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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Pope expresses respect for Muslims, pledges to continue dialogue



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI talks to ambassadors of Islamic nations and Italian Islamic leaders in a room at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Sept. 25. The pope assured Muslims that he respected them and was committed to dialogue.

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Meeting with Islamic ambassadors and representatives, Pope Benedict XVI expressed his deep respect for Muslims, pledged to continue dialogue, and said Islamic and Christian leaders should cooperate to curb violence.

"Faithful to the teachings of their own religious traditions, Christians and Muslims must learn to work together, as indeed they already do in many common undertakings, in order to guard against all forms of intolerance and to oppose all manifestations of violence," the pope said.

"As for us, religious authorities and political leaders, we must guide and encourage them in this direction," he said.

The unprecedented encounter at the pope's summer residence Sept. 25 was designed to soothe Muslim resentment over a recent papal speech that cited a historical criticism of Islam and the concept of holy war. The pope later distanced himself from the quoted material and said he was sorry Muslims had been offended.

Addressing the Islamic representatives at Castel Gandolfo, the pope alluded only briefly to the earlier speech. Instead, he focused on assuring Muslim communities that his papacy was not backtracking on the dialogue opened by the Second Vatican Council and developed in large part by his predecessor, Pope John Paul II.

MUSLIMS, PAGE 3

New Eve Project promotes dignity and vocation of women

BY ANN CAREY

FORT WAYNE — A new initiative emphasizing the dignity and vocation of women will be launched in Fort Wayne on Oct. 4 with a talk by theologian Pia de Solenni. She will speak on "The Personalism of Pope John Paul II and the Dignity and Vocation of Women." The event, which is free and open to the public, will take place at 7 p.m. in room 156 of the Doermer Center on the campus of the University of Saint Francis.

De Solenni's talk is the first in a new monthly series of lectures by women and geared toward women, especially young women. Called the New Eve Project, the initiative is a cooperative effort of a group of Fort Wayne women, the University of Saint Francis, the Office of Family Life of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and Redeemer Radio. The project's mission statement is still a work in progress, but the organizers plan to tap into the wisdom of Pope John Paul II to help women realize their inherent value and dignity and exercise those attributes in a culture that often is at odds with this vision of women.

"We all felt very strongly that our culture needs to hear more about the new feminism" taught by Pope John Paul II, explained Ruth Beier, one of the founders of the New Eve Project.

Beier told *Today's Catholic* that she, Rebecca Grubbs and C.C. Christopherson are all mothers of young children who would get together to study John Paul's theology of the body. The women attended a day of the student-initiated Edith Stein Project conference at the University of Notre Dame last February because so many of the sessions related to the theology of the body. On the ride home, they decided they wanted to bring similar programs to young women in Fort Wayne.

"You learn something so beautiful, and you want to share," said Beier, who formerly taught theology at Bishop Luers High School.

Rebecca Grubbs told *Today's Catholic* that she liked "the frankness of the topics" at the Notre Dame program.

"They addressed things that need to be addressed," she said, which made her realize that she would have benefited from a similar program when she was younger.

Grubbs and Beier approached Dominic Aquila, dean of the School of Liberal Arts at the University of Saint Francis, with their idea, and he responded enthusiastically. So, too, did Lisa Everett, co-director of the diocesan Office of Family Life. Aquila

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SISTER BIDS FAREWELL TO UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY



DON CLEMMER

Sister Geraldine Hartke, OSF, speaks with well-wisher Dr. Ann Hernandez at a reception in her honor at the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne. Before being called back to the Mishawaka motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Sister Geraldine served the university community as sacristan and campus ministry assistant and enjoyed great rapport with students, faculty and staff.

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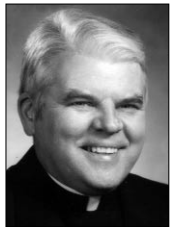
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Off to Donaldson for dedication of Catherine's Cottage



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

The Poor Handmaid Sisters

They have been here for over 160 years, before northern Indiana was declared a diocese. They came first to Hessen Cassel, where they established a small, rural school. They later moved to Fort Wayne and founded St. Joseph Hospital. Within a few years, they established foundations in the burgeoning city of Chicago. In this diocese, they have been involved in Catholic health care, education and pastoral ministry. They were the founders and builders of two great hospitals. Both are under the patronage of St. Joseph: one in Fort Wayne and one in Mishawaka. They staffed all the schools in Mishawaka, as well as Bishop Dwenger High School in its early days. In recent years, they have brought great life to their provincial headquarters located in Donaldson, Ind., where they staff Ancilla College.

This is a splendid congregation. It is always a joy to be among them. Thus it was on a cloudy Saturday afternoon when I drove to Donaldson to help dedicate Catherine's Cottage. Like so many congregations, a key part of their ministry now is taking care of the extraordinary women who have served in this diocese and beyond in various apostolates and ministries. Also, 26 laity and a retired priest are living with them.

The new center, Catherine's Cottage, and another called Catherine's Memory Unit, are for those with memory loss and the concept of care is quite advanced and fits well with the charism of this beloved congregation. It is community centered and focused on the beauty of aging, not only the difficulties, but also helps in responding to difficulties. The Catherine referred to is Blessed Mary Catherine Kasper, the founder of this extraordinary congregation in Germany.

One of Blessed Mary Catherine's spiritual sayings was as follows: "Love to be unknown and esteemed as nothing." How foreign such a saying is to our culture, but we have to understand it in light of the Gospel. Esteem comes from Christ and from within oneself, from the focus of one's life, not from others. Part of the charism, or gift, of these sisters is to remain in the background, give credit to others and always renew their consecration to God. In this, they are following the first poor handmaid, Mary, the Mother of the Savior, who, as we see in the Magnificat, which we find in St. Luke's Gospel, gave all credit to Christ.

"He who is mighty has done great things for me and holy is His Name."

A blessed afternoon with the sisters and their many friends. I hope to return there during our jubilee year to celebrate Mass with the community. They reminded me of one of the first times I came to Donaldson.

It was for the profession of Sister Mary Beth Martin, a graduate of Marian High School, who formerly served in our Office of Young Adult Ministry. They said I was 45 minutes late and stopped to find a phone, being lost because there were all kinds of detours. I told them I never remembered such an event, and I was sure it never happened. Obviously, however, it did, and we enjoyed talking about it. I told them that they had excellent memories.

Basilica of the Sacred Heart

North then to South Bend. After some meetings and watching the "game for the ages" on television, I was up the next morning to celebrate the Mass at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart. This was the Red Mass, the renewal of this medieval custom of inviting attorneys, public figures and members of bench and bar — a Mass of the Holy Spirit begging God's graces upon all of them. It is always a joy to speak about my good friend, St. Thomas More, the patron saint of lawyers, and, since 2000, of statesmen and politicians. Also, he has been declared the "lawyer of the millennium."

Afterward, I had a little time with Msgr.

Surely, it is appropriate

to single out one jubilarian —

Msgr. William Faber.

He recently observed 70 years as a priest.

Charles Brown. Msgr. Brown is a graduate of Notre Dame who has served the Holy See for many years in the Congregation for the Doctrine of Faith. He has been given a sabbatical to complete his doctoral dissertation. Twelve months to be back at Notre Dame. How beautiful is that? I was impressed by the fact that he celebrates Mass each morning at 6 a.m. at Corby Hall and is resolved to be at the library at 7:30 a.m. when a security guard opens up. He has been provided a pleasant place in the library and studies there until 4:30 p.m. with a light break in early afternoon for lunch. Unlike your bishop, Msgr. Charlie usually runs several miles in the late afternoon. He finds it joyful to be at Notre Dame, with no obligation except that of study and prayer. He told me how impressed he was with the community at Corby Hall, their prayerfulness and devotion to religious life; and, of course, his beloved Notre Dame.

What a wonderful thing to have 12 months to just study and pray and come up with something that will contribute to theological scholarship and the life of the church.

I am very impressed with the topic of his dissertation. At the risk of not saying it accurately, Msgr. Brown's study is concerned with the ancient concept of the bishop being wed to his diocese and the growth of this concept from the Council of Nicea onward, through the writings of the Fathers

and church legislation of various councils. Some even forbid, in strong language, the idea of a bishop being transferred from one diocese to another. This is a fascinating topic and very much relates to the office of bishop as we find it in the liturgy of episcopal ordination.

Our Lady of Guadalupe

After a rest and a chance to read the summaries of the Notre Dame-Michigan State game, I headed southeast and stopped at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Warsaw. Half way home. What a joy in the early evening to approach this new church seated on a hill and to celebrate Mass for a group of our Hispanic Catholics who had completed a time of study helping them to grow in their understanding of their faith.

It is the second time I have celebrated Mass in this church. What a joy. How wonderful to hear from Sister Joan Hastreiter, SSJ, and Father Paul Bueter that the Mass that morning was standing room only. I am very grateful to Linda Furge who really carried this important effort to completion. A suggestion was made by Sister Jane Carew at a staff meeting that, as we approach the

Jubilee 2000, we should try to do something that would last and mark our celebration of the Great Jubilee. It took several years and the generosity of the Kralis Family of Warsaw, but now we have this beautiful church for all of us, dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Let us try to foster some pilgrimages of prayer as we begin the observance of our holy year of 2007.

Jubilarians

What a joy to celebrate Mass with our priest jubilarians. About 40 priests were in attendance, and

it was a beautiful moment in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. Surely, it is appropriate to single out one jubilarian — Msgr. William Faber. He recently observed 70 years as a priest. Msgr. Bill, along with several other senior priests, resides at Saint Anne's Home. He was pastor in Kendallville and also at Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne, where he was the founding pastor and where there is an activity center named after him. He is one of the most respected priests in our diocese, our senior priest. I consider him a good and dear friend.

At the dinner afterward, some beautiful words were delivered by Msgr. Faber (70 years); Father Bob Yast, with his wonderful sense of humor (50 years); and Father Cornelius Ryan, CSC, (40 years). Among our jubilarians there is over 600 years of service.

A game for the ages

Congratulations to Notre Dame for this extraordinary comeback. I have something to confess. When it was 37-14, I turned it off in order to sharpen my homily for the following day. I turned it on later and it was 37-34 and I saw the dramatic interception for the final touchdown. Surely, a game for the ages.

See you all next week.

St. Jude fosters interreligious understanding at home

BY DON CLEMMER

FORT WAYNE — In a time when greater understanding between Christians and Muslims is particularly crucial, the St. Jude Parish community sought that understanding in the form of Sabah Al-Saud, director of the Fort Wayne Islamic Council and Islamic Center, who spoke on the tenets of Islam to a gathering of parishioners in the parish hall Sept. 25.

Al-Saud is an American who has lived in the United States for about 41 years. He was born in Iraq, holds an engineering degree and operates schools of karate and judo in Fort Wayne.

"Islam today is talked about in a lot of ways, and mostly by people who have no knowledge of Islam, not of its doctrines, not of its history, or where it is or where it started," said Al-Saud at the start of his talk. He went on to outline the basic theology and doctrine of the Muslim faith while also debunking some misconceptions and stereotypes, pointing out, for instance, that there are 1.34 billion Muslims in the world, but that only 18 to 20 percent of them are Arabs.

Delving into its theology, Al-Saud explained that Islam is "radically monotheistic" as it "forbids the thought of anything sharing God.

"If it has a radical basis, that's it," he noted of the religion's adherence to this principle.

Al-Saud explained the nature of this one God by noting that "Allah" is simply the Arabic word for God.



DON CLEMMER

Sabah Al-Saud, director of the Fort Wayne Islamic Council and the Fort Wayne Islamic Center, speaks at St. Jude Church on Sept. 25. Saud discussed the beliefs of Islam and fielded numerous questions on topics including conversion to Islam, belief in an afterlife and conflicts in the Middle East.

"We worship, as Muslims, the same God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all the prophets, including Jesus," he noted.

Apart from holding that Jesus was a prophet and not a deity, Al-Saud noted that another difference between Muslim and Christian theologies is that there is no original sin. While they still believe that Adam and Eve did sin against God, he explained, it did not have the same ramifications in the view of Muslims.

"It was their sin, not the sin of their children and their children."

Which, he said, leads to another

doctrinal divide.

"Since we do not believe in original sin, we do not believe in salvation through the blood of Jesus."

Despite this difference, Al-Saud said that Jesus is highly revered by Muslims and that even Mary has a chapter dedicated to her in the Quran. The reasons for this, he said, have distinctions that run deep in Muslim theology.

"We view creation as a consistent theme. We believe that God created Adam out of nothing. Then he created Eve from Adam. Then he created Isaac from his mother who was barren and old, and then Jesus from a virgin, Mary. So Islam believes in the virgin birth of Jesus. That might surprise some of you."

He went on to explain that Muslims also hold that the prophet Mohammed was an illiterate, so that, following this same pattern, the Quran was also divinely created. Al-Saud also noted that one must understand Arabic to understand the Quran properly because Arabic grammar and Arabic meaning are deeply intertwined.

Despite these theological differences, he also pointed out what some might have found to be a surprising tenet of Islam:

"We are forbidden to be critical of either Judaism or Christianity."

A lively and often intense question-and-answer session followed Al-Saud's talk, during which St. Jude parishioners asked for Al-Saud's insight on matters ranging from Muslim belief on salvation and the afterlife to current political struggles, such as in Iraq and Palestine.

STATEMENT FROM BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

First Sunday of October is Respect Life Sunday

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Once again, on the first Sunday of October, we observe Respect Life Sunday. It is a day on which we celebrate and give thanks for the great gift of human life, created in the image of God and redeemed by the blood of Christ. It is also a day on which we recommit ourselves, as individuals, as families, as parishes and as a diocese, to defend human life especially when it is most vulnerable; near the beginning and near the end. Pope John Paul II, the great promoter of the "culture of life," placed this struggle at the center of the church's mission, as the following excerpt so eloquently expresses:

"To save the life of her Son from those who fear him as a dangerous threat, Mary has to flee with Joseph and the Child into Egypt (cf. Mt 2:13-15). Mary thus helps the church to realize that life is always at the center of a great struggle between good and evil, between light and darkness. The dragon wishes to devour 'the child brought forth' (cf. Rev 12:4), a figure of Christ, whom Mary brought forth 'in the fullness of time' (Gal 4:4) and whom the church must unceasingly offer to people in every age. But in a way that child is also a figure of every person, every child, especially every helpless baby whose life is threatened, because — as the council reminds us — 'by his Incarnation the Son of God has united himself in some fashion with every person.' It is precisely in the 'flesh' of every person that Christ continues to reveal himself and to enter into fellowship with us, so that rejection of human life, in whatever form that rejection takes, is really a rejection of Christ. This is the fascinating but also demanding truth which Christ reveals to us and which his church continues untiringly to proclaim: 'Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me' (Mt 18:5); 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me' (Mt 25:40)." — "Evangelium Vitae," 104.

The four pillars of the culture of life which we are called as Catholics to help build are prayer and evangelization, pastoral care and appropriate advocacy in public policy. We address each of these four areas at the diocesan level, and these pillars should be part of parish life. I urge each of you to ask the Lord in prayer to show you some concrete way that you can share in the church's mission to stand for life. May Christ, who came that we might have life, and have it to the full, give all of us the grace to see and serve him better in the least of his brothers and sisters.

Sincerely yours in Our Lord,

Most Reverend John M. D'Arcy

'Encountering Christ' brings focus to adult education

BY DON CLEMMER

FORT WAYNE — Continuing to learn and grow in one's Catholic faith as an adult can be a challenge. Even if people are curious about God, Jesus, Scripture or the church, they may not be able to find exactly what they need, even in their own parish. For instance, someone might be interested in the Book of Revelation, but his parish Bible study is studying Genesis. Or rather than subject matter, the specific night of a Bible study, devotion or other activity just might not fit into the busy lives of many parishioners.

This is one area where Encountering Christ — a new diocesan committee on Catholic adult education and spiritual growth — seeks to help parishes in their ministry.

"No parish can offer everything," explains Jenny Murray, catechetical associate for the Office of Catechesis with the diocese, "but if we try to start bringing them together and having all that information there, that would be helpful to all of us that are seeking our own spiritual growth."

The information to which

Murray refers is a listing of Bible studies, devotions and other programs gathered from parishes in three different regions — in Fort Wayne, north of Fort Wayne and south of Fort Wayne — in an effort to assemble a comprehensive list of the diocese's adult education offerings.

