobey God. God does not will eternal death for us. We choose it, rarely in and of itself, but in effect by our selfishness, pride and rebellion.

We need God. We cannot hear God, and we will not admit to God our needs, all too often because of our own deafness and muteness.

With love, and with compassion, if we ask, Jesus restores us to fullness. In Jesus, we hear God. Through Jesus, we share our hopes and fears with God.

READINGS

23rd week of ordinary time

Monday: 1 Cor 5:1-8 Ps 5:5-6, 7, 12 Lk 6:6-11

Tuesday: 1 Cor 6:1-11 Ps 149:1-6, 9 Lk 6:12-19

Wednesday: 1 Cor 7:25-31 Ps 45:11-12, 14-17 Lk 6:20-26

Thursday: Nm 21:4b-9 Ps 78:1-2, 34-38 Phil 2:6-11 Jn 3:13-17

Friday: 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22b-27 Ps 84:3-6, 8, 12 Jn 19:25-27

Saturday: 1 Cor 10:14-22 Ps 116:12-13, 17-18 Lk 6:43-49

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Campion

On Sept. 13, the church remembers St. John Chrysostom.

This quiz looks at his life and times.

1. John was a bishop, but he also belongs to this select group:

- a. Doctors of the Church b. Popes c. Ordained married men

2. What does “Chrysostom” mean?

- a. Anointed by the Divine b. Transformed c. Golden mouthed

3. Why was he given that title?

- a. He was reputed to have been confirmed (chrismated) by Jesus in a vision
b. He was the “Chrysalis” who went from public sinner to saint in a year
c. Due to the eloquence and power of his preaching

4. When did John live?

- a. Mostly in the 4th century, dying in 407
b. Mostly in the 8th century, dying in 807
c. Mostly in the 12th century, dying in 1207

5. Where was he from?

- a. Tyre, where his father was a leading merchant
b. Antioch, where his father was a senior military officer
c. Athens, where his father was a judge and deacon

6. John, though called early to religious life, had to defer it for this practical reason:

- a. He was married and needed to divorce his wife first.
b. He had to look after his widowed mother.
c. He was illiterate and had to learn to read and write Greek first.

7. Although in a terminal decline, this force was still around when John became a priest, and so he preached against it.

- a. Islam b. Judaism c. Paganism

8. John took to living in a cave as a hermit, but had to give it up because

- a. The austere lifestyle ruined his health.
b. The invading Muslims had made caves unsafe.
c. The cable TV reception was not good enough.

9. Despite not wanting the position, John was appointed to this office:

- a. Byzantine emperor
b. Patriarch of Constantinople
c. Tsar of all the Russias

10. He at first reformed the church, enforcing discipline. However he soon alienated the upper strata of society by doing this:

- a. He opposed extravagant clothing and loose morals.
b. He insisted that his flock become vegetarians.
c. He outlawed the use of icons and changed the liturgical language to Coptic.

11. One of those he upset was Eudoxia. Why was she significant?

- a. She was the mother superior of the first monastery in Constantinople.
b. She was his former wife, and this led to scandal.
c. She was the emperor’s wife.

12. After a great deal of political maneuvering, Chrysostom was forced to do this:

- a. Become Orthodox
b. Give up his office and go into exile
c. Renounce the clerical state and marry his second cousin Hagia Sophia

13. Yet second thoughts and perhaps fear of divine retribution are believed to have caused Eudoxia and others to do this:

- a. Have him executed
b. Have him reinstated
c. Enter a monastery in repentance

14. Due the nature of Byzantine politics, which were, well, Byzantine, he was forced out yet again and exiled. Where did he end up?

- a. He collapsed and died at Pontus, on his way to the very borders of the empire.
b. He ended up in England, as it was the usual punishment destination for Greeks.
c. He ended up in Belgium, where his lack of Flemish canceled out his oratory.

ANSWERS:

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

When Christ returns in glory, there will be the Last Judgment

Why do some TV evangelists say Jesus will come down from heaven and will reign in this world for 1,000 years? S.C., South Bend

The idea of a future 1,000-year period of blessedness or a millennium is found in apocalyptic literature, such as the Book of Revelation in the New Testament, the Book of Daniel in the Old Testament and the Jewish book of Enoch not contained in the Bible.

Apocalyptic literature was popular in Jewish and Christian circles from B.C. 200 to A.D. 200. Apocalypse means a "revelation" or "unveiling." It claims to reveal things normally hidden and to unveil the future. The apocalyptic writers directed their attention towards the end of things and to the destiny of the world in general.

F. Cross says apocalyptic literature began because of Israel's conflicts with other nations and the conviction that trust in military power was useless. As Israel continued to be subjected to foreign domination, e.g., Babylon, Persia, Greece, Syria, Rome, it

despaired of ever attaining political supremacy and the conclusion was drawn that God would eventually intervene, destroy Israel's enemies and set up his kingdom on earth.

The New American Bible reminds us that apocalyptic literature, such as the Book of Revelation, employs symbolic language that is not to be taken literally. For example, the Book of Revelation pictures Jesus as a lamb with seven horns and seven eyes. Literally this may seem like an ugly picture, but symbolically the seven horns show Jesus' universal power and the seven eyes his perfect knowledge. The numbers used are also not to be taken literally, but symbolically. For example, four equals the world, six means imperfection, seven is totality or perfection and the number 1,000 refers to immensity.

Chapter 20 of the Book of Revelation speaks of the 1,000-year reign. An angel seizes Satan and chains him up for 1,000 years. When the 1,000 years is

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

over, Satan is released to seduce the nations. With the pagan nations, Satan invades Jerusalem, but God hurls Satan into a pool of burning sulphur forever.

The New American Bible says this period of 1,000 years is not to be taken literally. It symbolizes the long period of time between the chaining up of Satan (a symbol for Christ's Resurrection — victory over death and the forces of evil) and the end of the world. During this time God's people share in the glorious reign of God, which is present to them in virtue of their baptism — victory over death and sin.

The practice of interpreting the Book of Revelation literally concerning the 1,000-year reign

is called millenarianism. The premillennialists maintain the 1,000-year reign will follow the Second Coming of Christ. The post-millennialists say the 1,000-year reign precedes and prepares the way for the Second Coming.

