

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

2007 Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year



BY KAY COZAD

Bishop John M. D'Arcy presided at a special inaugural Mass opening the Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year of prayer, evangelization and the pursuit of holiness for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend on Dec. 31 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. In his homily the bishop spoke of the importance of family, self-giving love and the grace that will take this 150-year-old diocese into the future.

Bishop D'Arcy proclaims opening of jubilee year

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Gloomy skies and torrential rains couldn't dampen the spirits of those who attended Sunday morning Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on New Year's Eve, December 31 marked not only the feast of the Holy Family this year but also the inauguration of the diocesan Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year in Fort Wayne.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy presided over the special Mass opening the diocesan-wide Jubilee Year saying, "On the feast of the Holy Family, we hold in our hearts the family of this diocese." As he spoke of the selfless love between husband and wife, he reminded the congregation it was symbolic of the love Jesus Christ has for his flock.

Bishop D'Arcy also spoke of the importance of family, quoting Pope John Paul II, saying, "The future of humanity passes by way of the family."

During his homily, Bishop D'Arcy also set forth the hope that the planned events throughout this jubilee year will "make each parish a family of God." The numerous activities include a call back to faith for non-practicing Catholics, parish missions, recon-

ciliation, regional confirmations and the continued travel of the Jubilee Pilgrim Cross culminating its journey at the Eucharistic Congress on the University of Notre Dame campus, scheduled for Aug. 18.

The bishop concluded his remarks with a request for prayer saying, "I ask for prayers for the diocese and the people to accept the call to faith and unselfish giving. As the diocese flourishes, we can give back to God what he has given us over the last 150 years."

Father Robert Schulte, vicar general, who celebrated Mass, said of the sesquicentennial year ahead, "It's an opportunity to look back on 150 years and how far we've come and (it) gives us a hope into how far we can go in the future."

In this year of prayer, evangelization and the pursuit of holiness, Bishop D'Arcy is grateful to be bishop of this diocese and says, "I joyfully look forward to the coming jubilee year."

The theme for the jubilee is "Behold the face of Christ: His steadfast love endures forever."

Bishop D'Arcy will celebrate the opening of the Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year in South Bend on Jan. 7 at the 9 a.m. Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral.

Let this year be a year of joy. Jubilee refers to jubilation, a time of joy and thanksgiving for the graces and blessings God has given to this diocese over 150 years.

We should greet the year with humility. This is always the right stance before God as Mary has shown us.

Like her, we also pray that the word of God may penetrate hearts during this year. This will happen if we make it a year of prayer and thanksgiving; a year of repentance and openness to the Holy Spirit.

It is a time to lay a foundation for the future so those who come after us in this holy place will be blessed. It is a year to give thanks for all that has happened.

It is a year to strengthen our communion with our bishop and, through him, with the Bishop of Rome, the Successor of Peter.

See jubilee calendar of events

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It is a year to reach out to those who have left the practice of their faith. It is a year to greet other Christians who are not in full communion with us and to pray for the restoration of that communion.

I place this Jubilee Year in the hands of Our Lady, patroness of our diocese, asking her to help us seek the face of Christ. Let us seek it in the word of God. Let us seek it in the Eucharist. Let us seek it in the poor.

I look forward to spending this splendid year with the people of our diocese.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

Most Reverend John M. D'Arcy

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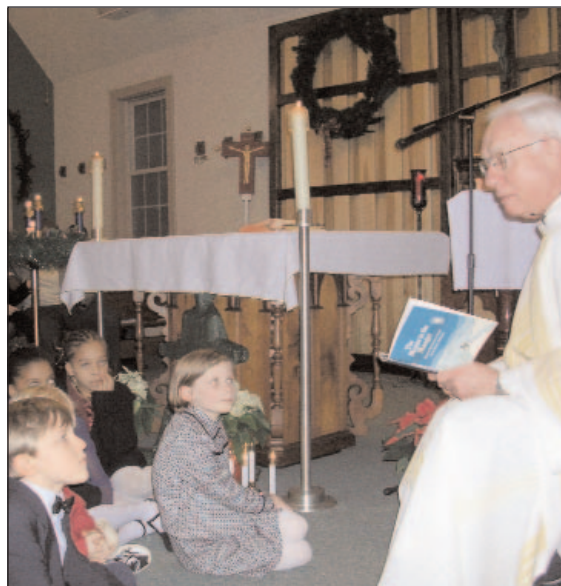
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CHRISTMAS EVE AT ST. AUGUSTINE



MAY LEE JOHNSON

Holy Cross Father Charles Lavelly reads, "A Mouse in a Manager" to the children at Christmas Mass held on Christmas Eve at St. Augustine Church in South Bend. The children also read, sang and performed skits that evening. More photos page 24.

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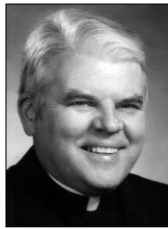
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Fostering vocations comes from homes, parishes and bishop



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Even in Christmas week the work continues

Now that Tony Steinacker has become Father Tony Steinacker, we have 17 young men preparing for the priesthood. So, the work of fostering vocations must continue. It is done primarily in the home and in the parish, but the bishop has a key role to play. With the help of our vocation office, Father Bernard Galic and his assistant, Mary Szymczak, we scheduled two Andrew Dinners this week, between Christmas and New Year's Day. In the Gospel of John, we read that Andrew brought his brother, Peter, to the Lord. So, priests are asked to bring young men to these dinners; not just any young men, but those whom they believe have a vocation to the priesthood. These evenings are very encouraging. The invitation to the young men came from priests. I think that counting both dinners, we had between 15 and 20 young men, most of them in high school but a few in college.

The first night was held at St. Pius X Parish, Granger, with Father Bill Schooler as host. In my usual brilliant planning, I thought it best to take the circuitous route, up 69 and down the toll road, which I understand is now owned by some company in Europe, Australia or wherever. It was a good decision because St. Pius is right next to an exit. I made the mistake of asking the young woman who took the toll where St. Pius Church was. "Take a right," she said. Excessively obedient, I took a right and followed a drive throughout St. Pius Parish. It is not a place where you can ask directions, but I must have passed every home in the parish, and wound up just over the Michigan line before I could find lights, stores and a gas station. I was quickly sent south to Ontario Road and Fir Road and St. Pius Parish.

There was still time to talk to the young men. They had watched an exceptional video on the priesthood prepared by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and had talks from two of our seminarians, Andy Budzinski, the former leprechaun of the Notre Dame cheerleaders and a graduate of Notre Dame, and Kevin Bauman, who chaired the modern language department at Notre Dame and taught Spanish. So, there was still an opportunity for some words from the bishop.

I was very impressed with the young men who were present. They came from Marian High School, Saint Joseph's High School, Penn High School and other places. After joining them for night prayer in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel, noting a beautiful new tabernacle brought west from Boston by Father Dan Scheidt, I was able to have a late supper.

A delightful visit then with Father Schooler, and I heard about the extraordinary crowds for Mass at St. Pius, as in all our churches. Also, I was pleased to hear

about the very large number of confessions at St. Pius before Christmas.

The next day, there was a meeting of the Serra Club at Holy Family in South Bend following a Mass. Thanks to the Serrans for their work on behalf of vocations.

Later in Fort Wayne

In Fort Wayne, we met at St. Charles Borromeo Parish. Here the two talks were given by Jake Runyon and Tink Coonan. Jake told us that his decision came when he was 15 and was at Denver at World Youth Day with Pope John Paul II. He noticed the priests and how happy they were. Tink (I think it stands for Terry), whose brother, Matt, is also studying for the priesthood for our diocese, told about his spiritual journey through St. Vincent de Paul Parish, the Life-Teen Program, which had a strong influence, and the University of Dayton. Once again, we retired to the Blessed Sacrament Chapel for night prayer. Young men came from Bishop Luers, Bishop Dwenger and Carroll high schools.

Other events

Our vocation office does much more than this. A group of priests and sisters visit each high school. Father Galic tells me how much the spirit has improved since they first started this effort over 10 years ago. Priests and religious also visit the fifth and eighth grades in our parish schools.

A number of vocation events are being planned for the Jubilee Year. Among them is a program entitled Called By Name in which laity give names to the bishop and the vocation office of young people whom they think may have a call to be a priest or religious. For the second year in a row, our seminarians will sponsor a retreat for young men out of high school who might be interested in the priesthood. This initiative came from the seminarians themselves. They learned some of it from other dioceses and have adapted it to our own situation.

There is another program which shows their wonderful imagination. I will tell you about that at another time. It deserves special mention.

Above all, prayer

Above everything else, there is prayer — the rosary, prayer before the Blessed Sacrament, prayer to the saints — which will bring, and is bringing more young men and women to seriously consider the priesthood and consecrated life. I am counting on all our people for this effort while I, as bishop, must always keep before me my serious responsibilities in this matter.

Christmas in this diocese

Once again, it was my privilege to celebrate this wonderful feast with our people. This year, I had the good fortune of driving to and from South Bend with our very dedicated, energetic and totally devoted master-of-ceremonies (and interim head of the Office of Worship), James Fitzpatrick. There was the usual huge crowd on Christmas Eve at St. Matthew Cathedral Church. A delightful meal served and cooked by the indefatigable rector of the cathedral, Father Michael Heintz.

Back through the night and a chance to

rest before the great honor of celebrating the midnight Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, followed by egg casserole, quiche and coffee cake with Father Robert Schulte, our wonderful and devoted vicar general and rector of the cathedral. With us were Father James Stoye and two visiting priests, Father Pius from Nigeria and Father Edward from Sri Lanka. We enjoyed each other so much it was hard to break, even though it was 2:30 in the morning.

Then there was a delightful morning Mass at the University of Saint Francis Chapel on television. In fact, both the midnight Mass and the morning Mass were televised. A new evangelization. Not new in content but new in ardor, in method and expression.

A quiet day then, with much thanksgiving to God. These great feasts become more and more cherished as I realize that there are not too many of them left for me as bishop of this diocese. I will stretch it out and take as many as I can.

And now the jubilee

It was my privilege to announce it at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 31, as I will this coming Sunday at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend. I hope you have a chance to read my pastoral letter, which is in this edition. I thank Tim Johnson and his excellent staff for preparing this historic edition, which will be sent to every home in the diocese. I hope everyone will take out a subscription. How else will you know about what is going on in this Jubilee Year, and how else will you know of the work that Christ is doing in our diocese?

A special thanks also to Craig Klugman, editor of the Fort Wayne *Journal Gazette*, and to Rosa Hernandez for her excellent, front-page article on our Jubilee Year, which appeared in the *Journal Gazette* last Sunday. Let us hope that the *South Bend Tribune* will do as well.

Mince pie

I must say a word of thanks to many people from all over the diocese who somehow knew about my favorite holiday delicacy, mincemeat pie. Pieces of this delicacy came from everywhere, and I have eaten most of them. Enough. Time to go back on a diet.

I will be heading to my hometown for a few days to visit my family, especially my sister, Mary, whom I commend to your prayers in her serious illness. While my home parish has closed, I have been invited by a neighboring pastor to celebrate a Mass there for my jubilee on Jan. 14, at St. Columbkille's Parish. Columbkille is an Irish saint and I remember the parish of which he is patron as a great Irish enclave; a place of great vitality with a parish school and even a high school. My family will be there and hopefully a few friends of my dear parents.

Hope to see you next week.

Pastoral letter on the threshold of the Jubilee Year, the 150th Anniversary of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

BY BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

We stand on the threshold of our observance of the 150th anniversary of the founding of our diocese by Blessed Pope Pius IX. This presents to us an opportunity, a moment of grace and a pastoral challenge.

To read the history of our diocese is to note with reverence the struggle of every generation to follow Jesus Christ and build a Catholic culture: to honor the family; to foster vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life; to erect churches so hearts and spirits can be raised to God in a worthy manner. These were the goals of those who went before us in this place.

As one looks back over the years, one finds evidence everywhere of the life of faith and of prayer, which must always accompany growth in faith. This is shown in a variety of ways. From the earliest days we find devotion to the Blessed Sacrament; constant devotion to Our Lady and the erection of churches in her honor. Also, there is the building of schools and the establishment of catechetical programs for those in public schools so the young may meet Jesus Christ and so that the Catholic tradition of honoring faith and reason may be respected.

A particularly noteworthy part of the history of our diocese entails the establishment here of some of the great religious communities coming from Europe, followed by the flourishing of those congregations. This century and a half is especially marked by the presence of those priests, brothers and sisters in apostolates and ministries, which nourished the entire diocese.

It is also important to note the arrival of immigrants over several generations and the welcome that they received in our parishes; the response of the church's leadership to the signs of the times and to the

challenges brought by a secular culture ever more aggressive and challenging, and always there is the singular importance of the parish priest.

This has been a local church marked by a missionary spirit. Indeed, it was established by missionaries, men and women who came this way after a journey of great sacrifice. So, let us look to some of the characteristics, which can be found in those who came here in the early days to a rough and untamed land and to those who followed them. They possessed a spirit of sacrifice and a willingness to endure, and even embrace, suffering and hardship and to see it as a sharing in the cross of Christ. They had a strong and unwavering sense of the providence of God and an intimate relationship with the person of Jesus Christ, our savior, fostered by prayer and his presence in the Eucharist, evident in the letters they left behind and which still inspire us.

It seems appropriate to speak of four of these missionaries. First, there is Rev. Edward Sorin, the founder of several of our parishes in the South Bend area and of the University of Notre Dame. He came accompanied by several Brothers of Holy Cross. Listen to his assurance of the Lord's presence accompanying him and his companions in the rough Indiana wilderness:

"This very evening we have hung up in our little chapel our sanctuary lamp only the second to be found in this vast diocese. It burns now before our modest altar ... across the woods we see the lamp that lights up the mean dwelling where our good master resides, we know full well that we are not alone. Jesus Christ dwells in our midst and we take courage. We come to visit him and in the night as in the day our eyes are fixed upon the tabernacle." — "Letter of Edward Sorin to Basil Moreau: Edward Sorin," M O'Connell.

Then there is Mother Theodore Guerin, recently declared a saint, founder of the Sisters of Providence, and one of the founders of the Catholic school system in our diocese. On her arrival in Indiana, Mother Guerin expressed the deep desire of herself and her companions to experience the presence of Christ in the Eucharist before doing anything else:

"We had agreed among ourselves that our first visit would be made to the Blessed Sacrament, and that we would not speak to anyone before having satisfied the longing of our hearts." — "Journals and Letters of Mother Theodore Guerin: Founder of the Sisters of Providence," ed Sister Mary Theodesia.

