

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Dwenger seniors live a tradition of service to others



PROVIDED BY THE STAUDINGER FAMILY

Bishop Dwenger senior Alex Staudinger helps install siding on a house while on the November mission trip to northern Mississippi by members of the Bishop Dwenger senior class. The school's tradition of mission trips to Mississippi and other areas has instilled a love of service in the student body.

BY DON CLEMMER

FORT WAYNE — Leaving immediately after school on Thursday, 17 Bishop Dwenger High School seniors and four adults piled into two minibuses and made the 14-hour journey to northern Mississippi for a weekend mission trip organized through area Habitat for Humanity affiliates.

The group lodged at By Faith Baptist Church in Pontotoc, Miss., for the Nov. 9-13 trip and worked at two different sites, a group of houses in Pontotoc and one house in Tupelo, Miss. — also the birthplace of Elvis Presley — for a family that had been displaced by Hurricane Katrina. A weekend spent installing siding and insulation for perfect strangers might not be many people's idea of a senior trip, but this long weekend in the south is nothing out of the ordinary for Bishop Dwenger students, who have been making these trips for years and have come to appreciate their school's tradition of service.

"My job was mostly getting people organized," says Catherine Kearney who, along with fellow Bishop Dwenger teacher Nathan Arata, organized and supervised the trip. While Kearney teaches French, her involvement in a Dwenger mission trip is not a stretch, as she is an alumna of the school and made similar trips as a student that she says greatly affected her outlook on life.

That trend goes strong as many of the students on this first exclusively-senior mission trip had at least one or two earlier trips under their belts. And the relative newcomers displayed great openness, calling the work fun and expressing desires to go again before graduation.

Ben Reifenberg has been going on Dwenger mission trips since his sophomore year, and his thoughts

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Not by bread alone

Tis the season to lend a helping hand to others

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Advent reflection by Father Michael Heintz

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Pope arrives in Turkey, hopes to improve ties

BY JOHN THAVIS AND CINDY WOODEN

ANKARA, Turkey (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI arrived in Turkey at the start of a challenging four-day pilgrimage aimed at improving ties with Orthodox Christians and Muslims.

The pope's chartered Alitalia jet landed Nov. 28 in the capital, Ankara, and the pontiff was quickly escorted to a VIP airport lounge for a meeting with Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Before departing from Rome, the pope told reporters on his plane that he considered the trip pastoral, not political. He said he hoped it would underline the value of dialogue in "this difficult moment in history."

"The aim of this trip is dialogue, fraternity and the commitment to understanding between cultures, for an encounter of cultures and religions, for reconciliation," he

said.

The pope said he wanted in particular to promote dialogue between Christianity and Islam, and "with our Christian brothers and sisters, especially the Orthodox Church of Constantinople."

The pope landed in Ankara on a crisp but sunny day. Dressed in a long white coat, he walked briskly down the steps of the plane to a red carpet on the tarmac, where Erdogan was waiting for him.

The pope smiled and chatted with the prime minister and the two moved inside for private talks lasting about 20 minutes. They posed for photographs, seated next to Vatican and Turkish flags.

The meeting with Erdogan was a last-minute addition to the papal program, and it took place just before the prime minister left the country for a NATO summit. Earlier, in what had been widely viewed as

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A THANKSGIVING BEACON



DON CLEMMER

Parishioners, volunteers, guests and Father Philip Widmann join Bishop John M.

D'Arcy in a prayer before the free

Thanksgiving dinner at St. Mary Church in Fort Wayne, a tradition at the parish for 31 years. Bishop D'Arcy says that the parish's service to the poor makes it "like a beacon."

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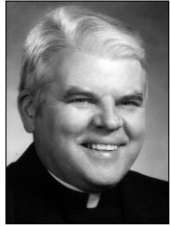
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Prayer, reconciliation and helping the poor are essential aspects



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Advent: Time of hope and repentance. O come, O come Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel.

We are entering a most beautiful time of the year, the season of Advent. The hymns we sing, the readings of the Scripture on Sundays and weekdays, as well as the lights, which slowly appear and the Advent wreath, which appears in church and the recollection of so many festive holidays at Christmas, calls us to something special. But we must make it an inner time — a time of the soul, a time for reconciliation with God and with others.

In the early weeks, we have the figure of John the Baptist. As outlined in the Scriptures, he seems to be a figure of severity, but he presents to us a way of love. I have been impressed over the years by our priests, especially in the Fort Wayne area, who begin early in the fall to plan penance services at the various churches with a large number of priests available for confession. I always ask priests to be available for this beautiful sacrament at extra times as Christmas approaches. I am especially impressed by our Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and our co-cathedral of St. Matthew, where the priests hear confessions early in the morning on a daily basis. Priests should always be generous to the convenience of the people and not to their own convenience.

And then comes Mary

Later in Advent, we have the appearance of Our Lady in the readings. Here the emphasis lies in the opening of one's heart to God and the yes to his will. Pope John Paul II opened the new millennium by saying we should contemplate the face of Christ and contemplate it with Mary.

We see his face in the Scriptures, we will see it in the crib, we must also see it in the poor. No Catholic family should prepare for Christmas without deciding to do something significant for those in need. In our diocesan family, we will take up a collection for a particular family given to us by Catholic Charities. One of our staff will deliver the Christmas boxes to them. We will not know their names, but we will know their conditions. Every Catholic family should endeavor to do this and try to experience three of the essential aspects of Advent: (1) prayer, (2) repentance and reconciliation and (3) meeting Christ in those in need.

A weekend in Michiana

St. Joseph Church in Mishawaka is certainly one of the most beautiful in the diocese. Founded by German immigrants, it is

located a few steps from Saint Joseph Hospital, established by the same group of immigrants. Today it involves people of German, Belgian and Italian ancestry. At this time, when church and society struggle to welcome the immigrant from Latin America, we must remember the waves of those who came before and found here a place to worship and were welcomed into their community and the church. So it was a joy to drive up Route 331 to St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka, and before a full church, offer the holy Eucharist and lead the liturgical installation of Father Terry Fisher as pastor. It was the feast of Christ the King, and the privilege of speaking about Christ's response to Pilate concerning the testimony he gave to the truth. He chose to respond directly to Pilate's question: "Are you a king?" He said that he had come to bear testimony to the truth. His kingdom is to establish truth and love in the hearts of everyone.

Father Fisher, longtime teacher and chaplain at Saint Joseph's High School and

ence of St. Ignatius Loyola and the Jesuit congregation on the reform and renewal of the Catholic Church. I myself give thanks to the Lord and to St. Ignatius, for I studied at Boston College High School and graduated from there 57 years ago. At that time, there were many Jesuits at BC High, and they influenced me greatly. I can recall something I spoke of this week on the feast of Christ the King, namely, the retreats presented to us in high school. They were known as the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. I recall the "Meditation on the Two Standards." Ignatius was a military man and had been wounded in a great battle; and while recovering from his wounds, he read the lives of the saints and other spiritual works and was led by God to a life of holiness. In the exercises, you are asked to meditate on the standards of the world on one hand and the standard of Christ. One can see the military influence. The retreatant is invited, under the influence of grace, to choose the flag of Christ — which is the cross — and not the standard of the world.

This year we are celebrating a great Jesuit anniversary. It is the 500th anniversary of the birth of St. Francis Xavier and St. Peter Farne, two of the first followers of St. Ignatius and among the early members of the "company of Jesus," as the society was called. It is also the 450th anniversary of the death of St. Ignatius. Although we only have a few Jesuits in the diocese, they are of great significance. One of them a good friend, Father Brian Daley, SJ, a very distinguished theologian, will celebrate Mass and preach at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on the

First Sunday of Advent, on which day also falls the feast of St. Ignatius, Dec. 3. Father Daley is an expert on the Fathers of the Church, especially St. Athanasius. He is eminent in his field, and I hope this small gesture of inviting him to speak at the mother church of our diocese will be seen by him and others as an act of great respect for the Jesuits and what they have meant in my own life and in the life of the church and what, I am certain, they will mean in the years to come.

A disappointing end

Our beloved Notre Dame was not up to the men of Troy, who seem on another level. It should have been closer. But it has been a good year with, hopefully, another game still to come. Now we must turn our attention to Notre Dame basketball.

An unspeakable event

We cannot let this edition pass without a reference to a terrible event, which took place in Elkhart. Four little children were, one-by-one, brought down to the basement of their home and choked to death. The mother is under investigation. The children, surely, are with the Lord — the one who said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me." We see here the terrible power of evil to control the human heart, and we pray for all concerned and especially for the beloved Hispanic community of St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

Have a blessed Advent. See you all next week.

The hymns we sing, the readings of the Scripture on Sundays and weekdays, as well as the lights, which slowly appear and the Advent wreath, which appears in church and the recollection of so many festive holidays at Christmas, calls us to something special.

an exemplary pastor at St. Anthony in South Bend, has fit in well at St. Joseph Parish. After soup and a sandwich, we drove to St. Paul's Retirement Home to visit Father Bob Yast. Father Yast, who recently celebrated his golden jubilee as a priest, is a very beloved pastor, and it was a joy to spend some time with him, even though it was painful to see him struggling for his good health. But he was as alert and joyful as ever.

St. Anthony, South Bend

On Sunday, came the installation of Father Derrick Sneyd as pastor of St. Anthony, South Bend. St. Anthony is a very special parish with a large school. We had another full church for this installation as well. Father Sneyd, who has been in this diocese for over 25 years, leaving family and friends and coming from a faraway place. A native of India, he was a close friend of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and he showed me some letters from her to "Dear Reverend Father Derrick." He considers her a personal friend, an inspiration in his life, as she has also been to Father Bob D'Souza at St. Jude, Fort Wayne, and indeed to many of us. I told Father Derrick that I hope he will go to Rome when Mother Teresa is canonized.

All parish installations of pastors, which were started in August, have now been completed.

The anniversary of St. Ignatius Loyola

We can never underestimate the influ-

Leaders pledge friendship while recognizing differences

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The “journey of friendship” between Roman Catholics and Anglicans will continue even though the path toward full unity seems to be blocked, said Pope Benedict XVI and Anglican Archbishop Rowan Williams of Canterbury.

The two leaders spent 25 minutes speaking privately Nov. 23 at the Vatican before giving speeches that candidly recognized the divisions within the Anglican Communion and between Roman Catholics and Anglicans over the ordination of women and over homosexuality.

After their private meeting, the pope and the Anglican leader processed side by side into the Vatican's Redemptoris Mater Chapel for midday prayer before eating lunch together.

Archbishop Williams' visit marked the 40th anniversary of the visit made by a predecessor, Archbishop Michael Ramsey, to Pope Paul VI. The 1966 meeting marked the launch of the official Anglican-Roman Catholic theological dialogue.

In a joint declaration signed Nov. 23, Pope Benedict and Archbishop Williams said that with the 1966 meeting “centuries of estrangement between Anglicans and Catholics were replaced by a new desire for partnership and cooperation.”

“We celebrate the good which has come from these four decades of dialogue,” the statement said.

“At the same time, our long journey together makes it necessary to acknowledge publicly the challenge presented by new developments which, besides being divisive for Anglicans, present serious obstacles to our ecumenical progress,” the pope and the archbishop said.

The Anglican Communion risks serious, permanent division over the decision by some Anglican provinces to ordain women priests and bishops, to ordain openly gay men and to bless homosexual unions.



CNS PHOTO/ALESSANDRO BIANCHI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI and Archbishop Rowan Williams of Canterbury, leader of the Anglican Communion, talk after signing a joint declaration at the Vatican Nov. 23. The statement noted the four decades of dialogue between the Catholic Church and the Anglican Communion while acknowledging current challenges to ecumenical progress.

But at a Nov. 24 press conference, Archbishop Williams said a decision by the Church of England, the Anglican Communion's mother church, to ordain women bishops is “not a foregone conclusion.”

In July the church synod said it saw no theological reason why women should not be ordained bishops and a commission was established to begin working on practical preparations.

Archbishop Williams said that during his private discussions with Pope Benedict the pope asked “a little about the experience and the effect of the ordination of women” priests in the Anglican Communion, “and I was very happy to talk about the benefits I thought it had brought and some of the theological thinking behind it.”

The archbishop said he and the pope agreed that a Christian community was obliged to address possible change “on the basis of shared theological principles and shared biblical understanding, not as a response to secular pressures.”

In continuing its deliberations about the ordination of women bishops, the archbishop said, the Church of England must ensure it has a “sound theological basis” for its decision and is not simply reacting to a widely accepted belief that women should have equal access to leadership roles in all areas of life.

Both Archbishop Williams and Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, told reporters that the visit had “exceeded” their expectations and

laid a solid foundation for continuing dialogue.

In fact, the two announced that a joint commission would meet early in 2007 to offer Pope Benedict and Archbishop Williams possible topics for a third phase of the Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, a theological dialogue body. The second phase concluded in 2005 with the publication of a joint document on Mary.

In his speech to the archbishop, Pope Benedict said that when the official dialogue began 40 years ago it was “filled with great promise.”

Catholics and Anglicans, he said, must give thanks to God for the friendship of church leaders, the cooperation and respect shown by church members and the com-

mon agreements on matters of faith and doctrine reached by the dialogue.

At the same time, he said, the pressures of growing secularism and changing moral values have had a negative impact on many Christians and their communities.

New positions have led to “strains and difficulties” within the Anglican Communion, even raising questions about whether the communion will be able to remain intact, the pope said.

“Recent developments, especially concerning the ordained ministry and certain moral teachings, have affected not only internal relations within the Anglican Communion but also relations between the Anglican Communion and the Catholic Church,” the pope said.

Pope Benedict told the archbishop, “We believe that these matters, which are presently under discussion within the Anglican Communion, are of vital importance to the preaching of the Gospel in its integrity and that your current discussions will shape the future of our relations.”

“It is our fervent hope that the Anglican Communion will remain grounded in the Gospels and the apostolic tradition which form our common patrimony and are the basis of our common aspiration to work for full visible unity,” he said.

In his remarks to the pope, Archbishop Williams acknowledged that “the path to unity is not an easy one and that disputes about how we apply the Gospel to the challenges thrown up by modern society can often obscure or even threaten the achievements of dialogue.”

The archbishop said it is clear that changes within the Anglican Communion could impact negatively its relationship with the Catholic Church, but he hoped the friendships and trust built over the years would enable Anglicans and Catholics to speak honestly, to challenge each other and to help both groups discern a way forward.

TURKEY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a snub, Erdogan had said there was no time to meet the pope.

After their encounter, Erdogan told Turkish reporters that he had asked the pope for support of Turkey's request for membership in the European Union. Erdogan said the pope responded positively.

“He said ‘We are not politicians but we also hope Turkey enters the EU,’” Erdogan said.

A senior Vatican official did not confirm that remark, but said the Vatican looks with favor upon Turkey's efforts to meet the criteria of EU membership.

As a cardinal, the pope said in 2004 that in a cultural sense, Turkey had always represented “another continent, in permanent contrast with Europe.” More recently, however, the Vatican has said it is not opposed to Turkey's

EU membership.

On his way into the capital for meetings with political, religious and diplomatic officials, the pope stopped to pay his respects at the mausoleum of Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey.

Then the pontiff walked to an adjacent museum and, after putting on his glasses, wrote a short message in English in a golden guest book: “In this land, a meeting point of different religions and cultures and a bridge between Asia and Europe, I gladly make my own the words of the founder of the Turkish republic: ‘Peace at home, peace in the world!’”