This listing, according to Murray, is to be distributed both in packet form and on the Web site of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, www.diocesefwsb.org. The Office of Catechesis is also sending the information to parishes for use in bulletins. It will be updated regularly, and while the initial listing caters only to the Fort Wayne area, one immediate goal of the group is to compile a similar guide for the rest of the diocese.

The benefits of organizing adult education options across entire regions of the diocese rather than individual parishes seem to be many. The faithful have more options than they did before. Parishes that may be low on staff and funding can still learn about programs in the area that may be of benefit to their parishioners.

"It's also good to meet with other Catholics in the area and develop friendships outside the

parish boundaries," notes Murray.

She adds that, when all of the adult education options of an area of the diocese are listed together, it becomes clear as to what areas might need a little supplementing, one reason that Encountering Christ will also be sponsoring events of its own at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in downtown Fort Wayne, the first of which will be a presentation by Sister Mary Ann Phelan, SP, who will speak on the miracles that led to the pending canonization of Mother Theodore Guerin, Indiana's first saint. This event will be Sunday, Nov. 5, at 1 p.m.

A final aspect of Encountering Christ's assistance to parishes will also be its most hands-on.

"We would like to have some different kinds of training sessions," explains Murray, "especially to help the smaller parishes that maybe don't have the staff to train their volunteers that lead Bible studies and book discussions."

The first such sessions will be a "model book discussion," held with parish volunteers.

"They'll have the book discussion, but they'll also learn how to lead one," says Murray.

MUSLIMS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The pope expressed his "esteem and profound respect" for Muslim believers and said he wanted to continue to build bridges, especially between Muslims and Christians. Productive dialogue, he said, will be based on mutual knowledge, which "with joy recognizes the religious values that we have in common and, with loyalty, respects the differences."

He said historical animosities should be left behind. The lessons of the past, he said, should help Christians and Muslims seek "paths of reconciliation" that lead to respect for individual identity and freedom.

In that regard, Pope Benedict cited Pope John Paul on the important issue of reciprocal respect for religious rights, quoting from a speech the late pope delivered to Muslims in Morocco:

"Respect and dialogue require reciprocity in all spheres, especially in that which concerns basic freedoms, more particularly religious freedom."

The pope said that in the current world situation it was imperative that Christians and Muslims join to promote human dignity and the rights that flow from that dignity.

"When threats mount up

against people and against peace, by recognizing the central character of the human person and by working with perseverance to see that human life is always respected, Christians and Muslims manifest their obedience to the Creator," he said.

The pope closed his talk by recalling that Muslims worldwide were about to begin the spiritual month of Ramadan, and he prayed that they be granted "serene and peaceful lives." When he finished, he was warmly applauded.

The meeting, arranged with unusual urgency by the Vatican, was a formal audience and not a closed-door exchange of opinions. In attendance were ambassadors from 22 predominantly Muslim countries and 19 other Islamic representatives based in Italy.

Before the meeting, the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, said the encounter was a sign that dialogue was returning to normal after a moment of misunderstanding.

"We hope the tension and suffering of the past days make everyone understand the urgency of a renewed dialogue that is positive, trustworthy, capable of looking at problems in depth, and ready for 'self-criticism,' as the pope said," Father Lombardi said.

"If this happens, the speech in Regensburg, with its intellectual courage ... will have been fruitful, perhaps even providential," he said.

Catholic Schools Office announces enrollment figures for 2006-2007

BY VINCE LABARBERA

Total enrollment for all diocesan Catholic schools for the 2006-2007 school year amounts to 13,355 students, a decrease of 151 students compared to last year's total-enrollment figure of 13,506 students according to figures released by the Catholic Schools Office.

The Schools Office reported, however, that when prekindergarten enrollment figures are included, the total enrollment for the diocese amounts to 14,208 students, or 853 additional students.

Enrollment in the four Catholic high schools of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend declined slightly from 3,249 students last year to 3,218 students this year. The high-school enrollment figures are: Marian, Mishawaka, 801 students — a decrease of 14 students; Saint Joseph's, South Bend, 792 students — an increase of four students; Bishop Dwenger, Fort Wayne, 1,073 students — an increase of 14 students; and Bishop Luers, Fort Wayne, 552 students — a decrease of 35 students.

Bishop John D'Arcy established a procedure years ago stipulating any high school that increased its grade 9 enrollment over the previous year would receive a \$1,000 bonus. This year, both Marian (192 to 199 students) and Bishop Dwenger (248 to 284 students) qualified with freshman-enrollment

increases. An additional \$1,000 bonus was awarded to Bishop Dwenger for the highest percentage freshman enrollment increase of 12.6 percent.

Enrollment for the 40 Catholic elementary schools in the diocese is 10,137 students — a decrease of 120 students. The student enrollment at each Catholic elementary school (without prekindergarten students) is as follows:

Fort Wayne Area (Allen County)

Precious Blood, 142; Queen of Angels, 258; St. Charles Borromeo, 746; St. John the Baptist, 299; St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 482; St. Jude, 542; St. Therese, 154; St. Vincent de Paul, 715; St. Aloysius (Yoder), 79; Benoit Academy, 82; St. John the Baptist (New Haven), 342; St. Joseph (Hessen Cassel), 119; St. Joseph (Monroeville), 48; and St. Louis (Besancon), 71.

The total Catholic elementary enrollment for all of Allen County is 4,079 students.

Outlying Fort Wayne Area Schools:

- Noble County: St. Mary (Avilla), 126
- DeKalb County: St. Joseph (Garrett), 102
- Adams County: St. Joseph (Decatur), 285
- Huntington County: Huntington Catholic (Huntington), 159
- Wabash County: St. Bernard (Wabash), 80

• Kosciusko County: Sacred Heart (Warsaw), 156

The total enrollment for all Fort Wayne area and outlying Catholic elementary schools is 4,987.

South Bend Area (St. Joseph County)

Christ the King, 520; Corpus Christi, 383; Holy Cross, 323; Holy Family, 404; Our Lady of Hungary, 92; St. Adalbert, 135; St. Anthony de Padua, 439; St. John the Baptist, 176; St. Joseph, 446; St. Jude, 193; and St. Matthew, 385. In Mishawaka — Queen of Peace, 191; St. Bavo, 179; St. Joseph, 186; St. Monica, 190 and St. Patrick (Walkerton), 42.

The total Catholic elementary enrollment for all of St. Joseph County is 4,284 students.

- Elkhart County:
- St. Thomas, 421
 - St. Vincent de Paul, 135
 - St. John the Evangelist (Goshen), 114
- Marshall County:
- St. Michael (Plymouth), 196
- The total enrollment for all South Bend Area Catholic elementary schools is 5,150.



TIM JOHNSON

The new St. Charles Parish rectory, built with SCRIP money, shows what a parish can achieve through the use of the program.

New rectory dubbed 'house that SCRIP built'

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — St. Charles Parish is justifiably proud of the latest addition to its parish campus, a brand new rectory for its resident priests and deacon. Recently, says pastor Msgr. John Suelzer, the old rectory had been doing double duty by providing living quarters and housing parish offices. It was much like "living in the store," he says with a chuckle.

Now those offices in the former rectory are under renovation as well and he, Msgr. Peter Kumaraki and Deacon Tony Steinacker are enjoying comfy new digs.

Best of all, says Msgr. Suelzer, the money didn't come from parish coffers, but from proceeds from the SCRIP program. We call it "the house that SCRIP built," he says. "I'm so pleased with all those people in our parish (who helped)."

St. Charles SCRIP program, which dates back to 1996, has been an extremely successful fund raiser for the parish community, explains Berniece Williams, SCRIP coordinator.

An acronym for Substitute Currency Reaps in Profit, SCRIP works like this: A parish representative personally approaches local businesses or works with a broker in the case of large national chains. Their goal is to enlist the support of that business to sell gift cards for store merchandise to the parish at a discount. Then, parishioners buy the prepaid cards at full price and the business donates the difference

back to St. Charles Parish, with half of that amount going for parish use and half to the individual who bought the card. And each store is different, Williams points out, with some businesses returning as much as 20 percent of the gift card amount.

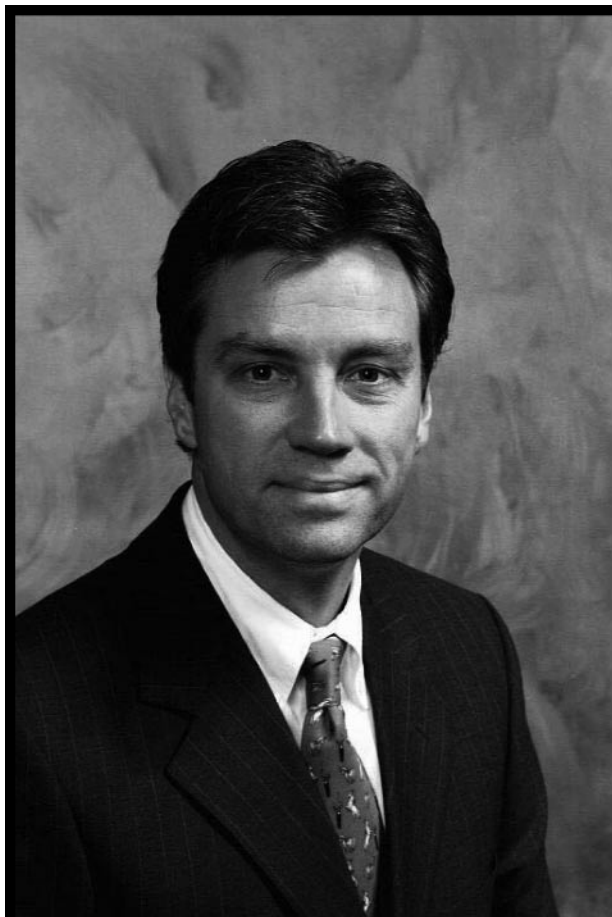
The parish's share of the proceeds may be used for "any need anywhere on the parish campus," says Msgr. Suelzer. The St. Charles staff, including priests, the school principal, music director, youth minister, pastoral associate and finance director, makes decisions for its use.

Individuals who purchase the cards receive credit vouchers from the parish, which may be used toward tuition expense at St. Charles School, Bishop Dwenger High School or even college. Many parishioners enlist the help of friends, neighbors and other family members to reduce the cost of their children's schooling. Other parishioners with no children or grandchildren in school may elect to donate their credit back to the parish.

"It's a win-win situation," says Williams, who has coordinated the program the past seven years.

The SCRIP program, which originated at a parish in California, put down roots at St. Charles Parish in 1996. Early on, the money went toward choir robes, song books and fencing for the athletic field. It provided partial funding for the

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Steve Fink
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Catherine's Cottage concentrates on what residents can do

BY JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

DONALDSON — Catherine's Cottage and Catherine's Memory Unit are less about what residents can't do. Rather, they're more about what residents can do, and, even more than that, what they can do in community.

On Saturday, Sept. 23, Bishop John M. D'Arcy said a blessing over and dedicated Catherine's Cottage and Catherine's Memory Unit, ministries of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ (PHJC) in Donaldson.

Catherine's Cottage is a new convent for PHJC sisters who are experiencing the early stages of memory loss, according to Sister Jolise May, coordinator of Catherine's Cottage.

Along with sisters experiencing early memory loss, said Sister May, will be sisters who will help support them, forming a community in which the sisters can continue to perform the same functions they would otherwise.

"This is a unique model of person-centered care," Sister May said before the start of the dedication and blessing ceremony.

The 8,000-square-foot cottage allows the sisters experiencing memory loss the freedom to do the daily activities they would normally do and help each other with any limitations, Sister May said.

"We wanted to make it as homelike as possible," Sister May said.

Indeed, according to Dodd Kattman, a partner with Morrison Kattman Menze, Inc., the architectural firm out of Fort Wayne hired to design Catherine's Cottage and Catherine's Memory Unit, the concept for the cottage is based around the home model.

He said it's been proven that placing those with memory loss in large institutions with large numbers of people does not help them. Instead, living in a homelike setting with just a few people is more beneficial.

To that end, the cottage, which has entertained residents now for about two months and was built for a maximum of 13 residents, is organized like a home for a large family.

"It's organized in three-bedroom hallways," Kattman said, just like the homes of the typical family. "The sense of community played a big roll in the concept. And we made it look like a cottage."

Part of that cottage feel includes a large fireplace the sisters can gather around quietly by themselves or in groups.

Phase II of the entire project is Catherine's Memory Unit, with 5,000 square feet.

Catherine's Memory Unit is a closed unit for both sisters and laity in the community with advanced stages of memory loss, said Sister May.

The Memory Unit — which was and still is a wing of the residential Catherine Kasper Home — should be completed within a month, according to Kattman. The maximum number of residents in that unit is nine, and it is built around the same homelike concept that Catherine's Cottage is.

Sister May said the memory unit is designed to secure comfortable and dignified lives for those in the advanced stages of memory loss.

Christopher Mueller, director of Catherine's Memory Unit, called memory loss and dementia a process that an estimated 70 percent of people in skilled facilities are suffering from. Therefore, he said, there are key elements to the care of those who will live in the Memory Unit:

First is staying focused on what the residents can do; minimizing stressors; consistency of staff and developing personalized plans; planned activities available daily and all day; and, last, treating residents with dignity.

Mueller said, "I take that very seriously."

Sisters of the Holy Cross observe day of prayer for peace

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

NOTRE DAME — The Sisters of the Holy Cross and members of Saint Mary's College community, as well as people from the local Michiana area gathered Sept. 21 in the Church of Our Lady of Loretto for a public prayer service in observance of the United Nations International Day of Peace. The prayer service concluded a day of prayer that began at 7 a.m.

"We are all aware of the violence in Iraq, Gaza, Afghanistan, Uganda, and so many places where wars are occurring and innocent peoples' lives are being lost," wrote the organizers in an invitation to the public. "We are also aware that violence has no borders: violent crimes are occurring with alarming frequency here in Michiana as well."

In response to the surge of local homicides and other violent crimes, and at the prompting of Sister Gabriella Doran, CSC, who promoted the day-long vigil, the special intention was peace in South Bend and the surrounding area, and in particular for the victims and their families, as well as for the wisdom to find nonviolent ways to solve disputes.

Organizers reminded the participants, "We are not powerless; we can add our prayers for peace and nonviolence to support the efforts of our city officials and the number of local groups working everyday to make South Bend a peaceful, safe city in which to live."

Sister Ruth Marie Nickerson, a member of the leadership team of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, welcomed all present in the name of Sister Joy O'Grady, president of the congregation. She said the



SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

Members of the Saint Mary's College pray for peace on the Alumnae Green in front of the Student Center. The gathering was observed Sept. 21 as a part of the U.N. International Day of Peace.

service could not be more in line with the congregation's focus on promoting nonviolence throughout the world.

South Bend Mayor Steve Luecke and representatives of local groups that promote nonviolence and peace participated. Among those present were people from the Juvenile Justice Center, YMCA's Urban Youth Services, Mommas Against Violence, the NAACP, Robinson Community Learning Center, Urban League, CeaseFire and the Jewish Federation of Shalom. Also represented were members of local churches and the On-site Prayer Ministry, an ecumenical group of individuals who gather to pray with families of homicide victims at the scenes of their deaths in South Bend.

In his comments at the conclu-

sion of the service, Mayor Luecke reminded the assembly that it was 100 years ago that very day when Gandhi began his peace movement in South Africa. The mayor thanked the sisters and the others present for their prayers for him and for all who work for peace in South Bend. He also asked that they continue to pray.

Earlier in the day, departments of Saint Mary's College — Campus Ministry, Intercultural Studies and Justice Education Studies — observed the International Day of Peace by sponsoring 10 minutes of prayer on the Alumnae Green in front of the Student Center. Students, staff and faculty came together at noon to hear readings on peace from various faith traditions and to pray in silence.

SCRIP

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

school's security system, outdoor science lab and a new phone system in the classrooms.

But more recently, when building a rectory became a goal, the use of SCRIP began to soar along with its profits. Williams says that parish participation in the program jumped to 20 percent when plans for the new rectory were

announced.

With 2,625 parish families, a significant amount of money was raised and the newly constructed and updated rectory was able to be completed in late summer. The home's recent open house was successful, and parishioners were anxious to view the results of their efforts, says Msgr. Suelzer.

Williams is elated with SCRIP's success but would love to see it escalate to 50 percent parish participation. She points out that gift cards are conveniently available at the school as well as at the church

after Mass.

"If I could just get the word out" about the benefits of the program, Williams says, "there's no reason for people not to use it."