We also learn of Angelique Campeau, a lay catechist who worked alongside Father Stephen Badin, the first priest ordained in what became the United States, in catechizing the Potawatomi Indians. She remains an inspiration to the many lay catechists now teaching in our diocese.

We also see in the history of our diocese the extraordinary witness of Msgr. Julian Benoit, the intrepid French missionary, the builder of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception who can be called the founder of the church in the Fort Wayne area.

I mention these few because they are typical of the early spiritual founders, and because we need to learn of their spirit so we might know more clearly from whence we came and also what it is that God is asking of us as we live together the challenge of this year of jubilee.

Sir, we want to see Jesus

As we look to the past for inspiration, we must realize that the year of the jubilee points ahead. As we look to the holy men and women who established the church here and preached the Gospel and lived it, we, like they, must face the questions that the times and the prevailing culture are putting to us as followers of Jesus Christ.

Pope John Paul II, who guided the church into the new millennium, turned to the Scriptures to find the question that is in the hearts of the men and women of this age. It is the question I wish to place before our diocese as we set forth on this jubilee; the question Pope John Paul II placed before the church as part of the observance of the Great Jubilee of the Year 2000. It remains fresh in our hearts and minds. We have made it the central theme of this jubilee year. It is a call to prayer, a call to holiness.

"We wish to see Jesus." (Jn 12:21)

This request, addressed to the Apostle Philip by some Greeks who had made a pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the Passover, echoes spiritually in our ears too during this jubilee year. Like those pilgrims of 2,000 years ago, the men and women of our day — often perhaps unconsciously — ask believers not only to 'speak' of Christ, but in a certain sense to 'show' him to them. And is it not the church's task to reflect the light of Christ in



TIM JOHNSON

Saint Mother Theodore Guerin's tapestry hangs at St. Peter's Basilica on the day of her canonization, Oct. 15, 2006. A pilgrim group, representing the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, attended the canonization. She is the first saint canonized from Indiana and is considered one of the founders of Catholic education in the diocese. Foundress of the Sisters of Providence of Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Mother Theodore sent sisters to staff St. Augustine Academy in Fort Wayne in 1846.

every historical period, to make his face shine also before the generations of the new millennium? Our witness, however, would be hopelessly inadequate if we ourselves had not first contemplated his face." — "Novo Millennio Ineunte," apostolic letter, Pope John Paul II

Our call then in this jubilee year, the call of every parish and of all our ministries and apostolates is first of all a call to prayer. When as individuals and parishes our habit of prayer grows strong, then we will be accompanied by Christ as we spread the word of God. Our evangelization, our outreach, risks becoming sterile if it is not rooted in prayer and the devout reception of the sacraments and openness to the Gospel of Christ.

Everywhere there is hunger for a faith which is alive and which helps others to believe. Pope Paul VI put it graphically in his beautiful reflection on evangelization.

"The world, in spite of the general opinion to the contrary, and although it gives every outward sign of denying God, is in fact seeking God by strange ways and is in desperate need of God. This world is looking for preachers of the Gospel to speak to it of God whom they know as being close to them, as though seeing him who is invisible. The world expects of us, and demands of us, a life of simplicity, the habit of prayer, charity towards all and especially towards children and the poor. It expects obedience and humility, forgetfulness of self and abnegation. If these signs of sanctity are wanting, our words will not reach the hearts of men in our

time. There is a grave danger that they will be vain and sterile." — "Evangelii Nuntiandi," Pope Paul VI

How then can we meet this need, this hunger so evident in our times? What means can we take so that the people of our time are helped to contemplate the face of Christ and so that the spiritual hunger of our times can be met? In short, how can this year of jubilee help us to live our vocation to come to know Jesus Christ and help others to know him?

What I am asking of myself and of all of us is that we embrace this as a year for the pursuit of holiness. It is a year to be marked by prayer in the parish and by efforts of evangelization rooted in prayer.

What I pray for, under God's grace, is that this year of prayer and outreach, of repentance and return, of sorrow for sin and hope in Jesus Christ will give light for the years that follow. The jubilee must be seen as a spiritual retreat. We are called to become a church that prays and prays more intensely.

Christ called the apostles to "come apart and rest" with him awhile before sending them out. So it must be with us. (cf Lk 6:12-16) This is the great apostolic paradox — to be with him, and also to be sent out by him. It must guide us still.

Pope John Paul emphasized again and again that there is no effective evangelization without contemplation. Our going forth will not bear fruit unless time is



Holy Cross Father Edward Sorin is the founder of several parishes in the South Bend area and of the University of Notre Dame.

PROVIDED BY BROTHER CHARLES MCBRIDE, CSC

PASTORAL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

first spent with him. This is time for prayer. We must do both; not necessarily one first and the other second, but both together. Here are the means that I will ask each parish to employ, remembering always that we are beginning something, or rather renewing something that many did before us. What we do as a diocese this year will light the way for the years that follow.

The parish mission

This is a time of prayer and evangelization. I request every parish to have a mission, which will include outreach and invitation to Catholics who have left the practice of their faith. In order to make this possible, I ask every parish to schedule their mission between Jan. 1, 2006 and Dec. 1, 2008. Thus, we include the year just completed, and this gives parishes a full three-year period allowing time to schedule and prepare a truly parish-wide mission in every parish. It is recommended that the Office of Spiritual Development be used. In that program, priests, religious and laity from our diocese present the instructions on the word of God. When this happens, both the presenter and the listener are served spiritually. It is a more complete time of renewal. If a parish does choose another group of missionaries, they must use the preparation methods of evangelization as perfected by our diocesan office. This includes personal contact, a letter from the pastor as well as a phone call to each parishioner, and a time of intense intercessory prayer before and during the mission. This preparation involves the whole parish, led by the pastor, in prayer, outreach and preparation. The Office of Spiritual Development stands ready to give help to all parishes in the preparation, including those who might choose a missionary from outside the diocese. The mission must include opportunities for the sacrament of penance, as well as

instruction on both penance and the holy Eucharist.

During Lent 2007, there will be several simultaneous efforts to draw people closer to Christ and his church.

The media

There will be extensive use of television, radio, billboards and other instruments made possible by a grant from Our Sunday Visitor, inviting everyone, but especially inactive Catholics, to "come home" to Christ and the church.

Mercy Day

Following a diocesan-wide effort, which will include a 1-800 phone number for those seeking counseling and help before returning to the sacrament of penance, all priests will make themselves available, on a particular day, for the sacrament of penance at a time and date to be announced.

Wells of Hope

This is an original instrument prepared for our diocese by our Office of Spiritual Development. It has already begun and will include the training of disciples to go two-by-two to visit people who might be interested in returning to the practice of their faith. This splendid effort can also be linked with the parish-wide mission. In the visit, people can be invited to attend the mission.

Expansion of eucharistic adoration

Every parish should consider increasing the hours of exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and should make clear intentions of prayer for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life.

Intensified efforts to reach, love and serve the poor in each parish

The encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI, "Deus Caritas Est," calls us to this effort.

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

"For the church charity is not a



DON CLEMMER

Diocesan youth director Cindy Black initiated XLT, praise and worship music, reflection and time with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. XLT appeals to high school and college age Catholics to draw them into worship. The first diocesan XLT took place Sept. 28, 2006 at St. Mary Church, Fort Wayne.

kind of welfare activity which could equally be left to others, but is a part of her nature, an indispensable reflection of her very being." — "Deus Caritas Est," Pope Benedict XVI.

Renewal of the sacrament of penance

This is to take place on the diocesan level through Mercy Day, which will be accompanied by extensive media efforts to call people back to this sacrament and to the full practice of their faith, and by a special telephone number through which people can receive counseling and discuss personal problems, which may have prevented them from returning to the practice of their faith. As valuable as this intense effort will be, our

priests are well aware that efforts to draw people to Christ who awaits them in the sacrament of penance and in the celebration of the holy Eucharist must be ongoing throughout the year in every parish.

Family life

Parishes and pastors must look for ways, in collaboration with the diocesan Office of Family Life, to help parents form their families as communities of faith, prayer and service. Pope John Paul II set forth this beautiful vision for Catholic family life in the following way: "Catholic parents must learn to form their family as a 'domestic church,' a church in the home, as it were, where God is honored, his law is respected, prayer is a normal event, virtue is transmitted by word and example, and everyone shares

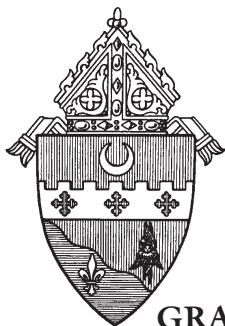
the hopes, the problems and sufferings of everyone else. All this is not to advocate a return to some outdated style of living: it is to return to the roots of human development and human happiness!" — "Homily at the Aqueduct Race Track," New York, 1995

As part of this intensified effort to help build a Catholic culture in the home, the parish should look for opportunities to present to married couples and to couples preparing for marriage the beauty of the church's teaching on marriage, family, sexuality and the human body.

Evangelization and catechesis of young people

A recent study entitled Soul Searchers has examined the efforts of various churches and religious groups to reach young people with the message of the Gospel. The study found that when Catholics engage and educate young people, especially teenagers, there is strong response. Alas, it found, with some encouraging exceptions, that Catholics do not do this adequately. In great part, we have failed to show our young people the face of Christ. We have not heard and attended to their cry, the cry given to the Apostle Philip on the day of the great feast, "We want to see Jesus." As part of the jubilee year, I ask every parish to assess the effort it is making for the sanctification and instruction of young people. I pledge to work with our Office of Youth Ministry, our Office of Catechesis, our Office of Young Adult Ministry and our parishes to enhance this effort. The following characteristics should be part of every parish effort to reach our young people.

1. Instruction on the holy Eucharist, a multifaceted mystery, and help to pray well at Mass, along with time for quiet prayer in the presence of the Blessed



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Sacrament.

2. Instruction and catechesis presented in a way that is attractive, with exchange in conversations and questions and answers between young people and the priest, as well as between young people and their lay leaders. Young people today are growing in sophistication in many of the disciplines they study. They are highly technological and the Internet is part of their lives. The Internet itself brings about interesting and valuable information as well as dark and offensive images. Young people must be educated to know the difference and helped to have the grace and strength to make the right choices. As they become better and better educated at an early age, we cannot allow that the Catholic Church, which has always honored faith and reason, the church of the great universities, the church, which fosters education, should fail to instruct its young people.

"In our pastoral care we ask ourselves: How are we to reveal Jesus Christ, God made man, to the multitudes of children and young people, reveal him not just in the fascination of a first fleeting encounter but through an acquaintance growing deeper and clearer daily, with him, his message, the plan of God that he has revealed, the call he addresses to each person and the kingdom that he wishes to establish..." — "Catechesi Tradendae," John Paul II, page 31

3. Service. Pope Benedict XVI has called the whole church to the ministry of charity and the element of service to those who are in need, including the disabled, must be a component of every parish in its work with our youth so that in their early years they may recognize Christ in their neighbor who is in need.

4. The training of adults who are to serve as teachers, core team members, organizers and mentors. They must work in close harmony with the priest. A program where the young people do not experience the close pastoral presence of the priest lacks an essential component. At the same time, a youth initiative which lacks the presence of lay people, including married couples, lacks a necessary vital presence. Many parishes take great advantage of programs provided by the diocese; many of them linked with the theology department at the University of Notre Dame for the training of catechists. Some parishes have not sent teachers to these programs. The parish council or other appointed committee should work closely with the pastor for constant training — year after year — of new catechists to teach our young people and to teach on the adult level as well.

The jubilee year. Not an end, but a beginning

Like those who went before us, we are called to do those things which will strengthen the church for decades to come. Our jubilee year, then, is not an end, but a beginning.

Our call is to establish strong foundations in certain key areas of pastoral life, to put in place a structure for faith and prayer, which will bring forth fruit in the years to come. It may be some time before this year of planting brings forth the desired fruit. That

is the way of grace and the way of salvation. As Cardinal Ratzinger once said to me at an "ad limina" visit, "That is salvation history. One person sows and another reaps."

But let us begin.

I ask each parish to initiate conversations and planning in the following areas.

1. A program of prayer and outreach including, but not limited to, a parish mission.

2. A program of prayer for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life, which will include eucharistic adoration. The Office of Worship will be providing help to every parish.

3. An evaluation of the present parish youth ministry program to be conducted in close collaboration with our Office of Youth Ministry. As Pope Benedict XVI pointed out in conversation with parish priests in northern Italy, it may be that smaller parishes may have to be linked together. A program of youth ministry in the parish should include the four foundations, which are indicated above. Our Office of Youth Ministry is ready and eager to help.

4. The training of catechists. Many parishes take advantage of programs prepared by the diocese for the training of catechists and for adult religious education.

The catechetical program in a parish can only fully flourish when there are strong programs of adult education. A number of parishes have made great advances in this area and every parish is called to this. Many adult Catholics are hungry to know their faith.

5. Every parish should reflect on the ministry of charity, recognizing that service to the poor and those in need is closely linked to the Eucharist. The parish should search out the poor and see what needs are not being met. The parish council or committee appointed to this should read carefully "Deus Caritas Est" of Pope Benedict XVI, keeping in mind his words: "Within the community of believers, there can never be room for poverty that denies anyone what is needed for a dignified life."

The events

The main event is the Eucharistic Congress to be conducted on Aug. 18 at the University of Notre Dame. It will include an ecumenical service; catecheses at different locations throughout the campus; eucharistic adoration; the rosary at regular intervals at the Notre Dame grotto; opportunity for the sacrament of penance; special programs for young people; and an exhibition of art. It will conclude late Saturday afternoon with the celebration of the Eucharist at the Joyce Center. The entire diocese will be called to attend this event. There will be no parish Masses that Saturday afternoon throughout the diocese, no weddings, funerals or athletic events and no parish confessions, as all the priests will be at Notre Dame where they will be hearing confessions and presenting catecheses.

There will be two diocesan regional confirmations in September — one in South Bend and one in Fort Wayne — showing the unity of our young people and

of our families.