Ataturk led Turkey's war of independence and was the architect of the constitution that in 1923 transformed Turkey into a Western-style secular state. It was Ataturk who moved the capital to Ankara from Istanbul, formerly Constantinople, the ancient capital of the Byzantine Empire.

He rejected the model of a Muslim religious state, even though 99 percent of Turkey's



CNS PHOTO/WOLFGANG RATTAY, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI gestures as he is greeted by Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan, right, at the airport in Ankara, Turkey, Nov. 28, as he arrives for a four-day visit.

population is Muslim. Today, however, Christian minority communities complain of de facto discrimination in areas of legal status, property and schools.

The pope rode in a closed car through Ankara; he was not expected to use the glass-walled popemobile in Turkey. There were

no crowds of well-wishers at the airport or along the papal motorcade route in Ankara, a city with a miniscule Christian population.

Security was tight in the capital. Thousands of heavily armed policemen lined the streets, and snipers watched from the roofs of buildings. Ankara newspapers said

the government had swept for explosives along the pope's route.

The pope's official welcome took place at the presidential palace, where the pontiff was greeted by President Ahmet Necdet Sezer. The president met the pope as he got out of the car. The two men shook hands, posed for photos and immediately went in for private talks.

The pope was to meet later with Ali Bardakoglu, the head of Turkey's directorate of religious affairs and the country's highest Muslim authority. Bardakoglu sharply criticized the pope's remarks on Islam in September and said the pontiff should apologize; he later accepted the pope's expression of regret.

In that speech, at the University of Regensburg in Germany, the pope cited a historical criticism of Islam and spoke about the concept of holy war. The pope later distanced himself from the quoted material and said he was sorry Muslims had been offended.

Father Scheidt offers teens tips for dating

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

BREMEN — “Always remain in the truth. Your ‘yes’ must mean ‘yes’ and your ‘no’ must mean ‘no.’ All else comes from the evil one,” said Father Dan Scheidt in his top 10 dating tips for teens to area youth groups at St. Isidore Hall at St. Dominic Parish in Bremen.

Father Scheidt spoke to groups including those from St. Gaspar Del Bufalo, St. Patrick, Sacred Heart and St. John the Evangelist using some of the materials from his theology of the body class at Marian High School.

In his top dating tips, truth was number one. Lying, he noted, is done because of fear, “fear from not getting what we want, fear from trouble. The devil wants us to give in to that weakness. If your date lies to you, dump that person. You do not want to date the weak,” noted Father Scheidt.

How your date treats their family is always something you need to consider. “If they’re trash talkin’ their momma, they’ll trash talk you. If they are really good at deceiving their momma and poppa, they will you,” said Father Scheidt. While most people put up a façade with others, they don’t do so around their family. “This is how he or she will act later and treat you,” he noted.

Anger is rooted in the amygdala in the brain, which is the center of anger and fear, and is strong when one is a teenager.

“That part of your head isn’t fully developed,” said Father Scheidt placing his hand over one teenager’s head as an example, noting that that part of the brain helps one makes rational judgments. When “you get angry” he suggested that you go to your room and do jumping jacks and

pray for Father Dan,” their parish priest and everyone else they can think of.

“Romance should be built solidly on friendship and never should be allowed to dominate friendship,” said Father Scheidt, quoting his number five tip. “That friendship should not only be the two of us alone together either. An extension, a network of friends helps take the pressure off of you.

“Alcohol is liquid stupidity,” said Father Scheidt. He noted that alcohol only weakens intellect and dulls the sense of reality. “If habitual drunkenness and/or drug use exists, expect stupidly mistaken judgments,” said Father Scheidt.

“Everyone who has fallen in love is tempted to think that his or her relationship is so deep, so special, unique, perfect, meant-to-be and unbreakable that is an exception to the cosmic moral order and is mysteriously protected from disaster. This is a feeling — not a reality,” emphasized Father Scheidt for his seventh tip of dating.

“Pray every day for your future wife or husband that God may be preparing you to marry,” said Father Scheidt. Using humor as he did throughout his talk, Father Scheidt spoke directly at one of the girls in the audience, noting that “right now he might be raising white chinchillas in Utah for a white chinchilla wedding gown,” adding “wouldn’t it be nice to tell your husband or wife I have been praying for you every night since Nov. 19, 2006?”

The eighth, ninth and 10th tips dealt with sexuality.

“The sex drive is designed for bonding and babies. Without the vows of marriage, the actions that lead up to sex can’t be indulged in,” said Father Scheidt who used tape stuck to his lower arms to prove a point. “Tape is designed to



MICHELLE DONAGHEY

Andrea Manges, a high school sophomore from Bremen, intently listens as Father Dan Scheidt gets right in front of her to get a point across during his talk on teens and dating to area youth groups at St. Isidore Hall at St. Dominic Parish in Bremen. Youth groups including those from St. Gaspar Del Bufalo, Rome City, St. Patrick, Ligonier, Sacred Heart of Warsaw and St. John the Evangelist of Goshen came to listen to Father Scheidt.

bond. What happens when you keep pulling it off. It loses its ability to stick, said Father Scheidt.

In his top 10 tip, he urged students to know and observe the differences between affection and arousal. Affection actions are those that express and strengthen friendship like hugs and kisses. Any actions that are directed at stimulating your body or those of your date are “dangerously wrong.”

Those who do not date in high school “be not afraid,” said Father Dan. “It makes it easier in college.”

He also noted that those who are beautiful people often end up with more tragic stories than normal people and that if teens build their relationships built on looks, they should always remember “looks fade.”

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Lisa Marino discusses Catholic view of sexuality at seminar

BY DIANE FREEBY

NOTRE DAME — "Sex in the City." Sex in the City ... of God? Contrary to popular culture, these three topics actually do go together, or at least they should.

That was the premise of a talk given by Lisa Marino Nov. 16 at the University of Notre Dame. In her 15th year as a diocesan RCIA director, Marino emphasized that despite what society tells us, sex has everything to do with love.

"Our culture tells us these things don't go together," said Marino, "and of course, that's a lie. They say Catholics are anti-sex. That's really funny because Catholics are pro-baby. Now, you go figure that one."

Marino, who is married and the mother of three young children, addressed a group of students, parents and faculty. She explained that society says two things on the topic of sex. First, the body is really great and God is ... over there. Secondly, religion is so pure that it must be separate from our physical being, leading to a prudish idea of sex.

"Christ gave us his body and blood, soul and divinity," reminded Marino. "We yearn for his body, yet we are uncomfortable with the body. That's a difficult tension."

Marino referred to Pope John Paul II and his weekly talks from 1979-1984 that eventually became known as the theology of the body.

"Before he was pope," said Marino, "John Paul realized this was an issue. He talked with his married friends and really listened to them."

She went on to explain that theology of the body, which is a very densely-written work by Pope John Paul II, is essentially divided into two parts. The first addresses where we've been, where we are and where we are going as it relates to sex as a sacrament. The second looks at how that applies to various stages of life: single, married or abstinent for the kingdom. Marino's talk focused on the first part, with an emphasis on how it plays today.

"We're not Adam or Eve, and this isn't the Garden (of Eden)," she deadpanned. "Yet we have the hope of what Christ offers us."

To put it into everyday terms, Marino pointed out there are two ways of viewing morality as it relates to sexuality.

"This is all you can expect from me because, after all, I'm only human. Or on the flip side, this is what you can expect from me because I am human."

Marino pointed to the creation story in Gen 2:7, where God



DIANE FREEBY

St. Matthew Cathedral RCIA director Lisa Marino discusses sexuality and how it has everything to do with love at the University of Notre Dame on Nov. 16. Marino's talk was sponsored by the Office of Family Life of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in conjunction with the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture.

formed man out of clay and breathed life into him. Creation and love are from the very beginning.

"It's no accident we're both physical and spiritual," observed Marino. "And we were intended to be good. It's not like God was bored and just made a guy. God

paraded them past Adam. As he names each one, he observes that while each animal created by God is unique, none is a good partner for him. Adam is different and separate from the animals, and Adam is the only one who can love God back.

"Adam is still longing to give himself to another," said Marino. "When God gives him a wife, Adam immediately recognizes Eve as 'bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh.'"

Marino imagined Adam's real reaction of "You're just like me ... but not." She points out the "not" is significant.

"God did not say 'it's not good for man to be alone. Here's Steve.'"

Yet, this perfect Trinitarian relationship did not stay intact.

"When Satan tempts Eve, Adam is there too," said Marino. "Their relationship is ruptured immediately. Suddenly Adam is blaming 'that woman,' and not the flesh of his flesh, bone of his bone."

Before original sin, explained Marino, Adam and Eve were filled with God's love.

"They have the capacity to give back to each other, and to God. Sin did not free them, and it does not free us. It actually puts all kinds of limits upon us."

Marino went on to further explain. "God really gives of himself. He doesn't just create. He truly loves us. That's the kind of love and reciprocity God is calling us to."

In Phil 2:6-8, St. Paul illustrates how Jesus is the exact opposite of original sin, showing how the equality of God is not something to be grasped.

"Jesus humbled himself ... what we should have done in the first place ... and saved us," said Marino. What does this mean when applied to our sexuality today?

"In Christ, we see a one-flesh unity of humanity and dignity," Marino explained. "On the cross, he emptied himself, making love to his bride, the church. Marriage here on earth is meant to be an expression of God's love for us. Our bodies are meant to be sacramental."

Marino wrapped up her talk with the reminder that sex outside marriage is empty, and sex as a sacramental act can be a prayer.

"God says this is worth embracing at any level of our life," concluded Marino. "The church says 'come to confession.' The confessional isn't just a spiritual emergency room, but also a spiritual workout room. We can get rid of our guilt and receive strength for the road."

Marino's talk was sponsored by the Office of Family Life of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in conjunction with the Notre Dame Center for Ethics and Culture.

had an overabundance of love that spilled over into creation."

That brings up the relationship of the Holy Trinity. Marino referred back to Genesis, where God created all the animals and



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Study on condom use and AIDS awaits action by doctrinal office, pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — An “exhaustive” Vatican study requested by Pope Benedict XVI on condom use in HIV prevention is awaiting a response from the church’s doctrinal office and the pope, a senior Vatican official said. Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, head of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry, said his office handed in “a large study” of almost 200 pages to the Vatican’s Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith and that it is “hoping (the congregation) and the Holy Father say what is (best) concerning this argument.” The cardinal spoke in response to journalists’ questions during a Nov. 21 press conference about an upcoming Vatican meeting on the church’s pastoral approach to treating infectious diseases. He said the pope had asked that his council commence “a dialogue with the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith on condoms.” Cardinal Lozano said his council completed “a thorough study on condoms” covering the latest medical data and the complete spectrum of opinions by moral theologians.

Pope rules ‘for many’ must replace ‘for all’ in consecration

WASHINGTON (CNS) — By a personal decision of Pope Benedict XVI, priests in future years will begin to say Christ’s blood is poured out “for many” instead of “for all” in the words of consecration at Mass. The change simply reflects more accurately the normative Latin phrase “pro multis” and does not signify any change in Catholic teaching that Christ died for all. “It is a dogma of faith that Christ died on the cross for all men and women,” Cardinal Francis Arinze, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, said in an Oct. 17 letter to presidents of bishops’ conferences around the world explaining the decision to require a literal translation of the Latin text. The letter was published in the United States in late November in *NewsLetter*, a publication of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy. In a commentary on the letter, *NewsLetter* said priests should not make the change yet. “Absolutely no changes may be made until the new translation of the Roman Missal has been approved by the bishops and confirmed by the Holy See. The completion of the missal is at least several years away,” the commentary said.

Pro-life groups, lawmakers urge Amnesty to keep abortion neutrality

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Dozens of members of Congress joined several pro-life organizations Nov. 20 in urging Amnesty International not to embrace policies on abortion that they

JESUIT FATHER ANGELO D’AGOSTINO DIES



CNS PHOTO/REUTERS

U.S. Jesuit Father Angelo D’Agostino, who founded an orphanage for HIV-positive children in 1992 in Kenya, died Nov. 20 in Kenya at the age of 80. In this January 2004 file photo, Father D’Agostino talks to orphans who have HIV/AIDS outside a Nairobi courtroom.

described as “antithetical to ... our shared duty to protect.” The international human rights organization is consulting its 2 million members in 74 countries over whether it should “expand its policy on sexual and reproductive rights,” according to a Nov. 20 Amnesty statement. The release said that under discussion is whether to develop policies on access to health care related to complications from abortion; access to abortion in cases of rape, incest, sexual assault or risk to the woman’s health; and removal of criminal penalties for abortion providers and those who seek abortions. A Nov. 15 letter signed by more than 70 members of the House said “it is not possible for Amnesty to justify any position that condones abortion based on international human rights law while at the same time objectively adhering to legal instruments and processes. No United Nations human rights treaty or convention recognizes a so-called right to — or even addresses the issue of — abortion.”

Vatican liturgist stresses precision of language at Masses

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Whether using Latin or a translation into the common language of their country, Catholics should pray at Mass in words that precisely convey the meaning and reverence the church fathers intended when they wrote those prayers. That’s what Cardinal Francis Arinze, an influential Vatican liturgist, told about 250 people, mostly clergy and seminarians, attending the final session of the Gateway Liturgical Conference in St. Louis

Nov. 11. The event, which focused on how Catholics worship, drew more than 400 people over three days. “Language is not everything. But it is one of the most important elements that need attention for good and faith-filled liturgical celebrations,” said Cardinal Arinze, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, in his keynote address. Cardinal Arinze told the *St. Louis Review*, archdiocesan newspaper, that his purpose was not to call for the universal reinstatement of the Latin Mass — though he did request that parishes offer it much more often than they do. Rather, he wanted to instill an appreciation of the language of the Latin Mass, warn of translations that might be harmful and extol the unifying aspect Latin still offers the church, he said.

Vatican official sees expanded role for inculturation efforts

PILAR, India (CNS) — Inculturation should not focus only on traditional customs and artistic expressions, but also must take into account the impact of modernization and secularization on how people live and believe, said French Cardinal Paul Poupard. The cardinal, president of the pontifical councils for culture and for interreligious dialogue, opened a Nov. 20-23 meeting in Pilar of representatives of Catholic cultural centers from throughout India. The centers, he said, “are public forums, places where people meet and reflect, study and learn, exchange ideas and develop the dialogue between faith and cultures.” In a country

like India — the birthplace of the Hindu and Sikh religions, where a variety of cultures, peoples and languages coexist — Christians must be prepared to dialogue both with local cultures and with other religions, he said.

Pope cites importance of diocesan newspapers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Diocesan newspapers are important because they strengthen local communities and give them a voice they will not find in national publications, Pope Benedict XVI said. Meeting Nov. 25 with the Italian Federation of Catholic Weeklies, the pope said the papers underline “facts and realities where the Gospel is lived, where good and truth triumph” and where individuals commit their time and creativity to building real communities. The primary task of a diocesan newspaper, he said, is to “serve the truth with courage, helping the public see, understand and live reality with the eyes of God.” The challenges of modern life and the diversity of people within a diocese also must find a reflection in the diocesan paper, he said.