Meanwhile, Msgr. Suelzer couldn't be happier with the parish priests' new home and with all the furnishings and household items donated for it. He says a recent open house saw a "tremendous response" from parishioners anxious to view the results of their efforts. "The priests are extremely grateful," he assures them.

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Vatican says Archbishop Milingo, four prelates incur excommunication

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Recent ordinations made without papal approval have placed Zambian Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo and the four prelates he recently ordained under automatic excommunication, the Vatican said. Starting with his “attempted marriage” in 2001 until his Sept. 24 ordinations of four bishops in Washington, Archbishop Milingo’s actions have led him to “a condition of irregularity and progressive breach in communion with the church,” said a written statement by the Vatican press office. Various church officials tried “in vain” to contact the retired archbishop of Lusaka, Zambia, and “dissuade him from continuing acts that provoke scandal,” the Sept. 26 press statement said. It said that despite the “patient vigilance” shown by the Vatican and Pope Benedict XVI in hoping the retired archbishop would return to full communion with the church, the archbishop’s Sept. 24 ordinations “have dashed such hopes.” Because of the unapproved ordinations, “both Archbishop Milingo and the four ordained men are under a ‘latae sententiae’ excommunication, according to Canon 1382 of the Code of Canon Law,” the statement said. A bishop who consecrates a bishop without a pontifical mandate and the person who receives the consecration from him automatically incur the penalty of excommunication.

Historian says archives erase claims church did not oppose Nazism

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Documents now available from the Vatican Secret Archives will allow scholars to rewrite history and erase claims the church was not a staunch opponent of Nazism, fascism and other forms of totalitarianism, said a Jesuit historian. Jesuit Father Giovanni Sale, historian of the Jesuit journal, *La Civiltà Cattolica*, said documents relating to the 1922-1939 pontificate of Pope Pius XI will have an impact on political and religious history. What emerges is an even clearer picture of the church as being “steadfast in the fight against totalitarianism, against fascism, against Nazism, but also against communism,” he said in a Sept. 18 interview with Vatican Radio. After years of preparation, the Vatican archive office Sept. 18 opened up to researchers all the documentation from Pope Pius’ pre-World War II pontificate. An official at the Vatican archives told Catholic News Service that in the first week after the 1922-1939 archives were opened, between 55 and 60 scholars from all over the world were going through the documents each day.

Three Catholic men executed in Indonesia, triggering riots

JAKARTA, Indonesia (CNS) — The three Catholic men convicted of murdering 200 Muslims during

NEWS BRIEFS

CARDINAL DRINKS TRADITIONAL DRINK IN FIJI



CNS PHOTO/FATHER PHILIP GIBBS, SVD

Cardinal George Pell of Sydney, Australia, accepts and drinks a bowl of kava, a traditional Fijian drink, during the Aug. 7-11 meeting of Oceania’s Catholic bishops in Suva, Fiji. The Australian Catholic Bishops’ Conference has released a social justice statement that highlights the need to preserve indigenous cultures.

sectarian riots in Central Sulawesi province in 2000 were executed by firing squad Sept. 22, triggering rioting in other provinces. Father Jimmy Tumbelaka, spiritual counsel for Fabianus Tibo, 60, Dominggus da Silva, 39, and Marinus Riwu, 48, said Sept. 22 the three “were executed early this morning at about 1:50 a.m.” The priest spoke to UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, by phone from Palu, the capital of Central Sulawesi province. For the execution, he said, the men were handcuffed and tied to chairs. Da Silva and Tibo allowed themselves to be blindfolded, but Riwu refused, added Father Tumbelaka, parish priest for Poso, the town where the 2000 riots occurred. Father Tumbelaka said police and prosecutors rejected the men’s last request, that their bodies be taken to St. Mary Church in Palu for a Mass to be said by Bishop Joseph Suwatan of Manado.

Catholic, Orthodox cite friendship, plan for 2007 dialogue meeting

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholic and Orthodox representatives ended an important theological meeting on a good note, citing a “spirit of friendship” and making plans for a follow-up encounter next year. A joint statement issued at the end of the Sept. 18-25 meeting in Belgrade, Serbia-Montenegro, said the approximately 60 participants had discussed in depth a draft document that touched on papal primacy and the role of Eastern Catholic churches. The draft document “was carefully examined in a shared spirit of genuine commitment to the search for unity,” the statement said. A joint committee

was appointed to revise the text in light of the many observations and comments made during the discussions. The revised text is expected to be taken up in a meeting hosted by the Catholic Church in 2007, the statement said. It was the first time the Catholic-Orthodox international dialogue commission had met since 2000, when talks were broken off over tensions related to the re-emergence of Eastern Catholic churches in post-communist Eastern Europe.

Head of Opus Dei urges audience to transform ordinary life

MONTREAL (CNS) — The head of Opus Dei told a Montreal audience to be faithful in the small things and to transform ordinary life into an ongoing conversation with God. Bishop Javier Echevarria Rodriguez said that people can come to Jesus in their ordinary lives by taking good care of little things. The bishop said before Jesus publicly ministered he also led an ordinary life. Bishop Echevarria spoke to a gathering of about 900 people in Montreal’s Place des Arts Sept. 16 as part of a North American tour that includes Vancouver, British Columbia; New York; San Francisco; and Houston. The next day, Bishop Echevarria addressed about 1,500 people at Roy Thompson Hall in Toronto. Bishop Echevarria urged people to read the Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church to form their faith and help them find ways to “transform daily life by offering it up to God.” He called on spouses to “love each other crazily,” and he advised busy parents to keep a family photo on their desks at work.

Pope to visit Austria, Czech Republic in 2007, says church official

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Czech bishops’ spokesman said Pope Benedict XVI will visit the Czech Republic and Austria in September 2007. The pope will travel to Austria Sept. 8, 2007, for the 850th anniversary of the Marian sanctuary of Mariazell and agreed to stop in Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic — a country widely viewed as Europe’s least religious country, said Martin Horalek, spokesman for the Czech bishops’ conference. “At a time when our church’s position has suffered, leaving it weak in numbers, this will be a great opportunity to rebuild the Catholic faith here,” Horalek told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview Sept. 20. Pope Benedict agreed to the Czech stop while meeting in Germany with Archbishop Diego Causero, nuncio to the Czech Republic. An itinerary will be discussed Oct. 9 when the bishops’ conference meets, Horalek said.

Dalai Lama says world’s faiths must keep dialoguing, working together

BUFFALO, N.Y. (CNS) — As religious tension rises in some parts of the world, the Dalai Lama reminded 6,000 people gathered in Buffalo about the importance of continuing dialogue and promoting harmony among the world’s religions. “In one way, we need religious spirituality, but it also causes divisions,” he said during an interfaith service in the Alumni Arena at the University of Buffalo

Sept. 18. He was joined by Catholic Bishop Edward U. Kmiec of Buffalo and several other local religious dignitaries representing other Christians as well as Muslims, Jews and Hindus. “To promote religious harmony like with this interfaith service is a wonderful experience. Please keep in your minds the importance of inner value,” said the spiritual leader of the Tibetan Buddhist people. “Religious teaching should be a part of daily life, (but) keep in mind that all the religious traditions carry the same message, and we must respect all traditions.”

Cardinal sees signs of hope for U.S. church despite challenges

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the early 1960s, the future Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick was a young priest earning a doctorate in sociology at The Catholic University of America in Washington. Some societal trends from that decade still resonate in the country and in the church nearly five decades later, Washington’s retired archbishop said at a Sept. 20 conference on “The Catholic Church in America: 2006.” Cardinal McCarrick traced a decline in American Catholics living out and understanding their faith to the “ethos of the 1960s, which we have not yet overcome.” In that era, he said, people adopted an attitude of being “open to everything,” and people “opted out” of traditional morals and ideas about family life, society and their faith. But in the second half of his lecture, Cardinal McCarrick addressed signs of hope he sees in the Catholic Church in the United States today. “There’s so much hope in the Second Vatican Council. This really brought in the age of the laity,” he said.

Chinese officials release bishop who was taken by force

HONG KONG (CNS) — A young bishop whose episcopal ordination is not recognized by the Chinese government was released five days after being taken away by plainclothes security officers who broke into the cathedral compound. After his Sept. 16 release, Bishop Joseph Wu Qijing of Zhouzhi was hospitalized because of a slight concussion, reported UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand. A church source close to the 38-year-old bishop told UCA News Sept. 19 that before Bishop Wu’s release he was forced to write a statement saying his episcopal status was illegal. The statement said he was ordained without an election. It added that his management of the diocese and presiding over church activities as bishop have violated the Chinese government’s religious affairs regulations. The church source added that Bishop Wu also was forced to promise in the statement that he would not wear a miter or bishop’s vestments during liturgies or appear as a bishop at large-scale church activities.

Tess Steffen joins Today's Catholic sales staff

FORT WAYNE

— *Today's Catholic* welcomes Tess Steffen to the newspaper as an advertising sales representative. Steffen comes to the *Today's Catholic* with many years of marketing sales experience.



TESS STEFFEN

As an advertising sales representative she will service current accounts and solicit new advertisers. "I want to use the experience and contacts that I have to promote and market the newspaper to our current and potential accounts," Steffen says.

Steffen is a veteran and much sought-after account executive from the paper industry. She worked for paper companies in Fort Wayne, Wichita, Kans., and Indianapolis. Recently, she has been involved in home-show sales and special events planning.

A 1979 graduate of Bishop Luers High School and a 1983 graduate of Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame, Steffen has been married for 13 years to Mitch Steffen. The couple has two sons, ages 9 and 11 who attend St. John the Baptist School in Fort Wayne.

Advertising is important to the newspaper production. Subscription costs cover just a small portion of the total production and delivery costs. The newspaper relies on advertising to cover the excess costs.

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To contact Steffen for advertising needs in the Fort Wayne or eastern portion of the diocese, call (260) 456-2824 or e-mail sales@fw.diocesefwsb.org.

Redeemer Radio announces Internet streaming

FORT WAYNE — Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio 1450 AM has announced it is streaming the Internet. Listeners may hear all of their favorite programs on Redeemer Radio by simply visiting the Web site at www.redeemerradio.com and clicking on the Internet link.

Internet streaming allows listeners to hear when they are at the lake cottage, traveling on business, or anywhere they have an Internet connection. Now listeners are able to hear Redeemer Radio's local broadcast of Bishop Luers or Bishop Dwenger football with family and friends across the nation or anywhere in the world.

Redeemer Radio is a 501c3 non profit group of lay Catholics, financially separate from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South

AROUND THE DIOCESE

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MARK WEBER

Father Jeffery Largent, pastor of St. Monica Parish, Mishawaka, adjusts his regular schedule to serve as crossing guard and playground arbiter twice a day for St. Monica School students. Each Tuesday he has religious instructions for all classes K-8. He considers contact with students one of his serious obligations and a most fulfilling experience. Since January, Father Largent has been the main celebrant at 72 funerals at St. Monica's and other area parishes.

Bend, and totally dependent on the generosity of listeners.

Redeemer Radio's lineup includes a variety of programming of interest to a broad audience.

Daily, programming is in English during the day from 5 a.m. to 9 p.m. and in Spanish overnight from 9 p.m. to 5 a.m.

The mission of Redeemer Radio is to evangelize the Catholic faith through radio in the diocese, under obedience to Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

Items stolen from The Franciscan Center

FORT WAYNE — The Franciscan Center recently discovered that over \$2,000 worth of merchandise donated to raise funds at their annual Dinner and Auction on Oct. 21 was stolen from the organization's headquarters on Gaywood Street.

"We are devastated that someone would take these items," explains Sally Ley, founder and CEO. "We use the proceeds from our auction to help fund our programs and activities, including our Sack Lunch Ministry, Food Pantry and Medicine Closet. We are asking for prayers from the community to help locate these items."

Contact The Franciscan Center at (260) 744-3977 for more information.

Moreau Center for the Arts celebrates golden anniversary

NOTRE DAME — Fifty years ago, accomplished Hollywood actress Helen Hayes was present when the cornerstone of the Moreau Center for the Arts at Saint Mary's College was laid, and was the first to speak from Moreau's O'Laughlin Auditorium stage. Fifty years later, the college prepares to celebrate the Moreau Center's golden anniversary and its legacy of entertainment and education with a special musical performance on Tuesday, Oct. 3, at 7:30 p.m.

The evening features the combined talents of the New York Philomusica Ensemble; the Saint Mary's College Women's Choir; renowned Latin American poet Maria Auxiliadora Alvarez; mezzo soprano and Saint Mary's alumna Mary Nessinger; faculty soprano Laurel Thomas; and composer, pianist, and Saint Mary's music faculty artist Jeffrey Jacob.

The New York Philomusica Ensemble is widely regarded as one of the top chamber groups of North America. Its yearly tours of the U.S. and Europe and subscription concerts at New York's Merkin Concert Hall have earned it international acclaim. Among the distinguished musicians who have performed with the ensemble is the world-renowned cellist Yo Yo Ma.

Jeffrey Jacob was recently

named artist-of-the-year by the International New Music Consortium at New York University for his work as a pianist, composer and educator. Throughout this academic year he will make concert tours of South Africa, Singapore, Indonesia and China. Jacob will also premiere "Celebration," a new work for women's choir, soprano and chamber ensemble. "Celebration" will be performed by the Saint Mary's College Women's Choir, faculty artist and soprano Laurel Thomas, and alumna Mary Nessinger. Professor Nancy Menk conducts.

Saint Mary's College alumna and mezzo soprano Mary Nessinger has performed in concert and recital halls throughout the United States and Europe.

The performance venue, O'Laughlin Auditorium in the Moreau Center for the Arts, is where Helen Hayes read from Shakespeare's "The Merchant of Venice" in 1956. She also said, in her own words: "There is no beauty that can be laid upon this brick and mortar as perfect as the love and high ideals that have gone into its construction. Since these are the first words that an actress has delivered from this stage, I hope they may find their way into some of the cornices and rest there."

In addition to serving as a venue for professional music, dance and theater performances, the Moreau Center for the Arts is also the educational nexus for students pursuing majors in communications or the arts.

Tickets are \$15 for adults; \$14 for senior citizens; \$13 for members of the Saint Mary's-Notre Dame community; and \$12 for students. Call the Moreau Center Box Office at (574) 284-4626 to reserve seats.

For a listing of the season events, visit MoreauCenter.com.

Fort Wayne native takes solemn vows



PHIL ROBINETTE, OFM

CINCINNATI — Following in the footsteps of St. Francis, Brother Christopher Meyer, a native of Fort Wayne, made his solemn vows as a Franciscan friar on Aug. 12 in Cincinnati. He and fellow friar Brother Albert Mascia, 52, took their vows before Father Fred Link, provincial minister of the Franciscans of St. John the Baptist Province, at St. Clement Church.

Brother Chris, 32, is working towards a religious studies degree at DePaul University in Chicago. He spent the last nine months of his formation in Jamaica, working as a missionary in the Diocese of Montego Bay.

"I was raised in a Franciscan environment," says Brother Chris,

Brother Christopher Meyer, right, takes his vows as a Franciscan before Father Fred Link.

who formerly attended St. Therese Parish with his parents, Rebecca Meyer and the late James Meyer. After joining the Franciscan Order in 2002, "I felt a sense of joy, of fullness and freedom, of homecoming."

His advice for anyone discerning religious life is "to begin now to live the life. If you have extra time, volunteer, help those in need; if you have 'issues,' as we all do, begin working on them. Don't think that when you enter religious life that everything will just go away and be fine. We all carry our crosses and if we could work on our load sooner, how much richer our lives will be in community and in ministry."

Leadership developed among Hispanics at ICLM institute

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

SOUTH BEND — Through the sacrament of baptism, each of us is called to serve God and God's people, but we need the tools to do so. That is why Jesuit Father Tom Florek began ICLM — The Midwest Cultural Institute for Leadership.

Father Florek served as the director of Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of Gary for many years. Through his own experience, and that of other members of The Midwest Association for Hispanic Ministry, to which he belonged, he realized more and more the great need for some kind of an institute to develop Hispanic pastoral leadership in the church.

He decided to go back to school, and after receiving a doctorate in systematic theology from the Catholic Theological Union, Father Florek began what has been a very fruitful program to develop pastoral leadership for a model of church that is evangelizing, missionary and united in its diversity. ICLM was born.