E. Livingstone says millenarianism is seen in the early church among the heretical gnostics and Montanists. But as emphasis was put on the worldly pleasures the saints would enjoy for 1,000 years, a revulsion against millenarianism began with the Christian theologian Origen and was completed by St. Augustine of Hippo. Later at the time of the Protestant Reformation, the Anabaptists, the Bohemian and Moravian Brethren were millenarians. In Germany the millenarian view was advocated by the Pietist movement of the 17th-18th centuries. In the 19th century, millenarian ideas arose in England and the United States among the Irvingites, the Plymouth Brethren and the Adventists.

The new Catechism of the

Catholic Church says that at the Second Coming, when Christ returns in glory, there will be the Last Judgment. The Last Judgment will reveal that God's justice triumphs over all the injustices committed by his creatures. After the Last Judgment, the righteous will reign for ever with Christ, glorified in body and soul.

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.

Leaving things in God's capable hands

When you trust God, you will find he sometimes gives you very good things. This may sound obvious, but it's not something we always easily believe. Think about it. When someone says, "We'll leave it (a situation) in God's hands," what do you usually think?

The phrase is a resignation to God's will, no doubt, but usually indicates expecting the worst. "Uncle Mort is so ill. There's nothing we can do. We'll leave it in God's hands." Or "The hurricane is scheduled to hit the coast. We have no recourse. We'll leave it in God's hands." It's almost as if we're saying that if we trust God he'll just bungle it. We must control things ourselves.

Well, guess what? Sometimes leaving a situation in God's hands produces a result so great and amazing and indescribably wonderful that you couldn't possibly have come up with it yourself. In my case, "putting things in God's hands" gave me precious time with my husband that would never have happened had I tried to control things myself. Let me explain.

After my recovery from cancer, my husband David wanted me to go with him to California. I almost said no because I was terrified to fly. I prayed about it, and felt God was asking me to go with him. It was the least I could do after all the support David had given me. I took a leap of faith and said okay, telling myself that God would get us there and back. Here's a little peek at what happened to me when I put things in God's capable hands.

First, we survived the flight. That was amazing enough. I hadn't really thought about what we would actually do in California once we got there. I didn't expect us living through the landing. But we did. Once that was settled, I decided a good night's rest was in order. I woke to discover I had



EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Theresa A. Thomas

"only" slept in until 7 a.m. Then I realized that 7 a.m. California time was really 10 a.m. Indiana time. Alleluia! No wonder I felt so refreshed.

That morning David had to drive to Los Angeles for business. I had planned on going with him. "Don't come with me," he said, gently, "It will be so boring to wait for me in the city."

"Well, what do I do?" I asked. "Theresa," he said slowly as though explaining a difficult concept to a simple-minded child, "we are at a spa and resort." He emphasized the words "spa" and "resort."

"Do what people at a spa and resort do."

"What do they do?" I asked and wondered. My only conception of a spa thus far was escaping to the bathroom, turning on the bathroom tub water faucet strongly enough to drown out the commotion outside, and hope to get to sit, in the steam, with a magazine for maybe 10 minutes. My husband handed me a menu of options printed on elegant paper and smiled.

As I read the menu my eyes widened. "Facial, body wrap, detoxifying mud wrap, fitness equipment, sauna, pool, manicure, essential oils, aromatherapy, fresh fruit, flavored water ..." I was delirious with the thought of the possibilities. "These are expensive," I began, but David immediately cut me off. "Theresa, fill up your day," he said, "We can splurge this once."

Then he kissed my forehead and left. At first I just sat there, frozen on the bed. Then I burst into laughter, and, turning my attention back to the menu, I care-

fully chose a detoxifying mud bath, which promised to "rid the body of chemical toxins." Perfect after the months of chemo.

And so began a luxurious day at the spa. I must tell you this. Old habits die hard. Later on, when I approached the pristine private pool, clear and blue, surrounded by a fountain and perfectly manicured flowerbeds and shrubs, I instinctively selected a place near the shallow end, where I could keep a good eye on the kids. But wait! I was alone. I could choose any place I desired.

So I turned my lounge chair around to face the bright sun and for the first time in at least a year, inhaled deeply and calmly. The kids were safe and well cared for. I was relaxed. David was coming soon to get me. I was in remission. Life was good.

By the time David returned to take me to dinner I was as loose as taffy. The next day we explored the beautiful town of Rancho Mirage and enjoyed the pool. We went shopping. We worked out in the fitness center together. We played golf and took walks. Like cool water in the desert to a dehydrated man was this trip for us.

Praise God for "leaving it in his hands." I would have missed this precious time with my husband if I hadn't overcome my fear of flying and trusted God. I simply ask you, what are your fears preventing?

Theresa A. Thomas is the mother of nine children and a member of St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish in Bristol.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for September 10, 2006

Mark 7:31-37

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: a man with speech and hearing impediments. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

TYRE	SIDON	GALILEE
DECAPOLIS	TO HIM	MAN
DEAF	IMPEDIMENT	LAY HIS HAND
EARS	TOUCHED	TONGUE
HEAVEN	EPHPHATA	BE OPENED
SPOKE PLAINLY	TO TELL	DONE
ALL THINGS	MAKES	SPEAK

SPOKE PLAINLY

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

that requires them to become involved in other people's religious lives.

I turned to Nancy Ammerman's new book, "Pillars of Faith," for data on the extent to which evangelization has taken root in Catholic parishes. Ammerman compares mainline Protestant, conservative Protestant and African-American Protestant congregations with Catholic and Orthodox parishes on a number of issues. Two issues relate to evangelization. Church leaders were asked if "spreading the faith" is a high priority and if their congregations or parishes sponsor any programs or activities related to evangelism. Three-quarters of conservative

Protestant congregations and 57 percent of African-American Protestant congregations consider "spreading the faith" a high priority. It is a high priority for only 12 percent of mainline Protestant congregations and only 6 percent of Catholic parishes. Although 39 percent of conservative Protestant congregations and 12 percent of African-American Protestant congregations sponsor local evangelism activities, only 6 percent of mainline Protestant congregations and only 3 percent of Catholic parishes do.

Thus, it seems that evangelization has not yet taken hold in very many parishes. Has it taken hold in your parish? If it has, your parish is out in front of many others on this matter. If it has not, I'm willing to bet there is some resistance to the language and/or the behavioral expectations associated with evangelization.