Archbishop: Thousands of Zimbabweans starve, die weekly from disease

LONDON (CNS) — More people are dying from starvation and disease in Zimbabwe under President Robert Mugabe than are killed in the war in Iraq or the conflict in Darfur, said an African archbishop. Archbishop Pius Ncube of Bulawayo, Zimbabwe, said about 3,500 people are dying each week

in his country from a “unique convergence of malnutrition, poverty and AIDS.” He said the world has forgotten about the plight of Zimbabweans although “hunger, illness and desperation stalk our land.” “Cemeteries are filling up throughout the country, but no blood is being spilt,” he told a private meeting of politicians and church leaders in London Nov. 22. “People are just fading away, dying quietly and being buried quietly with no fanfare, and so there is little media attention.” As many people die prematurely in Zimbabwe in one week as in one month in Iraq when the violence is at its worst, he said. In October, 3,700 people died in Iraq.

Eastern churches a ‘gift’ to universal church, Cardinal Daoud says

CHICAGO (CNS) — The Eastern churches are “singly and corporately a ‘gift,’” Cardinal Ignace Moussa Daoud, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Eastern Churches, told delegates in Chicago at a five-day “encounter” of Eastern Catholic churches. “Every Eastern church participates equally in this status as gift of God to the universal church. We have much to offer,” Cardinal Daoud said. “As a result, we should never feel intimidated in any location.” Cardinal Daoud added, “Our process of interaction is that of the mutual bestowal of gift. We are not in competition, but in collaboration. Christ did not teach any doctrine which blessed divisiveness. The sacred mysteries liturgically enact our appeal to the Trinity to bring about that unity.” Though the Oct. 30-Nov. 3 conference was intended for Eastern Catholic churches in the United States and Canada, participants also came from Australia, Belgium, Italy and Ukraine.

San Francisco prelate named to Vatican communications council

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Archbishop George H. Niederauer of San Francisco to be a member of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications; he joins Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles as U.S. members of the council. The Vatican announced five-year appointments to the council Nov. 25 and formally confirmed a list of new consultants, some of whom had been announced earlier. U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, a Philadelphia native, is president of the council, which explains Catholic teaching regarding the use of all forms of media and offers guidance to Catholics in the fields of cinema, television, radio and the press. Archbishop Niederauer will take over the membership position previously held by Bishop Joseph A. Galante of Camden, N.J.

Holy Cross College Students Raise Thousands for Toys for Tots

NOTRE DAME — Each year the Holy Cross College Student Government Association (SGA) holds a Toys for Tots auction.

"It's an established and productive program that has had a lot of success providing great Christmases for kids, and we celebrate a great tradition here at Holy Cross College supporting this organization," says SGA president Jared Sawyer.

This year some of the items up for bid were dinner with the college president, a Brady Quinn autographed jersey or even a date to the college's winter dance with one of the Marines from Co. B, the South Bend Reserve Unit. The event is always a fun one, but this year that fun was also quite profitable. Between the live and silent auctions, the SGA raised \$3,107. When the auction was over, the SGA president and vice president, Sawyer and Tyler Martin, were so overwhelmed by the generosity of the attendees they matched the proceeds with SGA funds, making a grand total of \$6,214 raised.

"Student government holds many fundraisers to support campus activities," Sawyer says, "and we decided to take some of that money to match the donations at the auction."

So already feeling the Christmas spirit, the SGA donated dollars they earned, instead of spending it on themselves.

"It's great that we can help the community and give kids a better Christmas," says Sawyer.

Forever Learning holds fall festival

SOUTH BEND — The Forever Learning Institute in South Bend will hold its End of the Semester Fall Festival on Friday, Dec. 8. The festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Little Flower Parish Center, 54191 Ironwood Rd., South Bend.

The institute will feature tables for classes to display their information so that visitors will be able to view what is offered through the Forever Learning Institute and talk to the teachers.

Entertainment and prizes are part of the festivities. Area businesses are sponsoring gift certificates and Christmas plants.

Snacks and refreshments will be served, and there will be an announcement of some new classes offered this spring.

Classes for the spring semester will begin on Feb. 12, and the course guides will be in the mail by mid-January.

Bremen churches host Holy Walk Dec. 1-2

BREMEN — The 26th annual Bremen Holy Walk will be very early this year with plenty of youth church group volunteers says Martha Yeager, a board member for the annual event.

"This is the earliest date I think we have ever had it," said Yeager

AROUND THE DIOCESE

STUDENTS DOUBLE TOY EFFORTS



PROVIDED BY HOLY CROSS COLLEGE

This year the funds raised in the Holy Cross College's annual Toys for Tots auction were doubled by the Student Government Association.

who said that the event needs to be scheduled around the Bremen Public Schools scheduled use of the high school gymnasium events.

The earlier-than-usual date of the first weekend of December may, however, have advantages not only for the volunteer workers but also for visitors.

"Hopefully we will be having it on a weekend that there aren't any parties or anything planned at businesses or schools," said Yeager. Last year's Holy Walk was held the weekend before Christmas. Schools had already dismissed for their Christmas vacation break and many other holiday events scheduled made it more difficult to find volunteers.

But while it may be early, the event may be a bit more active especially in the Bethlehem Village. "We have a lot more youth than in previous years. It seems we're going to have a very lively village," said Yeager happily. She added that it is wonderful that local kids want to volunteer.

The 26th Annual Bremen Holy Walk will be held Friday, Dec. 1, from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 2, from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Those who come should meet at the Bremen High School Gymnasium (off of Grant Street), which will be open an hour before the walk begins. Parking is available near the high school off Grant and also in a parking lot between the high school and elementary school.

Visitors should dress warmly as the event is outdoors and can wait as long as two hours. The walk takes at least one hour to complete. Busses to the walk from the school run every 15 minutes.

There is no charge for the event,

which includes over 250 cast members from around 25 different Bremen area churches. Please note that there is no food available to purchase at the waiting area. For more information, call (574) 546-2667 or (574) 546-2042. — MD

Our Lady of Good Hope welcomes Father John Paul at parish mission

FORT WAYNE — Our Lady of Good Hope Church in Fort Wayne will host a parish mission Dec. 3 through Dec. 6 with the theme of "Falling in Love with God."

Father John Paul, a priest with the Archdiocese of Omaha-based Intercossors of the Lamb, will conduct the mission.

The Intercossors of the Lamb, www.bellwetheromaha.org, "are dedicated to the contemplative formation of all Christians for the powerful ministry of intercession. Their goal is to develop and foster a deep interior life in the hearts of God's people so that they might become within themselves, 'a house of prayer' as God is within himself. Because it is the life that prays, our own personal relationship with Jesus is the root and power of all effective intercession. The stronger our union with his heart, the more our hearts begin to beat like his ... a steady, slow beat ... a beat that always says, 'Souls ... souls ... souls ...'" cites the Web site.

The mission will include the following:

- Sunday, Dec. 3, evening prayer with mission preaching.
- Monday, Dec. 4, adoration and benediction of the Blessed

Sacrament with mission preaching.

- Tuesday, Dec. 5, penance service with 15 invited priests and mission preaching.

- Wednesday, Dec. 6, closing Mass with mission preaching.

All services are at 7 p.m. For more information, contact the parish at (260) 485-9615. The church is located at 7215 St. Joe Rd., Fort Wayne.

USF announces trustees

FORT WAYNE — At a recent meeting of the Board of Trustees of the University of Saint Francis, the following officers were elected:

Board Vice Chair: Sister M. Ann Kathleen Magiera, OSF. Sister Ann Kathleen has been a board member since 2000. This is her third year as vice chair.

Secretary: Debra A. Niezer. Ms. Niezer has been a board member since 2002. This is her fourth year as secretary.

Treasurer: Ian Rolland. Mr. Rolland has been a board member since 1995. This is his fifth year as treasurer.

William G. Niezer has served as board chair since 1998, and his current four-year term as board chair expires in 2010.

Sister M. Elise Kriss, OSF, has served as the university president since 1993, and her current four-year term as president expires in 2010.

Redeemer Radio launches two new local programs

FORT WAYNE — Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio 1450 AM, is launching two more local pro-

grams: "God, Is That Really You?" and "Knight Life."

Not all journeys into the priesthood begin simply with the answering of an inner call. Some men who are now priests first worked in other careers as dentists and business owners. One had been a Protestant pastor. "God, Is that really you?" is a series of programs that looks at the personal journeys of several diverse men who are now priests or studying for the priesthood in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

"God is That Really You" will air twice monthly, on the first and second Saturdays of each month from 9 to 10 a.m. In December the guests will be Father Glenn Kohrman (Dec. 2) and Bishop John M. D'Arcy (Dec. 9).

Michelle Donaghey, host of "God Is That Really You," has been a contributing writer for *Today's Catholic* for over 10 years. Donaghey, a Catholic by birth, is a lector, eucharistic minister and a member of the Altar-Rosary Society at St. Dominic Catholic Church in Bremen. Recently Donaghey celebrated 25 years of marriage with her husband, Tom. They have two boys, Christopher, 22, and Patrick, 14. Donaghey also writes for several area newspapers including the *South Bend Tribune* and is also a writer for Parenting Publications of America.

Redeemer Radio's second new program, "Knight Life," will focus on the work of the Knights of Columbus. The host, Greg Diss, is a member of the Father Solanus Casey Knights of Columbus Council at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne. In addition, Diss belongs to the fourth degree of the Knights and is also the state deputy for pro-life for the Knights. "Knight Life" will interview local and national guests. It will air from 9 to 10 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month.

Knights give pastors annual salute

SOUTH BEND — Pastors, religious brothers and deacons of Catholic churches in the South Bend area received a special annual salute from the Father Nieuwland Assembly, Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus at the organization's annual "Salute to Pastors" held in the Ave Maria Council ballroom.

"It is our way of humbly giving a big thank you to you for your devoted service and spiritual assistance to your parishioners and to the Fourth Degree as well," said William Niezgodski, faithful navigator of the assembly.

More than 45 religious, including diocesan pastors, priests and religious brothers from the Congregation of the Holy Cross, were lauded at the traditional and testimonial dinner, which the Fourth Degree has sponsored for more than a quarter of a century.

The only other speaker on the program was J. William Raab, a past navigator, who served as master of ceremonies.

"We can never praise our priests and religious brothers enough," he said, "especially in this day and age, when both young, middle aged and the elderly need all the spiritual devotion possible." — EJD

Pilgrimage brings students closer to Indiana's first saint

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND — Twenty-nine students and eight adults from Saint Joseph's High School in South Bend recently had the chance to experience a piece of history with a pilgrimage to Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods to visit the site where St. Mother Theodore Guerin lived and worked.

During the pilgrimage, led by Providence Sister Mary Roger Madden, the group learned how St. Mother Theodore Guerin established the Sisters of Providence religious congregation, schools and orphanages. The pilgrimage focused on her special devotion to the Virgin Mary and the Blessed Sacrament and her relationship with the Catholic Church. Some

of the activities of the day included a video presentation of the life of St. Mother Theodore Guerin, visits to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Providence, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel and the Shrine of St. Mother Theodore Guerin and a walking tour of the historic sites and shrines on the grounds.

Saint Joseph's High School senior Michelle Verhiley felt the trip was an amazing experience. To know that she was literally walking on the same paths that a saint used was humbling.

"I thought it would be a good opportunity. I've never been up close to see a saint like that," said Verhiley on what made her decide to go on the trip. "It was very nice there; you saw a lot of older people praying."

Verhiley was amazed at how

quiet and desolate the grounds were and amazed at how the nuns took the ideas of St. Mother Theodore Guerin and made them a reality.

Her most memorable moment was seeing the relics of St. Mother Theodore Guerin.

"There is a huge poster of St. Mother Theodore Guerin that was very neat; I can't even explain how big the poster was," said Verhiley. "It made it more her church."

Patricia LeGuern, tuition account manager at Saint Joseph's High School, had a chance to accompany the students on their pilgrimage journey.

"I decided to go since it was advertised as a religious trip and not only a field trip. I thought it would be a spiritual experience as well as a diversion from my routine," said LeGuern. "I thought the



PROVIDED BY CYNTHIA MACWHORTER

Saint Joseph's High School students recently went on a pilgrimage to Saint-Mary-of-the-Woods to visit the site where St. Mother Theodore Guerin lived and worked. During the pilgrimage, led by Sister Mary Roger Madden, SP, the group learned how St. Mother Theodore Guerin established a religious congregation, schools and orphanages.

trip was very uplifting as well as recreational."

LeGuern had several memorable moments on her trip.

"Seeing the basilica for the first time and comparing it to the Basilica of St. Hyacinth in Chicago, which I had recently seen, drove home the beauty of both and the captivating architecture they represent," said LeGuern. "I took away some additional information about Indiana history, which I had not learned earlier. I also am impressed by the hardships described for the group of nuns who made a major effort to come to the United States."

LeGuern thought the trip was a great experience for the students who had the chance to join.

"As a history lesson its value is self evident. But more importantly the students were exposed to the life and times of a 19th century figure who is important to not only Indiana history but to the history of our faith," said LeGuern.

Verhiley appreciated the opportunity to go on the pilgrimage.

"I would go on a pilgrimage again," said Verhiley. The experience had such a positive impact that she hopes to do something like it again someday.

Cynthia MacWhorter, an art teacher at Saint Joseph's who organized the trip, hopes that all the people who joined in the special trip walked away a little wiser and feeling a little closer to their religion.

St. Mother Theodore Guerin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence, was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI on Oct. 15. Mother Theodore is only the eighth United States resident, and the first from Indiana, to be named a saint.

For more information about the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, visit the congregation's Web site at www.sistersofprovidence.org.

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Holy anticipation

BY GINNY KOHRMAN

Opening prayer

Heavenly Father, mindful of the many distractions during this sacred season, guard and prepare our hearts, so that we may be ready to receive your Son and our brother, Jesus Christ. As Mary prepared a place for Christ in her womb, may we also prepare a place for Christ in our hearts. As we anticipate Christ's coming, may we open ourselves to this fullness of time, so that we, too, may be bearers of Christ's love in this time and place. Amen.

Scripture: Zeph 3: 14-18a

Commentary

My daughter is one of the most generous people I know. She is very thoughtful of others and is a genius at picking out the perfect card or gift for others. But we always laugh together because she can never wait for the appropriate date or time to give a gift — whether it is a birthday, anniversary or special holiday ... and, if she does hold off, she usually tells you what is coming anyway. I just love her.

I, on the other hand, love the feeling of anticipation. It is so exciting for me to plan and prepare for a party, a new ministry idea or an upcoming holiday. Decorating, cleaning, looking for new recipes or researching and reading seem almost as fulfilling as the final product or event. Anticipation is the driving force behind my energy and unselfish love the fuel of my daughter's giving. During the season of Advent, we compliment each other well by our different approaches to this sacred time of

preparation and cherish the moments of once again experiencing the coming of our Lord.

I am so thankful that the church gives us this special season of Advent as a time to anticipate, appreciate and prepare for the most precious gift of love given to us by our heavenly Father ... the messiah, Jesus Christ.

Anticipating love

Why do so many, including my daughter and me, love this season of Advent? It is not just the decorating, gift-giving and the parties that draw us into the season, but Advent allows us the time to recognize our inner longings for love. We are all looking for fulfillment ... something more than we currently possess. We try to find some satisfaction in material possessions and personal relationships and yet the yearning remains. Like the faithful people of the Old Testament, we are really longing for the messiah — Jesus who is the source of completeness, of love. During Advent we have time to come to terms with our humanity and the need within for the divine Son who alone fulfills us. It is a chance to ponder the greatness of God, who recognizes all of our needs and our longing for love. God loved us so much that he "took on flesh" so that we may share in his divinity. In Advent we open and purify our hearts so that we are ready to appropriately accept God's most incredible gift of love, Jesus Christ, who alone satisfies our human longings.