When Enid Roman-DeJesus, coordinator for Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and Father Paul Bueter, diocesan vicar for Hispanics, went to a workshop at Victory Noll to access the needs of the Hispanics in the diocese, they met Father Florek and learned about the institute. In 2002 the Office of Hispanic Ministry, with the support and blessing of Bishop John M. D'Arcy, they decided to launch the institute in the diocese.

The program has three phases. In the first phase, participants discern their call; create a community who wants to learn more about the church; and discover who they are as a people

of a cultural community on a journey.

The second phase of the institute focuses on the study of theology and the Latino culture. In the beginning ICLM comes to the various dioceses to teach and help its program get started, with the understanding that each one will eventually create its own faculty and staff and won't be dependent on them.

In the last phase of the institute each participant makes a pastoral plan and puts it into action in his or her parish. For example, Fernando Vela, who graduated with the first class, served in religious education for six months at St. John the Evangelist in Goshen. Others have done plans in youth and young adult ministry and other facets of parish life. Roman and other members of the diocese serve as mentors and supervisors for those implementing their pastoral plan.

It is no doubt that this Institute has and will continue to strengthen the Hispanic community in the diocese. Graduate, Humberto Delgado recently became coordinator for Hispanic youth ministry for the diocese and the others continue to be involved in their parishes.

Of the program, Roman says, "When you give people the tools to know more about the church and what it stands for, with the good things and the things that are not that great, they have a better feeling about who they are as Catholics and it is harder to shake their faith."

At present the institute, which has been based at the University of Notre Dame for the past two years, works with the dioceses of Grand Rapids, Lansing and Detroit in Michigan, and Fort Wayne-South Bend and Lafayette in Indiana.

ICLM graduates begin a mission

BY DENISE FEDOROW

WARSAW — Over 20 graduates of the ICLM (Midwest Hispanic Leadership Institute) Program were honored with an evening graduation Mass on Sept. 24, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Warsaw.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy celebrated the Mass. "It's a great joy to celebrate the Eucharist with all of you and the priests who work in our Hispanic ministries and to give certificates to those who completed his or her studies — especially in this church of Our Lady of Guadalupe," Bishop D'Arcy said.

Bishop D'Arcy made mention of the five years it took to complete the church construction. "Sometimes we thought it would take another thousand," he quipped, "but it didn't, and here we are approximately one year after its consecration."

The ICLM is a three-year program, which was started in 1998 in the Archdiocese of Detroit, the dioceses of Grand Rapids and Lansing, Mich., by Jesuit Father Tom Florek. The program soon spread to the Ohio dioceses of Toledo, Cleveland and Columbus.

It came to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese in 2002 after Enid Roman-DeJesus, coordinator for Hispanic ministry and Father Paul Bueter, diocesan vicar for Hispanics met Father Florek and learned of the program.

During the homily, Bishop D'Arcy spoke of the knowledge participants gained and how they should use that knowledge in service to others citing the examples of St. Francis of Assisi and St. Ignatius.

"Please make prayer to Jesus Christ risen from the dead with the wounds of love still in his hands — make that central to your life and ministry," he said.

After assisting the bishop with the presentation of the certificates and congratulating the graduates, Father Florek spoke.

"This is a great blessing for us that bishop and Enid and Father Bueter opened the doors for us and our program of formation in the diocese. Today we come together to celebrate you and pause together now on the road to



DENISE FEDOROW

The 2006 graduating class of the ICLM program poses after a celebratory Mass held in their honor beside an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe at the church of her name in Warsaw on Sunday Sept. 24. Shown, from left, in front kneeling are Manuel Gutierrez, Valentina Gutierrez, Marco Medina, Naomi Vela, Tayriz Garcia, Joshua Garcia, Cristina Gomez and Maria Rodriguez; standing, from left, are Hugo Gutierrez, Irma Cantero, Elvia Patino, David Medina, Father Tom Florek, Ricardo Garcia, Santa E. Vela holding Cesar, Fernando Vela, Isela Hernandez, Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Rosa Hernandez, Jose Hernandez, Sister Joan Hastreiter, SSJ, pastoral minister at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Claudio Escobar, Miriam Bannon and Humberto Delgado.

leadership — the road of wisdom that is to love and serve," Father Florek said.

He spoke of James' second letter and to the importance of wisdom and compassion to produce good works. "You are the good works," he told the graduates.

Father Florek spoke of the growth witnessed over the years, a growth inspired by Our Lady of Guadalupe that in turn inspires the whole community and the United States in faith, hope and love.

"We have watched you grow in articulation of your gift. We were very proud of those of you who stood up in Notre Dame and expressed that gift to a national audience," he said.

Father Florek discussed the amount of time the graduates dedicated to the program — over 300 hours over three years on Saturdays and full weekends, some having to give up paid work to do so.

"This is not an end but rather a commencement, a beginning. A beginning of a mission, a mission primarily for most to family for

greater love and service, a mission to the church, but also to your workplace where many are suffering from bad treatment and poor wages," Father Florek said.

After the Mass, Santa and Fernando Vela of St. John the Evangelist Parish in Goshen spoke of the benefits of the program. Santa said she felt the experience was beneficial for her family as they grew up in the church.

Santa works with the catechists and is also a lector, among other ministries, to the Hispanic congregation at St. John the Evangelist.

"It definitely helps us to be able to share what we learned," Santa said. Her husband, Fernando, is the director of religious education for the Hispanic congregation at St. John the Evangelist.

Father Florek was excited about the number of participants and graduates for the first class in the diocese.

"Given the size it's incredibly exciting," he said. "Consider this. The Archdiocese of Detroit has three times the number of Catholics and three times the number of Hispanics and it had 35 people (in the program)."

Father Florek said he hoped this first group of graduates would work with the program, continuing as mentors for the next cycle of classes. He said a lot of the graduates were already taking significant leadership roles in the church. He felt the participants were consciously not aspiring to the American consumerism but that they bring another set of values.

"They are very happy to be here and for the doors that are open to them," he said. "They have youth, energy, faith, talent and an incredible amount of commitment."

A reception was held following the Mass.



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The creative tension

BY LINDA FURGE

Opening prayer

Dear God, a cold north wind came in the night, blowing away heat and humidity while I slept. The first breath of crisp air raced through my blood like a goblet of fine wine. The cornfield, bedecked with browning silk, was still green, but the sound of wind rattling through resisting leaves proclaimed, "Growth is finished."

Were those yellow leaves in the quince bushes yesterday? When did the tips of red appear in the ivy? Did growth cease abruptly ... or has it come to a coasting halt without my notice?

No matter, Lord. This morning I see the emptying shell of summer. You've turned the crank again, and autumn will soon come in your time. Thank you for your hand on the handle of the world. Amen.

Scripture reading: Gen 1: 1-31

Commentary

This short poem-prayer really speaks to what's happening in nature this month. As I see it, it is the creative tension between summer and winter that brings about the glorious beauty of fall. Creative tension is not just two forces colliding for dominance or control; rather, it's the creation of something totally new and good as a result of a dynamic exchange. And next spring we'll witness an entirely new kind of creative tension as winter and summer again interact with incredible beauty when earth awakens into spring.

I first became aware of this dynamic many years ago as my husband and I discussed issues of

parenting, sometimes heatedly, especially if our strong personalities were not in agreement as to the best approach. What became quickly clear was that, while we may approach a problem from totally different perspectives because of our personalities, if we agreed on a solution, it was most likely a rock-solid decision. Within the creative tension of our differing viewpoints lay a better answer than the one either of us had individually thought of.

We can see the benefits of creative tension in human relationships on all levels. As individuals, we have basic needs of love, self-esteem, fun (or "re-creation") and freedom. To be healthy, these four "legs" of our emotional chairs need to be balanced or held in creative tension, one to the others — or we become lopsided persons. The same goes with our personal relationships: husband-wife, parent-child, friend-friend ... all these grow stronger as deeper bonds are created through the loving, kind interplay of differing styles and opinions.

Indeed, creative tension is important in our workplace, for our neighborhoods and communities, our country and our church. This kind of respectful tension can hold together differing views to create better human relationships, more productive teams and structures, and beneficial, more inclusive policies.

So too we experience creative tension in our faith life. We are taught from baptism that we are uniquely made and loved by God, that all the hairs on our heads are counted, that we are each more precious than a sparrow. We are to grow and develop, each according to our unique gifts and talents, to build up the kingdom of God on earth. At the same time, we want to be with others

and be loved. We are to live in community with all humanity: rich, poor, good, bad, Christian, atheist and everyone in between. Our baptism both sets us apart and calls us into relationship at the same time.

We live in other kinds of spiritual tension as well: between where we are in our faith journeys — and where we should be ... between who we are — and who we should become ... between living in the world — and setting ourselves apart from the world. Where's the line between evangelization and proselytizing? Between tolerance and truth? How do we hold in equilibrium faith, hope and charity? These and many others are questions for practical living in our world.

As always, Jesus is our guide. He was in the world but set himself apart from his world, not so much by external appearance but by how he acted. He spent both time alone (praying) and time with crowds (preaching and healing). He invited into creative tension his disparate group of disciples, teaching them, loving them and challenging them to be more than they ever thought they could be. Throughout his life he prayed to know God's will and to do it faithfully, even unto death. Out of the creative tension in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done" — Lk 22:42, came the greatest gift of all, our salvation.

Jesus both loved God and loved his neighbor and, in the tension between these two ideals, showed us how to become new creations in Christ: "... to lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, making every effort to

maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to the one hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all." — Eph 4: 1-5.

It is now up to each of us to appreciate and make the most of the creative tensions we discover in our lives and our world — just as Jesus did in his.

Reflection and closing prayer

(taken from "The Prophet,"
by Kahlil Gibran)

Your soul is a battlefield upon which your reason and your judgment wage war against your passion and your appetite. For passion, ruling alone, is a force confining; and passion, unattended, is a flame that burns to its own destruction. Therefore, let your soul exalt your reason to the height of passion that it may sing; and let it direct your passion with reason, that your passion may live through its own daily resurrection and, like the phoenix, rise above its own ashes.

Amongst the hills, when you sit in the cool shade of the white

poplars, sharing the peace and serenity of distant fields and meadows — then let your heart say in silence, "God rests in reason." And when the storm comes, and the mighty wind shakes the forest, and the thunder and lightning proclaim the majesty of the sky — then let your heart say in awe, "God moves in passion."

And since you are a breath in God's sphere, and a leaf in God's forest, you too should rest in reason and move in passion.

Evangelizing action challenge

Interior renewal

Reflect on where you find creative tension in your life, and give thanks for tension that encourages the best in our relationships and communities.

Reaching out to others

Tension can be destructive as well as creative. Reach out to bring about reconciliation, if possible, in these kinds of situations.

Transforming society

Become involved in healthy groups that utilize everyone's gifts in bringing about God's kingdom on earth.

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Sept. 29-Oct. 6	St. Martin de Porres	Syracuse
Oct. 6-13	St. Dominic	Bremen
Oct. 13-20	St. Michael/Ancilla College	Plymouth
Oct. 20-27	St. Mary of the Lake	Culver
Oct. 27- Nov. 3	St. Patrick	Walkerton

RESPECT LIFE

Support for the culture of death declining

BY LISA EVERETT

The fifth anniversary of 9/11 was a painful reminder of the living hell that life becomes when innocent human lives are no longer considered inviolable. If an individual or group or whole society convinces itself that the end justifies the means, that taking innocent human life is an option if it will advance a personal or professional or political agenda, then they have crossed the threshold into the culture of death.

Perhaps as a result of the agony of that ordeal, it has become easier for Americans to see that the evil of terrorism is essentially akin to the casual destruction of innocent human life that takes place daily in our nation in far less dramatic circumstances. Whether that destruction of innocent human beings occurs through surgical abortion, through embryonic stem-cell research, through the discarding of "spare" embryos during in vitro fertilization, or through pharmaceutical products like Plan B, the "logic" is always the same: innocent human lives may be sacrificed if their deaths serve some desirable end such as personal fulfillment or scientific progress.

The good news is that more and more Americans seem to be rejecting this "logic." Nowhere is this more obvious than in the declining support in our country for abortion on demand. At a recent national conference of diocesan pro-life directors, author and commentator Ramesh Ponnuru gave an excellent presentation on abortion and public opinion.

He cited a CBS News poll taken in July 2005, which found that 53 percent of Americans believe that abortion should be illegal altogether, or illegal with rare exceptions such as rape, incest or to save the life of the mother. A May 2005 Gallup poll found that 62 percent of Americans thought that abortion should be illegal altogether, or legal in only a few circumstances. A *Los Angeles Times* poll taken in January 2005 found that 53 percent of Americans believe that abortion should not be legal, or legal only in a few circumstances.

"It is undeniable that the majority of Americans would support serious and substantive restrictions on abortion," Ramesh concluded.

He continued by pointing out that large majorities of the public favor mandatory waiting periods, parental consent laws, spousal notification requirements and prohibitions on abortion after the first three months of pregnancy. In fact, in 2005 alone, over 50 state laws were passed containing some kind of restriction on abortion on demand.

Even more encouraging is recent data that shows a decline in support for legal abortion among young adults. UCLA conducts a nationwide poll on incoming freshmen every fall. In 1992, 67 percent of incoming freshmen said that they believed abortion should be legal. By 2004, the number had declined to 54 percent, the lowest number since the question began to be asked in 1977.

Among young women this trend also seems to be taking hold in a significant way. In 2005, *Glamour* magazine featured an article called "The Mysterious Disappearance of Young Pro-Choice Women." It lamented the dramatic decline in support for legal abortion among young women. In 2003, a CBS/*New York Times* poll found that only 35 percent of young women aged 18-29 thought that abortion should be available to anyone who wants it. In 1993, the same question got 50 percent support.

The article went on to quote Alexander Sanger of Planned Parenthood. "I've seen the numbers and I find them unbelievably shocking. Isn't it obvious that young women have to be at the forefront of fighting for their reproductive rights, because they're the ones who need them."

Even the staunchest abortion advocates seem to be picking up on the public's discomfort with abortion and following suit in the way they market themselves. For example, Ramesh pointed out that the acronym NARAL used to stand for the "National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws."

Once abortion became legal, NARAL decided that its name now stood for the "National Abortion Rights Action League." In recent years, the organization

simply goes by the name "NARAL Pro-Choice America," in which the acronym NARAL no longer stands for anything at all. Ramesh commented on this telling trend by noting deftly: "Abortion has become the right that dare not speak its name."

A notable and disturbing exception to this declining support for the culture of death is the erosion of opposition to embryonic stem cell research. Several prominent members of Congress who have strong pro-life records nevertheless have become supporters of federally funding stem-cell research which involves the destruction of embryonic human beings.

In addition, according to a *Newsweek* poll conducted this past summer, 48 percent of respondents favor federal funding for embryonic stem-cell research, while 40 percent oppose it. Of those who oppose it, almost half cite religious and moral concerns, while slightly more than half believe that such research is not a good use of government funds. We can only hope that if moral conviction does not turn the tide of this debate, the sheer lack of success will.

Ramesh pointed out that Arthur Kaplan, who is a strong proponent of embryonic stem-cell research, predicts that public opinion will probably turn against this research unless it produces significant results in the next few years. This scenario is not likely, since embryonic stem-cell research has not yet yielded a single successful treatment, while adult stem-cell research has yielded successful 72 treatments and counting.

This Respect Life Sunday, let us count ourselves blessed to belong to a church that stands so proudly and so firmly in defense of every innocent human being. Let us recommit ourselves to living this vision and lifting it up to our fellow Americans, that our nation will one day definitively cross the threshold into the culture of life.

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

Protecting children

BY ROXANA ULLOA BARILLAS

Respect Life Sunday, on the first weekend of October, falls near the Oct. 4 feast of St. Francis of Assisi, named the patron saint of the environment by Pope John Paul II in 1979. St. Francis can inspire us to reflect anew on the ways our attitudes, uses, and abuses of creation affect the poor and vulnerable, especially our children both before and after birth.

Protecting human life and caring for creation

As Catholics we are called to protect human life, to care for others, and to respect God's gift of creation. The church's call to respect human dignity and promote the common good of the entire human family, beginning with the most vulnerable, leads it to champion unborn children's right to live.

In their 1991 statement "Renewing the Earth," the U.S. Catholic bishops remind us that:

(We) are charged with restoring the integrity of all creation. We must care for all God's creatures, especially the most vulnerable. How, then, can we protect endangered species and at the same time be callous to the unborn, the elderly or disabled persons? Is not abortion also a sin against creation? If we turn our backs to our own unborn children, can we truly expect that nature will receive respectful treatment at our hands? The care of the earth will not be advanced by the destruction of human life at any stage of development. As Pope John Paul II has said, "protecting the environment is first of all the right to live and the protection of life."