Bowling in heaven: Keeping loved ones close

As children, my siblings and I pretended that thunder meant Grandpa Jim was bowling in heaven. If it was extra loud, we would gleefully declare, "Strike!"

When my grandfather died, my mom was 19 years old. She wrote down some memories of him to share with her future children. It worked; growing up, Grandpa Jim captivated our imagination and evoked our admiration.

His picture is perched in the corner of Grandma's living room, across from the fireplace. He is a steady presence — black hair, a freckled face and bright eyes — smiling down on our gatherings.

When my brother, Tony, graduated as valedictorian this spring, Mom pinned a tie tack on him that her dad wore when he accomplished the same feat. Grandpa was right there with Tony.

The bitter reality of death is that the loss never ends. But if we do our part, neither do the memories.

Five years ago, nearly 3,000 Americans died in an attack that shook our country to its core. Fathers, fiancés and friends were lost. Sons and daughters.

Joe Hodges, 54, a firefighter from Staten Island, served at Ground Zero. Its impact was profound, he told me. "Instantly, we learned to appreciate life — every little thing. I couldn't hug my kids enough that whole year."

New York City officials recently released the tapes of

1,613 emergency calls made as the World Trade Center burned. I can't imagine the bittersweet pang of hearing the voice of a deceased loved one — so distinct, so intimate, so lively.

Catholics believe in the sanctity of life from the womb to the tomb and every blessed moment in between. We are called to both defend and celebrate life. That includes celebrating your own life, being gentle with yourself, silencing that critical inner voice when you stare in the mirror.

"Instantly, we learned to appreciate life — every little thing. I couldn't hug my kids enough that whole year."

JOE HODGES, FIREFIGHTER FROM STATEN ISLAND

voking laughter and sustaining a spirit. "She would've loved this play." "He would've loathed this policy."

Last spring, I took a basilica tour. When the leader collected our lunch money, she paused by a priest. Without hesitating, the woman sitting beside me, Ruth, jumped up and paid for him. "Isn't your birthday coming up, Father?" she asked. When Ruth returned, she told me, "That's what Bill would've done." Bill, I learned, is her deceased husband.

What a beautiful, model response to death, to remem-

ber a person's admirable traits and live them out. Young adults often take life for granted. We fly along, feeling invincible. But one sight makes me pause: a roadside memorial. A cross and bouquet staked in the ground serve as a sober reminder. Life can end in the jerk of a wheel, the blink of an eye.

My hope is that each roadside memorial represents a tiny fraction of an ongoing tribute, that stories continually spill out, pro-



TWENTY SOMETHING

BY CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

ber a person's admirable traits and live them out.

I spoke with a bereaved mother, Patty, who's been doing just that. Her 11-year-old son Jacob was abducted nearly 17 years ago. Since then, the math teacher has given educational speeches, founded a support group and persuaded the passage of federal legislation to protect children.

Patty told me her motivation: "I'm fighting for Jacob and the world he knew and believed in — and it was good."

The church is bound by a communion of saints: St. Paul, Mother Teresa, Aunt Helen, Grandpa Jim and us pilgrims on earth, striving to do them proud.

I wonder what moments bring loved ones back for others — when they smell a pipe, when they lick the mixing beaters, when they shoot the moon in cards, when the Cubs play the Cardinals.

And when it storms, my grandpa Jim knocks those pins down.

Christina Capecchi is a graduate student at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. E-mail her at christinacap@gmail.com.

Queen Jezebel fostered the worship of the pagan god Baal

Why is Queen Jezebel considered so wicked?

Queen Jezebel is the wife of King Ahab of Israel (B.C. 874-853) who was the son and successor of King Omri of Israel (B.C. 885-874). This queen has even lent her name to the English dictionary. A "jezebel" is an impudent, shameless or abandoned woman.

Queen Jezebel was the daughter of Ethbaal, the king of the Sidonians in Phoenicia or modern Lebanon. The term "Sidonians" often includes the inhabitants of the Phoenician coast, including the ancient cities of Tyre and Sidon. Ethbaal is mentioned in Phoenician inscriptions and Assyrian literature.

The coastal city of Tyre, 50 miles south of Beirut, means "rock." Phoenician purple dye originated in Tyre. Carpenters from Tyre built palaces for Kings David and Solomon, as well as the Temple in Jerusalem. L. Keen mentions the superb Roman ruins at Tyre that include a temple to the pagan god Baal, cisterns, a triumphal arch, a chariot racing course for 20,000 spectators, a square theater, a 4th century basilica built on the site of a former temple to the pagan god Melkart, baths, a cemetery, an aqueduct, ornate sarcophagi and a large marble stone on which Jesus is said to have sat during his visit to Tyre. There is also a Crusader cathedral of the 12th century where the kings of Jerusalem were crowned.

The coastal city of Sidon, 28 miles south of Beirut, means "fish." L. Keen says these people

exported palms, figs, olives, pomegranates, plums, almonds, myrrh and roses. They even developed dentistry, for a skull was found with teeth held in place by gold wire. At Sidon you can see the ruined castle of St. Louis, a theater, two khans or inns, two mosques and a hill of shells used to make purple dye. There is also the Sea Castle, built by the Crusaders, that was formerly the site of a temple of Melkart, the Phoenician Hercules.

When Jezebel became queen, she fostered the worship of the pagan Canaanite god Baal and brought into Israel 450 prophets of Baal whom she supported. Ahab erected an altar to Baal in the temple of Baal, which he built in Samaria and also made a sacred pole. Then Jezebel tried to do away with the worship of the true God Yahweh and wanted to exterminate the prophets of Yahweh. When Naboth of Jezreel refused to sell his land, Jezebel engineered his murder so Ahab could acquire the land. Jezebel's actions stirred up the wrath of Elijah, the prophet of Yahweh, and she tried to do away with him too. Father John McKenzie says Jezebel was a strong-willed woman with a powerful influence on Ahab. It seems that Ahab had little interest in religion and let Jezebel do as she wished.

J. Pritchard mentions that Tyre and Sidon were wealthy and powerful through their producing and selling luxury goods of the highest quality. The Phoenicians were sought after as partners in political and commercial alliances. Thus



FATHER RICHARD HIRE

HIRE HISTORY

the marriage of Ahab and Jezebel from Tyre brought great wealth to Samaria and the kingdom of Israel. Collaboration between Phoenicia and Israel made economic sense because Israel could supply agricultural products like corn, wine, oil and balsam. Along with this economic alliance came the infiltration of paganism, but this happened elsewhere. For example, the ruler of Damascus in Syria set up a stela to Tyre's pagan god Melkart, the same deity worshiped by Queen Jezebel.