The Jubilee Pilgrim Cross will continue its pilgrimage through parishes and institutions, carried by our young people so that all may observe the instrument of our salvation and be drawn to him. "And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." — Jn 12:32, New American Bible

A personal note

During this jubilee year, it will be my great privilege to celebrate 50 years as a priest. Filled with gratitude and also a great sense of unworthiness, We will celebrate this event on Sunday, April 15, 2007. I hope we can show forth the vocation of the priest and bishop in such a way that other young men will hear the call of Christ and respond. Let us approach this year with humility, with sorrow for sin, and with gratitude to Jesus Christ for his gifts to this diocese over a century and a half. Let us approach it also with a prayer of petition that the Most Holy Trinity will shower many gifts upon us in

this year and, like those who went before us, the seeds to be planted may fall on good ground and bring forth a hundredfold. Let us make it a joyful year for joy is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

To contemplate the face of Christ and to contemplate it with Mary

On Dec. 8, we will celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of our diocese. On that day in the cathedral church dedicated to her under this title and in all the parish churches in the diocese, we will consecrate our diocese, our people and our future to her, knowing that her prayer of intercession will bring countless blessings and graces in the years to come. We will entrust this beloved diocese to her and pray for all those who come after us in this holy place.

The beautiful jubilee image, typical of many of the works of art in our diocese, also shows our theme: Behold the Face of Christ, and also the millennium admonition of Pope John Paul II: "Contemplate the Face of Christ and Contemplate It with Mary."

Together, let us seek and behold the face of Christ. I call all in our diocese, our priests, our religious, all our parishes and all our people to seek the face of Christ in prayer; in reparation for sin, especially through the sacrament of penance; in outreach and evangelization; in improved ministry to and with our young people; in the training of catechists and programs of adult religious education; and through works of charity for those in need.

May God bless our journey, our jubilee year. I place it in the hands of Our Lady, our patroness.

Together, let us seek the face of Christ. His steadfast love endures forever.

+ John M. D'Arcy

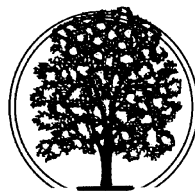
Most Reverend
John M. D'Arcy
Jan. 1, 2007
Feast of the Mother of God



TODAY'S CATHOLIC ARCHIVES

The Jubilee Pilgrim Cross continues its journey across the diocese from parish to parish with academic and religious congregation visits included. In 2007, the cross journeys onward to South Bend and will culminate at the Eucharistic Congress on Aug. 18 at the University of Notre Dame. The cross is shown in procession to Most Precious Blood Parish last spring.

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World needs a savior despite modern advances, pope says at Christmas

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Celebrating Christmas at the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI said the world still needs a savior, despite technological advances that make humanity consider itself the “self-sufficient master of its own destiny.”

At Midnight Mass in St. Peter's Basilica, the pope said the birth of Christ should focus attention on all the suffering and abused children in contemporary society.

Later, in a Christmas Day blessing “urbi et orbi” — to the city of Rome and the world — he said recent developments like space travel, genetic engineering and the Internet only accentuate man's need for spiritual salvation.

“In this postmodern age, perhaps he needs a savior all the more, since the society in which he lives has become more complex and the threats to his personal and moral integrity have become more insidious,” the pope said.

The Mass and blessing, broadcast around the world, were the public highlights of the pope's Christmas, but the 79-year-old pontiff also marked the festivities in quieter gatherings with friends and colleagues.

An old friend drove down from Germany with three small Christmas trees — which were decorated and placed in the papal apartment — and several batches of Bavarian cookies. A separate gift of venison meat arrived from Germany in time for Christmas dinner.

On Christmas Eve, as a crowd gathered for the unveiling of the Vatican's own larger-than-life Nativity scene in St. Peter's Square, the pope made his way to the packed basilica for midnight Mass.

Young children from five continents brought flowers to a statue of the baby Jesus in front of the altar, a moment that highlighted the liturgy's international atmosphere.

In a sermon, the pope said the meaning of Christmas was quite simple: God “makes himself small for us.”

“This is how he reigns. He does not come with power and outward splendor. He comes as a baby — defenseless and in need of our help,” he said.

“In this way God teaches us to love the little ones. In this way he teaches us to love the weak. In

this way he teaches us respect for children,” he said.

The pope said Christmas should draw people's attention to all children who suffer and are abused in the world, “the born and the unborn,” particularly those who are hungry, unloved, forced to beg or “placed as soldiers in a violent world.”

He emphasized that the sign of Christmas — a newborn baby lying in a manger — corresponds with the essentially straightforward message brought by Jesus: to love God and love one's neighbor.

“This is everything — the whole faith is contained in this one act of love which embraces God and humanity,” he said.

He said this core message has sometimes been turned into something long and complex, especially by Scripture experts and in particular problems, almost to the extent of losing an overall perspective.”

In the season of giving at Christmas, the pope encouraged people to reflect the spirit of Jesus' selfless love.

“When you give gifts for Christmas, do not give only to those who will give to you in return, but give to those who receive from no one and who cannot give you anything back,” he said.

At noon the next day, in an event broadcast to some 60 countries, the pope offered his blessing and pronounced Christmas greetings in 62 languages, including Chinese, Arabic and Latin.

“May the birth of the Prince of Peace remind the world where its true happiness lies; and may your hearts be filled with hope and joy, for the Savior has been born for us,” he said in English.

Speaking from the central outside balcony of St. Peter's Basilica, the pope asked whether the idea of a savior still has meaning “for a humanity that has reached the moon and Mars and is prepared to conquer the universe; for a humanity which knows no limits in its pursuit of nature's secrets and which has succeeded even in deciphering the marvelous codes of the



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI blesses pilgrims from the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican Dec. 25 during his Christmas Day blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city of Rome and the world). In a long Christmas message to Christians in the Middle East Pope Benedict prayed that despite their enormous suffering they would stay in the region and work for peace.

human genome?”

“Is a savior needed by a humanity which has invented interactive communication, which navigates in the virtual ocean of the Internet and, thanks to the most advanced modern communications technologies, has now made the earth, our great common home, a global village?” he asked.

Yet despite these advances, he said, the need for Christianity's saving message is also evident: many people continue to die of hunger, disease and poverty, even in an age of unbridled consumerism; some are enslaved and exploited; and some are victims of racial or religious

hatred and discrimination.

“Others see their own bodies and those of their dear ones, particularly their children, maimed by weaponry, by terrorism and by all sorts of violence, at a time when everyone invokes and acclaims progress, solidarity and peace for all,” he said.

“May the birth of the Prince of Peace remind the world where its true happiness lies.”

POPE BENEDICT XVI

The pope said the catalogue of suffering includes those misled by “facile prophets of happiness,” who struggle with relationships, loneliness, alcohol and drugs, and who “choose death in the belief that they are celebrating life.”

All this adds up to a “heart-rending cry for help,” he said. It illustrates that despite humanity's material progress it always needs a savior to help choose between good and evil.

The pope then turned his attention to areas of conflict throughout the world:

- He made an “appeal to all those who hold in their hands the fate of Iraq, that there will be an end to the brutal violence that has brought so much bloodshed to the country, and that every one of its inhabitants will be safe to lead a normal life.”

- He said he was deeply apprehensive about the continuing crisis in the Middle East, but expressed hope at recent signs of a resumption of dialogue between Palestinians and Israelis. In a separate Christmas message to Middle East Catholics, he also said he wanted to visit the Holy Land as soon as circumstances permitted such a pilgrimage.

- He lamented the destruction and uncertainty in Lebanon, where a war last summer left many victims, but said he was confident that a democratic Lebanon would survive.

- He urged an end to civil strife in Sri Lanka, and prayed that fratricidal conflicts in Darfur and other African areas would cease.

The pope then explained why Christmas should stimulate the church in its evangelizing mission. The belief that “our Savior is born for all” must be proclaimed in word and deed by Christians everywhere, he said.

The church evangelizes with passionate enthusiasm, with joy and with full respect for all cultural and religious traditions, he said.

He ended his talk with a direct appeal to the millions watching and listening around the world to “open your hearts” to Christ as the savior of the world.

On Dec. 26, the pope recalled the feast of St. Stephen, the first martyr, and prayed for Catholics who are persecuted today because they show fidelity to the Vatican “without accepting compromises, sometimes at the price of serious consequences.”

The pope appeared to be referring to China, where a government-approved Catholic association rejects Vatican ties, and where underground Catholics loyal to Rome have been the targets of discrimination.

“The entire church admires this example and prays so that they have the strength to persevere,” the pope said.

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President Gerald R. Ford brought healing to wounded nation

BY JERRY FILTEAU

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In his brief, unelected tenure in the nation's highest office, President Gerald R. Ford restored integrity and character to the White House and brought a measure of healing to a country badly wounded and divided by the Watergate scandal.

Ford, who had a bout with pneumonia last January and two heart treatments in August, died Dec. 26 at his home in Rancho Mirage, Calif. He was 93.

In a Dec. 27 statement, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops called Ford "a great and good man who served his country with distinction."

"As a healing presence for the nation at a time when it was much needed, President Ford earned his country's lasting gratitude," said Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash. "We pray for the repose of the soul of our 38th president and express our heartfelt condolences to his wife and family."

During his 30-month presidency, South Vietnam fell to the communist forces of the North, high Nixon administration officials were found guilty of Watergate crimes, a blue-ribbon commission

found the CIA was engaged in illegal activities, the U.S. Supreme Court reinstated the death penalty, the United States took in more than 140,000 South Vietnamese refugees and the country celebrated its bicentennial.

He contributed to better relations between Israel and Egypt, increased U.S. food aid abroad and reached a new nuclear arms limitation agreement with the Soviet Union. With the nation facing energy shortages in the wake of the 1973 gas crisis, he negotiated a fine line between high inflation and recession.

He liked to describe himself as "a moderate in domestic affairs, a conservative in fiscal affairs and a dyed-in-the-wool internationalist in foreign affairs."

In his 1979 autobiography, "A Time to Heal," he said he regarded healing the country after Watergate as his greatest accomplishment.

The single most important act in that effort, taken a month after he was sworn in, was to pardon his disgraced predecessor, Richard M. Nixon, of any crimes he may have committed in the Watergate cover-up. It was an action that provoked far wider and deeper anger than he had expected, but it prevented a lengthy trial that almost surely

would have mired the nation in deeper divisions and bitterness.

He said he pardoned Nixon for the nation's sake, not Nixon's.

The first president to take office after the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court decisions requiring states to allow abortion virtually on demand, Ford favored a constitutional amendment that would restore to the states the right to regulate abortions. The U.S. Catholic bishops opposed his approach, arguing that an amendment prohibiting abortion on the federal level was needed so that all states would have to ban the practice.

Ford, who was Episcopalian, won some favor from Catholic officials because of his support of federal aid to parochial schools, his increase of U.S. food aid in the face of widespread famine in 1975, his welcoming of Vietnamese refugees, his support for immigration reform that made family reunification easier and his efforts at detente with the Soviet Union.

But the bishops opposed his domestic policies of reducing the food stamp program and other areas of social welfare. He was criticized by religious leaders for vetoing a public works program that would have created 600,000 new jobs and for supporting covert CIA operations that involved using missionaries as information sources — a policy seen as undermining missionary activity.

Against arguments from church leaders that in vetoing several social welfare bills he was not sensitive to the needs of the poor and unemployed, he said in a 1976 interview, "If I approved every bill that Congress enacted, we would impose the cruelest tax of all on all our people, which is inflation."

In fact, he lowered the rate of inflation from about 9 percent at



CNS PHOTO/KNA

Former U.S. President Gerald Ford is pictured with Pope Paul VI at the Vatican in this 1975 file photo. Ford died Dec. 26 at the age of 93.

the start of his term to less than 6 percent by the end; under his successor, President Jimmy Carter, inflation zoomed into double digits, peaking at 13.5 percent in 1980 and contributing significantly to a long-term rise in conservative influence in U.S. politics.

In a speech at the 41st International Eucharistic Congress, held in Philadelphia in 1976, Ford expressed concern about the "growing irreverence for life" in the United States.

A month later, in a letter to a delegation of U.S. bishops that was released following an hourlong meeting with them in the White House, he spelled out his convictions on a number of issues of concern to the bishops, including abortion.

"Abortion on demand is

wrong," he said, adding that every state should have a constitutional right to control abortion and expressing his belief that such laws need to "recognize and provide for exceptional cases."

After the Vietnam War ended, he established a Clemency Board that included two nationally known priests — the Notre Dame University president, Holy Cross Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, and the U.S. bishops' secretary for social development and world peace, Msgr. Francis Lally — to deal on a case-by-case basis with Vietnam War opponents who had resisted the draft or deserted the military for reasons of conscience.

He met with Catholic leaders on several occasions to discuss issues the country faced, including abortion, domestic health and welfare policies, Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees, immigration law reform and issues of humanitarian aid and human rights in U.S. foreign policy.

In 1975 during a trip to Europe he met with Pope Paul VI.

In August 1975, as thousands of refugees from Indochina were pouring into the country, he visited the resettlement offices of the U.S. Catholic Conference (now U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops) at Fort Chaffee, Ark., to pay tribute to the contributions of the USCC, which was then resettling well over half the refugees.

He nearly doubled funding for the U.S. Food for Peace Program and in a 1975 speech at Notre Dame warned against letting inflation and economic problems at home lead to withdrawal from U.S. responsibilities toward poorer nations. "There is no safety for any nation in a hungry, ill-educated and desperate world," he said.

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Few foreigners spend Christmas in Bethlehem due to political tensions

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (CNS) — Six friends, members of a local Christian choir, huddled together in long coats and scarves for warmth against the evening chill on Manger Square in Bethlehem. The admittedly disappointed choir was supposed to have performed along with other local choirs for Christmas Eve, but instead a Spanish women's group had taken over the whole time slot. "Ten years ago there were choirs performing here on Christmas from all over the world (like) Korea, Poland. So now we are happy for the Spanish group. We'd like to see more groups coming," said Munther Isaac, 27, a Presbyterian and teacher at Bethlehem Bible College. Around the friends, groups of mainly young men milled about and street vendors sold hot corn cob, coffee, party hats and glow-in-the-dark toys. Few foreigners were among the crowd — just those with tickets to midnight Mass who gathered close to the church and arrived just before the church doors opened. This meant little business for the local souvenir shops.