— quoting Oct. 16, 1991 homily of Pope John Paul II at Quiaba, Mato Grosso, Brazil

Children deserve special protection for they are the most innocent and vulnerable among us. Yet while it is easier today than decades ago to protect children from environmental toxins, the risk of exposure to so many more untested synthetic chemicals is a challenge for scientists and for parents who are ultimately responsible for figuring out how best to protect their children from before birth into adulthood.

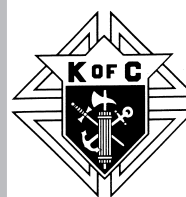
Among the most susceptible to environmental hazards are children, born and unborn. In the womb, especially, they face a disproportionate threat to their neurological development from environmental toxins like mercury and lead.

Exposure to air pollutants and toxins is also significantly more harmful to children than to adults. Their



developing organs are not adults in dealing with pollutants exposed to environmental giving them more time to growing, environmentally, as asthma, learning disabilities.

It was once assumed that were protected from the we know now that the placenta not protect umbilical cord and the developing baby from most chemicals and pollutants mother encounters in the environment. And, exposure to toxins in the uterus can harm the unborn.



**The Annual Knights of Columbus
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NG I LIFE ...

n in their first environment, the womb



tion. Outdoor air pollution, unsafe and crowded housing, contaminated water and soil, and industrial waste are just a few of the environmental hazards that are disproportionately concentrated in low-income, minority communities.

Some findings on mercury pollution

Addressing environmental health issues is challenging. Often the science is not clear or conclusive. Such is the case with mercury, a known toxin that can interfere with the nervous system and the development of the human brain from early in pregnancy. According to a consumer advisory jointly issued by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), women of childbearing age, pregnant women, nursing mothers and children under five are especially at risk from unsafe levels of mercury.

Researchers find that an infant's rapidly developing brain and central nervous system are extremely susceptible to damage because the placenta allows the passage of methylmercury, the most toxic form of mercury. Prenatal mercury exposure has been associated with toxic effects on the developing brain, including adverse effects on fine motor skills, memory and learning ability.

Addressing mercury pollution

Power plants are the primary man-made source of mercury. Over 1,100 coal-fired power plants, the nation's largest source of airborne mercury pollution, send an estimated 48 tons of mercury into the atmosphere annually.

Regulatory decisions concerning allowable levels of emissions are made using a cost-benefit analysis. Public health experts assert that the neurological damage caused by mercury exposure in utero is irreversible. Should we not protect children from mercury toxicity, and spread the cost of emissions reduction throughout the public?

A growing challenge

While chemicals play a major role in improving the quality of life for all Americans, many peer-reviewed studies suggest that

some may pose serious long-term health risks, including cancer and childhood developmental disabilities. The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) estimates that 25 percent of the developmental and neurological deficits in children are due to the interplay between chemicals and genetic factors, while 3 percent are caused by exposure to chemicals alone.

The precautionary principle

We must protect God's gift of creation to ensure our children's "right to a healthy environment." It is not enough to demand policies and regulations that address the unintended consequences of technological development.

The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) tracks mercury-related legislation as part of the Catholic Coalition for Children and a Safe Environment (CASE), working to reduce emissions in order to protect the environment and human health, particularly in vulnerable populations.

Conclusion

As we highlight the Respect Life program and celebrate the feast day of St. Francis, we should reflect on our personal lifestyle, and also consider how abuse of our environment threatens children's health and their ability to realize their full potential, before as well as after birth.

Roxana Barillas is project administrator, Department of Social Development and World Peace, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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The disproportionate burdens of pollution

Children living in poverty, disproportionately consisting of black and Hispanic children, face multiple obstacles to their development, including rates of lead poisoning and asthma-related hospitalizations and deaths higher than those of the general popula-

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Victim advocates against the death penalty

BY ANDREW RIVAS

Losing a close family member to murder is a tragedy of unimaginable proportions. The effects on the family, and on the wider community, extend well beyond the initial shock and trauma. The common assumption in this country is that families who have suffered this kind of loss will support the death penalty.

This assumption, of course, is wrong. Many family members of victims have argued forcefully against the death penalty for their loved one's killer.

We'll see how four people whose lives were touched by murder unexpectedly became public advocates against capital punishment.

Vicki Schieber

Vicki's daughter Shannon was 23 years old in 1998, when she was murdered by a serial rapist in Philadelphia. In 2002 Troy Graves pleaded guilty to assaulting, raping and killing Shannon, and to 13 other sexual assaults.

The Schiebers raised their children to oppose the killing of anyone, including murderers, if the killers could be imprisoned for life without parole and so no longer pose a danger to society.

No one should infer from her opposition to the death penalty that Vicki did not want Shannon's murderer caught, prosecuted and put away for the rest of his life. "We believe he is where he belongs today, as he serves his prison sentence, and we rest assured that he will never again perpetrate this sort of crime on any other young women. But killing this man would not bring our daughter back. And it was very clear to us that killing him would have been partly dependent on our complicity in having it done."

Today Vicki serves on the board of directors of Murder Victims' Families for Human Rights (MVFHR), a national non-profit organization of people who have lost a family member to murder or to state execution.

David Kaczynski and Gary Wright

David Kaczynski is the brother of Ted Kaczynski, "the Unabomber," a mentally-ill man whose anti-technology bombings over 17 years left three people dead and 23 injured. When newspapers printed the Unabomber's "manifesto," David and his wife, Linda, recognized similarities to Ted's ideas. David faced an almost unimaginable dilemma — he could turn in his brother knowing that he might be executed, or he could do nothing, knowing more innocent people could be harmed. David chose the path of life and took steps to stop the violence.

Despite Ted's history of mental illness, federal prosecutors sought the death penalty. It was only through the work of highly-skilled lawyers — an advantage often unavailable to those facing capital prosecutions — that Ted was allowed to plead guilty and is now serving a life sentence in a federal penitentiary in Colorado.

Gary Wright was one of the Unabomber's victims. Gary, the owner of a Salt Lake City comput-

er store, happened to pick up a piece of wood behind his store in 1987. It turned out to be a bomb placed there by Ted Kaczynski. It was a miracle that Gary wasn't killed, but he had to endure three years in and out of surgery, and a slow, pain-filled process of rebuilding his body and contemplating what had happened to him.

Five years later David became the executive director of New Yorkers Against the Death Penalty, a group headed by Albany Bishop Howard Hubbard. Gary has joined forces with David.

Gary, a practicing Catholic, explains: "While he was being executed Jesus forgave the people who were killing him. I thought, if that's the example Christ gave us while he was suffering on the cross, then I had to think very seriously about forgiveness in my own life."

Kirk Bloodworth

Kirk Bloodworth, a retired Marine from Maryland, was wrongfully convicted of sexual assault, rape and first-degree murder, and was sentenced to death in 1985. The ruling was appealed a year later on the ground that evidence was withheld at trial, and Kirk received a new trial. He was found guilty again, however, and sentenced to two consecutive life terms.

In June 1993, Kirk's case became the first capital conviction in the United States to be overturned as a result of DNA testing. By the time of his release, Kirk had served almost nine years in prison, including two on death row, for a crime he did not commit.

"In that time," Kirk says, "my life had been taken from me and destroyed. The Catholic Church provided me with essential support in my time of need, and I converted to Catholicism in 1989, while I was serving time behind bars. I am a deeply spiritual person and continue to embrace the church. Its values help to guide me as I travel across the country to tell my story."

Although Kirk was a retired marine with no criminal record who was nowhere near the scene of the crime, he had nevertheless been convicted and sentenced to death for a crime he did not commit. If it could happen to someone like him, he reasoned, it could happen to others. And it does. Since 1973, more than 120 people have been exonerated from death row after being cleared of their charges.

Today Kirk works for the Justice Project's Campaign for Criminal Justice Reform and the Criminal Justice Reform Education Fund.

If these men and women can overcome human hatred and bring a Gospel of mercy and love to the world, how can we claim a right to demand the death of a killer to "honor the victim" or to "win justice" for the victim's family? We cannot. To do so dishonors the lives of all involved, making us complicit in perpetuating violence rather than ending it.

Andrew Rivas is executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference.

EDITORIAL

Human beings are not 'things' used at whim

October is Pro-Life month when we as Catholics focus on the great gift of life that God has given us and renew our awareness of the many threats to human life which our society supports and even encourages. We are all well aware of the clear threats to innocent human life such as abortion and euthanasia, which plague our society. However, there are even more hidden and insidious attacks on the dignity of human life, which have sprung up within the last decade — especially embryonic stem-cell research.

What makes embryonic stem-cell research so insidious is the façade of hope that it offers those who suffer with the most difficult of debilitating diseases — paralyzing spinal cord injuries, Muscular Dystrophy, Lou Gerig's Disease, Alzheimer's Disease and others.

However, this façade covers the most ugly and evil of secrets — the intentional destruction of human beings. Human beings in embryonic form are intentionally destroyed in order to harvest their stem cells to be experimented upon. In addition to this, absolutely no cures or even the realistic hope of any cures have been derived from embryonic stem-cell research.

Of course, we as Catholics could never support such barbaric and evil designs. However, some of us may be unknowingly doing just that when we give donations to groups that fund embryonic stem-cell research. Most certainly unknown to many, the following groups, among others, give money for embryonic stem-cell research: the Muscular Dystrophy Association, ALS (Lou Gerig's Disease), and the Leukemia/Lymphoma Society.

In the combating of human disease, the church has always praised the work of scientists and physicians who are to be encouraged to use all ethical means necessary. Also, there is no question that the groups mentioned above and others have done enormous good in this area, but nothing justifies the intentional destruction of innocent human life even if in the name of searching for a cure for others. Human beings are not "things" to be used at whim.

Even if embryonic stem-cell research did offer any glimmer of hope for cures, would any one of us want to be cured from a disease if we knew that that cure came from the intentional destruction of another human being? If our answer is "yes," then we are far from the Gospel. The spreading of the Gospel of Life demands that we as followers of Christ prophesy to the culture of death about the dignity of each and every human life. No cure, no matter how miraculous, should come by the discarding of human lives.

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.

Wenceslas

c. 907-929

feast — September 28

When the duke of Bohemia (now in the Czech Republic) died, his wife began ruling as regent for their son, Wenceslas. Her sometimes violent, unjust dealings with the people prompted the 15-year-old to assume power in 922. As duke he tried to maintain peace and convert his subjects to Christianity. But a malcontent younger brother, Boleslaw, plotted against him, provoking a fight in which his henchmen murdered Wenceslas. This "good king" of the Christmas carol was venerated immediately as a martyr.



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

Learning about God from our pets: A reflection for the feast of St. Francis

BY TOM DERMODY

"A person could learn a lot from a dog, even a loopy one like ours."

John Grogan, a columnist for *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, penned those words just days after the death of his family's Labrador retriever named Marley. His loving farewell to a drooling dynamo of a dog touched universal sentiments among pet owners.

"Marley taught me about living each day with unbridled exuberance and joy," he wrote in the Jan. 4, 2004 column. "He taught me to appreciate the simple things — a walk in the woods, a fresh snowfall, a nap in a shaft of winter sunlight."

"Mostly," continued Grogan, "he taught me about friendship and selflessness and, above all else, unwavering loyalty."

The story of his dog's death would change Grogan's life.

On the day the column appeared he received 800 e-mails or phone calls, about 30 times the usual reaction. He developed its themes into what has become one of this decade's most popular books, "Marley & Me: Life and Love with the World's Worst Dog." It has been a fixture at or near the top of the *New York Times*' best seller list for almost a year.

The popularity of "Marley" underscores one reason why St. Francis of Assisi, whose Oct. 4 feast day is approaching, is one of the church's most recognizable and beloved figures. While there is a depth to St. Francis' spirituality that is still being mined eight centuries after his death, the average U.S. Catholic knows him for two simple reasons. One is the peace prayer attributed to him. The other?

Francis is the patron saint of animals.

In a nation where, at last count, there are 90 million cats, 74 million dogs, and millions more birds, fish, reptiles, and assorted small animals sharing life under our roofs, it's no wonder so many relate to Francis' description of God's creatures as our "brothers and sisters."

Count me among them. Unfortunately, all too soon I will have to bid farewell to my own four-legged, furry friend, a Shetland Sheepdog named Angie. She is nearly 13, Marley's age when he died. And like Marley near the end, Angie has gone deaf, sleeps most of the day, slowly trudges up steps she used to bound, and has few remaining teeth with which to shred a

rawhide bone. The most telling sign of what's ahead? Angie no longer wants to go on the nightly neighborhood walk she used to demand.

Memories of Angie's role in our family could fill a book, too. (I might subtitle hers "A Great Dog with the World's Worst Breath.") But instead of composing a farewell after Angie's inevitable passing, I'm going to celebrate her life now by expanding on the truth Grogan raised in his column.

Not only can a person learn a lot about life from a pet, a person can learn a lot about God.

Throughout Angie's life I've received glimpses of unconditional love, unbridled joy and comforting presence when I am troubled. As odd as it may sound, I picture God as happy and excited to see me arrive at Mass or adoration hour as Angie is when I come home from work. She prances and spins with glee.

And those late-night walks! Sometimes it took incessant barking and whimpering to get me off the couch, but those quiet strolls through the neighborhood often became golden periods of evening prayer. I find the canopy of moon and stars as inspiring as any cathedral. As we trod silently beneath it, Angie would sniff every new smell, while my thoughts turned to the vastness of God's creation. The pondering of heaven also inspired nightly prayers for my late parents and other family and friends who

had died or are now separated by miles.

Without Angie's insistence, I likely would have chosen a mindless television reality show over the wondrous reality waiting outside my door. And they call dogs dumb.

One of St. Francis' most famous sermons was reportedly given to a flock of birds. Passing trees full of them, Francis left his friar companions and urged the birds to praise their Creator who "protects and governs you without any solicitude on your part."

As we approach St. Francis' feast day on Oct. 4 — a day when many Catholic parishes schedule blessings of pets — I suggest that pets and all of God's creatures are blessings. I'm grateful for all these brothers and sisters offer and teach us, especially a few sermons modeled by a great dog with the world's worst breath.

Tom Dermody is editor-in-chief of *The Catholic Post*, newspaper of the Diocese of Peoria, Ill., and a 27-year veteran of the Catholic press. If you agree that a pet can be good for one's spiritual life, or can cite examples of how your pet has taught you about God, Dermody would like to hear from you. E-mail him at tdermody@cdop.org, or send a letter in care of The Catholic Post, P.O. Box 1722, Peoria, IL, 61656



Pope's blunt approach to dialogue strains existing interfaith bridges

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Two of Pope Benedict XVI's three foreign trips this year have generated interreligious incidents that quickly overshadowed the main message of the papal visits.

On both occasions, the pope was forced to explain himself and clarify misunderstandings after returning to Rome, in the hope that permanent relations — first with Jews, then with Muslims — would not be damaged.

After 17 months in office, Pope Benedict has discovered that the interfaith bridges built through years of patient dialogue under Pope John Paul II are easily strained.

In part, this reflects the reality of the contemporary world: Religious sensitivities are on edge, reactions are hair-trigger, and any perceived offense is amplified by the global media.

But it is also the result of the pope's long-standing penchant for speaking bluntly and provocatively on interreligious issues, to Catholics and to non-Christians.

"It is important that (interreligious) dialogue take place with much patience, much respect and, most of all, in total honesty," he

said several years ago. For the pope, part of "total honesty" is the willingness to confront differences head-on.

In 2000, as head of the doctrinal congregation, the future pope underlined important limits on interreligious dialogue in the document "Dominus Iesus," which said other religions were in a "gravely deficient situation" in comparison with Christians.

Introducing the document to the press, then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger said that while the church teaches that good things can exist in other religions "one cannot close one's eyes to the errors and illusions that are also present" in those religions.

That prompted such sharp criticism from non-Christian leaders that Cardinal Ratzinger wrote an article in the Vatican newspaper, saying he was saddened and disappointed that people had misunderstood the true theme of the document. "Dominus Iesus," he said, was an invitation to Christians to strengthen their faith and not a critique of other religions.

Relations with Muslims have had their own ups and downs

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

under Pope Benedict.

A week after his election, the pope told Muslim representatives that he would continue to build "bridges of friendship" with Islam and other faiths.