B. Metzger mentions that, when Israel was exposed to Phoenician culture, a cosmopolitan court society emerged at Samaria where Ahab built an ivory house. Excavations at Samaria revealed some 500 fragments of ivory, many carved in Phoenician style.

Ahab eventually was killed in battle by an archer. Ahab is mentioned by King Shalmaneser III of Assyria as one of the allied kings at the battle of Karkar in B.C. 853 B.C. Jezebel was later killed when King Jehu of Israel (B.C. 843-816) demanded a few men to push her out of the palace window. Jehu is pictured on the Black Obelisk of Shalmaneser III of Assyria.

Meet The Priest

Father Richard Hire

Ordained to the priesthood:
May 30, 1970

Pastor, Queen of Peace, Mishawaka

What was the primary influence on your decision to become a priest?

I was interested in religion, wanted to be close to Christ, and I enjoyed the Mass.

Why do you like being a priest?

You deal with all types of people of different ages at important moments of their life, like baptisms, schooling, first Communion, weddings, illnesses, crises, funerals. You also have more time to be close to God.

Do you have a special interest or hobby?

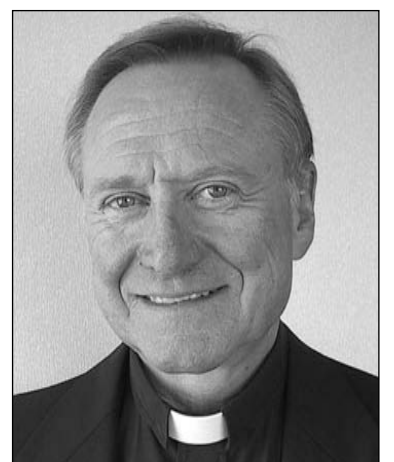
I like world travel, because I can visit places of the Bible and church history. I also collect educational materials on these places.

Do you have a pet?

No, but my family lives on a lake where I can experience a lot of wildlife.

What do you like to do for relaxation?

Travel and spend time at the lake.



What is your favorite reading material? Who is your favorite author?

Travel, history, biblical archaeology, plays, dictionaries and encyclopedias; William Shakespeare.

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

The Catholic Church is where you receive the true word of God and the real graces of the sacraments that help you get to heaven.

What is your favorite prayer or scriptural passage?

The Hail Mary and "Love one another as I have loved you."

How do you prefer to be addressed by laity?

Father Dick

Sports

CITY WALK PROMOTES RAISING FUNDS FOR SCHOOL WELLNESS CITY WALK is sponsoring "Raising Funds for School Wellness" for prekindergarten through college institutions. Schools in Indiana can earn \$9 for every \$10 pledged. The 2nd annual Get Fit. Stay Fit.1 Mile/5K/10K event will be held Saturday, Oct. 21, at New Haven High School and will include a tasting party with "good choice" food samples from 4 to 6:30 p.m. Admission is \$15 for individual and \$55 for a family of four or more. For information, visit the Web site at www.city-walk.org or contact Kerri Zurbach at kerri.zurbach@verizon.net.

KNIGHTS' GOLF OUTING BENEFITS ST. MARY'S SOUP KITCHEN



PROVIDED BY OUR LADY OF GOOD HOPE PARISH

Our Lady of Good Hope Parish hosted its second Annual Charity Golf Outing, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 12417, on July 9. Again this year, the recipient was the St. Mary's Soup Kitchen, which has been a long-standing beacon of hope in the community by serving meals to an average of 1,200 individuals a day. In addition to the 52 golfers who participated in the outing, donations were received from more than 20 local businesses and individuals. Pictured above is Our Lady of Good Hope pastor, Father Mark Gurtner, center, presenting a check for \$2,205 to Diane Day, director of the St. Mary's Soup Kitchen. Also pictured from left, are Father Phillip Widmann, pastor of St. Mary Parish, Tony Henry, pastoral associate, and Mike Desch, Grand Knight of Council 12417, right.

Raiders, Panthers remain unbeaten in second week of CYO football

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — At press time, three of the four winning Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) coaches had checked in with highlights from Sunday, Sept. 3.

The Raiders from St. John New Haven remained undefeated as they beat St. Jude 16-0. Nick McCarthy scored both touchdowns this week with a 4-yard run in the first quarter and a 13 yarder in the third. Greg McCarthy kicked both extra points.

Defensively, Josh Pranger had two quarterback sacks and recovered a fumble in the fourth quarter. Alex Wharton caused a fumble in the opening quarter, which was recovered by Greg McCarthy. St. Jude is now 0-2.

Also at Zollner Stadium, the defensive coordinators for the JAT team, Andy Niezer and Eric Dorman, did a fine job shutting out Queen of Angels/Precious Blood (0-2) and leading JAT to its first victory of the season. All of the scoring was done in the first half when the scoreboard

read 30-0. Dan Rodenbeck chalked up a pair of touchdowns for the winners. Quarterback Eric Sorg had another and Carl Deiser, the fourth.

After last week's loss to St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, JAT head coach Jerry Niezer said, "Now we know what we need to work on this week. They (St. John) were a very good team, very well coached, very quick, and very well prepared."

JAT must have worked on the right things and Niezer was pleased everyone saw lots of playing time in this week's win. He hopes to carry the momentum into next week when they face St. John New Haven (2-0).

The unbeaten St. Vincent Panthers were victorious again, this time over St. Charles stomping them 38-0 in the 2:30 game. The talented, Evan Feichter was busy again gelling offensively with the signal caller, Patrick Ryan. Scoring was as follows:

- Feichter, 88-yard pass from Ryan
- Feichter, 15-yard run
- Russal Coonan, 3-yard run
- Feichter, 37-yard pass from Ryan

- Bubba Dahm 1-yard run
- Conner Friesner added 4/5 extra points

Defensively, the Panthers got two interceptions from Ryan Thison and another from Michael Karp. The St. Charles Cardinals (1-1) are coached by Mike Herald, Mike Eddy, Jeff Woods and Troy Woods this season.

More scores from week one

At Zollner Stadium in Fort Wayne, St. John, Fort Wayne/Benoit blanked the JAT team 32-0.