Becoming 'Christ-Bearers'

Advent is also a time when we unite our holy anticipation of

Christ's coming with that of Mary, the Theotokos or "God-bearer."

"Blessed are you among women. Behold you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall call his name Jesus." — Lk 1:30-31.

The story of the Annunciation in St. Luke's Gospel reveals to us the moment in which Mary accepted her mission to bring Jesus into the world. Advent is a time when we, like Mary, can choose to say "yes" to God's invitation to be "Christ-bearers."

In a similar way, God asks us, "Will you bring my Son into the world? Will you carry him in the womb of your heart as Mary carried him in the womb of her body. Will you birth him into the lives of others, that all might come to experience the grace of redemption and eternal life?" In this way, Advent can be a time when we choose to become a "channel of grace through which the love of God enters into the world." — "Full of Grace," J. Benkovic, page 11.

God will empower us with the help of the Holy Spirit as we say our "yes" to the mission of being Christ-bearers; and we, too, will be filled with the life of Christ. In imitation of Mary, we can bring Jesus into a broken world. We will become, with her and like her, a channel through which love enters the world.

Presence, not presents

As people prepare for Christmas, their attention can focus mainly on material presents that only provide temporary or partial fulfillment. Creatively thinking of how we might be Christ-bearers for others may simplify the holidays and decrease the outrageous spending

and shopping frenzy we often experience.

When Mary visited Elizabeth in Judah, she did not bring numerous expensive gifts. Instead, she blessed Elizabeth with her presence and the presence of her Son, Jesus, whom she carried in her womb. In this time of Advent, let us be mindful of how we might bless another by our simple presence ... a visit, a carol, a phone call, a handwritten card or a simple meal together. Christ's light shining through you into the heart of another is more precious than gold.

Closing prayer

O'Antiphon III

O Flower of Jesse's stem,
You have been raised up as a sign for all peoples;

Kings stand silent in your presence;

The nations bow down in worship before you.

Come, let nothing keep you from coming to our aid.

— based on Is 11:10

Evangelization action challenge

Interior renewal

Let nothing stand in the way of your complete openness to the coming of Christ — including any sinfulness. Partake of the graces of the sacrament of reconciliation before Christmas.

Reaching out to others

Become a channel of Christ's love by visiting someone who is alone or who has lost a loved one in the last year. Be with them, talk and share a few stories with them.

Transforming society

During Advent, pray through the intercession of Mary, for those who may not know or accept Christ as the Savior of the world. Pray for those Catholics friends and family members who no longer actively accept or participate in the teachings and traditions of our faith.



Sesquicentennial Jubilee Prayer

Praise the Lord, all you nations!

Extol him, all you peoples!

For great is his steadfast love toward us,
and the faithfulness of the Lord
endures forever.

Praise the Lord!

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
his steadfast love endures forever!

Let Israel say,

"His steadfast love endures forever."

Let the house of Aaron say,

"His steadfast love endures forever."

Let those who fear the Lord say,

"His steadfast love endures forever."

You are my God,

and I will give thanks to you;

You are my God,

I will extol you.

O give thanks to the Lord,

for he is good,

for his steadfast love endures forever.

— Ps. 117, Ps. 118:1-4, 28-29.

Jubilee Pilgrim Cross



Nov. 17-Dec. 1	St. John the Evangelist/Goshen College	Goshen
Dec. 1-8	St. Mary of the Annunciation	Bristol
Dec. 8-15	St. Thomas the Apostle	Elkhart
Dec. 15-Jan. 5, 2007	St. Vincent de Paul	Elkhart

St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store serves community for 60 years

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — The St. Vincent de Paul Society is an international Catholic organization of lay persons who seek to help the poor. Area parishes form conferences that are united by the district council. The Fort Wayne District Council offers direction and assistance to those in need of financial assistance, transportation, clothing and food needs, and much more. President Donna Brooke says the council meets with all 23 conferences in Fort Wayne to assure information is available to assist with individual needs and believes that the volunteers are “everyday saints in a very compassionate organization.”

One project of the society, the St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, has served the community since 1946. This self-supporting store, open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, accepts donations of gently-used clothing, furniture, appliances and other items with the purpose of offering the refurbished items to the public at reasonable prices. Steve App, manager of the thrift store says, “Our purpose is to help the poor. Good usable donations help.” The store also gratefully accepts monetary donations as well. With a staff of only 10 paid employees, much of the work is done by volunteers, most of whom are helpful and willing, says App. “They come from the schools, the courts and the township trustee’s office. It benefits us all because they earn their service hours and we get free labor.” The store also works with a local service provider in arranging volunteer help from its disabled



KAY COZAD

Steve App assists store employee Ruth Bairb with sorting clothes in the warehouse. The St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store sells gently used items to the community at reasonable prices.

community.

In the 17 years App has managed the thrift store, he has worn many hats. Coordinating the employees and volunteers is only part of his job. “I meet with a lot of

people who come in and can’t pay. We never turn people down who can’t afford clothing,” he says.

An average of 10 customers a day come to the store for help, says App, who proudly reports that

no appointment is necessary. Others use the referral program that partners with area parishes and social service agencies. Those requesting assistance are visited by their area parish St. Vincent de Paul members to discern their needs.

“That’s what St. Vincent does. Personal one on one visits to check on material and spiritual needs,” says App.

The parish refers families to the thrift store with vouchers for items needed with the final bill paid by the parish. The store provides over 2,000 households with free clothing and other items each year. But the store also serves many paying customers from the community who come to shop for bargains as well. “It’s a balanced scale,” says App. “We need the money from sales to pay our bills, but we give things away, too.”

In 1946, the original store, organized by area parish St. Vincent de Paul members, was located just down the street from its present location, at 1600 S. Calhoun St. The store eventually began to outgrow the space and in the late 50s, construction began on a new building to display and sell the donated goods. App reports that a warehouse was acquired where donations are sorted and stored and additional space was added in 2001 to display more furniture.

Nancy Gater and Ruth Bairb,

with the help of volunteers, sort the mounds of donated clothing and stock the store. “And do anything else that’s needed,” adds Bairb. Donations may be dropped off at the Calhoun location or picked up by the St. Vincent de Paul thrift store truck. The better items are sold in the thrift shop and those with minor flaws are boxed and sent for use in third world countries.

App also works with the chest of drawers project, which he says, is growing steadily. To meet the

growing demand for dressers in the store, App created a workshop in the warehouse where two volunteers now cut and assemble the handmade dressers priced at \$75. The thrift store sold 80 dressers last year and continues to receive

“That’s what St. Vincent does. Personal one on one visits to check on material and spiritual needs.”

STEVE APP

orders from non profit organizations as well as customers. Future plans for the workshop include monies to pay a manager to coordinate the project.

An additional service the thrift store offers is free bread giveaways, coordinated by Marlow Gump of St. Vincent Parish.

The thrift store celebrated their 60th anniversary on Saturday, Nov. 11, a regular business day, with a storewide 60 percent off sale, coffee, doughnuts, hotdogs and music.

For information or ways to volunteer call Steve App at (260)456-3561.

St. Vincent de Paul Society offers volunteer opportunities

BY KAY COZAD

SOUTH BEND — St. Vincent de Paul Society South Bend District Council has recently celebrated 100 years of service to the poor in the community through the 21 parish conferences in St. Joseph and Elkhart counties.

Sean Wendlinder, executive director, says the over 300 members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society offers those in need, person to person service. “This is a Jesus ministry. It’s about connection with people.”

The members, he says, are recruited through the churches with the primary purpose of prayer, friendship and spiritual growth, but others in the community are welcome to volunteer as well.

“We work with Notre Dame and the city to welcome volunteers in need of community service hours,” says Wendlinder. Service groups such as the Knights of Columbus and the Rotary Club also volunteer for St. Vincent projects.

Services offered through the St. Vincent de Paul Society are emer-

gency food and clothing assistance, financial aid, transportation and home visitation. The bulk of the assistance is requested at the district office where referrals are made to area parish society conferences.

“It’s based on the old Catholic tradition where the parish serves families who need help within the neighborhood,” says Wendlinder.

Once matched with a parish, those in need of assistance are visited by St. Vincent members who discern food, clothing and financial needs. Vouchers are then presented to be used at the thrift store, where items such as gently used clothing and furniture may be purchased. Most area parishes house a food pantry to assist with grocery needs.

The society works closely with other service organizations and churches to assist the poor all year round and especially during the holidays. One successful project is the Christmas Basket Program. The program volunteers collect, pack and distribute gifts and food boxes to families in need. With the widespread needs of the community this season, an estimated 1,400 families will benefit from the

Christmas Basket Program. Grocery, monetary and volunteer time donations are gratefully accepted. Those interested may also sponsor a family and assist them with groceries and gifts for the children.

Volunteer opportunities for this worthwhile program include:

- Application taking for Christmas food and gift assistance
- Toy packing
- Food packing
- Letter stuffing
- Volunteer coordinators
- Holiday Blitz leaders
- Food and gift delivery

For information or to volunteer for the Christmas Basket Program, contact Patrick McGowan at (574) 251-4903 or e-mail mcgowanpatrick@msn.com.

For information or to volunteer at the thrift store or food pantry, or become a member of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, contact Sean Wendlinder at (574) 251-4908 or your area parish.



PROVIDED BY THE ST. VINCENT DE PAUL STORE

Students from St. Matthew School in South Bend assist in organizing a food drive they held for the Christmas food boxes.

THE Young Voice

QUEEN OF PEACE SCHOOL is located in Mishawaka. The school has 245 students in grades preschool through eighth. Annette Mitchell is the principal. Additional information is available at www.queenofpeace.cc, e-mailing amitchell@queenofpeace.cc or by calling the school at (574) 255-0392.

Seeing Jesus in the face of our neighbor

BY ANNETTE MITCHELL

Queen of Peace School was dedicated in September of 1958 and thrived for over 10 years before the withdrawal of the Franciscan Sisters in 1970. The expense of hiring an all lay teaching staff was prohibitive, so the decision was made to close the school. The parish remained active and vital throughout the years when in 1998 a preschool was begun. A feasibility study was done that same year to determine the viability of reopening the elementary school. The decision was made and approved by the diocese to open grades kindergarten through grade two for the 1999-2000 school year and add a consecutive grade each year.

Since we have grown from our initial enrollment of 63 to 240 students, I like to think of us as "the little school that could." Our mission to provide an environment that challenges students to academic excellence and Christian service as they grow in relationship with Jesus Christ has proven successful. We experienced our first eighth grade graduation last year in over 30 years, and just completed an expansion providing additional classroom space.

What makes our school special? Our academics are very strong, but it is our Catholic identity that draws families to Queen of Peace School. Each day the entire school body meets in the gym as a community to recite a decade of the rosary. Prayer corners are a permanent fixture in each classroom. This is a quiet area where students are able to go to say a prayer during the day or to write a prayer petition to be offered up on Friday by our Moms at Mass group.



While carving jack-o-lanterns, students recognized the correlation between our sinful hearts and the messy junk (pulp) inside. We discard the pulp (sin) by an examination of conscience and confessing our sins in reconciliation. The jack-o-lantern's candle and its light symbolize Christ's light within us.

The students recite the Angelus prayer at noon each day in honor of our patroness, Mary. Students participate in the Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, which is a Montessori based curriculum constructed to accommodate and nurture the faith and moral development of the child. The goal is to develop the precious religious potential present in each child; the capacity to love and be loved; to see and serve God in their everyday life.

Service to others is also a priority for our students. The school body has been

involved in many service projects over the years including food and clothing collections for St. Vincent de Paul and Catholic Charities. Families in need have been "adopted" at Christmas time and provided with food and gifts to make their holiday brighter. Second graders provide Christmas stockings filled with personal care items for elderly hospital patients. Meals have been provided for the homeless shelter. The list goes on and on. Queen of Peace students are taught to see Jesus in the face of their neighbor.



At a schoolwide assembly honoring veterans students performed a skit explaining what a veteran is, and local veterans shared their thoughts about what it meant to serve their country.



What freedom means to me

BY MOLLY JONES, SEVENTH GRADE

Freedom has a lot of meanings. It can mean to have responsibilities, or to be in charge of yourself. The definition of the word freedom, that means the most to me, is that in the United States we have a right to vote and work. In other countries, Saudi Arabia for example, women cannot vote. In the U.S. women that are older than 18 can vote. I think that this is very important for a good economy or government to have everyone vote. I feel that having a choice of what you want is a very important aspect that every country needs to allow.

Having a choice or having freedom can improve your life in many ways. If you are doing a job that you love and want to do it for the rest of your life, then you will work harder and get a lot more done. If you are doing a job that you have to do to survive, you won't enjoy it and you might not do your best. In America we have that choice of what we want to do and what we want to say. I am really proud and happy that I can live in a country that has that kind of freedom.

I hear a lot of kids say to each other, "Well it's a free country!" I think that they can abuse the freedom we have sometimes. I don't think they understand the greatness of our country. In other countries some kids don't even get to say that. If we say it like we don't even care, that shows disrespect to our country and to its leaders. I feel so blessed to be able to live in America, where we will always be free.

What freedom means to me

BY ERIN MYERS, EIGHTH GRADE

Freedom means a lot to me. I am so grateful to live in a country where people are willing to sacrifice their lives in order to safeguard the rights of others. The people who are involved in the armed forces should be honored for their services to America. Without their efforts our quality of life here would be very unacceptable. We would be denied our basic human rights.

In other countries, citizens, especially women, are denied the right to vote and freedom of speech. Some people are treated like they are less important than others. Also, if the leader of the country is a dictator, the people might be subject to harsh and unfair treatment, which could lead to civil wars and riots. The rights of citizens are important for a country's success. In the United States, people are all treated equally, regardless of their race, gender, religion, beliefs or abilities. Slavery is also illegal here. Everyone has rights and freedoms in America.

Freedoms and rights for the citizens of America came at a cost. Hundreds of people died to give them, and people still die today in order to keep them. I am so grateful for these people and am blessed to live in the United States of America, the land of the free, and the home of the brave.



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Christ Child Society provides coats

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — The Fort Wayne chapter of National Christ Child Society has just completed its 2006 distribution of children's new winter coats, an annual ministry that involves more than 70-member volunteers and serves nearly 900 needy families.

But the coat project has come a long way since the local Christ Child Society, a fledgling organization in early 1997, chose it as one of three ministries to benefit the needy in the Fort Wayne area. With the blessing of Bishop John M. D'Arcy who knew of the success of the South Bend chapter in providing warm winter coats for deserving school children, and with Peggy Dotterweich as its president and founder, the 19-member Fort Wayne chapter was on solid footing.

The local coat program's humble beginning dates back to Dec. 26, 1997, when Dotterweich's husband, Bill, left home at 6 a.m. to shop the after-Christmas sales at Sears and JC Penney and bought 93 children's coats for distribution the following year. Peggy recruited

Christ Child Society members Jean Reifenberg and Gerry O'Daniel to chair the coat committee and work began in earnest.