When the pope went to Cologne, Germany, four months later, he delivered a relatively tough speech asking Muslims, in effect, to keep better watch on Islamic extremist elements and make sure their young are educated in religious tolerance.

That text was revised at the last minute, however, with the insertion of a line acknowledging and thanking many Muslim leaders for publicly rejecting "any connection between your faith and terrorism." The revision ensured that an accu-

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Those of honest faith are of God



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

26th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mk 9:39-43, 45, 47-48

The Book of Numbers, the source of the first reading for this weekend, is one of the first five books of the Bible. The ancient Hebrews, and Jews today, attribute these five books, collectively called the Pentateuch, to Moses.

However, Jews see Moses as only the human instrument through whom God spoke to the people.

Thus, these five books, in the Jewish theological mind, are the very words of God. For this reason, the Pentateuch, or the Torah, is the basis of all Jewish belief and religious practice. Even historical events, such as that mentioned in this weekend's reading, have a religious message.

The message in this reading is that God's inspiration does not follow any route that humans may suppose or prefer. For that matter, mere humans cannot judge whether or not a person possesses God's grace.

Moses made this clear. The men discussed in the reading did not appear to be worthy messengers of God. Moses warns his contemporaries that they should not judge these men. God does not

operate according to any human timetable or set of requirements.

For its second reading the church this weekend presents a section from the Epistle of James.

All the epistles are interesting since they reveal the circumstances of Christian life several generations after Jesus. They were written long after the times remembered in the four Gospels.

The Christians living in the last third of the first century A.D. had to face the fact that some people, then as now a minority in the population, possessed many material things. In other words, they were wealthy. This produced, then as now, a certain sense of security. It certainly provided ease.

It was easy for Christians to assume that God especially blessed persons of wealth.

The epistle corrects this thinking. Wealth is impermanent. Furthermore, it so often is a temptation. If nothing else, it distracts us from what truly matters in life, namely being with God and building us storehouses of spiritual treasures.

St. Mark's Gospel furnishes the last reading. Here, wealth is not the point. Instead, John is troubled by the fact that a man uses the name of Jesus to drive away demons.

How can this be? John does not know this man. The man is within the circle of disciples. Therefore, the man cannot be authentic.

Jesus replies that obviously no enemy of the Lord would, or could, invoke the name of Jesus to accomplish anything good. The Lord states that all those of honest faith are of God.

The reading has a second part. It reminds us that the benefits, and indeed the needs, of this world may be fleeting when eternity and things of the spirit are considered.

Reflection

The story is told that when Cardinal Thomas Wolsey, archbishop of York in the days immediately prior to King Henry VIII's break with the church, and chancellor, or prime minister of England for many years, was dying, he said that if he had served God as diligently as he had served the king, he would not be afraid to die.

This worldly cardinal was hardly alone among humans in looking back upon life with regret. For that matter, Wolsey was hardly the only human approaching death to realize that he squandered time on earth by running after material rainbows. He finally saw that only the spiritual endures.

The church calls us all to realize that earthly achievements and gains one day will count for nothing. Only our nearness to God in this life will matter as we face our entries into the next life.

The readings also remind us that we are humans. We can be tempted. Temptations can be strong. We are limited. Our judgments are flawed. We need God.

READINGS

26th week of ordinary time

Monday: Jb 1:6-22 Ps 17:1-3, 6-7 Mt 18:1-5, 10

Tuesday: Jb 3:1-3, 11-17, 20-23 Ps 88:2-8 Lk 9:51-56

Wednesday: Jb 9:1-12, 14-16 Ps 88:10-15 Lk 9:57-62

Thursday: Jb 19:21-27 Ps 27:7-9, 13-14 Lk 10:1-12

Friday: Jb 38:1, 12-21; 40:3-5 Ps 139:1-3, 7-10, 13-14 Lk 10:13-16

Saturday: Jb 42:1-3, 5-6, 12-17 Ps 119:66, 71, 75, 91, 125, 130 Lk 10:17-24

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Campisson

The church remembers St. Martha on July 29. This quiz looks at the life of this friend of Jesus.

1. Martha was sister to this man:

- John
- The centurion
- Lazarus

2. Martha intercedes with Jesus to save her brother. Why?

- He had been arrested by the Romans.
- He had died.
- He had converted to Baalism.

3. How does Jesus answer her request?

- He says not to worry, the brother is better off.
- He brings the brother back to life.
- He saves the brother from a Roman prison.

4. According to John's Gospel how did Jesus relate to Martha and this brother?

- He loathed them and went around their town to avoid them.
- He was their nephew.
- He loved them, and visited them at least three times.

5. Where was Martha's house?

- Bethlehem
- Bethany
- Bethsaida

6. Who was Martha's sister?

- Mary
- Milagra
- Marla

7. What did Martha do when Jesus came to visit?

- She took care of serving the guests.
- She listened to him talk.
- She sent out for lox.

8. Why did Martha get upset with her sister?

- Her sister was not a believer.
- Her sister did not help her.
- Her sister betrayed Jesus.

9. What did Martha do to rectify this?

- She asked Jesus to talk to her sister.
- She hit her sister upside the head.
- She arranged for her sister to miss supper.

10. What happens then?

- Mary dies and Jesus has to bring her back to life.
- Mary ironically then gets admitted to the Last Supper instead.
- Jesus notes that Mary had chosen the better part.

11. Based on the stories in the New Testament, what type of religious life is Martha often thought to personify?

- the active life
- the contemplative life
- the priestly life

12. What, in contrast, is her sister's choice seen as representing?

- the active life
- the contemplative life
- the priestly life

13. According to unsupported tradition, where did Martha move after the death and Resurrection of Jesus?

- France
- Rome
- Jerusalem

14. With whom was Martha reported to have gone there?

- With Jesus and Mary Magdalene
- With Mary and Lazarus
- With John and Luke

15. Of whom is Martha the patron saint?

- oil makers and hoteliers
- morticians and travel agents
- servants and cooks

ANSWERS:

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

'Generally speaking' allows flexibility for specific situations

Concerning the Sept. 3, That's a Good Question, answer, "A person in a state of mortal sin should never receive holy Communion until they have repented and, generally speaking, have received the sacrament of reconciliation." A mortal sin requires confession and holy Communion comes from a priest (so the sinner is not on a desert island without a priest). There is no generality involved, right? Anonymous

The phrase, "generally speaking," was put into this answer because the church does envision some few circumstances in which Communion can be received before a person has received sacramental confession.

Canon 906 gives us the direction on this: "A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to celebrate Mass or receive the body of the Lord without previous sacramental confession unless there is a grave reason and there

is no opportunity to confess; in this case the person is to remember the obligation to make an act of perfect contrition which includes the resolution of confessing as soon as possible."

So the criteria necessary for a person to receive Communion without first going to sacramental confession are: (1) a grave reason, (2) no opportunity to confess, (3) a perfect act of contrition must be made, (4) one is resolved to confess as soon as possible.

All four of these must be present in order for one to go to Communion.

Let's start with the first one, a grave reason. Certainly danger of death would qualify for a grave reason. Imagine a person in a hospital who is to receive Communion from a lay extraordinary minister of Communion and who has not had the opportunity to confess.

Also, imagine a teenager who has committed a grave sin and

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

comes to Mass with his or her parents with no opportunity to confess. If refraining from receiving Communion would betray to the parents the fact that the teenager committed a grave sin, this would be a grave reason to receive (if all the other conditions are met).

No one is obliged to betray the state of their soul to another outside of confession. Another example might be a priest who commits a mortal sin and who must celebrate Mass before he has the opportunity to confess. One could really think of innumerable exam-

ples of when this would apply, and so, "generally speaking," that is, in mostly all cases, we are first obliged to confess; but there are a few legitimate cases that are exceptions.

By the way, the difference between a perfect act of contrition and an imperfect act of contrition is this. Perfect contrition is motivated by the love God and includes the resolution of confessing as soon as possible. Even though a person may be forgiven by God through an act of perfect contrition, there is still an obligation to go to confession because Christ wishes sins to be remitted through his church.

Choosing not to do this would be another grave sin. Imperfect contrition is motivated by fear of punishment or desiring of reward. Imperfect contrition is sufficient for forgiveness of sins within sacramental confession.

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.

Father Mark Gurtner, pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne, answered this week's question. His e-mail is dwenger-priest@yahoo.com

An interreligious dialogue, continued

A few days after Pope Benedict XVI's lecture on faith and reason at Regensburg University, I was invited onto PBS's "News Hour with Jim Lehrer" to discuss the ensuing controversy with Nihad Awad, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR). During our exchange, Mr. Awad said that "the word 'jihad' does not mean holy war." No one, he suggested, had ever been forced to become a Muslim. Equating "jihad" with "holy war," he argued, was a notion "born within Christianity."

Time constraints precluded my answering this directly, but on my return to my office in downtown Washington, I read an Associated Press story, which began with this suggestive lead: "Al-Qaida in Iraq and its allies warned Pope Benedict XVI

on Monday that he and the West were 'doomed' and proclaimed that the holy war would continue until Islam dominates the world." The Al-Qaida statement was, shall we say, robust:

"You infidels and despots, we will continue our jihad and never stop until God (permits) us to chop your necks and raise the ... banner of monotheism, when God's rule is established governing all people and nations ... We will break up the cross, spill the liquor and impose head tax, (and) then the only thing acceptable (will be) a conversion or the sword."

In other words, surrender to jihadist Islam or be murdered. As for the timeline involved here, Iraqi Al-Qaida took the broad view: "... jihad continues and should never stop until doomsday, when (Islam) ends victorious."

I have neither the capacity nor the desire to engage in an exegeti-

cal exercise with Mr. Awad about the Quran and what it enjoins on Muslim believers. That can be done by specialists. But, had time permitted, I would have said to Mr. Awad that, irrespective of his understanding of "jihad," there are tens of thousands of jihadists throughout the world who take a drastically different view: who believe that the murder of innocents in the name of God can be pleasing to God — indeed can be commanded by God — if it advances the cause of Islam.

Christians have developed, over the past centuries, a deep theological critique of past Christian attempts to advance Christianity coercively. The deepest taproot of that critique can be found in something Joseph Ratzinger wrote, in 1987: "God wishes to be adored by people who are free." The God



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

ter in their own Islamic communities. It is not sufficient to deplore overheated rhetoric in response to the pope's Regensburg address (as CAIR) did; nor is it sufficient to say, as Mr. Awad said on the Lehrer program, that he and his organization condemn the murder of nuns and the burning of churches. More is needed — and what is needed are clear statements that these depredations are religiously offensive because they are the result of a distorted understanding of what God wishes and commands.

Unless Islamic leaders find the intellectual resources and the moral courage to condemn, on religious grounds,

those who would murder in the name of God, more than a billion Muslims will be held hostage to the fanatics among their co-religionists. So will the rest of the world. It is long past time for Muslim leaders to stop quibbling over (or in some cases, dissembling about) the meaning of "jihad" and to condemn the jihadists who are turning the planet into a free-fire zone — and imagine that they're doing God's will in the process.

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

God cannot wish,
much less command,
the death of innocents in God's name.

of Abraham, Moses and Jesus, who comes into history in search of man and who invites men and women into a dialogue of salvation, wishes a free choice for himself. Anything else, as the pope suggested at Regensburg, would be contrary to the nature of God, who creates the world (and us) through "logos," the Word, who is reason itself. God cannot command the unreasonable or the irrational; God cannot wish, much less command, the death of innocents in God's name.

This is the kind of internal theological critique, based on Islamic warrants, that Mr. Awad and those who wish us to believe that "jihad" has been misunderstood, must fos-

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for October 1, 2006

Mark 9:38-43,45,47-48

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: a lesson on gaining or losing the eternal reward. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

TEACHER	DEMONS	NO ONE
IN MY NAME	FOR US	CUP OF WATER
DRINK	LOSE	REWARD
LITTLE ONES	BELIEVE	GREAT
MILLSTONE	THROWN	THE SEA
ENTER LIFE	MAIMED	TWO HANDS
TWO FEET	WORM	QUENCHED

FOR US

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

satory tone was not read into the pope's remarks.

Such a careful preview was apparently not made when the pope spoke at the University of Regensburg in Germany Sept. 12, quoting a medieval Byzantine emperor who said the prophet Mohammed had brought "things only evil and inhuman, such as his command to spread by the sword the faith."

The widespread Muslim indignation that followed clearly went beyond anything the pope or his aides were expecting. Twice the pope publicly expressed his regret that his words had offended Muslims, emphasizing that he did not share the assessment of Islam he had quoted.

The speech ignited the first real communications crisis of Pope Benedict's pontificate. What alarmed some Vatican officials was that even the repair undertaken by papal diplomats did not seem to soothe tensions; that's one reason the pope decided to speak personally with Muslim ambassadors.

Sports

CARDEGLES FARE WELL IN CROSS COUNTRY MEETS Coach Dan Kaufman reports that the Cardegles (St. Charles and St. Jude, Fort Wayne) cross country teams took first place at Huntington Catholic on Saturday, Sept. 16. For boys varsity, Andrew Eckrich led the pack with a team record time of 10:20. Phil Schroeder and Billy McManus followed. In the reserve meet, Chris Hamilton finished out front for the Cardegles. In the girls' race, the varsity took the top three spots (Kate Kinley, Jenny Colone and Natalie Kicks) to top Canterbury. Karen Eckrich won the JV race. This past weekend at the Wabash Invitational, the boys finished eighth out of 24 teams. The girls were fifth out of 21 teams.

ICCL soccer at the midway point of season

MISHAWAKA — In midseason, Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) soccer has been busy with games played at Marian High School's fields.

The following scores were posted on the ICCL soccer Web site:

Games played Sunday, Sept. 24:
• St. Joseph South Bend 8 defeated St. Anthony 8-1.

St. Joseph's goals were by Matt Clark, with two, Greg Weaver, with two, and singles by Alex Juarez, Juan Rangel, Skylar Abbott and Anthony Urbany
• St. Michael of Plymouth defeated Mishawaka Catholic 9-1.

Scoring for St. Michael were Gabe Vervynckt, with three goals, Zack Bridgman, with two goals, and singles by Tim Jeffirs, Eric Blake, Thomas Adamson and Karl Faulstich. Scoring for Mishawaka Catholic was Joey Hermann.

• Christ the King defeated St. Jude 5-2.

Christ the King's goals were scored by Tim Hengen, with three, and singles by Connor Verteramo and Kyle Wieschhaus.

Backtracking to games played Sunday, Sept. 17:

• St. Matthew and Christ the King tied their game at 3-3.

Christ the King goals were scored by Connor Verteramo, Evan Witsken and Gunwook Park.

• St. Michael and St. Joseph South Bend 7 also tied their game at 2-2.

Goals for St. Michael were scored by Joe Knapp and Zack Bridgeman. Nick Hall scored for St. Joseph-Corpus Christi 7 and one goal was deflected inadvertently by St. Michael.

• St. Joseph South Bend 8 defeated Mishawaka Catholic 6-1.

• St. Jude defeated St. Anthony 7-1.

Goals were scored by Michael Henry, with three, Tyler Olkowski, with two, and singles by Mark Downs and David Borntreger.

Standings

Team	Wins/losses/ties
St. Matthew	4-0-1
Christ the King	2-1-2
St. Joseph SB 8	3-1-0
St. Michael	2-1-1
St. Jude	2-1-0
St. Joseph SB 7	1-1-2
St. Anthony	0-4-0
Mishawaka Catholic	0-3-0
St. Thomas	0-2-0

'A whole lot of football played' at Sts. JAT, St. Jude CYO game

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The opener last Sunday at the University of Saint Francis was the closest Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) football game of the day for week 5. Sts. JAT squeaked by St. Jude 30-28. Coach Jerry Niezer said there was "a whole lot of football played" in this well-matched game.

Niezer credited St. Jude with being a very good passing team. JAT took an impressive early lead, but St. Jude came alive with a passing attack that brought them within two. JAT's defense line came up with some much needed quarterback sacks and a timely interception by Drew Morken late in the fourth quarter to seal St. Jude's fate. For the winners, touchdowns came from Dan Vandegriff, Dan Rodenbeck (2), and Matt Byrd on a nice pass from the signal caller Eric Sorg. Nick Schenkel's extra points made the difference in this win. With the victory, St. JATs moved to 3-2.