Second-year coach Andy Lebamoff's Panthers defeated Queen of Angels/Precious Blood by a score of 42-0.

In his rookie season as head coach, Patrick Joley's St. Jude Eagles lost 19-12 to the Cardinals from St. Charles.

In other scores: St. John, New Haven, beat Holy Cross 36-8; St. John, Fort Wayne, beat Sts. JAT 32-0; St. Vincent beat Queen of Angels 42-0; and St. Charles beat St. Jude 19-12.

ICCL kicks off season

SOUTH BEND — The Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) opened its official football season on Sunday, Sept. 3, with games played at Marian and Saint Joseph's high schools. The following varsity, seventh-and-eighth-grade results were posted on the ICCL Web site.

The Mishawaka Catholic Saints won over the St. Matthew Blazers, 22-18. Tim Wilson scored two touchdowns, one on a 75-yard-kick-off return, to lead the Saints. Coley Schultheis threw a 49-yard pass to Ben Brewers for the winning score. Andrew Davidson kicked two extra points. Chase Parker scored on runs of 20, and 31 to lead the Blazers. St. Matthew also scored on a Thomas Krueger 30-yard pass to Lee Henry.

The Corpus Christi Cougars won over the Holy Family Trojans, 12-6. Scott Coppa's 15-yard touchdown pass to Jimmy Reagan started the scoring for the Cougars. Mario Navarette also scored on a 37-yard run in the win. Collin Skodinski's 95-yard kick-off return was the lone score for Holy Family.

And the St. Anthony-St. Joseph Panthers beat the Holy Cross-Christ the King Crusaders, 16-8. Sean Hart scored on a 8-yard run, and also threw for 53-yard strike to Peter Gillis to lead the Panthers to victory. Tyler Sorocco kicked two extra points in the win.

Connor Demarais scored on a 8-yard run, with A.J. Fitzpatrick kicking the extra point in the loss.

The B-team results for the fifth and sixth grade teams reported the following results from games played Sept. 3 at Marian and Saint Joseph's high schools:

- St. Matthew Blazers defeated the Granger Catholic Titans, 6-0. Joseph Ernst scored on a 23-yard run to lead St. Matthew in the win.

- The Corpus Christi Cougars defeated the Holy Family Trojans, 6-0. The Cougars were lead by Jeremiah Johnson's 3-yard-touchdown run in the win.

- The Holy Cross-Christ the King Crusaders beat the St. Anthony-St. Joseph Panthers, 19-0. Henry Turner scored on runs of 14 and 8 yards to lead the Crusaders. Mike Swift also scored, with Ryan Wobbe adding the extra point.



Change Your Life...by Changing Theirs

Sharing Meadows, a Christian community for other abled adults, needs a few compassionate, loving people to live in the homes with two residents, providing companionship and supervision while teaching daily living skills. Benefits include a salary, room and board, health insurance, two days off a week on a rotating basis, four weeks paid vacation per year centered around Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, and a bonus after each year of completed service. Retirees, recent college grads or anyone who wants to engage in meaningful, joyful work should consider it. Married couples and singles are welcome.



Join our community and make a difference in the lives of our developmentally disabled villagers while adding a new dimension to your own life.



Call Share Foundation at 219-778-2585
or email share@sharefoundation.org

Book lets beauties of the faith or relationship with God shine

BY YORK YOUNG

What would you remember and talk about if you were the last Catholic in America? I suppose that's kind of an unusual question. And not because being the last would put us in an unusual situation, but because we don't, nowadays, think that there is anything unique about our life in the church.

As we march through the early part of the 21st century, too often we Catholics feel so comfortable in our American skins we don't let the beauties of the faith or our relationship with God shine through. That's a pity.

Eddie Ryan got me focusing on these thoughts recently. You probably don't know Eddie yet. He's the boy coming of age in John R. Powers' Catholic American novel "The Last Catholic in America" (\$12.95). Though originally published in 1973, Loyola Press released it recently in its Loyola Classic Series, a great Catholic publishing effort that brings some great Catholic writing to a public awash in narcissistic, Mammon-driven, sex-filled novels that mention God about once every 100 books or so. And when God is part of the picture, we get drivel like "The Da Vinci Code."

Powers, who wrote "Last Catholic" and a couple of other novels about growing up Catholic in the 1950s captured the urban Catholic parish spectacularly in this effort. With a sense of humor that helps keep us all in place vis-à-vis God and our role in his creation, readers will smile at times, have a-ha moments and perhaps even reminisce on days of yore.

Was it all peaches and cream?

We all know not, and Powers doesn't pretend it was. Good old living the God-fearing (and that term need not always be interpreted negatively) life has its

challenges and moments when our very souls are put to the test.

In Eddie, Powers uses the young boy's fears, foibles and sometimes fun, encountering characters of all types — stern priests, cruel (exaggeratively so) nuns, conniving neighborhood boys and calculating (but some nice) girls — to give a portrayal of what it was like to grow up when Catholics stuck together because non-Catholics would rarely stick up for you when the going got rough.

When it comes to the faith, Powers does an excellent job recreating the times. In one chapter, he recounts the fears of a 7 year old making his first confession — a fear that can be related to by all who have made that first examination of conscience. Meanwhile, for readers who went to Catholic elementary schools, they will recognize the change in hierarchy of kids

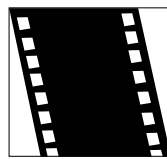
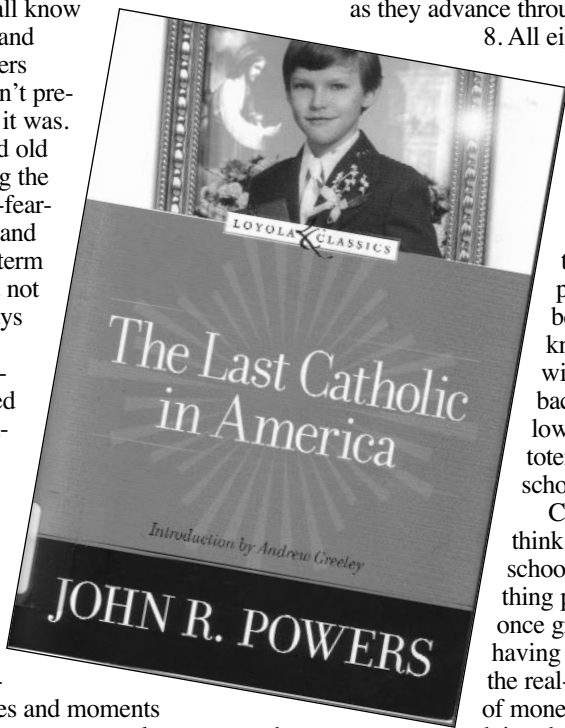
as they advance through grades 1 to 8. All eighth graders

in Catholic schools feel like the kings and queens of the mountain, even though they know — perhaps because they know — they will get knocked back down to the low spot on the totem pole in high school.