Reifenberg and O'Daniel spent a day in South Bend, where Christ Child Society members there allowed them to tour their facilities, talk to volunteers and learn the proper procedures to avoid potential pitfalls. After returning to Fort Wayne the two prepared client forms, visited schools and talked to principals and social workers about identifying families who qualified for assistance in preparation for the first coat distribution.

In the early days, Christ Child Society's operations centered in St. Paul's School building downtown, and that was the site of the first distribution in the fall of 1998.

Bill Dotterweich recalls that "all the purchased coats (about 200), which had been stowed in Gerry O'Daniel's basement were taken to St. Paul's with the help of eighth graders from St. John School and a borrowed school bus." Though six days were designated for distribution that first year, the entire supply of coats was gone in two days. After that, says O'Daniel, "It just grew every year."

Today, the coat program is run out of the former Sacred Heart School on Gaywood Avenue, where it occupies five large rooms and operates smoothly and efficiently under the chairmanship of Beth Shields and Suzanne Prudlow. Shields calls Sacred Heart "a good venue for us," because of the available space and the proximity of The Franciscan Center where clients may obtain other needed items.

In preparation for distribution days volunteers buy, sort and hang new children's coats according to gender and size. When the day arrives, people begin lining up early, many with their children in tow. Shields says, "I'm amazed at the number of people already lined up ... cold, rainy, no matter what ..." when she arrives at 7:30 a.m. for a 9 a.m. start.

After passing the check-in desk where they show identification and the required forms, each person receives a number and moves to a waiting area. As the numbers are called, they proceed to another room where a volunteer checks their paperwork, notes the children's ages and sizes and "shops" for the coats, matching mittens and hats.

Though Shields says, "It's pretty intense the whole time ... and takes a lot of manpower," she is pleased to note that 2006 was a record year, with Christ Child Society distributing 1,788 coats to 876 families and serving 67 schools and agencies, all on a budget of \$42,000.

Shields and Prudlow are assisted by Ellen Devlin and Nancy Hanlon, who will take over the ministry in two years. And Shields has nothing but praise for her Christ Child Society volunteers. "The women give so much time and energy," says Shields, that the effort wouldn't be possible without them.

Founder Peggy Dotterweich never imagined that the coat program would grow as it has in such a short time. "I hoped it would ... in 20 years," but she never expected to accomplish so much in half that time. "I'm overwhelmed," she says.

For information about the Fort Wayne Christ Child Society call (260) 637-0077. In South Bend, contact President Mary Liddell at (574) 243-0259 or visit the Web site www.christchildsb.org.

Parish bequest society reflects hardy spirit, history

BY ELISA SMITH

WALKERTON — St. Patrick Parish, Walkerton, has started a parish bequest society to honor individuals who have remembered St. Patrick Church and School with a gift from their estate plans.

The bequest society will be named the Father Gillen Guild in memory of Father Paul Gillen, a Holy Cross priest from Notre Dame who cared for the parish for its first 12 years.

Members of the guild are the living and deceased men and women who have included St. Patrick Church and School in their wills or other planned gifts. The Father Gillen Guild was initiated on All Souls Day, Nov. 2, with a special evening Mass.

On an early June day, a Sunday morning in 1856, a horse and rider traveled to Walkerton from South Bend, coming 20 miles on a rutted wagon road. Father Paul Gillen celebrated Mass in a log cabin home and continued saying Mass there weekly until 1860. Then until 1868, he began alternating with other Holy Cross priests and traveled on horseback or farm wagon unless bad weather made it impossible.

"I thought this a fitting memorial to the founders of our parish," said Father Chris Young, pastor of St. Patrick. "The handful of families who came together in 1856 started a legacy that has lasted 150 years."

Two members of St. Patrick Parish who died during this past year left generous gifts to the parish in their wills. These monies will be used to establish an endowment for parish needs as well as rebuild the parish capital improvement fund.

"It is hoped that through the generosity and foresight of many today, the parish will be blessed in the future," said Father Young.

Each year during the month of November a Mass will be celebrated for the members of the guild.

For more information on the Father Gillen Guild, contact Father Chris Young, at (574) 586-7404.

If your parish is interested in arranging a bequest society, contact Elisa Smith, director of Planned Giving, at (260) 422-4611.



Tippecanoe Place December Events Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Make Your Holiday Reservations - Call Early for Best Times!					Kids Cove & Elsie Rogers Tree Decorating. Suzuki Talent Education of Michiana 7 PM	8 9
Holiday Brunch with Santa Claus 9AM - 2PM Please call for reservations	11 Gift Cards available in any denomination	12 Be sure to visit our 8 foot Gingerbread House	Battell School Tree Decorating	14 Toys for Tots & Feed the Children Collection Site	John Adams Swing Choir 7:00 PM	15 Quarter Notes & Silver Springs Quartet from Suzuki Music School 7:00 PM
Holiday Brunch with Santa Claus 9 AM - 2 PM Please call for reservations	17 Pet Refuge Collection Site. Join our E-Club for News, Events & Discounts	18 Gift Cards available in any denomination	19 VISIT www.tippe.com for Holiday Recipes	20 WASSAIL BOWL	21 Gift Cards available in any denomination	22 Mishawaka Madrigal Singers 7 PM
24 Holiday Brunch with Santa 9AM - 1:30 PM Dinner 4-8 PM Please call for reservations	25 Christmas Day CLOSED Merry Christmas	Make Your New Year's Eve Reservations Early! NEW YEAR'S EVE Brunch 9:00 am - 1:30 pm • Dinner 4:00 pm - 10:00 p.m. NEW YEAR'S DAY (Dinner Only) 4:00 pm - 8:00 p.m.				
Happy Holidays						



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EDITORIAL

Public does have a voice in bad programming

Just when we thought that offensive material in the media could not possibly get any worse, a publisher announced the upcoming release of a book by O.J. Simpson detailing how he would have killed his ex-wife, Nicole, and her friend, Ron Goldman, if he had indeed killed them. To further promote the "If I Did It" book, the Fox Television Network promised to air a two-part interview with Simpson on the topic, just in time for television sweeps week at the end of November.

The publishing house, Regan Books, and Fox both are owned by media giant News Corp., headed by Rupert Murdoch. For a few days, it looked as if both projects were a "go," though a few Fox affiliates said they would await viewer reaction.

Then, very interesting and important events began to occur: Viewer reaction came pouring in, along with reaction from a morally outraged general public as well as groups that represent battered women. Some of them were outraged because they felt the book and television special would benefit Simpson, who many people believe is guilty of the killings, even though he was acquitted in a criminal trial. Others were outraged because discussion speculating about how one might kill someone is so morally repugnant.

E-mail and telephone calls flooded into Fox affiliates. Media writers and television personalities called for a boycott of the book and the television program. Even advertisers felt the heat and informed the affiliates that they didn't want their products promoted in a time slot anywhere near the Simpson interview.

Fox affiliates around the country started announcing they would not run the program. Shortly thereafter, News Corp. and Murdoch withdrew the book and canceled the television special, admitting the project was "ill-considered." The News Corp. decision undoubtedly was fueled over concern about profits if the brand name had been damaged by this "ill-considered" project, but whatever the motivation for the decision, the media giant listened to the groundswell of opposition from average citizens.

We hope the important lesson in this strange episode is not forgotten: The general public has an enormous amount of power, and we should use this power more often to let the media know when we are offended and/or repulsed by programming or commentary.

Let us complain when someone or something belittles our religion. Let stations know that we refuse to watch programs that are disrespectful toward God. Let advertisers know that we won't buy products that are associated with offensive ads or programming. Boycott movies that are morally offensive. Write letters to the editor when an editorial cartoon insults Catholics. Let local media know when they have overstepped the boundary of decency or have slanted or misrepresented the news.

Now we know that Rupert Murdoch and the other media moguls are listening, and it's up to us to do the talking. If we Catholics — who make up the single largest religious denomination in this country — pull together, we can have an enormous impact on the culture by making our voices heard.

Out-of-wedlock births hit all-time high

Last week, the federal government announced that the rate of out-of-wedlock births has climbed to an all-time high of 37 percent. Experts say one reason for this unfortunate trend is that having babies without the benefit of marriage has become socially acceptable.

We wonder why something so obviously damaging to society has become acceptable. Every study of this phenomenon reports that children born to an unmarried parent are more likely to be poor, drop out of school, use drugs and alcohol, get in trouble with the law, have trouble holding a job, and become unmarried parents themselves.

Obviously, cohabitation and out-of-wedlock births have become socially acceptable not because these practices are good for society. Rather, these life choices have become socially acceptable because they are increasingly common and embraced without shame by many of the culture's movie, television and sports "stars."

We know that human nature is stained by original sin, and some people will choose to act immorally. However, society must never accept immoral behavior simply because there is so much of it.

Our Creator gave us the Ten Commandments not as a burden to us, but as a gift, a guide to a happy, fulfilling life in this world and to eternal joy in the next world. This gift forms the only socially acceptable code for living our 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.

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

Support the troops with religious items

Almost everyone I talk to wants to "Support Our Troops" in Iraq, Afghanistan or elsewhere around the world. The problem is often they do not know how or what to do.

My daughter-in-law, Mary Zilligen Becker, who lives in Flossmoor, Ill., has found a way to help. She has an online Catholic bookstore, www.seatofwisdom.net. In January, her friend who did not have a computer asked her to e-mail Father John Hannigan, a chaplain for the troops serving in Iraq. The Chicago priest requested religious items that he was unable to obtain. Requests ensued for thousands of corded rosaries, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, books and devotionals. Mary wanted to help, but was a little overwhelmed at first on how to raise the money for Father Hannigan's requests, and then there was postage to be paid.

She turned to friends, rosary groups, Knights of Columbus, pro-life groups and home school groups. The response was amazing. Soon the Catholic items were on their

way to the war zone in Iraq. Mary and "Hannigan's Helpers" have mailed 1,300 catechisms, 1,000 Bibles, over 1,300 rosaries, 3,000 medals, as well as monstrances, statues, crucifixes, scapulars, books etc. Other items on Father's "wish list" can be seen at www.seatofwisdom.net.

One item that Father is always in need of is the desert camouflage twine "knotted rosaries" with a black plastic crucifix. These rosaries "go like hot cakes," says Father Hannigan. In a recent e-mail from Father, he said "even the Protestants are saying the rosary."

That's when I was moved to get more involved. I wanted to send the "Pray the Rosary" booklets to help teach the rosary and explain the mysteries. I found my friends in Fort Wayne to be very generous. I have been able to send over 800 booklets, thanks to my friends, the Blue Army and Father Adam Schmidt.

Another item high on his "wish list" for the troop's spiritual, physical and mental well being is 40 sets of Stations of the Cross. This Navy Commander chaplain is responsible for 1,000 souls at his home base and 3,000 more in his care, as he

travels 30,000 square miles around Iraq as far as the Syrian and Jordanian borders. Due to the shortage of chaplains, he would like to make the Stations of the Cross available to the troops for meditation, especially when a chaplain is not available.

Through her Catholic retail connections, Mary has found a woodworker in Steubenville, Ohio, who is willing to make the stations on plaques. Mark Nelson, who was instrumental in sending frames for Father Hannigan's Memorial Wall for Fallen Soldiers in the chapel he is building, has agreed to make and send the stations. It will cost \$560 per set including postage. The stations will be located in various locations in the desert of Iraq.

This is where you the reader comes in. Do you want to support our troops? First, please pray for them. Second, you or your parish can donate through the Web site or send a check payable to Seat of Wisdom, 1247 Oakmont Avenue, Flossmoor, Ill. 60422. Please make sure to mark on the envelope "Hannigan's Stations Project."

Jean Becker
Fort Wayne

Advent: Waiting in hope for the Lord

BY FATHER MICHAEL HEINTZ

The earliest evidence we possess concerning the season of Advent comes from around the fourth century in Spain and France, Christians celebrated a six-week fast preceding the celebration of Christmas (just as they also practiced a Lenten fast, as we still do today, preceding Easter, though the emphasis of the Advent fast seems to be the inculcation of ascetical discipline rather than as a liturgically-oriented process of preparation for baptism).

A synod held at Saragossa, Spain, in AD 380 reminded the faithful that they should attend church daily from Dec. 17 through Jan. 6 (Epiphany). A century later in France, there is evidence of a three-day per week fast (on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays) beginning on the feast of St. Martin (Nov. 11) and extending to Christmas; this season was frequently referred to as "St. Martin's Lent."

St. Gregory the Great (+AD 604), bishop of Rome, records a cycle of four Sunday celebrations just prior to Christmas (much like our four Sundays of Advent). This indicates the Roman preference for a shorter (four weeks) as opposed to longer (six weeks, as in Spain and parts of France) Advent season. In any case, it seems that these early Christians understood the "heart" or "core" of the Advent season to be the octave preceding Christmas itself

(Dec. 17-24).

Recent scholarship has dismissed the overly-facile idea that Christians simply adapted a pagan feast (the sol invictus) for their own purposes. The historian of the liturgical year, Thomas Talley, has suggested that, in fact, the Christmas celebration on Dec. 25 quite possibly predated the Constantinian toleration of Christianity, and thus the choice of the date, while later a convenient competitor to the pagan feast, nevertheless does not have its origins in paganism.

Advent, derived from the Latin adventus, meaning "coming" or "arrival," is, of course, more than just a preparation for Christmas.

Vigilance

Theologically, there is a twofold focus to the season of Advent, and this is revealed in the prayers and readings used at Mass and in the liturgy of the hours. For the first three weeks in particular, the focus of the prayers and readings is on the coming or arrival of Christ at the end of time as Judge of the living and the dead (as we profess every Sunday in the creed). We are called to focus on the "advent" of Jesus who comes to bring to completion the kingdom he began with his life and ministry.

Often, this eschatological dimension of the season is absorbed or lost entirely in the midst of the frenetic activity of preparing for Christmas. In most

Catholic households, influenced by a secular culture of consumerism and materialism, the "season" of Christmas begins even before the civil holiday of Thanksgiving, with decorations and advertising prematurely proclaiming the coming of the Christmas season. In fact, many Catholics are unaware of this eschatological focus of early Advent.

Like the last few Sundays of ordinary time, which helpfully provide a segue to the eschatological component of the Advent season, there is an emphasis on vigilance and the removal of those obstacles — most obviously sin — which impede the believer from such vigilance. The collects and readings are about readiness and reception — readiness to greet Christ and the capacity to receive him with gladness when he comes. For the believer, it is an excellent opportunity to reflect about the church's hope — and perhaps to correct many misconceptions about Catholic teaching on the return of Christ in glory and the fruition of his kingdom.

Current fascination — even among Catholics — with the "Left Behind" series as well as curiosity about "the Rapture" or "the Tribulation" (dubious concoctions of two late 19-century evangelicals, J.N. Darby and C.I. Scofield) provide ample warrant for such an approach.

Deconstructing voter choices: Catholics differ little from others

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Much ado has been made of the supposed shift of “religious” voters to Democrats in the midterm election.

Exit polls showed that more Catholics and more frequent churchgoers in general voted for Democrats in the 2006 election than voted for Democrats in the 2004 election. News stories and press releases in the first few days after the election touted “Catholic voters abandon Republicans” and “God gap narrows.”

But when compared to how voters as a whole cast their ballots this year, the much-vaunted statistics that supposedly show dramatic shifts by Catholics and regular worshippers of any faith lose their distinctiveness.