Chaplain head says troops respected amid policy divisions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — However people feel about U.S. policies abroad, the troops on the ground carrying out those policies have "our respect and admiration," Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services said in a Christmas letter to Catholic military chaplains. "We know that on this Christmas Americans are divided, at times radically, as to the proper course of our present military engagements," he wrote. "While our military members can feel caught up in the middle of these divisions and confusions at home, they must not doubt our respect and admiration as they seek to bring about peace and harmony to lands and people torn by violence." He said, "Our love and prayers go out to them, fervently hoping for an end to civil unrest in areas where we have invested so much of our precious treasure — lives lost, bodies and spirits sorely, permanently wounded, and families who must cope with the often destructive results of extended separations."

Vatican official decries decision to execute Saddam Hussein

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Repeating a remark he often has made since former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was captured in 2003, Cardinal Renato Martino expressed hope that the deposed dictator would not be executed. "There is no doubt" that Saddam was a ruthless dictator responsible for hundreds of deaths, said Cardinal Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. "But one does not compensate for one crime with another crime," the cardinal told Italy's *La Repubblica* newspaper Dec. 28. Iraq's high court Dec. 26 denied

NEWS BRIEFS

CHILDREN WATCH BETHLEHEM CHRISTMAS PROCESSION



CNS PHOTO/ELIANA APONTE, REUTERS

Palestinian children watch the traditional procession in celebration of Christmas in the West Bank town of Bethlehem Dec. 24. Only a few pilgrims were among the crowd outside the Church of the Nativity due to political tensions.

Saddam's appeal of his November conviction for killing 148 people in northern Iraq in 1982. The high court ruled that the death sentence issued against him should be carried out within 30 days, but the former dictator was hanged Dec. 31.

Sri Lankan workers express frustration over tsunami rebuilding

GALLE, Sri Lanka (CNS) — Church workers have expressed frustration over the disarray of tsunami reconstruction in northern and eastern Sri Lanka due to the ethnic war ravaging the country. While Caritas Sri Lanka has been able to proceed in its reconstruction programs in the south, "reports from the north and east are very frustrating," said Duncan MacLaren, secretary-general of Caritas Internationalis. Caritas Sri Lanka is the local affiliate of Caritas Internationalis, an international network of Catholic relief, development and social service agencies. Nongovernmental organizations have said only 10 percent of tsunami housing reconstruction has been completed in the north and east due to the war. MacLaren expressed shock over reports that some of the houses built by church aid workers for the tsunami victims in the rebel-controlled areas already have been destroyed in bombing and shelling by government forces.

Migration week theme is 'Welcoming Christ in the Migrant'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "Welcoming Christ in the Migrant" is the theme of the U.S.

Catholic Church's National Migration Week Jan. 7-13. "I invite you to welcome Christ in the migrant through prayer, education and parish outreach," said Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino, Calif., chairman of the bishops' Committee on Migration. He said Jesus' biblical admonition that what one does to a stranger is done to him "is particularly timely" in the current immigration debate. "Our nation's legitimate security concerns have been distorted by some who would foment anxiety, fear and a distrust of migrants," he wrote in a letter accompanying parish educational materials for this year's migration week. "The present immigration reform debate has lost much of its reason and is often being fueled by raw emotions," he added. He urged Catholics to become involved in the Catholic immigration reform initiative described on the Web site www.justiceformigrants.org.

Vatican says more than 3.2 million attended papal events in 2006

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With two public events still to go in 2006, the Vatican reported Dec. 28 that more than 3.2 million people attended papal audiences and liturgies during the past year. Almost 1.3 million people joined Pope Benedict XVI for the recitation of the Angelus on Sundays and feast days at the Vatican and at the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, the Vatican reported. The statistics, compiled by the Prefecture of the Pontifical Household, do not include figures from Pope Benedict's four trips abroad in 2006, or from his trips to different Italian cities. The

Vatican said 539,200 people had attended papal liturgies at the Vatican and at Castel Gandolfo during the year. Another 357,120 people took part in special audiences for particular groups. In addition, the Vatican said a total of just over 1 million people attended one of the pope's weekly general audiences on Wednesdays at the Vatican or Castel Gandolfo.

Bay State bishops call on legislators to vote on marriage amendment

BOSTON (CNS) — As the Massachusetts Legislature neared the end of its session, the bishops who head the state's four Catholic dioceses urged lawmakers to vote on a citizens' initiative that seeks to end same-sex marriages there by enshrining the traditional definition of marriage in the state constitution. "We believe that a legislator's vote to recess (before taking a vote on the initiative) violates their sworn duty to uphold the constitution," the bishops said Dec. 29. Two days earlier the state's Supreme Judicial Court said it could not force the legislators to vote on the proposed amendment, but they should take the vote. The court said it could only seek to persuade legislators to act in good faith, since "there is no presently articulated judicial remedy for the Legislature's indifference to, or defiance of, its constitutional duties."

Maryknoll magazine marks 100 years

MARYKNOLL, N.Y. (CNS) — In an age of e-mail, digital photography and computerized layout, Father James A. Walsh might not

recognize the mission publication he founded 100 years ago as *The Field Afar*. But Father Walsh, who went on to become a bishop and to co-found the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America, also known as Maryknoll, "would undoubtedly be overjoyed that the magazine not only reaches more than 500,000 readers but also involves them," said Maryknoll Father Joseph Veneroso, current publisher, in a statement. Now called *Maryknoll*, the monthly magazine reports on the work of Maryknoll missionaries in Africa, Latin America and Asia and has a bilingual sister publication, *Revista Maryknoll*.

Vatican booklet cites 'spiritual ecumenism' as route to unity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Every time Christians of different communities pray together, witness to the Gospel and help people in need, they are promoting Christian unity, said the Vatican's top ecumenist. Joint prayer and Bible study, attendance at a major event of another denomination and working together for justice and peace are the components of "spiritual ecumenism" suggested by Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity. The cardinal is the author of "A Handbook of Spiritual Ecumenism," a booklet published in English late in 2006; the Italian edition will be released at the Vatican in time for the Jan. 18-25 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. In fact, participating in ecumenical prayer services and discussions during the Christian unity week is encouraged throughout the booklet. In the introduction, Cardinal Kasper said the booklet was the result of a discussion by members of the pontifical council focusing on the need for prayer and conversion in the search for Christian unity.

Catholic-Baptist conversation held on Scripture, tradition

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (CNS) — An international Catholic-Baptist conversation on "The Word of God in the Life of the Church: Scripture, Tradition and Koinonia" was held Dec. 10-15 at Beeson Divinity School of Samford University in Birmingham. Co-sponsored by the Baptist World Alliance and the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, the meeting was the first since 1988, when representatives of the two faiths completed five years of conversations about the call to witness the faith. That series led to a 1990 report titled "Summons to Witness to Christ in Today's World." Co-chairing the new round of meetings are Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli of Paterson, N.J., on the Catholic side and the Rev. Paul Fiddes, principal of Regent's Park College at Oxford University in England, on the Baptist side. The group is to meet annually through 2010 and expects to issue a joint report on its findings.

Sister Prejean to speak at Little Flower Parish

SOUTH BEND — Sister Helen Prejean, noted author of "Dead Man Walking" and opponent of the death penalty, will speak at Little Flower Church in South Bend on Jan. 12, 7 p.m. The talk is open to the public. Her discussion will be "Choosing Life: A Prophetic Voice in the Tradition of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr."

The event is sponsored by St. Vincent de Paul Society of Little Flower, St. Joseph, South Bend, St. Joseph, Mishawaka, and St. Casimir, Kern Road Mennonite, Holy Cross, Saint Mary's College Justice and Peace offices, St. Stanislaus, Sisters of the Holy Cross, St. Matthew, Sacred Heart, Catholic Peace Fellowship and the Center for Peace and Nonviolence.

Little Flower Church is located at 54191 N. Ironwood, South Bend.

South Bend to hold annual right to life march, program

SOUTH BEND — The annual Right to Life March and Respect Life Program will be held on Sunday, Jan. 14, in South Bend.

The march starts at Knights of Columbus Council #553, located at 553 E. Washington, at 2 p.m. and proceeds to St. Joseph Church for a brief prayer service and then returns to Council #553 for the respect life program, which starts at 3 p.m.

Associate professor Carter Snead, faculty member at the University of Notre Dame, has been invited to speak on stem-cell research. Following the program, there will be a free simple supper of hot soup and bread.

For more information, call Bill Schmitt at (574) 232-6777.

Saint Joseph's club encourages free trade

SOUTH BEND — Students from the Saint Joseph's High School S.E.C.O. (social and ecological concerns organization) put a special little spin on holiday gift buying by offering the second annual Fair Trade Christmas Café.

This special event, that brought out dozens of students, faculty and families, was held in the school's Little Theater. Local merchants Ten Thousand Villages and Just Goods were present with a wide selection of fair trade items like socks, shirts, candies, coffee, jewelry and miscellaneous items. Students performed a variety of musical compositions as entertainment and visitors were invited to enjoy coffee, tea and snacks.

"The goal was awareness," said S.E.C.O. member Maria Young. "We wanted people to see it's not impossible to buy fair trade items and it's not very expensive."

S.E.C.O. member Mark Jacobs thought the event went very well and was happy with the turnout. This is the second Fair Trade Café event they have held this school year and he felt it was better attended than their first project.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

CHOIR VISITS WITH RESIDENTS OF ST. ANNE HOME



PROVIDED BY TRISH SCHEIBLE

The St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School Youth Choir visited and sang for the residents of St. Anne Home before Christmas.

"It was the best one out of two," said Jacobs.

According to a club brochure available at the event, "based on the foundations of formal Catholic social teachings, S.E.C.O. is a social justice club. Focusing on the inviolable dignity of each human being, S.E.C.O. strives to build a society of conscientious living that protects and promotes the life of every individual from 'womb to tomb.'"

Club leader, teacher Kathy Byrne, said the group has been together for the last two years. The dozen or so active members of the group meet weekly to discuss projects and topics. They choose an issue as a group and then pick a moment when they can plan something that will help bring out their issue or message.

Some of the club's activities include social justice campaigns, dinner-and-a-movie sessions and weekly recycling within the school. They hold chocolate campaigns where they use the chocolate holidays to raise awareness, hold fair trade cafés four times a year and a mission trip in the spring.

Jacobs said the group is a great example of living out the Christian teachings of treating all people with dignity and respect. He feels that if people purchase goods and foods at fair wage, from fair trade providers, then people will stay out of a life of poverty and live a life filled with dignity. He feels this is one important way he can live out his Christian beliefs and enjoys being a part of

a group that encourages people to help others.

The group hopes that the Fair Trade Christmas Café also inspired people to start looking at all of the purchases they make. Along with having fair trade goods available, there were also foods grown by people who are ecologically aware of the environment.

Bishop Luers' scholarship recipients announced

FORT WAYNE — Each year at Bishop Luers High School students are offered the opportunity to apply for scholarships that are made available from people who feel a Catholic education at Bishop Luers is very important. Criteria are set up by the donors and need to be met by the students applying for the scholarships.

This year after the students had received their scholarships they were given a questionnaire pertaining to the scholarship they had received. The students were asked how they felt about earning the scholarships.

Students felt proud of the fact that they had won the scholarship and were grateful to the donors. They understand the importance of a Catholic education, and the financial burden it can be to their parents.

Scholarship recipients of 2006-2007 were the following: Jay Wyss and Madison Carroll — Donald M. Perry Scholarship; Haylee Eckert — Stan Klug Memorial Scholarship; Nichole

Molitor — Msgr. J. William Lester Scholarship; Rachel Williams and Dan Davis — Larry Wedertz Memorial Science Scholarship; and Xavier Serrani — The Deb Jur Memorial Scholarship.

Those interested in setting up a scholarship at Bishop Luers High School for the 2007-2008 school year are asked to call Kathy Skelly or Brenda Price at (260) 456-1261.

Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic adds three to board of directors

FORT WAYNE — Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic has named three new members to its board of directors: Joyce Eberly, Dan Garman and Chad Stuckey. They began their three-year term on Jan. 1.

Eberly is a long-time community volunteer and fundraiser, serving on numerous boards. Garman works for Parkview Health as senior vice president of service line coordination and public advocacy. Stuckey is president and senior creative director of Brand Innovation Group, a regional branding and consulting company.

Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic is the only full-time, full-service clinic of its kind in the region. With a staff of over 400 healthcare and lay volunteers, Matthew 25 provides free medical, dental and vision services to the uninsured, low-income resi-

dents of Allen County. To learn more, visit matthew25online.org.

Our Sunday Visitor, Sadlier publishers announce collaboration

HUNTINGTON (CNS) — Two of the leading Catholic publishing companies in the United States will collaborate to develop, produce and distribute Catholic materials for parish and school use.

The two are William H. Sadlier Inc., which produces catechetical materials for school and parish religious education programs, and Our Sunday Visitor, which has six national publications; produces more than 500 books, pamphlets and programs; and is the nation's largest producer of Catholic offering envelopes.

"This is an unprecedented collaboration of shared vision, complementary skill sets and understanding the needs of the Catholic marketplace," said Gregory R. Erlandson, president of Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, in a statement.

William Sadlier Dinger, president of William H. Sadlier Inc., said the new relationship "provides an opportunity to develop superior new products and to distribute complementary products which will meet the needs of Catholic parishes and schools."

Examples of projects aimed at meeting the catechetical needs of parishes and schools are Catholic Vacation Bible School, produced in cooperation with Augsburg Fortress and recently released for the summer 2007 market, and *Take Out: Family Faith on the Go*, a monthly minimagazine intended for religious education, school and intergenerational programs.

Bishop Luers announces January events

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School freshman registration will take place on Tuesday, Jan. 16, and Thursday, Jan. 18, from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. each evening. The business office will be available to answer financial questions. Financial aid and scholarship information will be available.

Bishop Luers High School will host their sixth annual Spirit Breakfast ... "Living the Gospel" on Friday, Jan. 19, at Lester's Banquet Hall, 1502 Bluffton Rd., from 7 to 8:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be Terry Tescula, from Erin's House. Tickets are \$15 per person and sold in advance.

On Jan. 20, from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m., the Bishop Luers Boys Basketball Program is sponsoring Casino Knight, an evening of great adult entertainment in the Bishop Luers Café. Tickets are \$10 per person, which will include hors d'oeuvres and admission to the event.

For information call (260) 456-1261.

Correction

The Dec. 24 issue of *Today's Catholic* should have listed Sister Alodia Carney, OLVM, as the sister who delivered the note of appreciation for the Ana Casas family at the Mass of remembrance celebrated at St. Patrick Church in Fort Wayne.



Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization

"Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch."

Shared Faith literature
can be found at
www.diocesefwsb.org/DM

Evangelization: An act of love

BY GINNY KOHRMAN

Opening prayer

O Lord, you call us to be your disciples. By the power of the Holy Spirit, transform our hearts. Use us to proclaim to all the message of your kingdom and the gift of salvation. Give us the courage and boldness to share our faith with others. May your grace and love touch the hearts of those who search. We pray for all who feel alienated from our church. May Christ lead all of us to reconciliation and unity of mind and spirit. O Mary, our patroness and faithful disciple of Jesus, lead all home into the loving arms of your Son, Jesus. Amen.

Scripture: Is 43: 5-7

Commentary:

I love the Catholic faith. Being Catholic is more than a name or a title; it's a way of life that challenges me daily to try to be a little more like him whom I have chosen to follow. "Being Catholic" requires that I become ever more fully aware of God's love for me and what my responses must be to God's incredible and steadfast love. Being Catholic is not easy.

Sadly, many Catholics do not share my commitment to our faith tradition. Many, for a variety of reasons, have walked away from our parish communities. The loss of just one of our Catholic brothers or sisters affects the completeness of the body of Christ and the parish

family.

Pope Benedict XVI, in "Deus Caritas Est," writes, "Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction." By baptism into the life of the Trinity, we are set on a course of love, led by the Holy Spirit. Baptism gives us the grace to thrive in our Christian life, but it requires of us cooperation and dedication through faith.

Jesus pointed out the demands of the Christian life when he said, "You shall love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all of your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. The second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself." (Mt 22:37-39). Jesus was the perfect witness of love for the Father and for his neighbors. By our baptism we dedicate our lives to loving God and neighbor, as did Jesus.

Love the Lord

The Sesquicentennial Jubilee logo contains the image of Our Lady looking upon the crucified Christ, with the words "His Steadfast Love Endures Forever." The Gospel account of the Incarnation, life, passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ is the greatest story of love ever told. Jesus loved his Father so much that he was willing to die rather than defy the will of his Father. Mary, pierced with sorrow, obediently stood by her Son, out of love for him and all humankind.

This powerful image calls us

to consider the degree and depth of our love for God. Is our love of God and our faith strong enough to compel us to urge others to come back to the eucharistic table and our parish communities?

Perhaps the number of inactive Catholics in our diocese reflects, to some extent, a lack in our own love of God. Pope Benedict in "Deus Caritas Est" writes, "If I have no contact whatsoever with God in my life, then I cannot see in the other anything more than the other, and I am incapable of seeing in him the image of God. However, if in my life I fail completely to heed others, solely out of a desire to be 'devout' and to perform my 'religious duties,' then my relationship with God will also grow arid. It becomes merely 'proper,' but loveless."

The true spirit of evangelization to our fellow Catholic brothers and sisters must be rooted in a deep and personal love for the Lord. Pope Benedict continues, "Love grows through love. Love is 'divine' because it comes from God and unites us to God; through this unifying process it makes us a 'we' which transcends our divisions and makes us one, until in the end God is 'all in all.'" — "Deus Caritas Est," 18. Our ability to reach out to fellow inactive Catholics must flow from a personal loving relationship with God and a corresponding commitment to the Christian life.

Love of neighbor

Dorothy Day once wrote in her journal regarding outreach to

the poor, "I cannot get over the feeling that if we loved enough, if we were patient enough, if we were saintly enough, if we prayed enough, we would move hearts, effect conversions, and would save the lost..." ("On Pilgrimage, Day"). I believe this quote also pertains to active Catholics who weekly gather around the eucharistic altar.

Instead of talking and worrying about friends or family members who are no longer active in the Catholic tradition, we must pray for the courage and love to begin the conversation with them. If we consider the Catholic faith our greatest love and treasure, why would we hesitate to talk about that gift which we hold so dear in our hearts? Many active Catholics think they do not know enough about the teachings of our faith. Others are afraid of offending someone. But evangelization does not have to be difficult.

The greatest way to evangelize is to tell others what a difference God and the Catholic faith has made in our lives. Evangelization begins when we share our own faith stories with another. Everyone loves a good story, and others will be fascinated and interested in ours. Telling our faith story may provide the opportunity for others to share with us their reasons for becoming inactive in the Catholic faith.

As we do so, we place our trust in the Holy Spirit, whom we received in baptism and confirmation. If we have faith, the Holy Spirit will give us the opportunities and guide the words we say. Pope Benedict XVI says, "The Spirit is the energy which transforms the heart of

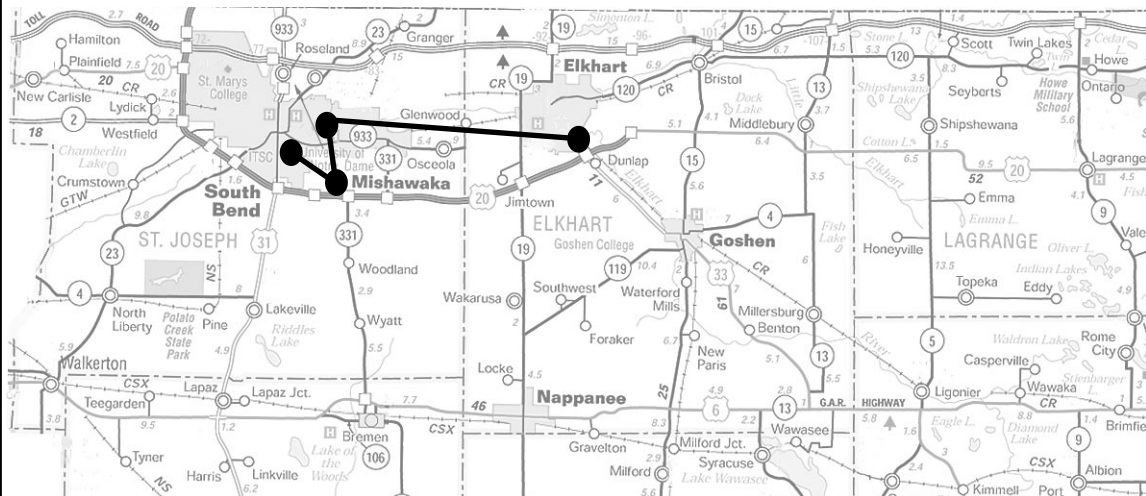
the ecclesial community, so that it becomes a witness before the world to the love of the Father, who wishes to make humanity a single family of God" — "Deus Caritas Est," 19.

I am convinced that the high numbers of inactive Catholics challenges us all to increase our love of both God and neighbor. During this 150th Anniversary Year of our diocese, let each of us, through prayer, compassion, holiness and love, encourage at least one family member or friend to consider returning to our Catholic faith. We can begin by reaffirming how much God loves them. We can tell them what a difference God's love and the Catholic faith has made in our lives. And we can be persistent, yet encourage and guide them gently with love.

Closing Prayer:

Dear Jesus,
Free us from fear, and help us to bring back our family members who have been scattered afar. Gather us together once again in our parish homes through love. Amen.

Jubilee Pilgrim Cross



Dec. 15-Jan. 5, 2007 St. Vincent de Paul
Jan. 5-12 Queen of Peace
Jan. 12-19 St. Bavo/Marian High School
Jan. 26-Feb. 2 St. Joseph/The Mount

Elkhart
Mishawaka
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or go to www.diocesefwsb.org/YOUTH
Click on Events Calendar



You can always come home: A journey back to the faith

BY FATHER ED ERPELDING

The following narrative was written by Father Ed Erpelding. Although the names have been changed, the story happened in reality. It reveals the path of coming home, returning to the practice of the Catholic faith. It also shows the impact of the Wells of Hope experience that is a part of the 150th Jubilee.

The pleasant temperatures, the brightly colored foliage and the wonderfulness of the day were still on my mind as I mused following dinner. I was just trying to relax when I heard the phone ringing. I wasn't exactly anxious to pick up the receiver, so I said a quick prayer that I might at least communicate an attitude of openness and acceptance as I answered the phone. I took a deep breath and answered the phone in the usual fashion, "Hello, St. Dominic's, Father Geoffrey speaking."

A nervous voice on the other end responded, "Father, my name is Jim Smith and I need your help ... can I talk with you? I started to call you at least four times. I finally worked up the courage to punch the numbers on the phone. I feel so guilty and afraid since I haven't been to church for many years.

"I was having lunch with one of my clients today, and the subject of ethics and religion was

raised. He listened to my story and how I had left the practice of the Catholic faith. I really felt that he cared about me, and I finally asked what I might do to follow up our conversation. He gave me your number and suggested that I get in touch with you since he felt that you were approachable, accepting and easy to talk to. Is it possible to get an appointment with you in the next few weeks? I have an awful lot to unload and to deal with."

I responded, "I would be more than happy to meet with you ... let me get my appointment book. Would Saturday at 1 p.m. be soon enough?"

"Sure, Father, I'll see you then."

A few minutes prior to 1 p.m.

ting Catholics and the un-churched. He related that Jean listened with care and concern when he told his life story. He was pleased that Jean was straightforward in answering his questions.

When he didn't have the answers or was uncertain, he had assured him that his pastor would be willing to answer these and many other questions. After being away from the church for 16 years, he felt that he had much to learn about the teachings and practices of the church. At the end of this first meeting, he asked for a follow-up appointment for himself and his wife Bette. The appointment with them was scheduled for the following week.

In the weeks that followed, arrangements were made for them and their children to receive catechetical instructions. This was the first marriage for Jim and Bette, who had been baptized Catholic as infants and

had spent some years in parochial schools. The preparation for blessing their marriage became a joyous time of learning, reconciling and healing. The three children, ranging in age from 9 to 13, participated in the parish RCIA program for youth and, gradually, grew enthusiastic about becoming members of the church. Thanks to the alertness and effort of Jean, the marriage of Jim and Bette was blessed and the three children were received into the church at the Easter vigil.

Jean listened with care and concern
when he told his life story.

Jim Smith rang the door bell. I escorted him into the parish office. Once in the office, I asked him if it would be okay if we began with a prayer for guidance from the Holy Spirit. He readily gave his approval. After our prayer Jim shared with me that Jean Lebeau, who had participated in our parish training program, which prepared church members to accept the call to evangelism and where Jean learned how to reach out and share his Christian faith with those who had fallen away or were non-prac-

Wells of Hope offers invitation to faith renewal and healing

In response to the overwhelming need and desire to reach out to those who are no longer active in the Catholic faith, with the enthusiastic approval of Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Ginny Kohrman and Sister Jolene Heiden, SSND, of the Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization, along with Linda Furge of the Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry, spiritual director Gervaise Bastian and Father Ed Erpelding, pastor consultant, have developed Wells of Hope.

This process of evangelization assists active Catholics in reaching out to those who are no longer active in parish communities. The essence of the process is rooted in Scripture, inspired by the story of Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well, found in the Gospel of John 4:5-42.

Thirty-nine parishes throughout the diocese have committed to Wells of Hope and have participated in training provided by the Office of Spiritual Development in Fort Wayne and South Bend. These parishes are now in the process of forming and training Wells of Hope teams who will become active in the process.

Parishioners selected for the Wells of Hope teams demonstrate those qualities exhibited by Jesus in the Scripture story, such as confidence in self and their faith in God, nonjudgmental listening skills, empathy, a desire to share their faith with others and the ability to maintain confidentiality with information shared.

Gervaise Bastian says many Catholics may feel underqualified for this type of outreach ministry. We should remember, however, that "God calls us forward and then provides within us the transforming power to help others."

Following formal training,

Wells of Hope team members, in cooperation with their pastor, contact those who are currently away from the parish community, reaching out by phone, notes and personal visits.

"They'll visit in twos, for moral support," adds Father Erpelding.

Each step of the process is modeled after Jesus' work with the woman at the well, says Kohrman, "We approach those we are visiting with concern and love, gently guiding them to the living water of truth, reconciliation and possibly reunion with their Catholic faith tradition."

As relationship is built, team members provide a safe and loving ear for those to "tell their story, believing they become the wells of hope for those in search of the Living Water," says Sister Jolene.

She adds, "We won't solve all their problems, but we can walk in truth and love along with them."

Father Erpelding notes that those visited will have left the church for a variety of reasons. "There's a lot of misinformation and a lot of hurt out there. Some think they can't be part of the church community and that is not true. We'll work with people at their own pace in building relationships. There is no timeline for conversion and commitment," says Father Erpelding.

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



"The beautiful jubilee image, typical of many of the works of art in our diocese, shows our theme: Behold the Face of Christ, and also the millennium admonition of Pope John Paul II: 'Contemplate the Face of Christ and Contemplate It with Mary.'"

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY, PASTORAL LETTER, JAN. 1, 2007.

JUBILEE YEAR ENTERS WITH PLANS FOR RE

Jubilee Pilgrim Cross faithfully makes its way across the diocese

As the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend celebrates its 150th anniversary this year, many events and activities will mark this historic occasion. During this Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year as the church invites both active and inactive Catholics to renew and strengthen their faith, it calls all to reconciliation and evangelization.

One unifying activity that began in August of 2005 was the commissioning of the Jubilee Pilgrim Cross by Bishop John M. D'Arcy at the diocesan World Youth Day event at the Sacred Heart Parish Center in South Bend. The simple 8x5-foot hollow, wooden cross bearing the inscription "His Steadfast Love Endures Forever," then began its two-year journey across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

The Pilgrim Cross has made its way to many of the 84 parishes within the diocese and has also visited other sites, including

area high schools, universities and religious communities. Its pilgrimage will end in August of 2007 at the Eucharistic Congress to be held at Notre Dame.

Many of the parishes across the diocese have had the opportunity to receive and display the traveling cross in their parish for a week with suggested activities, including veneration, Stations of the Cross and prayer services. Parishioners, both young and old, have been invited to publicly pass the cross from parish to parish as an evangelizing tool for their community.

As the cross is a reminder of the great love Jesus has for all, so the Jubilee Pilgrim Cross serves as a witness of gratitude for the many blessings this diocese enjoys and as a call for reconciliation and peace within families, communities and countries and around the world.