Children often think going through school is the worst thing possible. But once grown, and having to deal with the real-world issues of money, work and doing the right thing in

complicated situations, looking back on childhood presents a newfound perspective. Powers excellently captures both sides in this novel — the stress many kids feel while growing up, and the affection that bubbles forth when looking back and seeing that it wasn't so bad.

Other novels in the Loyola Classic Series so far include "Helena," by Evelyn Waugh; "The Devil's Advocate," by Morris L. West; "In This House of Brede," by Rumer Godden; "Mr. Blue," by Myles Connelly; "Saint Francis," by Nikos Kazantzakis; and others. Loyola is even interested in your thoughts, soliciting suggestions for other Catholic novels to reprint: e-mail loyolaclassics@loyolapress.com.



MOVIE CAPSULES

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

"Crossover" (Sony)

Urban drama about lifelong Detroit friends Cruise and Tech — a college-bound basketball prodigy (Wesley Jonathan) with med-school ambitions and a high-school dropout (Anthony Mackie) with dreams of his own — who enter an underground "streetball" tournament run by a smooth-talking promoter (Wayne Brady) to dethrone the league's cocky star player (Phillip Champion), jeopardizing Cruise's promising future. Written and directed by Preston A. Whitmore II, the film is commendable in its endorsement of education and integrity over money and fame, but, some energetic hoop sequences aside, the effort is weighed down by a trite, tired and predictable script. Some sexual content, including a subplot involving an out-of-wedlock pregnancy, lewd dance and cheerleading moves, suggestive wardrobe, sporadic crude language and humor and an instance of profanity. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

"Lassie" (Roadside/Samuel Goldwyn)

Handsome adaptation of Eric Knight's original novel, "Lassie Come Home," about an impoverished Yorkshire mining family (Samantha Morton, John Lynch and Jonathan Mason) in World War II that reluctantly sells its beloved dog to a rich nobleman (Peter

O'Toole) who takes the dog to Scotland where the collie escapes and attempts the impossibly long trek back home. Writer-director Charles Sturridge has assembled a fine, mostly English cast, including Edward Fox, Kelly MacDonald and Jemma Redgrave, and two appealing youngsters, Mason and Hester Odgers. The scenic vistas are breathtaking and the story appealing, making this fine family viewing, though discerning adults may be bothered by a disjointed narrative, some plot turns that defy credulity, and an awkwardness in both script and direction that places it several notches below the classic 1943 MGM version. A brief sequence of Lassie being beaten with a belt, a nongraphic scene where the miners urinate to throw some hunting dogs off the scent of an escaping fox, some mildly crass language, some mild violence and the death of a dog. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.

"This Film Is Not Yet Rated" (IFC)

Lively but disjointed and ultimately unconvincing documentary that sets out to expose biases and inconsistencies in the ratings process of the Motion Picture Association of America, the film industry's lobbying organization, arguing that the ratings board treats sexual content more stringently than violence, curbs the freedom of independent filmmakers, favors the big studios and applies double standards to homosexual themes. Filmmaker Kirby Dick hires a private investigator to uncover the identities of the MPAA board members (anonymous parents from everyday walks of life), but his premise is undermined by most of his illustrative clips which, if anything, seem to indicate that the movies from which they derive well deserved their restrictive ratings on the levels of sex, violence or language. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience.

Why do we make prayer so hard?



THE CUTTING EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

There are literally hundreds of books written on prayer and how to pray. Lots of people spend more time reading about prayer than time actually praying. Why do you suppose that is? The people buying these books obviously see prayer as a value but find it difficult.

On a recent retreat I received an insight on this matter of prayer and why we value it while at same time we seem to avoid it. A reason could be that many of us still operate out of the Greek understanding of life split into body and soul. We tend to divide our lives into two categories, spiritual life and our normal life. We see our spiritual life as separate from our everyday life and fail to integrate both parts of ourselves. We "work

on" our prayer life as if it were divorced from the rest of our life.

Having said that, let's ask ourselves how we define prayer. What is our routine? Is prayer saying the daily rosary or rattling off our favorite prayers over and over? Is prayer for us reading the Bible or other spiritual books? What is our normal ritual? Do we try to sit or kneel down for a certain amount of time and struggle to chase all thoughts, other than God, from our minds?

Do we see prayer mostly as an obligation or "putting in our time" with God? Imagine a woman who gives her husband 15 minutes a day. During this time she reads the same stuff to him. When she is finished she does not think about him again until the next 15-minute "appointment." Their relationship would probably soon become boring and unfulfilled.

I think this often happens in our relationship with God. We try to carve out some time for him, successfully or unsuccessfully, during our day and then often do not think about God again until we are in church or at our next prayer period.

Prayer is meant to nourish our relationship with God and not be limited to a time or

place. Think of how we nurture our other relationships. One thing I am quite sure of is that very few of us talk to our friends with canned, already composed words.

To develop a good relationship with someone we must spend time with that person and share about our lives, our joy and pain, our hopes and dreams. We talk about what is happening in each one's life and our thought of that other person is not limited to our physical presence together.

Why should our relationship with God be that much different? Why do we try all kinds of prayer methods? Somehow we often look at the saints and measure our prayer by theirs. We often fail to recognize that that much of their prayer was basic conversation with God. They simply, but profoundly, made God the center of their lives.

Often our prayer becomes monotonous or boring so we give up. It doesn't have to be that way. I think that the best thing each of us can do to deepen our own relationship with God is to set a realistic amount of time for prayer each day and use it to share with God the ordinariness of our lives, including our thoughts and feelings. It is our time to be real with God. We can learn and do meditation,

YA!