Catholics and regular churchgoers pretty much voted like the overall majority of the country in supporting more Democratic candidates, said John Green, senior fellow in religion and American politics at the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life.

Enough voters shifted their support to Democrats this year to swing majority power to the party

in both the House and the Senate for the first time in 12 years.

Comparing exit-poll results of how people voted in House races, the only races common to all states, Green told Catholic News Service that the country as a whole was 4 percent to 5 percent more likely to vote for Democrats this November.

Fifty percent of white Catholics, the common breakout used by pollsters, voted for Democrats, compared to 48 percent who voted for Republicans. In 2004 congressional races, 45 percent of white Catholics and of voters overall voted for Democrats in House races, Green said.

Tom Perriello, a co-founder of Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good, told CNS that efforts by the Democratic Party to reach out to Catholics, especially in Pennsylvania, Ohio and Virginia, states with close, key Senate races, seem to have succeeded.

The “life does not end at birth” campaign of 2004, organized by a coalition of Catholic groups led by Pax Christi USA, was the start of efforts aimed at persuading voters

WASHINGTON LETTER

PATRICIA ZAPOR

to choose candidates on a broader basis than abortion alone, Perriello said. Catholics in Alliance this year had a series of ads headlined “As simple as right and wrong,” which picked up that theme and which have resonated with evangelicals and Catholics alike, he said.

Perriello is optimistic about that success meaning the end of the sense that Democratic candidates must support abortion “rights” to get anywhere within the party.

In Pennsylvania, the Democratic Party supported Bob Casey Jr. from the start of his campaign, even to the point of discouraging other Democrats from running in the primary. Like the Republican incumbent he defeated,

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Prepare by loving God and others



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

1st Sunday of Advent Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

With this First Sunday of Advent, the church begins a new liturgical year. As such, the readings for the year to come will be from the “C” cycle of the Lectionary, the collection of biblical texts used by the church for lessons at Masses.

The first reading for this weekend is from the Book of Jeremiah. This book was written when times were hard for God’s people. The dynasty formed by King David had disappeared, extinguished by infighting and internal intrigue.

The collapse of David’s royal line had deep religious implications. God had a covenant with David and with David’s successors. Their task was not just to govern, but also rather to keep the nation of Israel faithful to God.

With the end of the unified monarchy under David’s heirs, no other figure or authority had God’s commission to exercise the role of strengthening the national bond with the Almighty.

More ominously, it seemed as if the instrument selected by God for this purpose, namely the Davidic dynasty, somehow was frustrated by human events. It was no great endorsement of the almighty power of God.

Amid these circumstances,

Jeremiah promises that indeed God will endure. His justice will endure. People must not lose faith.

For its second reading, the church presents a passage from the First Epistle to the Thessalonians. The reading calls upon Christians, as initially it urged the Christians of Thessalonica, to love each other. Indeed, the call was, and is, to Christians to love all, no one excepted.

The backdrop for this appeal is the statement that the Lord soon will return to earth, in triumph, as the great judge. It will be a revolutionary moment. All evil will be subdued. Good and truth will reign supreme.

Christians prepare themselves for this great event by loving others in the model of Jesus, who loved all humankind even to the point of sacrifice on Calvary.

St. Luke’s Gospel furnishes the last reading. When reading, or hearing a reading from, any of the Gospels, it is important to realize that the Gospels were written generations after Jesus.

This realization in no sense implies that the Gospels are fiction. Rather it recognizes the fact that each evangelist saw the coming of Christ, and happenings in the life of Christ, with his own perception and influenced what the evangelist saw as important.

By the time Luke’s Gospel was written, the tide was turning against Christians. The culture was against them. The law was turning against them. It was a threatening period.

The author of St. Luke’s Gospel recalled words of Jesus that could encourage and embolden Christians. Come what may, the message of the Gospel tells us, the Lord will return. Despite the anguish that may exist, Jesus will

be victorious. Jesus will come.

Reflection

Advent often is described as a time to prepare for Christmas. It is this. However, Advent has two other purposes. It exists to enable us to reform ourselves, so that the Lord can come to us.

And, it allows us to prepare ourselves for the decisive coming of Jesus when we die, and at the end of time.

Thus, St. Luke’s Gospel reminds us that Jesus will return to the earth. It is not often discussed, but this teaching is basic to Christianity. He will vindicate the right. The forces of evil will wither and die. They will fall before the glory of the risen Lord.

We must prepare ourselves to be with the Lord, or else we will place ourselves opposite the Lord, and if so we shall die.

How do we prepare? We prepare by keeping first and foremost our purpose to love God above all else, and by loving all others as Jesus loves all.

READINGS

1st week of advent

Sunday: Jer 33:14-16 Ps 25:4-5, 8-10, 14 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 Lk 21:25-28, 34-36

Monday: Is 2:1-5 Ps 12:1-9

Tuesday: Is 11:1-10 Ps 72:1, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Lk 10:21-24

Wednesday: Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-6

Thursday: Is 26:1-6 Ps 118:1, 8-9, 19-21, 25-27a Mt 7:21, 24-27

Friday: Gn 3:9-15, 20 Ps 98:1-4 Eph 1:3-6, 11-12 Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Is 30:19-21, 23-26 Ps 147:1-6 Mt 9:35-10:1, 6-8

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Campion

In December, many children look forward to the visit of St. Nicholas (Santa Claus). Different traditions have this visit occur on different dates.

1. Who was the actual Santa Claus or St. Nicholas?

- a. a defrocked elf
- b. Bishop of Myra in Lycia
- c. the name chosen by Father Christmas after his conversion

2. This Nicholas, who wrote about St. Nicholas (Santa), was sometimes confused with the original:

- a. Nicholas the Anti-Christ-mas
- b. Nicholas of Sion
- c. Old Nick

3. Nicholas I was the first (obviously) of these to bear this name:

- a. Popes
- b. Saints
- c. Cardinals of Myra

4. Nicholas V was a pope who was the protégé of one Nicholas (Albergati) and sent another Nicholas (of Cusa) to reform the church in Germany. He also ended various schisms. When was all this surfeit of Nicholases?

- a. The 15th century
- b. The 19th century
- c. 1952

5. Nicholas of Basle was

- a. yet another pope called Nicholas.
- b. a heretic who changed the Lord’s Prayer to say “lead us into temptation.”
- c. a saint and missionary to the Calvinists in the Cantons of Schwyz and Genf.

6. Nicholas of Flue was a Swiss hermit who, to live the solitary life, had to give up:

- a. his addiction to schnapps.
- b. his goal of becoming a bishop.
- c. a wife and 10 children.

7. Nicholas Hereford was an English Catholic priest who eventually became a monk. But along his spiritual path he joined with these heretics:

- a. The Campionites
- b. The Lollards
- c. The Brethren of the Common Life

8. Nicholas of Lyre was a member of this order, whose founder was an Italian monk and stigmatic:

- a. The Basilians
- b. The Benedictines
- c. The Franciscans

9. Nicholas of Tolentino was a saint whose relics were said to have bled before major calamities for the church. Once this phenomenon was noted in 1452, said to have pre-saged this event:

- a. The divorce of Henry VIII from Anne Boleyn.
- b. The assassination of Pope John Paul I.
- c. The fall of Constantinople to Muslim Turks.

10. Henry Nicholas, though born a Catholic, invented this cult or sect centuries ahead of Charles Manson and followers:

- a. The notorious P.I.G.
- b. The Family of Love
- c. The Cathars

11. Nicholas Oresme was a 14th century mathematician who used his skills and knowledge to oppose these:

- a. Germans
- b. Astrologers
- c. Catholics

12. Nicholas Breakspear was the only Englishman to ever have held this position (under the less dramatic title of Hadrian IV):

- a. Pope
- b. King of Scotland (builder of the eponymous wall)
- c. Head of the Church of England, before it became Protestant

13. St. Nicholas Cabasilas was a Byzantine

- a. mystic
- b. patriarch (of Constantinople)
- c. emperor

14. Pierre Nicole was a French theologian and writer, who defended the church against Calvinism, but was also associated to a degree with this discredited mode of thinking about free will and sin:

- a. Catharism
- b. Jansensim
- c. Gallicanism

15. This Nicholas (and his family) was canonized by the Russian Orthodox Church in 2000:

- a. Nicholas (Nikita) Khrushchev
- b. Nick Nolte for his fine performance in “Rasputin was not that bad”
- c. Tsar Nicholas II

ANSWERS:

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

New norms apply to indulgences

Back in the 1940s, by saying a certain prayer and the Our Father, the Hail Mary, and Glory Be, etc., for the pope, one could gain a seven year plenary indulgence; "My Jesus, mercy," 300 days indulgence; "Blessed be God," 50 days indulgence, applicable to the dead. Can we still gain these partial indulgences today? SC, South Bend

The short answer to your question is "yes." We can still gain partial indulgences today. However, in 1968, Pope Paul VI issued new norms for indulgences, which are still in force today, and the specific works for gaining indulgences, which you mention are no longer included in the list. Also, in these new norms, Pope Paul VI abrogated the use of a certain number of days of indulgence being attached. Now simply there are "partial" indulgences and "plenary" (which means "full") indulgences. For a complete list of those works to which indulgences are attached,

you can reference a document called the "Enchiridion of Indulgences." You can order this through any Catholic bookstore or find it online.

I notice a lot of people receive Communion and then walk out of Mass. What are the obligations for Sunday Mass attendance? TP, Auburn

Canon 1247 states, "On Sundays and other holy days of obligation, the faithful are obliged to participate in the Mass ..." One can assume that "to participate" here means to take part in the entire Mass all the way through the dismissal after the final blessing. However, if someone without good cause should leave Mass immediately after Communion, my opinion is that they will still have satisfied the obligation to attend Mass. But, even though they satisfy the Mass obligation, this is still a reprehensible and sinful practice.

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

Christmas this year falls on Monday. So if I attend Mass on Sunday evening, can the Mass "count" for both the Fourth Sunday of Advent and Christmas? DS, South Bend

The answer is "yes" and "no." In order to fulfill the obligation to participate in Mass, one must attend a Mass for each of these since each day involves a separate obligation. In other words, we do not get a "two for one." However, canon law states that any Mass that one attends on the day of the obligation or on the evening before satisfies the obligation. So, for example, one

could attend Mass on Sunday (Dec. 24) morning for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and then on Sunday (Dec. 24) evening for Christmas. Also, one could attend Mass on Sunday (12/24) evening for the Fourth Sunday of Advent (even though it's a Christmas eve Mass) and then Christmas Mass at midnight or in the morning. In other words, any Mass on Christmas Eve after 4 p.m. and before midnight would fulfill the obligation for either the Fourth Sunday of Advent or Christmas, but not both at the same time.

By the way, this applies to the Sunday and holy day obligation in general. Any Mass that one attends after 4 p.m. on the evening before the obligation or on the day of obligation satisfies the obligation to attend Mass. For example, if a person participates in a wedding Mass on Saturday evening, this fulfills the obligation to attend Mass. The wedding

Mass itself does not have to be the Sunday Mass (that is, with the prayers and readings of Sunday) to fulfill the obligation.

Father Mark Gurtner, pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne, answered this week's question. Contact him through e-mail at dwenigerpriest@yahoo.com

Today's Catholic welcomes questions from readers. 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.

Of ham, porches and the next generation

Have you ever heard this (supposedly) true story? Once there was a woman who, every Christmas, cut the front part of her ham off before placing it in the oven.



EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Theresa A. Thomas

The woman's daughter asked her, "Mommy, why do you cut off the front part of the ham?" The mother thought for a minute and said, "Well, I don't know. I suppose I do it because my mother always did. I'm sure she had a good reason. I'll have to ask her why." The next Sunday she visited her mother, the child's grandmother. "Mom," asked the mother, "Why did you always cut off the front part of the Christmas ham? The older woman sat and thought a moment. "Well, I'm not sure. I do it because my mother always did. Why don't we ask her?" Granny was sitting by the window in the living room when the three generations of women approached her. "We have to know," said the mother, "Why did you always cut the front part of the ham off before putting it in the oven?" "What?" asked the old woman, moving closer to hear more clearly. "Why do you cut off the end of the ham before baking it in the oven?" they repeated. "We know there must be a very good reason. Do the juices flow better? Do you get a better flavor? Does it cook more evenly?" The old woman laughed. "Oh, no, no, no, dear," she said. "It's simpler than that. Cutting off the end of the ham was the only way it could fit in my little oven."

This story illustrates how much we are creatures of generational habit. Sometimes we do things just because they were always done that way. When we do something the way our parents did it, we feel comforted and familiar. Again and again, unknowingly most of the time, we repeat history just because somewhere in our unconscious we had something modeled to us, and it seems natural for us to

do. That is why we see certain patterns repeat themselves in families — high academic or athletic performance, for example. It is also why we talk about things like the "cycle" of child abuse. The molds can be broken, and negative cycles and patterns can be changed, but usually this must be preceded by conscious recognition of the cycles and patterns and a desire to do better.

Good Catholics would never dream of abusing their children, but what are we modeling, unknowingly, to them? Impatience? Rudeness? Endurance? Hope? Acceptance? Love? Chances are we are modeling a variety of characteristics at any given moment, and we may not realize the grand significance of all our actions until years to come.

Every Saturday my daughter Rachel, age 9, helps me sweep our generous front porch and the overhang and scrub the railings and wash the door and cement. After a soapy wash we have fun spraying off the bubbles with an attachment on the hose.

My penchant for cleanliness definitely comes from my mother. Her mother used to wash her porch too, every Saturday, after the grass was cut and the yard picked up. I know from where my porch cleaning habits come.

But what about my other habits? My reaction to a surprise challenge? How do I greet my children each day? Do I hum and exude an air of openness as I work, or scurry about frantically and remain unapproachable?

When I was growing up, my

parents had the following poem, "Children Learn What They Live" hanging on the refrigerator door. I pull it out periodically to assess how I am doing and see what my children may be learning from me.

You've probably read it before, but it's good to contemplate again. Hopefully, doing so will spur on some good habits that go beyond trimming the ham or sweeping the porch. It will secure a happy and healthy future for generations to come.

Children Learn What They Live

- If a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn.
- If a child lives with hostility, she learns to fight.
- If a child lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.
- If a child lives with shame, she learns to feel guilty.
- If a child lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient.
- If a child lives with encouragement, she learns confidence.
- If a child lives with praise, he learns to appreciate.
- If a child lives with fairness, she learns justice.
- If a child lives with security, he learns faith.
- If a child lives with approval, she learns to like herself.
- If a child lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for December 3, 2006

Luke 21:25-28,34-36

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Advent, Cycle C: a reading about the end time for the beginning of the year. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SIGNS	THE MOON	NATIONS
ROARING	THE SEA	WAVES
PEOPLE	WORLD	HEAVENS
SHAKEN	IN A CLOUD	GREAT GLORY
YOUR HEADS	HEARTS	DRUNKENNESS
THAT DAY	CATCH	A TRAP
STRENGTH	ESCAPE	STAND

WITHOUT WARNING

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

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LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

Sen. Rick Santorum, Casey is a Catholic who opposes abortion, which didn't sit well with some segments of the Democratic Party's base.

The Rev. Jim Wallis, founder of Sojourners and author of "God's Politics: Why the Right Gets It Wrong and the Left Doesn't Get It," said at a Nov. 15 teleconference hosted by the Catholic Alliance and the organization Faith In Public Life that the Pennsylvania election helps neutralize abortion as a litmus test issue for Democrats.