St. Jude Parish carries the Jubilee Pilgrim Cross to St. Charles, in Fort Wayne

ALL SCHOOLS MASSES ALL AROUND HIGHLIGHT



KRISTI R. WARD

Mass servers in procession at the All Schools Mass at the Joyce Center in March 2006 carry a colorful banner. The event brings together students from all the Catholic grade schools at each end of the diocese. The Mass is celebrated by Bishop John M. D'Arcy. The All School Masses are scheduled for Wednesday, Jan. 31, at 10 a.m. at the Joyce Athletic Conference Center and Tuesday, Feb. 6, at 10 a.m. at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.



Father Jan Michael Joncas to speak at Liturgy Day

The diocesan Office of Worship will host Father Jan Michael Joncas who will speak about the new forms of celebration of the Mass at the Feb. 3 Liturgy Day. The event will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 225 Gilliam Dr., Warsaw.

Father Jan Michael Joncas will offer presentations on the revised Order of Mass approved by the United States Council of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in June of 2006. Father Joncas is known for his music that has touched thousands of Catholics. He is an associate professor of theology at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn., and he also teaches at the University of Notre Dame. This is an opportunity for clergy, liturgists, musicians, pastoral ministers and anyone involved in parish ministry to learn about the new changes coming.

Cost is \$25 and advance registration is required. For information, visit the diocesan Web site, www.diocesefwsb.org



JAN MICHAEL JONCAS

Mercy Day celebrates reconciliation in jubilee year

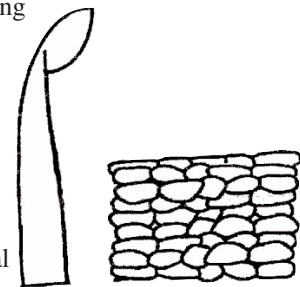
Beginning on Ash Wednesday and continuing throughout the Lenten season in this Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year, all parishes across the diocese will extend a welcoming hand to inactive or under-active Catholics.

According to Linda Furge, director of the Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry and jubilee coordinator, the diocese will conduct an extensive media campaign to make people aware that "Catholics Can Always Come Home." Wells of Hope will be underway in many parishes as a way to reach inactive Catholics based on Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well. Another invitation to come home is Mercy Day.

Mercy Day is scheduled for Tuesday, March 20, and invites both active and inactive Catholics to celebrate the sacrament of reconciliation. All priests of the parishes across the diocese will be available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 8 p.m. to hear confessions in their area churches. These times will again be publicized during the Lenten season.

It is the hope of the diocese that this special day will provide an opportunity for many to "examine their faith life and return to- or increase- active participation in the sacramental life of the church."

In conjunction with Mercy Day, a toll-free phone line (1-877-MERCY4U) will be in service throughout Lent to provide a confidential and anonymous venue for those with questions on any subject regarding the Catholic faith. The lines will be manned by priests or trained lay or religious persons and will have day and evening hours as well as on Sunday afternoons. There will also be a Web page on the diocesan Web site at www.diocesefwsb.org available to pose those questions.



RENEWAL, CELEBRATION AND COMING HOME

Highlight of 150th Jubilee celebration will be Eucharistic Congress at Notre Dame

Following months of unique and meaningful opportunities to celebrate the Catholic faith planned throughout the Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year, the diocesan faith journey will reach a pinnacle on the campus of the University of Notre Dame with the Eucharistic Congress. This day-long event is a diocesan-wide gathering to publicly and joyfully witness to and cele-

brate the Catholic faith.

Scheduled for Aug. 18, the Eucharistic Congress will offer pilgrims from around the diocese many religious activities and exhibits. Beginning at 10 a.m. with an ecumenical prayer service at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart, the events offered include two sessions of a variety of workshops for adults, young adults and teens, hourly recitation of the

rosary at the grotto, confessions indoor and outdoors under yellow umbrellas, eucharistic adoration, Stations of the Cross and several family activities.

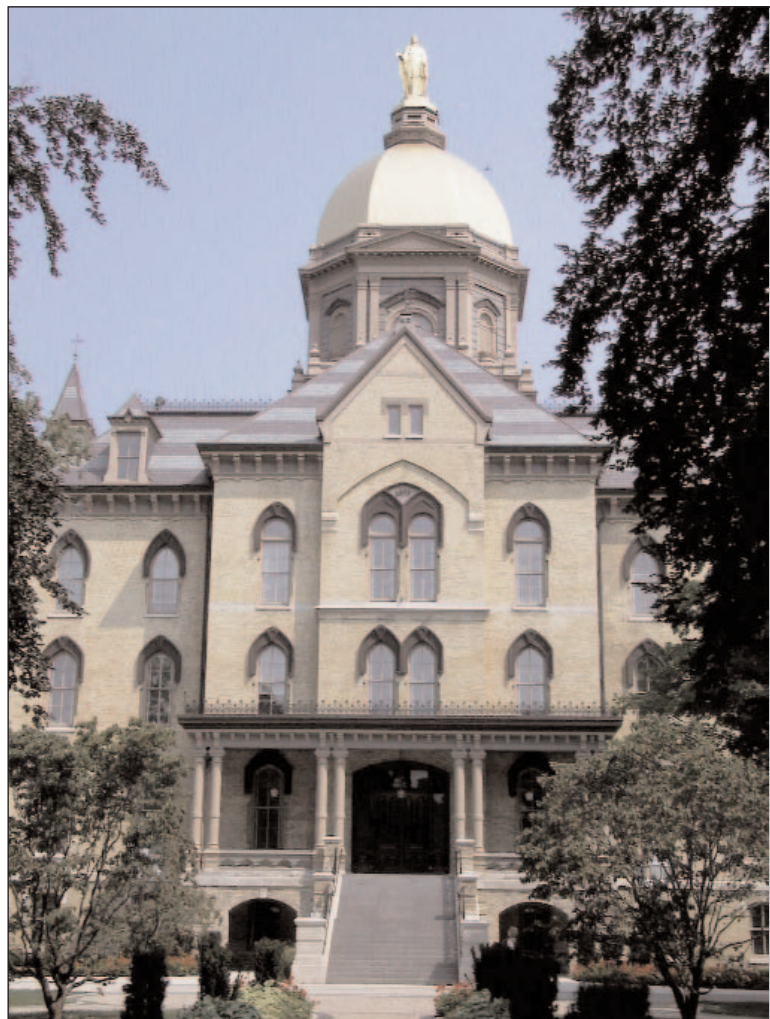
The annual junior high confirmation rally will take place during the congress as well as the chance to see exhibits of parish photos and student artwork. Tours of the Snite Museum will be offered throughout the day. This faith-affirming day will culminate in a closing liturgy for the entire diocese, with Bishop John M. D'Arcy as the main celebrant, at the Joyce Athletic Conference Center, beginning with a prelude at 4 p.m.

There is no charge to participate in the Eucharistic Congress, but a freewill donation will gladly be accepted to offset the costs of the day.

Our Sunday Visitor Foundation has also provided a generous grant to help make this historic event possible. There will be lunch available for purchase on campus as well as picnic areas for families and parishes to gather.

Linda Furge, of the Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry and jubilee coordinator, reports, "As the high point of our Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year, Bishop D'Arcy hopes that everyone will take advantage of this unique opportunity to celebrate and grow in his or her individual faith journey."

The University of Notre Dame will be the host site for the diocesan Eucharistic Congress on Aug. 18.



DIOCESE TO AGAIN HOLD REGIONAL CONFIRMATIONS



The success of the regional confirmations in 2000 prompted the diocese to celebrate regional confirmations as part of the 150th Jubilee celebration. The sacrament of confirmation will be celebrated Sunday, Sept. 16, at 2 p.m. at the Joyce Athletic Conference Center in South Bend and Sunday, Sept. 30, at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne. The photo at top shows the regional confirmation held at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum and below that the regional confirmation held at the Joyce Center at Notre Dame with Bishop Daniel Jenky performing the rite.

RECONSECRATION TO IMMACULATE MARY



On Dec. 8, we will celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Conception, the patronal feast of our diocese. On that day in the cathedral church dedicated to her under this title and in all the parish churches in the diocese, we will consecrate our diocese, our people and our future to her, knowing that her prayer of intercession will bring countless blessings and graces in the years to come. We will entrust this beloved diocese to her and pray for all those who come after us in this holy place.

Prayerfully, two to be ordained

Bob Lengerich, left, and Jason Freiburger, below, ordained as transitional deacons in 2006 by Bishop John M. D'Arcy in the chapel at Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, will be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, Oct. 27, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.



DIOCESE CELEBRATES 25TH AND 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES



MICHELLE DONAGHEY

Doris Mitchell, touched by her husband's words when renewing their vows, closes her eyes, intently listening at the anniversary Mass celebration held in September at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. The couple celebrated 50 years of marriage on May 11, 2006. As part of the 150th Jubilee, 25th and 50th wedding anniversaries will be celebrated in September and October of 2007. Dates will be confirmed later.



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NOT JUST YOUR 'ORDINARY' MUSEUM



TIM JOHNSON

To achieve a real sense of the 150-year history of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, visitors may explore the Cathedral Museum, located on the garden level of the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in downtown Fort Wayne. The photos of the diocesan bishops are displayed near the entrance of the museum. Hours are Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and closed on holidays. Today's Catholic will offer a brief history of the episcopacies of the diocesan bishops in future issues.

What is behind the logo of the Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year?

BY TIM JOHNSON

The Catholic Church is a faith rich in symbols. Our church crucifixes and other sacred images truly signify Christ, who is glorified in them. St. John Damascene, as quoted in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, notes, "The beauty of the images moves me to contemplation, as a meadow delights the eyes and subtly infuses the soul with the glory of God."

The Sesquicentennial Jubilee image, a static-cling decal located in the envelope packet in this week's *Today's Catholic*, shows Our Lady looking up to the face of her Son at his death on the cross.

The image is adapted from the marble images at the altar of St. Patrick Church in Fort Wayne. The altar was designed by H.W. Schwarte from the DaPrato

Company of New York and Chicago and quarried and hand carved in Pietrasanta, Italy, and placed in the church in 1912.

Through computer technology and graphic manipulation, Kristina Schott, a graphic artist and parishioner of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, was able to take photographs shot by Neal Bruns and produce the image that has become the sesquicentennial logo. This was one of many designs presented to Bishop John M. D'Arcy to review.

Bishop D'Arcy told *Today's Catholic* that he hesitated to use the logo at first. "The jubilee year is a year of joy," he said. But the image grew on him because "all graces come from Christ's death. From the pierced side of Christ came forth blood and water and the church has always seen that as a reference to the Eucharist and

baptism. It is from his death and resurrection that we have been saved."

Pope John Paul II, in the new millennium, encouraged everyone to contemplate the face of Christ and to contemplate it with Mary who knew that face better than anyone, from Christ's birth to his death on the cross.

Also, at the foot of the cross, Christ said to Our Lady, "Mother, behold your son" and to St. John, "Son, behold your Mother."

These concepts and the historical significance that the image "seemed to be faithful to the people who came here in the early days" won the bishop's favor. Bishop D'Arcy said, "It just fit in perfectly," and was enhanced by the traveling Jubilee Pilgrim Cross being carried now throughout the diocese and completing its journey

LOGO, PAGE 15

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Calendar of Sesquicentennial Jubilee events

- **Dec. 31, 2006**
— Opening of the Jubilee Year, Fort Wayne, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
- **Jan. 7**
— Opening of the Jubilee Year, South Bend, St. Matthew Cathedral
- **Jan. 31**
— Catholic All Schools Mass, South Bend, JACC, 10 am
- **Feb. 3**
— Liturgy Day with Jan Michael Joncas
- **Feb. 6**
— Catholic All Schools Mass, Fort Wayne, Memorial Coliseum, 10 a.m.
- **Feb. 21, Ash Wednesday**
— Wells of Hope outreach to inactive Catholics, 1-877-MERCY4U phone line, OSV media ad campaign for Mercy Day.
- **March 20**
— Mercy Day
- **April 15**
— 50th anniversary celebration of Bishop John D'Arcy.
- **April 29**
— Regional anointing of the sick, Fort Wayne, Cathedral of Immaculate Conception
- **May 13**
— Regional anointing of the sick, South Bend, St. Matthew Cathedral
- **May 26**
— Adult confirmations, South Bend, St. Matthew Cathedral

- **May 27**
— Adult confirmations, Fort Wayne, Cathedral of Immaculate Conception
- **June 2**
— Diaconate ordinations, St. Matthew Cathedral
- **Aug. 18**
— Eucharistic Congress, University of Notre Dame
- **Sept. 16**
— Regional confirmation, South Bend, JACC, 2 p.m.
- **Sept. 30**
— Regional confirmation, Fort Wayne, Memorial Coliseum, 2 p.m.
- **Sept.-Oct. (dates to be announced)**
— 25/50th wedding anniversary Masses, Fort Wayne and South Bend
- **Oct. 27**
— Ordinations to the priesthood, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
- **Nov. 4**
— Celebration of religious and consecrated life, Donaldson, Indiana
- **Dec. 8, holy day of obligation, Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
— Reconsecration of the diocese to Mary.
- **Jan. 6, 2008 Epiphany**
— Closing of the Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year.

LOGO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

at the University of Notre Dame on Aug. 18.

A motto of love, service

"His steadfast love endures forever," the motto for the sesquicentennial, is the motto that marks the episcopacy of Bishop D'Arcy. It comes from Psalm 117. "It seemed to me appropriate for what I was experiencing as I was preparing to be a bishop," Bishop D'Arcy told *Today's Catholic*.

At age 42, Bishop D'Arcy said that he was not really expecting to be made a bishop. As rumors surged, he began to read about the office of bishop as seen through Vatican II.

His research revealed, "The episcopacy is a ministry of love," he said. "Christ said to Peter, 'Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these do?' And Peter said, 'You know that I love you.'

"The episcopacy is a gift of love — not primarily to the man who receives it, but to the people in that you are supposed to give your life to the people as a way of love," Bishop D'Arcy said. "... Your motto is supposed to typify your episcopal ministry, which is a life of love. That means you have to be willing to do hard things that would be misunderstood for him, for Christ, for the good of the people. And I've tried to do that."

Bishop D'Arcy's day of ordination itself also had a strong

sense of God's love — that it was eternal, it was strong, it overcame our weakness and sins.

This was recently amplified for Bishop D'Arcy as he celebrated the ordination of Bishop John Dooher, auxiliary bishop of Boston, on Dec. 12, 2006.

Feb. 2 will mark the 50th anniversary of Bishop D'Arcy's ordination to the priesthood. He will have a celebration on April 15, the Sunday following Easter.