The Raiders bounced back from their loss last week to beat St. Charles in a big 32-6 win. In the first half, Nick McCarthy scored twice, giving him eight touchdowns for the season. Mike McCarthy added the third touch-

down and Greg McCarthy kicked 3-3 PAT's to put St. John New Haven up 24-0. In the third quarter, Leighton Painter had a 20-yard reception from Kyle Sovine and Greg McCarthy had another PAT. The Raider defense held St. Charles to just one TD in the fourth quarter, but controlled the game with quarterback sacks from Joe Quinn and Josh Pranger. Jake Heaton had an interception and there were two fumble recoveries — one by Caleb Henry and one by Alex Wharton.

St. John Fort Wayne marched on to their fifth victory this week blanking Queen of Angels-Precious Blood, 38-0. Alex Stronczek had a big day throwing a 60-yard pass to Marquel Cooper, a 20-yard strike to James Knapke, advancing a 30-yard blocked punt to score, catching a 30-yard TD pass from Knapke and kicking 4-5 PATs. Knapke also had a 20-yard touchdown run for the still undefeated Eagles. The unstoppable Eagle defense has allowed their opponents just 22 points this season.

In the final game of the day, St. Vincent downed Holy Cross 28-6. Russell Coonan had a 6-yard touchdown

run, Greg German caught two passes for touchdowns and Evan Feichter scored on a 7-yard run (8 now for him). Conner Friesner was 2-4 kicking for the day. The Panther defense put out a great team effort and both Luke Tippman and Michael Karp had interceptions. St. Vincent improved their record to 4-1.

Records	wins-losses
St. John Fort Wayne	5-0
St. John New Haven	4-1
St. Vincent	4-1
Sts. JAT	3-2
St. Charles	2-3
St. Jude	1-4
Holy Cross	1-4
Queen of Angels-Precious Blood	0-5

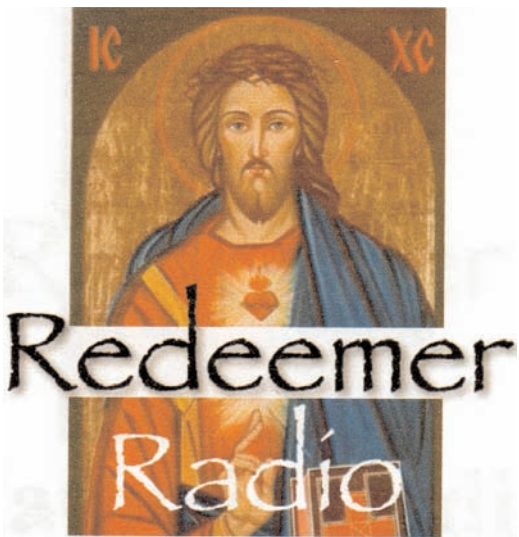
On the sixth-grade front, JAT (3-1) blanked PB/QA 28-0. Nick Dieser led the Knights with 2 long breakthrough touchdowns.

PB/QA put together a few impressive offensive drives, but it was not quite enough to punch one in. Sts. JAT fifth grade remain undefeated with a 3-0 record.



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Panthers maintain ICCL winning streak

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — With Peter Gillis breaking loose on a 75-yard kickoff for a touchdown, the St. Anthony-St. Joseph's football Panthers rolled to a 24-6 victory over Holy Family and maintained their first-place leadership in the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL).

It was the fourth straight victory for the undefeated Panthers who in recent years have been very competitive in the ICCL.

The Panthers added a touchdown on a 1-yard smash over center by Antonio Winn, and, late in the game, Matt Ganter snared a stray Holy Family pass for an interception and returned it 20 yards for a touchdown. Tyler Sorocco kicked all three extra points. Collin Skodinski scored on a 25-yard

run for Holy Family.

Holy Cross-Christ the King maintained its deadlock for second place by Mishawaka Catholic, 14-0, in a hard-fought defensive contest.

Pat Kowalewski and Joey McCombs each tallied for the Crusaders on short plunges in the first and third quarters respectively, and A.J. Fitzpatrick added a two-point conversion.



Fitzpatrick has been one of the ICCL's most successful kickers in two-point conversions.

The Corpus Christi Cougars romped over St. Matthew, 32-0, with Mario Navarrete leading the way with a pair of touchdowns on dashes of nine and 33 yards.

Scott Coppa tossed a 35-yard scoring pass to Robbie Canul and later skyrocketed a 55-yard-scoring pass to Andy Klimek. Cody

Weber booted all four conversions to set a single-game record.

In the B-team football division, Granger Catholic and St. Anthony-St. Joseph skirmished to a scoreless tie — the first of the season for the junior players.

Mishawaka Catholic and Holy Cross-Christ the King fought to a 6-6 deadlock, and St. Matthew upended Corpus Christi 7-0.

ICCL varsity standings

Records	wins-losses
St. Anthony-St. Joseph	4-0
Holy Cross-Christ the King	3-1
Corpus Christi	3-1
Mishawaka Catholic	2-2
St. Matthew	0-4
Holy Family	0-4

St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth volleyball Panthers 2-0

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In CYO volleyball action, the St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Panthers squeaked by St. Jude 24-25, 25-24, 25-15 in three thrillers at Hessen Cassel on Sept. 16. They also beat St. John New Haven 8 in two games 25-18 and 25-21 on Sept. 23. With a bye the first weekend, the Panthers are now 2-0.

The eighth-grade team from St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth consists of 15 girls: 12 returning from last year and three new players.

"We are off on a good start due to a lot of hard work and the summer open gym we had this past summer," reports Coach Maryann Hyder, in her rookie season. "We brought in some high school-college volleyball players and coaches to work with the girls throughout the summer. Our girls really seemed to enjoy the conditioning and learning new drills along with learning the rotation format of the game."

This year Stacy Callahan, teacher, was recruited by the players to coach and is a valuable asset to the team having played high school and club volleyball. Also coaching are parents Steve Gillie and Dan Quigley, in their second season.

Coach Hyder says the girls are a joy to coach and they work tremendously as a team and encourage each other on. "It's amazing the growth and strength from last year to this year," adds Hyder.

In 2005 the Panthers finished around 500 and came in second place in the tournament losing to St. Joseph Decatur. This year Coach Hyder plans to "put a competitive team on the floor, show sportsmanship and teamwork at all times and be successful throughout the season and in the tournament."

This year's roster includes: Kailyn Baumgartner, Kasey Connolly, Alex Eagleson, Taylor Gillie, Kylie Harris, Cayley Hyder, Julia Lee, Danielle Maxson, Stefanee McCue, Anna McNamara, Kate Potchka, Colleen Quigley, Natalie Raugh, Brooke Slater and Holley Taylor.

CYO coaches are requested to e-mail fall sports scores to sports writer Michelle Castleman at mmcastleman@aol.com

Punt, Pass and Kick Competition draws young football enthusiasts

Benefits Catie B. Foundation for brain tumor research

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The Catie B. Foundation presented the NFL Pepsi Punt, Pass and Kick Competition held at Homestead High School in Fort Wayne on Sunday, Sept. 17. The Catie B. Foundation was started by NFL standout, Jason Baker, who was featured in the Aug. 13 issue of *Today's Catholic*.

The event was provided completely free of charge to boys and girls ages 8-15 in the Fort Wayne area. Catie B. Foundation supplied two free buses to transport children from the Metro Football League and the Boys & Girls Clubs of Fort Wayne.

Baker, a punter for the Carolina Panthers, set up the Catie B. Foundation in honor of his sister, Catherine, who was diagnosed with a brain tumor in 1999. He plans to raise money through the foundation for various causes including brain tumor research. Over the years, Baker has supported the Boys and Girls Clubs of Fort Wayne and will continue to do so through the foundation.

Baker and his family are life-long members of St. Therese Parish.

There were 130 contestants at this year's event. Each participant was allowed one punt, one pass, and one place-kick as part of the competition. A participant's final score was cumulated for the three individual events. The winners in each division were:

- Boys 8-9 — David Bondarenko
- Boys 10-11 — Dion Walker
- Boys 12-13 — Kyle Miles
- Boys 14-15 — Cody Gerig
- Girls 8-9 — Camieka Leggett
- Girls 10-11 — Sara Tuttle
- Girls 12-13 — Shirell Richardson

This event was the first of many to be sponsored by the Catie B. Foundation in the community. Other events are currently being planned, including a very special event for 2007 that will again involve the NFL and be offered completely free of charge.

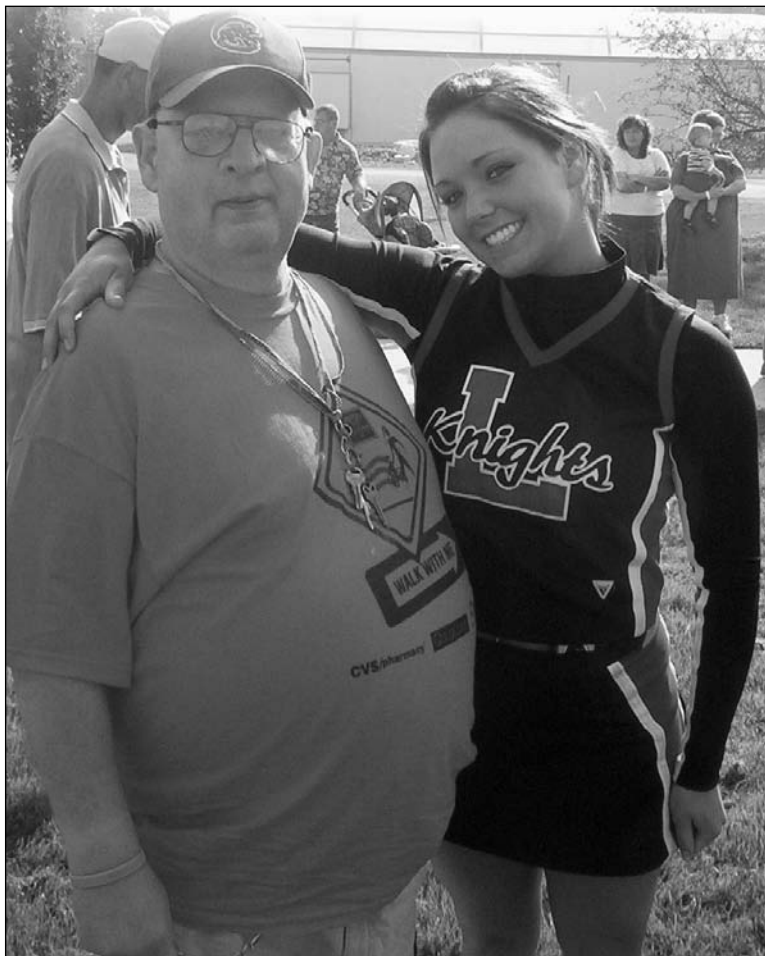
The Catie B. Foundation is currently beginning efforts to formulate a board of directors, hire an executive director and pursue donations daily to help support the mission of the Catie B. Foundation. For more information, please contact Sofia Rodriguez at sofia@visionsmkt.com or (260) 466-3600.



PROVIDED BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

Jason Baker's parents, Jeff and Mary, on each side of their daughter, Catie, are shown at Homestead High School for the Punt, Pass and Kick Competition on Sept. 17. The Bakers are members of St. Therese Parish in Fort Wayne. Their son Jason Baker is a punter for the Carolina Panthers.

LUERS' CHEERLEADERS HELP OUT THE COMMUNITY



PROVIDED BY BISHOP LUERS HIGH SCHOOL

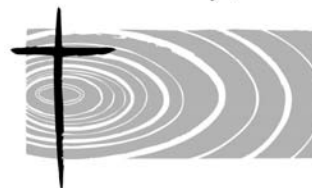
Bishop Luers cheerleaders got to the business of helping out the community on Sept. 9-10. On Saturday the Luers cheerleaders participated in the Easter Seals Walk With Me fundraiser to benefit the local ARC of Allen County and the Easter Seals Foundation, which benefits the disabled in our area. On Sunday the Luers cheerleaders worked at the 12th annual Leigh Ann Marie Palmer Memorial Golf Outing. This fundraiser benefits several children's programs through out Fort Wayne including Erin's House for grieving children and the Avalon Pool, along with several other organizations. This is all in keeping their daughter Leigh Ann's memory alive. Leigh Ann loved Bishop Luers cheerleading. One of the last pictures taken of her was in her little Luers cheerleading uniform.

Director of Pastoral Care

Catherine Kasper Life Center, Inc., in Donaldson, Indiana seeks a full-time Director of Pastoral Care to provide pastoral, spiritual and sacramental support to residents of our long-term care facility. This position is also responsible for providing residents, their families and staff with guidance to assist them through periods of transition, grief, loss and anxiety. Bachelor's degree or greater in theology, religious studies, education or counseling required and a Clinical Pastoral Certification with experience in a healthcare setting preferred. To apply, please send or fax resume and cover letter to:

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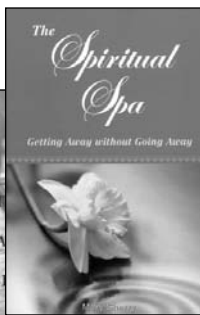
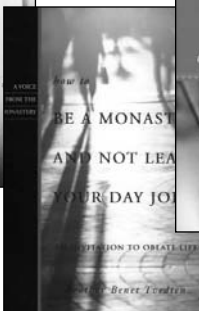
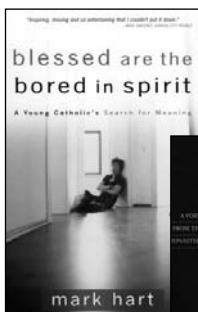
"Blessed Are the Bored in Spirit: A Young Catholic's Search for Meaning," by Mark Hart. Servant Books (Cincinnati, 2006). 129 pp., \$11.99. **"How to Be a Monastic and Not Leave Your Day Job: An Invitation to Oblate Life,"** by Brother Benet Tvedten. Paraclete Press (Brewster, Mass., 2006). 119 pp., \$14.95. **"The Spiritual Spa: Getting Away Without Going Away,"** by Mary Sherry. Resurrection Press (Totowa, N.J., 2006). 171 pp., \$9.95.

BY MIKE HAYES

Autumnal retreats, when retreat properties are abounding with colorful foliage, often are fodder for fine spiritual reflection. For those of us who are too caught up in the affairs of the world and unable to take that precious "Sabbath time" for retreat, three authors have provided a panacea. Each, in fact, covers different areas of Catholic life.

Mark Hart takes up the cause for young Catholics in their 20s with "Blessed Are the Bored in Spirit: A Young Catholic's Search for Meaning." Those in their college and post-college years will find Hart a meaningful and inspiring writer, who has struggled with his own spiritual demons and provides the reader with some helpful hints in overcoming their own.

A bit penitent at times, Hart writes an often heartfelt and convincing book that lays out a healthy and easy-to-follow plan for a life that is both morally sound and simultaneously engaged with the secular world. His stories will resonate with the lives of his target audience, and his excellent chapter



on sexuality fails to be the usual finger-wagging drivel that often gets laughingly spoon-fed to young adults. Hart takes a real-world look at sexuality and it is a no-holds-barred session in finding meaning in our sexuality. Hardly boring, Hart's book will enliven your spirit, make you laugh and challenge secularity at every turn.

For more committed Catholics, Benedictine Brother Benet Tvedten (who boasts of hosting Dorothy Day at his monastery), takes his readers on a trip through Benedict's rule and its benefits for healthy and prayerful living in "How to Be a Monastic and Not Leave Your Day Job: An Invitation to Oblate Life." Providing both personal examples from his own life as well as testimony from others, Brother Benet teaches the way to integrate the Benedictine life into everyday living.

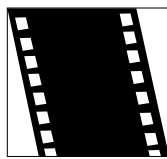
Simple and yet profound, Brother Benet's book encourages simplicity but also prods toward commitment. The book, in short, is an invitation for lay people to become oblates — lay monks, if you will, or people who have professed to follow St. Benedict's way without becoming professed clerics. His testimony to the value of

the laity in this regard is respectful both of the lay call and the call to priesthood and religious life. In short, Brother Benet has woven a fabulous tale of invitation to a life of deeper contemplation and a life of great spiritual integration.

Finally, "The Spiritual Spa: Getting Away Without Going Away" is Mary Sherry's attempt to construct a metaphorical retreat house, or spa, within the pages of her book. Although the author may not have intended it, this book seems aimed at retirees looking for rejuvenation in their second half of life. Sherry herself has lived a rich life in which experience has taught her much and prayer has been at the heart of it.