"With two Catholic, pro-life candidates it took both abortion

and religion off the table and let economic justice and poverty get back on the table," Wallis said.

Green said Casey's success shows what was considered an experiment by the Democratic Party can work, but it remains to be seen whether the approach is viable for the long term.

Among Hispanic voters, support for Democratic candidates is the norm, but even that was stronger this election. Seventy-three percent of Hispanics voted for Democrats for House seats, according to the National Election Pool, an exit poll for a consortium of news outlets. In the 2004 presidential race, 53 percent of Hispanics voted for the Democratic candidate and 29 percent voted for the Republican candidate.

ADVENT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

The early days of Advent then are an ideal time to speak about the church's teachings on the last things, in particular the general judgment and, at the same time, to reinforce the perils of any attempt to "read" world events in such a way as to predict the day or the hour.

Incarnate Son of God

By the Fourth Sunday of Advent (or on Dec. 17, whichever comes first), the emphasis has clearly shifted. The "advent" we now hear about and pray for is the coming of the incarnate Son of God at the Nativity, that particular moment in human history when Jesus was born of Mary. We hear in the readings at Mass the prophecies concerning his birth, and the prayers used at Mass reflect this, as well. In fact, the collects for Mass, particular to each weekday, offer a precis of our faith in Christ's coming and themselves offer hints for the preacher.

Dec. 17-24 provides a particularly intense experience of this Advent focus. In the seventh century, what are now called the "O antiphons" were composed for prayer in preparation for the

solemn feast of the Nativity at Christmas, and are more popularly known today as the verses of the hymn "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel."

If we rely on the church's liturgy (as we should) to provide us with some pointers about how we can live and pray the season of Advent in our own lives, we discover a number of profound themes: preparation, readiness, expectation, joyful hope, a spirit of penitence, reformation of life and the beauty of the Incarnation.

Two of the earliest reflections on the beauty of the Incarnation come from St. Athanasius (+ AD 373) and St. Augustine (+ AD 430).

St. Athanasius emphasized the implicit link between human sinfulness and the decay and corruption all created realities (most notably ourselves) experience in this fallen world. He was not so much concerned with the "mechanics" of salvation in Christ, but rather with its rationale: why was it so fitting for God to become man in Christ?

Repentance, he contended, while necessary, was insufficient to calm the swelling storm of decay and death, which marks human existence. "No," he wrote, "repentance does not change (our) nature; repentance alone was not enough. What, or rather, who was required for the grace of restoration? Who, except the Word of God himself, who in the

beginning created everything out of nothing? It was his role — and his alone — to restore incorruption to what had become corruptible — he alone was able to recreate all and was worthy to suffer for all and to become an ambassador for all with the Father." — "On the Incarnation of the Word," 7.

For Athanasius, the Incarnate Word does more than simply

"Confessions," one which through literary technique artfully relates the Incarnation to the creation of the first human from the earth, describes the ironic interplay between human pride and divine humility in the drama of the Incarnation.

For Augustine it is precisely the humility of God, which should move our hearts to conversion. Imitation of this divine

makes those who are willing his own subjects, drawing them to himself, healing their pulsing pride and at the same time nurturing their own capacity to love. No longer self-confident, they become weak. They see at their own feet God-become-weak through his share in our garments of skin. In their weakness, they fall prostrate before this divine weakness, which itself rises and lifts them up." — "Confessions," 7.18.

It is God's remarkable humility in the face of human pride which offers us all hope.

The Advent season, marking the beginning of another liturgical year, is an excellent opportunity for spiritual renewal — personal and ecclesial — and is best accomplished by focusing on the fundamentals of the faith which the season itself reveals to us.

The early days of Advent then are an ideal time to speak about the church's teachings on the last things, in particular the general judgment and, at the same time, to reinforce the perils of any attempt to "read" world events in such a way as to predict the day or the hour.

offer us a model of behavior — he transforms our fallen nature and makes life with God a real possibility again. The very Word which is the instrument of creation becomes — in the Incarnation — the instrument of re-creation and renewal.

St. Augustine, in one of the most moving passages from his

humility, this divine weakness, is the prerequisite for genuine conversion: "Your Word, the Eternal Truth, higher than any part of your creation, lifts up to himself those who are humble. He built for himself here below a humble house of our clay. Through this, he breaks the bonds of those who are attached to themselves and

Father Michael Heintz is the rector of St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend.

Elijah taken to heaven in a whirlwind

What is the importance of the prophet Elijah?

The prophet Elijah is hailed by the Jewish people and is considered one of the most important figures in Old Testament history. He is called a non-writing prophet, because there is no book of Elijah in the Bible, as there are by other prophets, like Isaiah and Jeremiah. Rather the stories of Elijah are found in the historical book of 1 Kings.

Elijah came from the town of Tishbe in Gilead. Gilead is the territory east of the Jordan River and west of Ammon. Father John McKenzie describes Gilead as a rolling plateau watered by many streams and enjoying a good annual rainfall that gives it fertile soil. The Book of Numbers regards Gilead as excellent pasture land. The prophet Jeremiah speaks of the balm of Gilead.

The name Elijah means "my God is Yahweh." Thus the New American Bible says Elijah was the successful leader in the struggle to preserve the knowledge and worship of Yahweh against the worship of the pagan god Baal of Tyre (also called the cult of Melkart) introduced into Israel by Jezebel, the wife of King Ahab, who came from Tyre in Phoenicia or modern Lebanon. Elijah is also famous for his miracles and his denunciations of kings. He is a forerunner of the great day of the Lord.

Elijah practices his ministry in Israel from B.C. 874 to 852, during the reign of kings Ahab and Ahaziah. Elijah predicts a three-year drought and hides at Cherith, a brook or seasonal stream in Jordan. Here ravens bring him

bread and meat to eat and he drinks the water from the wadi. When the brook runs dry, Elijah moves to Zarephath in Phoenicia where he lives with a widow and her son and causes her jar of flour not to go empty and her jug of oil not to run dry. When her son stops breathing, he is raised up.

The town of Zarephath is eight miles south of Sidon on the coast of the Mediterranean Sea with a port. For security reasons, the modern village called Sarafand is perched on the hills. H. Vos says excavations have uncovered a stone quay outfitted with great stone rings for the mooring of ships. There is also a seventh century B.C. sanctuary with an offering table and benches along the wall and over 170 votive objects that are mostly figurines of a female deity. They uncovered an intact olive press, pottery ovens and even an inscription with the name of the town. S. Jenkins says Zarephath is mentioned in ancient Egyptian and Assyrian texts. The town was famous for glassmaking. The original port enclosed three small bays still used by fishermen today. During the Crusades, Zarephath was a large fortified town, the seat of a bishopric and home to the Carmelite order. There was a church of St. Elijah in the center of town.

Elijah then goes to Mount Carmel behind Haifa in Israel and meets King Ahab and 450 prophets of Baal. Elijah and the pagan prophets each place a cut-up young bull on wood for sacrifice and call on their respective god to start the fire. The pagan prophets call on Baal louder and louder but nothing happens. Elijah calls on Yahweh and fire comes down and



FATHER RICHARD HIRE

HIRE HISTORY

consumes the holocaust. Elijah then has the pagan prophets killed.

G. Freeman says the Mount Carmel range stretches for 15 miles with a width of five miles. One of the peaks at the southeast end is the traditional site of the contest between the priests of Baal and Elijah. Once there were small monasteries on top. At the foot of Mount Carmel is the Carmelite Monastery of Our Lady Star of the Sea. A path nearby leads to a cave where Elijah is said to have meditated when he fled from the wrath of Ahab and Jezebel on his way to Beersheba.

Beersheba is called the city of the Old Testament patriarchs and is the capital of the Negev desert, the southernmost part of Israel. At the well of Beersheba, Abraham made an oath with King Abimelech of Gerar that guaranteed Abraham unimpeded use of the spring. You can see the Well of Abraham today. Nearby is the Bedouin market or trading center.

Elijah then goes to Mount Sinai, the desert near Damascus, Gilead, Jezreel, Jericho and crosses the Jordan River where he is taken up into heaven in a whirlwind.

Meet The Priest

Father Joachim James Quadros

Ordained to the priesthood:
May 26, 1977
Pastor, St. Patrick, Ligonier and
Blessed Sacrament, Albion



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

I was an altar boy and wanted to do some missionary work.

What is the most rewarding part of being a priest?

Celebrating the Eucharist sacraments and reconciliation.

What interests or hobbies do you have?

I had interest in communication media all through my seminary days, and as a priest I showed slides and 16mm films on religion.

Do you have a pet?

No

What do you do for relaxation?

I try to read as much as I can.

What is your favorite reading material? Who are your favorite authors?

Books on religious themes, Anthony D'Mello, John Powel, etc.

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

The best thing of being

Catholic is protecting Christian values.

What is your favorite prayer?

Memorare

What is your favorite Scripture passage?

"I have carved you on the palm of my hand."

What is your favorite food?

whatever is available

What is something interesting about yourself that most people might not know?

I am simple, available and approachable.

How do you prefer to be addressed by the laity?

Father Jim

Sports

SXU 'ROAD WARRIORS' NEXT TEST FOR USF RALLY CATS Midwest heads midwest to play for a ticket south when St. Xavier University travels to the University of Saint Francis (USF) for one of two NAIA Football Championship Series semifinals on Saturday, Dec. 2. NAIA officials announced the semifinals late Saturday night. Centennial Wireless will have discount vouchers for USF fans, and tickets are on sale at the Tom Jehl Football Complex through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets will be on sale on Saturday at 10 a.m. when gates open for \$12.

ICCL basketball teams prepare for hardwood action

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — The Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) will formally open its basketball season Dec. 3 at Saint Joseph's and Marian high schools' gymnasiums with 12 varsity teams and 16 teams in the Colors Division.



"It is amazing and almost sounds like a miracle, but this hardwood program for Catholic school athletes has grown steadily ever since the circuit opened with only eight schools participating the first year in the winter of 1945," said William Sorukas who has spent more than 40 years in helping supervise the athletic programs of the ICCL.

At one time in the late 1940s and early 1950s, the ICCL had 18 individual schools participating in basketball, but consolidation of the institutions and the establishment of Saint Joseph's High School in South Bend and Marian High School in Mishawaka necessitated the division of the circuit into two divisions of teams: the John Bosco Division and the St. Martin De Porres Division.

The keen competition among the athletes, as well as the size of the competing schools, has neces-

sitated that east and west divisions be set up in the two divisions.

Less than a decade ago, the ICCL coaches felt that a separate Colors Division be set up for young athletes in the fifth, sixth and seventh grades to provide active experience since they have not yet reached the varsity level.

In the Colors Division, the proliferation of young athletes has enabled such teams as Christ the King to St. Thomas, Elkhart, to field three basketball teams each and St. Joseph of South Bend and St. Anthony to field two each.

The complete list of teams and coaches:

St. John Bosco East

Team	Coach
St. Anthony	Peter Gillis
St. Joseph (SB)	Randy Peppers
St. Matthew	Keith Weidner
St. Thomas	Eric Koch

St. John Bosco West

Christ the King	Jerry Fitzpatrick
Corpus Christi	Brad Klimek
Holy Cross	Dan Libertowski
Holy Family	Pat Catanzarite

St. Martin De Porres East

St. Bavo	Brian Arterbery
St. Joseph (Mish)	Les Dant
St. Monica	Phil Bergt
St. Pius	Joe Miller

St. Martin De Porres West

St. Adalbert-	
Our Lady of Hungary	Pat Girouard
St. John the Baptist	Steve Romans
St. Jude	Todd Parker
St. Michael	Brian Blake

ICCL Colors Division

Christ the King Blue	Keith Stone
Christ The King Gold	Tom Dockery
Christ the King White	Mike Presnal
Corpus Christi Blue	Chris Godfrey
Holy Cross Blue	TBA
Holy Family	
Columbia Blue	Dom Demeter
St. Anthony Gold	Steve Waltz
St. Anthony Maroon	Earl Keith
St. Joseph (SB) Blue	Ed Baumgartner
St. Joseph (SB) Gold	Randy Peppers
St. Jude Green	David Deranek
St. Matthew Black	TBA
St. Pius Blue	Joe Miller
St. Thomas Gold	Mike Brewers
St. Thomas Maroon	Mike DeBoni
St. Thomas White	Vince DelPrete

Thanksgiving weekend tournament tradition continues

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — A former Queen of Angels athletic director, Denny Jamison, first started coordinating an eight-team tournament for both boys and girls seventh-and-eighth-grade CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) teams. In 1993 the games were moved to the University of Saint Francis site. Then over the past few years, it was decided 10 teams could be "squeezed in."

So as tradition has it, 20 teams kicked off their 2006-2007 basketball season in a Friday, Saturday and Sunday marathon of games, 37 to be exact. And it all ran like clockwork.

Ribbons were given to the top four teams. This year's finish was as follows:

Boys	Girls
1. Benoit Academy	1. St. Peters
2. St. Vincent 7	2. Memorial Park
3. St. Joseph HC	3. St. Jude 7
4. St. Louis/St. Rose	4. St. Joe/St. Elizabeth

In boys' action, a scrappy Benoit team topped St. Vincent 7 in the championship game 39-29. Although missing two of their starters, Benoit could not be

stopped in their first appearance at the tournament. St. Vincent 7 beat St. Louis-St. Rose, 42-26, then St. Joseph Hesse Cassel, 39-35, en route to their runner-up finish.

The girls half of the court not only saw two overtime games, but also a very rare feat in a double elimination tournament. The team from St. Peters lost their first round game on Friday to St. Jude 7, 20-25, then came out of the loser's bracket to win seven straight for the championship. The final two games were against Memorial Park (2004, 2005 champions) who they had to beat twice on Sunday to take home the blue ribbon. The scores were 34-31 and 33-27. A team from Precious Blood had done this one other time "six or seven years ago" according to Jamison.

St. Peters beat St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth, 24-18, then turned around and beat St. Jude 7, 19-11, to determine the white and yellow ribbons.

Other teams participating this year were St. Charles 7, Queen of Angels 8, Queen of Angels 7, St. Therese and Precious Blood.

CYO AND DIOCESAN CHAMPS



PROVIDED BY ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

The St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, Eagles took the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) season and diocesan championship Nov. 5. This was the St. John's team's 33rd straight victory, and the Eagles finished with a perfect 11-0 record. "We're very proud of the kids," coach Jim Carroll told Today's Catholic in early November.

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Public television to debut artistic images of Virgin Mary

WASHINGTON — No one knows what she really looked like, yet the Blessed Virgin Mary stands among the most popular artistic subjects in history. In every medium, with every imaginable material, in tiny personal images and gigantic mosaics, artists have depicted her the world over.

"Picturing Mary," a stunning new high-definition documentary to debut next month on public television, explores how images of the virgin reflect numerous traditions, devotional practices and cultures. The one-hour program leads viewers on a pictorial journey through history from the earliest times to the present day and presents a stunning array of art from 12 locations in eight different countries.

"Picturing Mary" is a joint effort of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) and New York public television station Thirteen/WNET. The documentary follows their previous collaboration on the 2001 Emmy award-winning "The Face: Jesus In Art." The documentary is narrated by actress Jane Seymour and features quotations read by actor James Keach.