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How your will can create a Catholic legacy

FORT WAYNE — According to Giving USA, 70 percent to 80 percent of Americans contribute annually to at least one charity during their lifetimes. However, of those Americans who make a will (about 35 percent according to *Consumer Reports*), only 8 percent leave a bequest to charity.

This is largely due to the fact that many people believe in order to designate a charitable bequest and even to make a last will and testament one has to be wealthy.

However, this is not the case and so often families have had to face difficult financial situations and legal proceedings because no will or estate plan had been properly prepared.

If someone dies without a will, state laws determine how the decedent's possessions will be distributed. Most people, however, would prefer to decide themselves how their assets will be disposed at their death.

A proper Catholic estate plan

can help provide for family members and beloved charities. One element of a proper Catholic estate plan is a last will and testament.

A typical last will and testament would contain the following information:

Naming of a personal representative

The term "personal representative," or "executor" in some states, is the person appointed by the probate court to administer the estate of a decedent. The personal representative is responsible for carrying out the terms of the will, which includes collecting the estate's assets, paying its debts and taxes, and distributing remaining assets in accordance with the decedent's wishes.

By naming a personal representative in the will, you can choose the person(s) to administer your estate. A personal representative can be an individual such as a

family member or can be an institution such as a bank trust department or wealth management company.

"As family members are dealing with the grieving process of losing a loved one," states Erika Dornseif, trust officer for STAR Wealth Management in Fort Wayne, "a corporate fiduciary can step in and lighten the burden of settling the estate. Experience in estate administration, availability to serve in such capacity and avoidance of family conflicts are all benefits in choosing an institution to serve as personal representative."

Care of minor children

In the case where the decedent has minor children, a common question is "Who will take care of my children?" A property guardian manages the assets, which have been left to the children, whereas a personal guardian is appointed to raise the children. A will can name

the guardian whom you would want to take care of the minor children. Without a will, the court would appoint a guardian(s) who might be someone you would not have chosen.

Disposition of assets

If the decedent dies with a will in place, probate assets owned by the decedent would pass to heirs according to the terms stated in the will. Probate assets do not include assets held with another such as joint tenants with rights of survivorship or assets such as life insurance and retirement plans in which benefits would be paid out to named beneficiaries.

A will outlines the individual's final disposition of the residual or remaining estate assets after all final debts and taxes have been paid and specific bequests have been made. The residual estate can be left to a single beneficiary, either outright or in trust, or to two or more beneficiaries in stated proportions.

Leave a Catholic legacy

Bequests are gifts made through a will that provide support for a parish, school or other diocesan agency. Charitable bequests also provide significant tax benefits. There are several bequest options to consider.

First of all, with a specific bequest, a specific dollar amount or specific asset from the estate is left to charity.

Another type of bequest is the



PLANNED GIVING

ELISA SMITH

residuary bequest. This bequest directs that either all or a percentage of the estate's residue is to be given to the charitable organization(s).

Moreover, a contingent bequest designates that a charitable organization receives all or some of the estate assets dependent upon a certain condition. For example, the will may state that a particular charitable organization will receive the residue of your estate only if a particular loved one does not survive you.

A will lets you leave a lasting legacy and provide for the parish, school or other diocesan agency, which you have supported during your lifetime.

For information on will bequests, contact Elisa Smith, director of planned giving with the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, at (260) 422-4611 or e-mail her at esmith@fw.diocesefwsb.org.

Note: This information is for educational purposes only and is not intended for legal or tax advice. Please consult with your professional advisor.

<p>Liturgy Day 2007 Gathering Faithfully Together With Father Jan Michael Joncas February 3, 2007 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe Church 225 Gilliam Dr. Warsaw, IN 46580</p> <p>Cost: \$25.00. All registrations must be paid in advance. No money will be accepted at the door.</p> <p>Registration Deadline is January 24, 2007. All Registrations and payments must be to the Office of Worship by that date.</p> <p>Register on-line at: www.diocesefwsb.org/WORSHIP/registration.htm</p>	<p>Registration Form for Liturgy Day 2007</p> <p>Name: _____</p> <p>Address: _____</p> <p>City, State & Zip _____</p> <p>Phone: _____</p> <p>Name & City of parish: _____</p> <p>Registration Fee: \$25.00 Payment Must Be Enclosed With Your Registration Make your check payable to "Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend."</p> <p>Please return this form to: Office of Worship, Attn: Liturgy Day P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46801</p>
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CHARITABLE BEQUEST RECEIVED



DON CLEMMER

Msgr. John Suelzer, right, pastor of St. Charles Parish in Fort Wayne, meets with Elisa Smith, left, diocesan director of Planned Giving, and Erika Dornseif, trust officer of STAR Wealth Management (SWM), to receive a charitable bequest for the parish and school from an estate.

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EDITORIAL

Today's Catholic heralds the sesquicentennial

First we had the anticipation of Christmas. But just like that Advent that prepared us for Christmas, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has been experiencing another sort of Advent — preparation for the 150th anniversary or sesquicentennial of the founding of the diocese.

The feast of the Epiphany has a long-standing tradition of announcing or heralding the events of what is to come this year and that is what we are doing with this issue.

Some of you may be wondering, if you are not a subscriber, "why did I get *Today's Catholic* this week?" The newspaper is coming to you this week, as it will three more times this year, as the messenger for the 150th anniversary jubilee year. Four times this year, we will reach every registered parish household in the diocese. This issue contains a calendar of events for the year ahead as well as the pastoral letter from Bishop John M. D'Arcy. Inside this issue is an envelope that contains the sesquicentennial image and the 150th Anniversary Jubilee prayer and a prayer for vocations on the reverse. Families and individuals are asked to make these prayers a part of your prayer life.

On Feb. 18, every household will also receive an issue that will help you understand your mission as a Catholic evangelizer. Coming to your mailbox the week before Ash Wednesday, that issue will contain information about Wells of Hope, Mercy Day, the 1-800 phone line and help you understand your role as an evangelizer. And we all have a part to play in bringing back our brothers and sisters who have fallen away from the faith. That issue will provide information for you to share with those who have questions about returning or coming into the Catholic faith.

The April 29 issue will have the registration information about the Eucharistic Congress, which will be held Aug. 18 at the University of Notre Dame.

We will offer a quick preview of the Eucharistic Congress in the Aug. 12 issue. This issue will contain a map, guides and a worship aid for the event.

During this year of special graces, we encourage you to subscribe to *Today's Catholic* if you are not already a subscriber. Information on how to do that is on page 24. In addition to the coverage of events in the diocese and throughout the world, we bring information to help you understand the church's teachings, and provide information about the issues of our times with a Catholic perspective.

Print and more

At *Today's Catholic*, we have embraced the new evangelization and utilize a vast array of new tools to spread good news. We are exploring new technologies to reach the masses. If you meet a *Today's Catholic* reporter, chances are they are toting a notepad and pen, a digital recorder, a digital camera, perhaps even a digital video camera. Some of our reporters record their interviews right into the laptop Mac computer with audio segments to be extracted into our 15-minute podcast.

This brings us to the number of vehicles that will provide information about the sesquicentennial. In addition to the print product, you can receive *Today's Catholic* digitally via e-mail as a PDF (portable document format). The PDF version looks exactly as the print product pages, but offers a few perks — quicker delivery, no recycling, activated hyperlinks and you can adjust the size of the print according to your monitor. Some of our out-of-the-area subscribers, who were getting the newspaper one or two weeks later, receive the digital version on the Wednesday before the dateline. We recommend a high-speed Internet connection as the files are 3 to 5 megabytes. A special introductory rate for the digital PDF version is \$18.

The staff of *Today's Catholic* also produces a podcast, a sort of newscast that summarizes each issue. You can download the podcast and listen to it while you are running errands, driving to work, exercising. The podcast is available online for your listening pleasure at the diocesan Web site, www.diocesefwsb.org, or through iTunes. Also, Redeemer Radio has agreed to broadcast the *Today's Catholic* Podcast on Sundays beginning this month.

Updates on the sesquicentennial events will be posted on the diocesan Web site, www.diocesefwsb.org. Also, Web site visitors will find back issues of *Today's Catholic* archived in PDF format.

More than one copy?

Did you receive multiple copies of *Today's Catholic* in your mailbox this week? This could mean several things. Please check the address labels to see if they differ. Also, you may be registered at more than one parish. Perhaps you changed parishes and did not inform the former parish of the move. You would still be on their register in addition to the new parish's register.

If your label indicates a change is necessary, please contact Kathy Voiron at *Today's Catholic*, (260) 456-2824, or through e-mail at kvoiron@fw.diocesefwsb.org with the corrections.

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

Emergency contraception 'facts' incorrect

A recent article in the *Tribune* gratuitously advertised the availability of "emergency contraception" (EC) from a new Planned Parenthood facility in Mishawaka. The article, however, included a number of "facts" that were either incorrect or misleading.

First, strictly speaking, the term "contraception" refers to a pill or device that prevents "conception." While EC can work in this way, it also works, perhaps primarily, by preventing the implantation of a newly-conceived human embryo in the lining of the uterus.

Secondly, by the time the embryo has made her way down the Fallopian tube and is ready to implant (around seven to nine days post conception), she is no longer a "fertilized egg." Scientifically, a fertilized egg is referred to as a zygote and remains so only for the first day until dividing in two at which point the zygote becomes an embryo. By the time of implantation, the embryo has reached the blastocyst stage and typically has between 100 and 200 cells, which have begun to differentiate into the cells that will form the placenta and the cells that will form the fetus. These latter cells that will form the fetus are referred to as the inner cell mass and, incidentally, these are the cells that are exploited in embryonic stem-cell research.

Thirdly, EC and other birth control pills are labeled simply as contraceptives because of the way the definition of pregnancy was changed a number of years ago in an effort to

dehumanize newly-conceived human embryos. In effect, while medical textbooks are clear that a distinct human life begins at conception, the definition regarding the beginning of pregnancy was changed from conception to the implantation of the embryo in the uterus. The reason for this, of course, is that an agent that ends a pregnancy is an abortifacient, not a contraceptive.

In reality, word games aside, EC often works by preventing a human embryo — and not an "egg" — from implanting, thus leading to the death of that embryo. Explained in this way, most people would consider this to be a very early abortion and would perhaps be less sanguine about its easy availability to the millions of men and women who have been uninformed or misinformed about this crucial distinction.

Fred Everett
Director, Office of Family Life,
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
Adjunct Professor of Medical
Ethics, University of Saint Francis,
Fort Wayne

Blessed with a fantastic teacher

The students and families of Holy Cross Parish in South Bend are blessed with a remarkable teacher — Miss Melissa Scott. Miss Scott as she is affectionately known to her students — past and present — displays a remarkable enthusiasm for her students and their activities, a strong commitment to education and an even stronger commitment to her Catholic faith.

Not only is Miss Scott a remarkable and insightful teacher, but perhaps the most enthusiastic supporter

of Holy Cross athletics. She has devoted hundreds of hours as an unpaid coach for various school teams, such as volleyball, softball, baseball and basketball. As a parent of four children who have all attended or are attending Holy Cross, I am constantly amazed at Miss Scott's ability to partake in so many school activities. In fact, it is much more likely that Miss Scott will be at the next school basketball game or fundraiser than anyone else from the parish.

On top of all of her amazing time management and enthusiastic support for Crusader events, Miss Scott is always at Sunday Mass to set a good example for the students who look up to her and admire her. Miss Scott has been the confirmation sponsor and/or godmother to many parish children and also serves as a eucharistic minister. In short, she is the ideal role model for young Catholics.

Miss Scott, thank you for the many blessings you bring to our children at Holy Cross.

Jamie O'Brien
Granger

Exited about Catholic radio

I am really excited about WHLY becoming a Catholic station. With an increasing number of Christian radio stations in the South Bend/Elkhart area, I've been dreaming of a Catholic radio station here as well.

I always thought WHLY would be good call letters for a Christian station since they look like they mean "holy" as well as "Hollywood." I'm glad the station is keeping the call letters.

Paula L. Spart
South Bend

Financial fresh start for the new year

Happy New Year! The New Year's holiday always brings with it lists of do's and don'ts and admonitions on improving your health, spirit, finances and natural beauty. I think we should begin the new year focusing on some basic financial goals that can enhance the chances of success and happiness in the year ahead.

- **Deal with the holiday bills completely and quickly.** Find a way to address any shopping excesses carried over from December. Knocking these obligations out early in the year create a positive financial environment for months that follow.

- **Maximize the company match.** January is often the time to enroll in employers' benefit plans. Many companies match contributions on 401k plans. A full 20 percent of eligible participants still fail to take advantage of this. Sign up for the plan and defer enough to receive a full company match. It is free money from the boss and the fact that your contribution is pre-tax means you are unlikely to feel much pain in your net paycheck.

- **Balance your checkbook.** This is personal finance 101, but many people don't take the time to do it. Balancing your checkbook can relieve stress and result in improved information and decision making. It is also empowering and the individual achieves a sense of mastery over the checkbook.

- **Get a life insurance check up.** If you are under 50 and in good health, life insurance can be a very inexpensive way to provide some financial security to your family. A good quality term insurance product can provide coverage equivalent to five years worth of your income at a reasonable cost. The security this provides can be critical.

- **If you have a life, make a will.** If you have a spouse, children or business partner, take a little time with an attorney and make a will. Having a will is critical for assuring that those we care about are treated properly. Failing to do so assures they will be unhappy. When you make your will, consider a charitable bequest to the church or other worthwhile entity.

DOLLAR\$ AND \$ENSE

BY KEITH E. DAVIS

This allows your final act to be one of generosity and consequence.

- **Save 5 percent of your after tax income.** Financial planners often say it is important to save at least 10 percent of your income. This is true. However, most do not. So start by saving at least 5 percent and grow from there. It is important to establish the discipline and watching the balances grow will inspire more savings.

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

Turning point for Latin America?

BY SAMUEL GREGG

Few realize it, but May 2007 could be a decisive moment for Catholic Latin America. In the midst of a region paralyzed by endless political and economic crises, Latin America's Catholic bishops will meet in Brazil for the Fifth General Conference of Latin American and Caribbean Bishops (CELAM) to consider the profound challenges confronting the area. The importance attached to this event by the whole Catholic world is evident from the fact that Pope Benedict XVI will be attending.