An excellent chapter on "taking" is by far the deepest thought she offers and will stay with this reviewer for some time. Two small quibbles: The author often tries too hard in relating to the younger set with references to their culture and she offers exercises throughout the book that, unfortunately, often fell flat for me.

However, her personal anecdotes throughout the book have much to offer (and are often hysterically funny) and convey sound wisdom coupled with elements from Catholic tradition. As you read, you'll think that your grandmother, who always had her age-old wisdom at the ready to share, was penning these remarks. Sherry's charm, wit and sage advice will give readers much to chew on.



MOVIE CAPSULES

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

"All the King's Men" (Columbia)

Uneven remake of Robert Penn Warren's 1946 Pulitzer-Prize winner set in the 1950s, about a rabble-rousing everyman (Sean Penn) who rises from obscurity, railing against political corruption, and is elected governor of Louisiana, only to be polluted by power once he's in office; and the idealistic journalist (Jude Law) who falls under his spell. Written and directed by Steven Zaillian, the handsomely crafted morality tale — loosely based on the life of Depression-era Louisiana Gov. Huey P. Long — explores the means and ends of power, but Penn's passionate and committed performance is undermined by an opaque script. A violent shooting, implied adultery, a suicide, a bedroom encounter with shadowy side nudity, some mildly crude language, profanity and racial slurs. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

"Flyboys" (MGM)

Truth-inspired World War I action drama about a disparate group of young Americans (James Franco, Abdul Salis, Philip Winchester and Tyler Labine) who, before the United States'

entry in the war, volunteer for various reasons with a French air squadron — the Lafayette Escadrille — during the pioneer days of aviation combat and whose idealism is chilled by their experiences. Directed by Tony Bill, the film's appealing young cast and impressive aerial dogfight sequences are wasted on an episodic and overly long script that never takes off dramatically and lacks well-developed characters. Recurring wartime violence, a scene in a brothel, a suicide, some sexual innuendo, profanity and racial slurs. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

"The Last Kiss" (Paramount)

Uneven drama set in Wisconsin about four friends, each at emotional crossroads as they near 30, focusing mostly on an architect (Zach Braff) with commitment jitters whose fling with a college student (Rachel Bilson) jeopardizes his relationship with his pregnant girlfriend (Jacinda Barrett), whose own parents' (Blythe Danner and Tom Wilkinson) marriage has gone sour. In holding up a mirror to postmodern love and its accompanying anxieties, director Tony Goldwyn provides some modest observations about flawed humanity — especially the way we learn from our mistakes and how actions have consequences. Several racy sexual encounters, a tacit approval of premarital living arrangements, much rough and crude language, scattered profanity and brief drug content. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Breakfast brunch on tap

Fort Wayne — St. Peter Church, will have a breakfast brunch Sunday, Oct. 1, from 8 to 11 a.m. in the new pavilion at the corner of DeWald and Warsaw streets. Egg casserole, pancakes, sausage, fresh fruit, coffee, milk and juice will be served. Tickets are \$5 for adults, ages 12 to 16 are \$3 and under 12 are free.

Fall events at St. Therese

Fort Wayne — Sundaes Sunday will commemorate St. Therese's feast day and the 60th anniversary of the parish on Sunday, Oct. 1, from 2-4 p.m. Ice cream, cake and drinks will be served and the Amazing Grace Scavenger Hunt will take place. On the second of each month the parish will gather at 7 p.m. in the chapel to pray the rosary for those who have drifted from God. On Tuesday, Oct. 3, at 2:45 p.m. a blessing of animals to commemorate the feast day of St. Francis will take place. On Wednesday, Oct. 4 at 7 p.m. "Exploring Catholicism" begins. Every month Ed Strubel and Jennifer Engquist will host an evening of faith, fun and learning. The first topic will be "Women and the Priesthood." On Friday, Oct. 6, benediction-adoration will take place from 10 a.m. until benediction at 5:30 p.m. On Friday, Oct. 6, a talent show will be held at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for children under 12.

Matthew Kelly at St. Bavo

Mishawaka — Matthew Kelly, author of "The Seven Levels of Intimacy" and other books will speak at St. Bavo Parish, 511 W. 7th St., Tuesday, Oct. 3, at 7 p.m.

Humane Society plans pet blessing

Mishawaka — The Humane Society of St. Joseph County, 2506 Grape Rd., will offer a pet blessing on Saturday, Sept. 30, at 11 a.m. by Father Terry Fisher of St. Joseph Parish.

Natural Family Planning classes

South Bend/Elkhart — Natural Family Planning classes will begin on Tuesday, Oct. 3, from 7-9 p.m. in the first floor Education Center of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center-South Bend. There is a \$15 fee for the initial session. For registration and information call The Natural Family Planning program office at (574) 234-5411. Individual appointments for instruction can also be arranged.

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.

Dignity and vocation of women lecture at University of Saint Francis

Fort Wayne — The diocesan Office of Family Life is cosponsoring a lecture by Dr. Pia de Solenni on "The Personalism of Pope John Paul II and the Dignity and Vocation of Women" at the University of Saint Francis on Wednesday, Oct. 4, from 7-8 p.m. in the Doermer Center, room 156. De Solenni is a noted lecturer, media commentator and winner of the Pontifical Prize of the Academies. A reception will follow in the Atrium of the new Pope John Paul II Center.

DEVOTIONS

First Sunday rosary for families

Fort Wayne — The first Sunday rosary for families will be at MacDougal Chapel on Sunday, Oct. 1, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. with Father Phillip Widmann and Sister Mary Fox attending.

St. Mary Parish sponsors life chain

Decatur — A life chain will be held on Sunday, Oct. 8, from 2-3 p.m. Gather at 1:45 p.m. on the 5th Street parking lot next to St. Joseph School. Pro-Life signs will be provided.

Rosary for Life commemorates Respect Life Sunday

South Bend — The diocesan Office of Family Life invites you to come pray a Rosary for Life to commemorate Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 1, at 3:45 p.m. (after the Life Chain) at the Women's Care Center garden on Ironwood Circle. Music and meditations will accompany the rosary. Pro-life bumper stickers, brochures and other resources will be available. A collection will be taken up to benefit the work of the Women's Care Center.

Little Flower Holy Hour

Fort Wayne — Deacon Tony Steinacker will celebrate the Holy Hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, Oct. 3, at 7:15 p.m. Deacon Tony will be ordained at the end of October and is at St. Charles Parish.

First Saturday devotions scheduled

Fort Wayne — The World Apostolate of Fatima will hold devotions of reparation at St. Joseph, corner of Brooklyn and Hale on Saturday, Oct. 7. Confessions will be heard beginning at 7:15 a.m., meditation at 7:30 a.m., and the holy rosary at

7:45 a.m. with Mass at 8 a.m. First Saturday devotions are also held at St. Patrick, Arcola; St. John the Baptist, New Haven; St. Rose, Monroeville; Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne; and others in the Fort Wayne-South Bend area.

Bristol parish hosts Franciscan Friars of Renewal at October retreat

Bristol — St. Mary of the Assumption Parish will have the Franciscan Friars of Renewal on Oct. 23-25 for a parish renewal retreat. The renewal will include talks and opportunities for eucharistic adoration, Mass and confession. For more information, contact Father Robert Van Kempen at (574) 848-4305.

Traditional Polish Mass held

Fort Wayne — A traditional Polish Mass spoken and sung in the Polish language will be held at the University of Saint Francis, Trinity Hall Chapel, 2701 Spring Street, on October 1, at 2 p.m. A social will follow the Mass. Sponsored by Polish National Alliance.

FUNDRAISERS

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Oct. 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$7, children (5-12) \$3. Chicken strips for \$7 and shrimp for \$8 will be available.

Knights plan fish fry

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, Oct. 6, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$6 for adults, \$3

Auburn

Wayne E. Kimmel, 75, Immaculate Conception

Elkhart

Raphael A. Galasso, 85, St. Vincent de Paul

Fort Wayne

Nola Kathleen Miller, 63, St. Joseph

Ofelia M. Moore, 77, St. Joseph

Granger

Michael W. Gartee, 52, St. Pius X

REST IN PEACE

Mishawaka

Patricia H. DeLaurelle, 78, St. Joseph

New Haven

Timothy S. Fagan, 36, St. John the Baptist

Nix Settlement

Marie Smith, 71, St. Catherine of Alexandria

Plymouth

Lois J. Weidner, 75, St. Michael

South Bend

Henrietta Drabecki, 83, St. Patrick

Rita M. Schmitt, 82, Little Flower

Jake A. Manuszak, 20, St. Hedwig

Dorothy B. Dudeck, 84, St. Stanislaus

Anthony J. Paczkowski, 52, St. Hedwig

Joseph M. Toth, 62, St. Matthew Cathedral

for children 12 and under. Fish, two sides and beverage are included.

Spike and the Bulldogs perform at Queen of Angels dance

Fort Wayne — An adults only dance featuring Spike and the Bulldogs will be held on Saturday, Oct. 7, at the Queen of Angels activity center at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per person. Beer, snacks and soft drinks provided.

St. Aloysius scrapbook fundraiser

Yoder — St. Aloysius will have a scrapbook fundraiser on Sunday, Oct. 22, from 7-10 p.m. at the parish. \$5 admission.

Ed Fox fish fry

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 12417, from Our Lady of Good Hope will have a fish fry on Friday, Sept. 29, from 4:30 to 7 p.m. in the church auditorium, 7215 St. Joe Rd. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4.50 for children. Children under 5 are free.

First annual fall fest

Decatur — St. Mary of the Assumption Church will have a Fall Fest on the church parking lot located at Fourth and Monroe streets on Saturday, Sept. 30, and Sunday, Oct. 1. On Saturday, Mass at 4 p.m. will be followed by fajita dinners (\$7 presale call

Abby at (260) 724-8794, limited quantity at door \$8), food tents, beer/wine available, Texas Hold'Em (5:15-6:15 registration), a silent auction and music by "Main Street Jazz" at 5 p.m. and "Endgame" from 7-10 p.m. On Sunday, Mass at 11 a.m. will be followed by pulled pork dinner, food tents, beer/wine available, children's games, bingo and music by L and L Karaoke from noon to 4 p.m. and "Poppo" at 4 p.m.

Tailgate party, class of 1981 reunion and brat dinner planned

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will host a tailgate party Friday, Oct. 6, outside of the Luers cafeteria from 5:30 to 7 p.m. All Bishop Luers alumni and their families are invited. Cost is \$3 per person or \$12 per family. Food and beverages will be available before the homecoming game against Elmhurst. Bring a lawn chair and a memory to share. The Bishop Luers class of 1981 will hold a reunion Saturday, Oct. 7, at Catablu Restaurant. Contact Jenny Andorfer at (260) 436-1493 for reservations. A chili and bratwurst dinner will be held Friday, Oct. 13, from 5 to 9 p.m. at Luers football field as part of the Bishop Luers vs. Bishop Dwenger football game.



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Birthright offers real help for women facing unplanned pregnancies

BY MONTE MACE

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (CNS) — Rachel was a graduate student when she found out she was pregnant. She was single, alone and unsure what to do, but today she feels her future is bright and that she owes it all to Birthright.

Birthright International helps any girl or woman regardless of age, race, creed, marital or economic status who feels distressed by an unplanned pregnancy.

"I can definitely say (that) without Birthright," Rachel said, "I wouldn't have had my baby."

Eight years earlier, Rachel was at a university far from home and needed only one more year to complete her master's degree in business administration.

Then she met a young man and started dating.

"He was so sweet," Rachel recalled, "in the beginning."

But then Jim became "kind of crazy," she told *The Leaven*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Kansas City.

Between her master's work and her job as a graduate assistant at the university, Rachel was meeting herself coming and going. But Jim constantly accused of her of cheating on him.

Although they were living in different cities, he showed up on campus one time, leaping out from the trash cans he had been

hiding behind, to confront her about her supposed infidelities.

Things got worse. Jim grew verbally abusive and then began stalking her; Rachel feared that physical abuse was soon to follow. She started feeling sick to her stomach all the time, and was tense and fearful, even when Jim was supposedly out of town and she was at work or school.

Finally, she went to court to get a restraining order against him.

The restraining order was quickly granted, but she was stunned to learn shortly afterward that she was pregnant.

Her father urged her to come back home where they could take care of both her and the baby — and protect them from Jim. But she was close to finally getting the degree she had worked hard for and didn't want to quit school.

Finally, she was seriously considering an abortion — even though she was a Catholic and it went against everything she had been raised to believe. What kind of home, she asked herself, would she be able to provide a child?

Eventually, Rachel decided to have an ultrasound and scraped together the \$300 it cost for the test at a local hospital. She wanted to know how long she had been pregnant, but she also wondered why she was so sick to her stomach all the time.

She learned her overall health was fine and that she was two-and-a-half-months pregnant.

But then she "saw a little something," she said. "I couldn't see her well, but it was enough to change my mind. I really fell in love (with my unborn child) after the ultrasound."

After she left the hospital that day, she immediately began looking for alternatives to abortion.

A couple of friends told her about Birthright.

"I thought everything was going wrong," Rachel said. "But when I found Birthright, it gave me positive expectations for the future. They were very supportive and caring about my situation."

"One of my concerns," she continued, "was how I was going to support the baby when I couldn't even support myself. But later (Birthright) even gave me financial help."

Birthright arranged for Rachel to live with a foster couple rent-free for the remainder of her pregnancy. She delivered safely and named her new baby girl Sarah, which means "princess." Birthright continued to provide Rachel with assistance and to coordinate aid from other agencies and generous individuals.

Rachel graduated with her master's in business administration this past May, and she feels her future is as bright as her baby's name.

NEW EVE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

brought Redeemer Radio into the cause.

"It's the perfect convergence of a community group and the interests of the University of Saint Francis," Aquila told *Today's Catholic*.

"It's very divine how all this came together," Grubbs agreed,

explaining that Aquila and Everett both had thought of doing similar programming, but had not yet brought their ideas to fruition.

"It's like the Holy Spirit intervening to bring all of us together."

Grubbs explained that the group wants to present topics that emphasize femininity and respect for self in a way that will appeal to young women. The result, she hopes, will help change the culture.

"Kids are hungering for the truth, and they're ready to hear it," she said.

The Oct. 4 opening program coincides with the feast of St. Francis and the university's week-long festivities celebrating the opening of the school's Pope John Paul II Center classroom building. Thus, the New Eve Project's theme of John Paul's teachings on

the dignity and vocation of women fits perfectly, Aquila said.

Girls and women attending the programs will be asked to fill out a survey card to help the New Eve Project planners determine what future programming would be attractive and helpful to girls and young women. New Eve Project planners also hope they can get some college-age women to contribute their ideas and talents to the initiative.

To date, two more lectures have been scheduled in Fort Wayne, also at 7 p.m. in room 156 of the Doermer Center: On Nov. 9,

Amy McInerney, an attorney and founder of the Women's Injury Network (for women injured by abortion), will speak on "Abortion and

Women: Rhetoric vs. Reality." On Dec. 7, Lisa Marino, RCIA director at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, will speak on "Sex in the City of God."

These two lectures also will take place in South Bend, according to Everett, who told *Today's Catholic* that she hopes to make much of the programming available in South Bend when possible. McInerney will speak on Oct. 25, and Marino on Nov. 16, both at 7 p.m. in room 102 of DeBartolo Hall on the Notre Dame campus. The South Bend events are sponsored by the diocesan Office of Family Life and by Notre Dame's Center for Ethics and Culture.



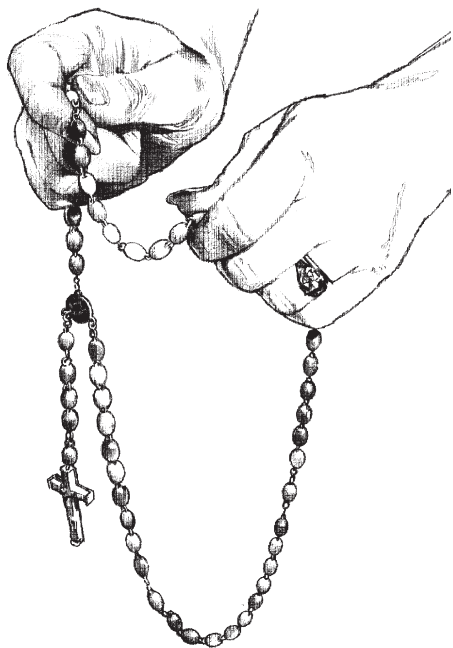
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