A Spanish version can be accessed using the SAP (secondary audio program) television control. "Picturing Mary" will be distributed to public television stations nationwide by American Public Television (APT) in December.

"This program is a Christmas gift from the Catholic Communication Campaign to TV viewers," says CCC Director of Production Ellen McCloskey. "In fact, many stations will present it on Christmas Eve or Christmas

Day. Like "The Face: Jesus in Art," "Picturing Mary" will become a perennial television favorite during the Advent and Christmas seasons."

Almost all of the artworks featured in "Picturing Mary" were filmed in situ, that is, in the original settings where they were intended to be viewed hundreds of years ago. Settings include the Basilica of St. Mark in Venice, Italy, home of one of the greatest paintings of the Venetian Renaissance, Titian's 22-foot-high "Assumption."

Other settings include Bruges, Belgium, where Jan van Eyck used what was then a new medium — oil — highlights Rembrandt van Rijn's work in the Dutch city of Amsterdam, where he created hundreds of etchings, prints and drawings to establish himself as the greatest illustrator of Scripture ever.

Devoted to realism, Rembrandt depicts Mary in "Death of the Virgin" not as the lovely maiden traditionally pictured, but as a sick old woman.

The use of the latest widescreen high definition technology enables startlingly beautiful pictures from far away places, including Mexico City, site of the magnificent Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

"Picturing Mary" allows viewers up-close virtual visits to some of the world's greatest masterpieces. At the Vatican the filmmakers capture Michelangelo's exquisite Pieta from behind the glass shield that has protected it since the early 1970s.

For a list of air dates and times, visit www.picturingmary.com.



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF ROSEMARY PLUM

Mary is seen in this detail from a painting by Simone Martini and Lippo Memmi. The production made possible in part by the U.S. bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign airs on public television stations starting in December.

PRESIDENT and PRINCIPAL

Peoria Notre Dame High School, a Catholic, diocesan, co-educational high school with 800 students, in Peoria, Illinois, is changing to the president-principal administrative model and therefore, seeks qualified persons for the position of **President** and for the position of **Principal** beginning July 1, 2007. Candidates for both positions must be practicing Catholics, have secondary school administrative experience, and hold at least a Masters Degree. Please visit www.cdop.org (click on Catholic Schools) for the official job description as well as application materials or visit the Peoria Notre Dame website www.peorianotredame.com. The application deadline for the President position is January 5, 2007. Interviews will take place in February. The application deadline for the Principal position is February 15, 2007. Interviews will take place in March. Interested individuals may also call the Office of Catholic Schools, Diocese of Peoria at (309) 671-1550 to obtain materials.

Executive Director

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Catholic Radio

1450 AM

Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio 1450 AM, seeks a full-time Executive Director to lead its operations and fund raising. This position recruits and coordinates all paid and volunteer staff. To apply, send resume and cover letter to:

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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.

DEVOTIONS

Catholic/Lutheran Vespers service

Fort Wayne — The fifth annual Catholic/Lutheran Advent Vesper service will be Sunday, Dec. 3, at 5 p.m. at Messiah Lutheran Church, 7211 Stellhorn Rd. Pre-service music will begin at 4:45 p.m. featuring a combined adult choir from area Catholic and Lutheran congregations. Refreshments and fellowship will follow in the church hall.

First Sunday rosary for families

Fort Wayne — The first Sunday rosary for families will be Sunday, Dec. 3, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at MacDougal Chapel with Father Dominique Carboneau and Sister M. Jane Carew attending.

First Saturday devotions

Fort Wayne — The World Apostolate of Fatima will hold devotions of reparation for peace at St. Joseph, corner of Brooklyn and Hale, Saturday, Dec. 2. Confessions at 7:15 a.m., meditation at 7:30 a.m., and the rosary at 7:45 a.m. with the Mass at 8 a.m. Breakfast and meeting will follow. First Saturday devotions are also held at St. Patrick, Arcola, St. John, New Haven, and St. Rose, Monroeville.

Day of Reflection

Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent, (across from Marian High School) on Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The theme is "Quiet Waiting." The cost of the day is \$15 and includes lunch. Bring your bible. Register by Friday, Dec. 8, to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Alumni needed

Fort Wayne — Alumni of St. Vincent de Paul School are asked to attend an open house commemorating the school's 50th anniversary Sunday, Jan. 28. E-mail Chris Hursh at chursh@saintv.org, or call (260) 489-3537 x247.

St. Casimir hosts St. Nicholas Day party

South Bend — A St. Nicholas Day (Mikolaj) party will be held at St. Casimir Parish on Friday, Dec. 8, at 6:30 p.m. in the annex at the corner of Dunham and Webster Streets. A traditional Polish meal will be served, including homemade pierogi, noodles, beef and coffee cake. Christmas carols (koledy) will be sung and there will be a visit from St. Nicholas. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for children and on sale at the parish office (574) 287-9551.

Pom Pons giveaway

Fort Wayne — At the Dec. 8, Bishop Luers girls and boys basketball games pom pons will be given to students in grades 5-12. 150 pompons will be given away at 6 p.m. before the girl's game and another 150 will be given away at 7:15 before the boy's game.

Our Lady of Guadalupe honored at Mass on her feast day

South Bend — St. Adalbert Parish will celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Tuesday, Dec. 12, with a bilingual Mass at 7 p.m.

Christmas party and meeting planned

South Bend — The Daughters of Isabella, Notre Dame Circle 572 will have a Christmas Party and meeting at the MR Falcon Hall on Bendix Dr. on Monday, Dec. 4, at 6 p.m. Members are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for distribution to the needy. A corporate Communion is scheduled for Sunday, Dec. 17, at the 9 a.m. Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral followed by breakfast at Cira's Restaurant.

Hand in Hand adoptions hold information meeting

Fort Wayne — A orientation meeting on international adoptions will be Tuesday, Dec. 19, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Dupont Library branch, 536 E. Dupont Rd. For information call (260) 636-3566.

Foresters plan Christmas party

Fort Wayne — The National Catholic Society of Foresters, St. Antoinette Court 870, is having a

potluck Christmas party on Sunday, Dec. 10, from noon to 4 p.m. at the Sacred Heart Parish School basement. For information call (260) 447-2357.

FUNDRAISERS

Cookie walk planned

Mishawaka — The St. Monica Rosary Society will have a cookie walk on Saturday, Dec. 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the lower level of the church, 222 W. Mishawaka Ave.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Dec. 1, 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, Dec. 1, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under. Fish, two sides and beverage are included.

Have breakfast with Santa

South Bend — The Camp Fire Girls will sponsor Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 9, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the St. Anthony School gym. Tickets are \$5 presale, \$7 at the door. Call (574) 234-4145 for tickets and information.

REST IN PEACE

Fort Wayne

Joseph G. Gunkel, 91, St. Patrick

John Alza Brewer, 81, St. Jude

Jeanette Brinker, 93, Most Precious Blood

Donald W. Mason, 83, Most Precious Blood

Granger

Henry DeVos, 93, St. Pius X

Mishawaka

Irene J. Witkowski, 96, St. Joseph

Victor A. Melchiorre, 85, St. Monica

South Bend

Albina L. Fryatt, 77, Christ the King

Frank J. Przybylski Sr., 50, St. Adalbert

Hattie A. Grabarz, 79, St. Stanislaus

Vincente A. Cervantes Jr., 9, St. Adalbert

Ruth Szerencse, 82, St. John the Baptist

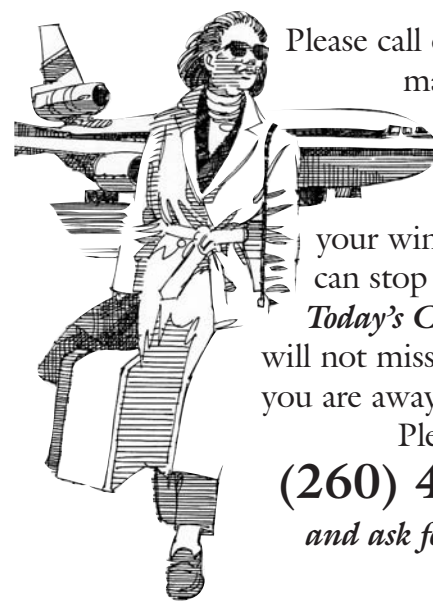
Blondyna W. Van Ooteghem, 91, Holy Family

Katherine A. Berger, 66, St. Jude

Syracuse

Bernard Edward Gotta Jr., 82, St. Martin de Porres

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It's the time of year to offer a helping hand

BY TIM JOHNSON

The following organizations, listed in the diocesan directory, have volunteer or donation opportunities. But don't forget your parish and our diocesan schools have many volunteer opportunities as well. Please check with them, too.

Cathedral Museum

915 South Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802; (260) 744-2765

Located on the lower level of the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, the museum is a repository of church-related artifacts staffed by volunteers.

Contact: Father Phillip A. Widmann

Catholic Charities

• **Auburn Community Service Center:**
107 W. 5th St., Auburn, IN 46706; (260) 925-0917 or (800) 875-4917

Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) and food pantry welcomes volunteers.

Serving DeKalb, LaGrange, Noble & Steuben Counties
Director: Patti Sheppard —
psheppard@ccfwsb.org

• **Elkhart Community Service Center**
421 S. Second St., Ste. 405, Elkhart, IN 46516 (574) 293-5481

Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP) utilizes volunteers.

Program coordinator: Karen Kandlstorfer —
kkandlstorfer@ccfwsb.org

• **South Bend Community Service Center**

1817 Miami St., South Bend, IN 46613; (574) 234-3111 or toll free (800) 686-3112

RSVP program utilizes volunteers.

Catholic Communications Office

915 S. Clinton, Fort Wayne, IN 46802; (260) 744-0012

Two live weekly television Masses utilizes volunteers.

Director: Vince LaBarbera —
vlabarbera@fw.diocesefwsb.org

Center for Basic Learning Skills

1130 West Thomas Street, South Bend, IN 46619

The aim of the center is to prepare young adults to take and to pass the GED test so that they may obtain satisfactory employment. The center's main teaching goals are in reading, math and English.

Contact: Sister Marita Stoffel, OSF

Center for the Homeless

813 S. Michigan St., South Bend, IN 46601; (574) 282-8700

The center has been at the forefront in providing services to homeless individuals and families through an approach that provides on-site services, and insists that homeless guests work continually at self-improvement. The center, in collaboration with several local agencies, offers on-site services providing mental health counseling, medical and dental services, job training and placement, AIDS testing and education, intensive outpatient treatment for individuals suffering from both a mental illness and chemical dependency, parenting programs, G.E.D.

classes, case management, shelter and meals for up to 200 individuals and families. The center is directed by five institutions: University of Notre Dame, City of South Bend, Junior League, United Religious Community and Junior League of South Bend. Catholic parishes and the diocese, through the Annual Bishop's Appeal, have been instrumental in supporting the center through financial contributions and volunteerism.

Executive director: Steve Camilleri

Web site: www.cfh.net;

E-mail: cfh@cfh.net

Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne

P.O. Box 12708, Fort Wayne, IN 46864, (260) 637-0077

Founded in 1997 the society provides layettes to needy babies in Allen County and coats, hats and mittens to underprivileged school children. Through project, My Stuff, needy children are supplied with a backpack of toiletries and school supplies. Volunteer tutoring at Benoit Academy. The Crib Club at the Women's Care Center allows clients to purchase new items through a coupon exchange.

President: Karen Wagner

Christ Child Society of South Bend

P.O. Box 1286, South Bend, IN 46624; (574) 288-6028 (answering machine)

Founded in 1947, the society gives new winter clothing to needy children of St. Joseph County and gives layettes to needy babies.

President: Mary Liddell, (574) 243-0259

Web site: www.christchildsb.org

Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (DCCW)

National federation which develops leadership and takes action on current issues in the church and society.

President: Georgetta Gunthorp (260) 367-2359

The Franciscan Center, Inc.

4643 Gaywood Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46806; (260) 744-3977

Sack Lunch Ministry, Food Pantry, Clothing Closet use volunteers

Director: Sally Ley —
sally@thefranciscancenter.org

Web site: www.thefranciscan-center.org

Our Father's House, Inc.

401 Argonne Road, Warsaw, IN 46580-3811; (574) 268-1800

Multi-function charity dedicated to serving the poor, with emphasis on maintaining the dignity of all recipients. Provides emergency assistance with food, clothing, furniture, diapers, and other types of aid for the needy. Operates Mary's House, a shelter for women and children returning to the community. Supported by donations and income from on-site thrift store.

Director: Roslynn Morgan

DWENGER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on the trips echo Kearneys.

"Being able to see it first hand has changed my life," says Reifenberg, who also volunteers for Habitat for Humanity locally.

Kai Young, a senior who has been going as long as Reifenberg, elaborates.

"So many times you do service that you know benefits people, but you don't see that benefit," he notes. Seeing the benefit might range from seeing a house nearing completion to encountering the people they are helping first hand. And since one of the requirements for qualifying for Habitat for Humanity is to contribute a certain number of hours toward the construction of the house, the Dwenger seniors had the opportunity to work side by side with the man whose house they were building. They recall him as being all smiles and perpetually giddy, as every step in the construction brought him closer to his family's new home.

Other positive encounters with people during the trip led the Dwenger seniors to conclude that southerners are friendly people, willing, for instance, to prepare home-cooked dinners every night of the trip. Numerous churches in the area shared this responsibility.

Visiting different church communities also guaranteed that the seniors had an experience that crossed not only into a different culture, but different faiths.

"It was nice just being with different people from different religions, just the diversity and to be able to explore each other's faith," recalls student Katie Schenkel.

And while the trip did not include something so dramatic as working in areas ravaged by Hurricane Katrina, it was still enough to make the seniors seriously consider the role service will play in their futures.

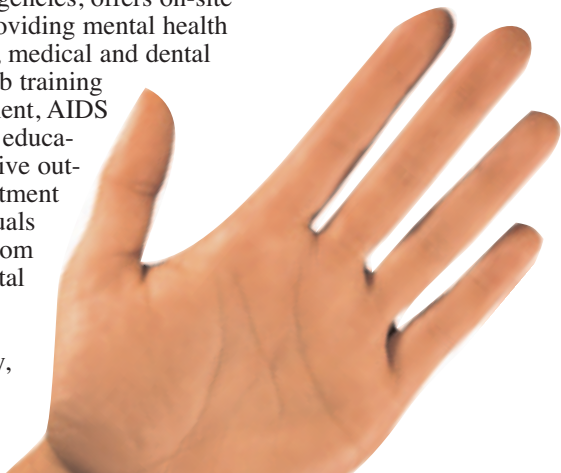
"I could see myself doing Habitat for a long time," says Jill Siefert. "When I'm in college, I'd really like to experience more habitat trips and maybe do a lot of traveling and help other people in different countries."

Ben Reifenberg notes that, while all jobs technically provide some sort of service, his mission trip experiences have helped him realize he wants to do something that directly impacts people's lives, "as opposed to sitting at a desk all day."

Alex Staudinger, who will be attending Purdue next fall draws similar conclusions, noting that while he hasn't chosen a major, "It's kind of helped me narrow it down to something that would involve helping people, whether that would mean teaching people or working with an organization like Habitat or like a doctor helps people."

For these students, the details will fall into place, but the constant is the notion of service. That is the essential part of the equation, as Kai Young notes.

"That's what brings the most joy."



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