YOUNG ADULT PERSPECTIVES

centering prayer, etc., but we should never neglect this regular conversation with God. And don't forget, it is okay to talk to God at other times during the day. Pretend you are calling him on your cell phone.

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

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.

Traditional chicken dinner

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

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.

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 at (574) 389-9634 after 1 p.m. Individual appointments for instruction can also be arranged.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Sept. 15, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$6, children (5-12) \$3. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, garlic toast and coffee. Carry-out available.

Fall festival sponsored by Harvest House

Kendallville — Harvest House will sponsor a fall festival, Wednesday, Sept. 27, at Immaculate Conception Parish. Doors open at 10:30 a.m. and Mass will be at 11 a.m. followed by lunch, entertainment and door prizes. Tickets are \$10 and need to be reserved by Sept. 18 to Rita at (260) 347-4114.

Christ Child Society begins clothe a child campaign

South Bend — Martin's Supermarkets, Notre Dame Credit Union and Teacher's Credit Union will offer paper dolls for \$1 to assist the Christ Child Society in purchasing clothing for underprivileged children. The paper dolls will be available through September and October.

Knights plan Oktoberfest

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council #11043 will have an Oktoberfest on Saturday, Oct. 14, from 5:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the Most Precious Blood School gymnasium, 1529 Barthold St. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$4 for children under 12.

Queen of Angels seeking crafters

Fort Wayne — Queen of Angels Parish will have a holiday bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 11. Eight-foot tables will rent for \$25. Call (260) 484-2035 or (260) 436-5172 for information.

REST IN PEACE

Fort Wayne

John M. Koenig, 89, Our Lady of Good Hope

Robert Pfeiderer, 94, St. Jude

Theodore A. Ream, 81, Our Lady of Good Hope

Doayne L. Ferris, 82, St. Charles Borromeo

Linda Kay Schuman, 50, St. Jude

Norma M. Anspach, 82, St. John the Baptist

Eileen R. Fagan, 81, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Granger

William R. Crone, 80, St. Pius X

Pamela K. Hahaj, 48, St. Pius X

Huntington

Ronald D. Bauer, 59, St. Mary

Mishawaka

Norbert J. Skoner, 82, St. Joseph

Elizabeth R. Cousins, 74, St. Bavo

Gertrude Erhardt, 61, St. Monica

Mary Byers, 86, St. Bavo

New Carlisle

Charles L. Delph, 71, St. Stanislaus Kostka

South Bend

Sister Josephine Callahan, CSC, 89, Our Lady of Loretto

Harriet T. Nowicki, 91, Christ the King

Yoder

Connie J. Quackenbush, 61, St. Aloysius

Two Missouri Priests Host...

Alaska Cruise

And Pacific Northwest Vacation

On June 10, 2007, join your Spiritual Directors Father Bob Dorhauer, Father Jerry Nienhaus, and other Roman Catholics on this 15-day vacation including a seven-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a seven-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Mass will be celebrated daily while on board ship for those in the group who wish to participate. Your group will fly into Salt Lake City starting a six-night motor coach tour of the Pacific Northwest visiting Salt Lake City (including the Mormon Tabernacle, Beehive House and Great Salt Lake); Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Grand Teton National Park; West Yellowstone; two days in Yellowstone (Old Faithful) National Park; Montana; Lake Coeur d'Alene; the Grand Coulee Dam; Washington; the Cascade Mountains; and British Columbia. In Vancouver you will board your five-star ship, HAL's ms Zuiderdam.

Next, travel through a wondrous maze of forested islands and glacier-carved fiords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and spectacular Glacier Bay.

After the cruise you'll take a scenic drive to Seattle, spending one night before flying home. Prices for this 15-day vacation start at only \$1848 (per person, double occupancy). Included is the seven-day deluxe Alaska cruise, seven nights in quality hotels, lots of escorted motor coach sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest, transfers, baggage handling, port charges and taxes. Add \$500 round trip airfare from Ft. Wayne.

\$100 deposits are now due. Friends and family are welcome.

For Information, Reservations, Brochure, and Letter from Fathers Bob and Jerry Call 7 Days a Week: 'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-968-7626

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HISPANIC

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

says. "I have been collaborating as a volunteer at St. Vincent's for 15 years serving the Lord and my brothers and sisters (Anglos and Latinos). I have always had the desire for everyone to see each other with the love that Jesus Christ commands without prejudice or stereotypes because we are one church in God's eyes."

One "angel without wings" was Maria Pirrie, a fellow parishioner. They served together on a Christ Renews His Parish team. When the Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry, where Maria serves as a campus and young adult minister, had a position open, Zepeta came right to mind and she told her about the job. She applied and was hired.

"The Latino population is a young population (an average age of 36 according to the U.S. Census Bureau) and is growing fast, plus most of us are Catholics. For this reason it is very important to be an active part of our church," says Zepeta.

Her goal for this first year is to integrate more Catholic Latino young adults in the programs that the diocese already has established and try to implement others that will be interesting to both Latinos and Anglos.

Zepeta has a lot of energy and is very excited about her new position. "I feel blessed," she says. "I never imagined that the Lord would put me in this place. When

I immigrated to the United States 19 years ago, for the first six years, I worked in a nursing home as a housekeeper and 13 years in a factory. I used to ask the Lord, 'Why am I here?' Finally, with the help of the priests and brothers and sisters at St. Vincent's I learned that the Lord has a plan for each of us and we just have to let ourselves be led by his will."

Humberto Delgado

A native of Aguascalientes, Mexico, Humberto Delgado came to South Bend when he was 13. He is the fifth child of a very close family.

"My family is a very devoted Catholic family, and my mom has a lot to do with it," says Delgado. "She was my first religious education teacher and still is in a lot of aspects, especially spiritually."

Delgado began his new position as coordinator for Hispanic youth ministry in August and is part of the Office for Hispanic Ministry.

"My job involves talking with all the parishes in the diocese that provide Hispanic ministries so that I can provide support and a common vision to the youth groups in each parish. And if there is no youth group available, organizing the parish community to help start one for their youth. I am also going to be working closely with Young Adult Ministry so that we can make better bridges for the transition from youth to young adult activities."

Like Zepeta, involvement in church is nothing new to Delgado. After high school, he was invited by his sister to join the young adult group at the former St.



SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

Shown with Enid Roman-De Jesus, center, director of Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, are Guadalupe Zepeta, left, and Humberto Delgado, right, who recently joined the diocesan staff. Zepeta works with Campus and Young Adult Ministry. Delgado works with the diocesan Office of Hispanic Ministry.

Stephen's Parish in South Bend. The group was practicing songs for an upcoming Mass and the music attracted him so he decided to continue going to the meetings.

"In that group I found a lot of interesting things — friendships that I have until this day, learning to better understand the word of God — and most importantly, I gained a deeper spirituality and closeness to God," says Delgado.

This group opened the door to service in the parish. "Through this group I started doing a lot of service in my parish, becoming a catechist, proclaimer of the word, member of the choir, and became involved in parish and diocesan activities like the Bishop's Young Adult Retreat," he says. At the same time he worked on an associ-

ate's degree from Ivy Tech.

When St. Stephen's closed, he continued to be involved at St. Adalbert's where he currently belongs. There he is a co-coordinator for the young adult group and works closely with the youth director of the parish. He helps with confirmation classes, youth group sessions, Hispanic youth retreats and serves as a chaperone for all the parish and diocesan youth group activities. He also helped with encuentro on the parish, diocesan and national levels.

Delgado has also been a student in the ICLM program, which is the Midwest Cultural Institute of Leadership. This institute teaches theology and pastoral practices based on a cultural foundation for

Hispanic ministers.

Asked what his goals are for the year, he says, "My goals for this year are to get to know all the parishes, pastors, associate pastors, youth coordinators, but most important, the Hispanic youth of the diocese. I want to work with them in all the activities I can and provide assistance if any is needed. I need to see what the needs of each community are and how we can be better suited to address these needs at a parish and diocesan level.

"Finally," he says, "to organize diocesan events where the youth can come together and share friendship, fun and ideas, but most important their faith and commitment to Christ."

Delgado heard about this job from Enid Roman-De Jesus coordinator of Hispanic ministry and former youth coordinator at St. Stephen Parish. He applied, was interviewed and got the position.

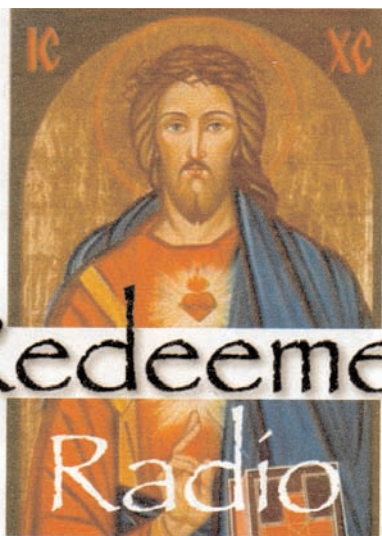
Finally, Delgado says with all sincerity, "I am taking this job very seriously. I think I am going to be in a position to help the Hispanic youth a lot, and they are going to see that the church is worried about them and that the bishop is really interested in them ... that their voice is important in the church and that it has great value and power. I pray that God and Our Lady of Guadalupe show me the way and give me the wisdom not to let the Hispanic youth nor the church down."

Both Zepeta and Delgado bring the gifts of faith and enthusiasm to the church of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The diocese will be enriched by their presence.

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WELLS

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Each participating parish priest, along with an appointed coordinator, will select those to be invited to consider the training for the outreach team. Team members must demonstrate specific qualities such as confidence in self and their faith, nonjudgmental listening skills, empathy and a desire to share their faith with others.

Gervaise Bastian says many Catholics will feel under qualified for this outreach ministry, but the program "takes what God has given and provides transforming power." Those who consider the training need not be heads of committees, she says, adding, "We invite all active Catholics and don't want to miss the quiet spirit who would be a gentle listener."

Following formal training, team members, in cooperation with their pastor, will contact those who are currently away from the parish community, reaching out by phone, notes and personal visits. "They'll visit in twos, for moral support," adds Father Erpelding. The committee has created a handbook to guide and support team members in developing the skills needed to be present to their contacts as they reach out to them.

Each step is modeled after Jesus' work with the woman at the well, says Kohrman, "We approached this by looking at how Jesus invited the Samaritan woman in and worked with her." And confidentiality is key, adds Furge, while establishing a relationship

with the inactive Catholic.

Wells of Hope asks each parish to be creative in how they identify those who will be approached. Parishes may contact all parishioners in the parish, have a Sunday signup or look to their rosters to gather names of those to be visited.

Father Erpelding notes that those visited will have left the church for a variety of reasons. "There's a lot of misinformation and a lot of hurt out there. Some think they can't be part of the church community and that is not true," he says.

As the relationship is built the team provides a safe and loving ear for those in contention to "tell their story," says Sister Jolene, believing they become the wells of hope for those in search of the Living Water. "We won't solve their problems but we can walk in truth and love along with them."

Through nonjudgmental listening and acceptance, healing is possible as the wounded are invited back into the church community. A healing service is included and may be used at the discretion of each parish to ritualize the process.

Parish population will determine the number of team members needed as each parish adapts the process to its own needs. Participants in the Wells of Hope outreach can then feed into other parish resources, such as the Remembering Church Program. "We hope the parishes can grow into a 'hospitality attitude,'" says Father Erpelding.

Two training sessions will be offered for the participating pastors. A day of training will be held at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne on Sept. 23,

from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The training will also be offered in a two-part series from 6:30-8:30 p.m. on Sept. 26 and Oct. 3 at the Catholic center. A similar session will be offered in South Bend with time and date to be announced. The pastors will then take the training back to their respective parishes.

In support of the process, beginning Ash Wednesday of 2007, a diocesan-wide question line, 1-800-BLESS ME, will be available to ask trained religious questions about the Catholic faith, along with what the committee termed a media campaign blitz on radio and television funded by a grant from Our Sunday Visitor. Following the campaign, the active phase of Wells of Hope will commence.

"There is no timeline," says Father Erpelding. "We'll work with people at their own pace in building relationships. With that comes conversion and commitment."

Bringing inactive Catholics back into relationship with Christ through relationship with church community members is a lofty goal for this diocese, one they hope becomes an ongoing process. The Wells of Hope mission will not only reach out to inactive Catholics but empower active Catholics in realizing their potential to share the Gospel. As Father Erpelding says wisely, "The Gospel has the power to heal."

For more information on the Wells of Hope please contact Ginny Kohrman at (260) 422-4611 or e-mail gkohrman@fw.diocese-fwsb.org.