Some of the difficulties to be addressed at this CELAM meeting were identified in the event's main preparatory document, drafted by key Latin American bishops and published in September 2005. These include the inadequate religious formation received by many Catholic Latin Americans, syncretistic tendencies among some Catholics, and some Latin Americans' failure to act consistently with what they say they believe as Catholics.

The same document also pinpoints particular problems confronting Latin American societies.

It refers to corruption as a disease disfiguring virtually every sphere of Latin American life, especially politics and the judiciary. The directness with which the bishops speak about corruption's evil causes and catastrophic effects is almost without precedent in Latin America.

Then there is the bishops' condemnation of "a growing tendency to applaud the rise of messianic leaders ... of a populist nature." "They promise paradise," the bishops add, and engage in the politics of grand gestures, often at the cost of undermining basic human rights.

Though no names are mentioned, there seems little question the bishops have in mind figures such as Presidents Chavez of Venezuela and Morales of Bolivia. Such populists have subtly — and sometimes not-so-subtly — attacked the church's presence in Latin America.

Given Latin America's high poverty levels, no one should be surprised that the bishops devote considerable attention to this subject. They repeatedly refer to growing economic inequalities and declining living standards throughout the continent.

The text indicates that some

bishops view globalization as partly responsible for such problems. This is somewhat odd, given that it is precisely the failure of much of Latin America to integrate into the global market that has contributed significantly to the region's persistently high poverty.

This becomes clearer when we consider China and India's progress over the past 10 years. Through their continuing assimilation into the global economy, millions of Chinese and Indians are escaping poverty. Of course, poverty still plagues these nations. But no one questions that real poverty is being steadily reduced in Asia through China and India's embrace of free trade and economic liberalization. The same, incidentally, is true of El Salvador and Chile.

Some Latin American bishops' reluctance to acknowledge these facts may reflect the persistence of what some call "soft-liberationist" thought in their ranks.

As a serious intellectual force, liberation theology is now widely dismissed as largely irrelevant throughout Latin America, a relic of the 1970s. Yet its residual effects can be found in some

LATIN, PAGE 19

Anyone can find God in Jesus



THE
SUNDAY
GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Feast of Epiphany Mt 2:1-12

This weekend the church celebrates the feast of the Epiphany, one of the greatest of the Catholic feasts. Together with Christmas, and the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, it provides not only an occasion to rejoice in the salvation given us by Jesus, but also through the readings an opportunity to reflect upon the reality of salvation in our lives.

The first reading this weekend is from the third and last section of Isaiah. After long, dreary years of exile in Babylon, the Jews, residue of the Jewish nation decimated generations earlier by the Babylonian conquest of the two Hebrew kingdoms, are able to return to their ancestral homeland.

This reading calls upon Jerusalem, the heart of the ancestral homeland, literally to rise in joy and thanksgiving, singing the glory of God.

For the prophet, Jerusalem's distinction as being the center and capital of the Jewish people was being reaffirmed in the return of the exiles because once again Jerusalem would be the site of worship of the One God of Israel. Jerusalem was never an ordinary capital in the sense of administration or even commerce. Its dignity lay in the fact of its religious

importance.

The Epistle to the Ephesians provides the second reading.

In the days of the first century AD, as the Christian community was in its infancy and gradually forming, a certain question arose. Christianity grew from the Jews. Its founder was Jewish. The apostles were Jews. Even the location of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus was in Jewish territory.

Part of the Jewish religion was a strong ethnic sense. So, amid all these circumstances, the question surely arose as to whether or not there was a place for persons not of Jewish background in Christianity.

This reading is among others in the New Testament that insisted that salvation is for all. God's love is for all.

St. Matthew's Gospel is the source of the last reading. Actually, Matthew's Gospel is the only Gospel among the four to report the visit of the Magi to Bethlehem.

This reading, and the full description of this visit, are overwhelming in their teaching. Every detail is important. The Magi, certainly pagans, thirst for God. God assists them in their search by leading them by a star to the newborn Lord.

Very important is the fact that not even the brutal King Herod, with all his cunning and all the resources at his disposal, can thwart God's plan nor stop others in their effort to find God.

There is a distant echo of the crucifixion. For instance, during the trial of Jesus before the crucifixion, Pilate asked if Jesus were a king. The gifts of the Magi were those often given kings, namely gold and sweet incense, but they also brought myrrh, an embalming substance.

It is not ominous. Rather, these references remind that the mission of the Lord, and the kingship of Christ, will be confirmed in the crucifixion, when Jesus gave all to the Father.

Reflection

Long centuries of venerating the story of the wise men have produced images very dear to us but not in the Gospel text. For example, no mention is made in Matthew of how many Magi, or Wise Men, came to Bethlehem. The legend is that they were three in number.

Leaving the number unstated, however, gives a certain openness to the story. Without number, human beings from all places and at all times yearn for a sense of purpose in life, for genuine joy, and for hope. All fear death.

Regardless of ethnic condition, or past circumstances, anyone can find God, in Jesus, if they earnestly turn away from sin and humbly follow the star that is the Light of the World.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 60:1-6 Ps 72:2,7-8 10-13 Eph 3:2-3a,5-6 Mt 2:1-12

Monday: Is 42:1-4, 6-7 Ps 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9b-10 Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

Tuesday: Heb 2:5-12 Ps 8:2a, 5-9 Mk 1:21b-28

Wednesday: Heb 2:14-18 Ps 105:1-4, 6-9 Mk 1:29-39

Thursday: Heb 3:7-14 Ps 95:6-11 Mk 1:40-45

Friday: Heb 4:1-5, 11 Ps 78:3, 4bc, 6c-8 Mk 2:1-12

Saturday: Heb 4:12-16 Ps 19:8-10, 15 Mk 2:13-17

THE CATEQUIZ'EM

by Dominic Campisson

As we celebrate the Epiphany, this epic quiz looks at a variety of terms with this (Greek) construction.

1. What is the meaning of Epiphany?

- a. manifestation (making known)
- b. captivity (bondage)
- c. releasing (granting manumission)

2. What is an epistle in the Bible best described as?

- a. a weapon
- b. a letter
- c. a rule, as in a monastic rule

3. What modern title is derived from the Greek *Episcopos*?

- a. elder
- b. bishop
- c. ephod

4. "Episcopalian" is the most widely used name for an American church, which is derived from and related to this British church:

- a. the Church (Kirk) of Scotland
- b. the Church of England (Anglican)
- c. the Church of Wales (Cymwru)

5. This Greek and Latin term is used of bishops whose consecration is either invalid or flawed in some other way:

- a. "episcopi vagantes"
- b. "episcopi illicitae"
- c. "prebyterae non legalae"

6. The *Epistolae Obscurorum Virorum* was a satirical pamphlet mocking the teaching of this order of preachers:

- a. the Basilians
- b. the Benedictines
- c. the Dominicans

7. The *Epistula Apostolorum* was an apocryphal text known commonly in English as:

- a. autobiography of Jesus
- b. the letter of Mary Magdalene
- c. the Testament of Our Lord in Galilee

8. An epitachelion is worn by the priest in these:

- a. Latin rite churches
- b. eastern churches
- c. Muslim mosques

9. In the same groups (8 above) an epitahion is a/an:

- a. embroidered veil
- b. bishop's hat
- c. prayer mat used by a Sufi

10. Epictetus was a follower of this philosophy, which was ultimately eclipsed by Christianity:

- a. Islam
- b. Stoicism
- c. Protestantism

11. The followers of that school of thought (10 above) are mentioned in Acts 17, along with these thinkers who followed this path:

- a. Epicureanism
- b. Episodialists
- c. Epicentralists

12. Despite the complex sounding name, Epimanikion are simply liturgical:

- a. books
- b. bowls
- c. cuffs

13. Epiphanius was a 4th century bishop and is credited with an ambitious work that attempted to do this:

- a. list everything Jesus had said, even those things not recorded
- b. list and refute every heresy he could find out about
- c. list the names of all martyrs since the year 23 B.C.

14. The epiclesis in the Mass generally refers to

- a. the prayer of confession and peer absolution
- b. the prayer that the people tithe or otherwise support the clergy
- c. the prayer that the Holy Spirit made Christ present in the Eucharist

15. An epigonation is part of the liturgical vestments of these:

- a. eastern bishops and sometimes archpriests and archimandrites
- b. western monks who are also professed priests in vowed orders
- c. the laity in lands granted freedom of worship by Vatican II

ANSWERS:

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

God wants us to pray for what we need, accept the Father's will

During a time of serious sickness a certain religious, not of this diocese, discouraged me from praying for a cure and would not promise to pray for my relief, but said it was better to suffer. This seems wrong to me. Anonymous, Mishawaka.

Certainly our Lord wants us to pray for what we need. If we are sick, we should pray for healing and relief and others should be enlisted to pray for us also. However, when we pray for what we need we should always do so with the intention of accepting whatever God's will is with regard to our situation. Remember how Jesus himself prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, "Father, take this cup away from me, but not what I will but what you will." So we should pray for healing, but we should trust that however God answers our prayers will be the best thing for us because God always does the best thing. It may serve him to allow the sickness to con-

tinue.

Can we change God's mind with our prayers? In some things, no, we cannot. God's will can be already set with some things because what he has already willed is the best thing. In other things, yes, we can. Just as a loving father listens to his children and attends to their needs, so God comes to our help when we ask him with love. Of course, we do not know what is already set in God's will and what he waits for us to ask for. This is why we must simply always pray with hope and trust in his love and care for us.

Now with regard to suffering, it may be that God allows us for a time (sometimes even for a long time) to continue in suffering. This does not mean that God likes or wants us to suffer. However, suffering has a way of bringing us intimately close to God when we offer it to Jesus in union with his suffering on the cross, and, above all, God wants us to be intimately close to him.

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

So the suffering that he allows may bring us the greater gift of being closer to him than we have ever been before. Even in this situation though, it is certainly appropriate to pray for relief in suffering always ready to accept whatever is the will of God.

Some Catholic parishes place the U.S. flag in the sanctuary. We are a church of strong symbols and a universal church. What is the appropriate place for the American flag in a Catholic Church? Anonymous.

There are no regulations, neither in the Code of Canon Law nor in any liturgical books, gov-

erning the display of flags in Catholic churches. The question of when and how to display flags would really fall to the discretion of the diocesan bishop. In this diocese, there have been no regulations given by the bishop. By default, then, it falls to the wishes of the pastor.

However, it makes good sense to say that the sanctuary is not the proper place for the displaying of flags of any kind. In Catholic churches, the sanctuary is the area which is designated for the altar, ambo, celebrant's chair and the tabernacle. This area of the church should have as its focus what is proper to the celebration of Mass. A more proper place for flags would be in the nave of the church (that is, the place where the pews are) or in the vestibule of the church.

By the way, it must be kept in mind that there is absolutely no requirement to have flags in churches at all.

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

Moving on to a new home

We are moving, finally. We have been trying to find a bigger place and simultaneously get closer to the Catholic high school for five years. When my husband took a new job almost two years ago, and I fell ill (I'm better now, thank you), we switched directions and Catholic high schools, and just continued our search.

At times I felt the whole school (maybe the whole city) was looking for a place for us. I'd receive phone calls from this person or that, suggesting an opportunity here or there. Family and friends rallied around us, and my husband and I contacted developers and builders, tried working with a realtor, and spent hours pouring over the county maps and property sites online, strategizing, then cold-calling people with property possibilities. We followed every lead.

Finally, an opportunity popped up. A lovely Marian High School family spotted a home for us, which was put up for sale by owner.

"Theresa!" Patti said over the phone, "I just came in the door and saw our neighbor's house is up for sale. It has five bedrooms and looks like what you might want. I hear the inside is immaculate." The word "immaculate" caught my attention. With nine kids would I ever have an "immaculate" house? Well, I could dream. ... So I called the owner, we went right through; we loved it and bought the home in a week.

The house is just perfect for our needs. It is 10 minutes from school (the drive for the high schoolers now is 40 minutes each way). It is just outside the city (lower taxes) and on a bit of land so we can all spread out, the kids can ride bikes, and I can have a healthy organic



EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Theresa A. Thomas

vegetable garden for produce to feed our family. And, of course, the eating area in the new place is such that we can all sit down to dinner together. It's great.

But, (and I knew this would happen sentimental sap that I am), I already miss this old house. Not the house, exactly, but the familiarity of it. I know every creak in the floor, every bump that could possibly go in the night, and the memories here are so vivid — memories of bringing home five babies, celebrating 13 Christmases, good times enjoyed and bad times endured. That spot in the family room next to the sliding glass door is where I rocked Melissa Therese, after I brought her home from the

hospital on a snowy New Year's Day, 1995. I can see her snuggled up in her yellow baby blanket sleeping blissfully. ... Out that window in the kitchen I

watched my little boys (now nearly grown men at 18 and 19) eagerly run to the new swing set early every morning. They couldn't wait to swing, pumping their little legs higher to the sky and laughing at the freedom and exhilaration they felt. ... Around the corner there I see the workers moving in the piano, an instrument every child would learn to play.

It is God's blessing that I had enough foresight to lay a rug in front of the bench to prevent dirt and wear on the permanent carpet. ... These floors have been walked with a cranky infant for so many

hours, days, I bet if you added it all up.

Even bad memories make up the fabric of our lives here. The day we moved in the cottonwood trees were bursting their seeds and dirtied our lawn. We discovered a shrew in the garage. That spot near the front door is where my brother-in-law broke the news to me that I had lymphoma. Out that window I stared and prayed the night God took my youngest brother.

Good and bad, this is where we experienced love, sadness, hope, joy. This is where I began to learn to trust God and myself. Now he is inviting me to trust again, in a new city, in a new home.

What stories will these new walls have to tell in another 13 years? I am realizing it is not the physical place that matters as much as the people in that place.

Yes, we are moving. Literally. Figuratively. We are not static. We go forward. Poet Robert Frost said, "In three words I can sum up everything I've learned about life: it goes on." As Christians, we also know that this life here is but a momentary speck on the timeline of an eternity which waits for us. It is "practice" for the real life with God for which we have been destined. Thank you, Lord, for the beautiful memories in this home. Please bless us in the next. We're ready to follow where you lead. We're ready to move on.

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 January 7, 2007

Matthew 2:1-12

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Epiphany, Cycle C, the visit of the Magi to the newborn King of the Jews. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

BETHLEHEM	JUDEA	THE DAYS
THE EAST	TROUBLED	CHIEF PRIESTS
SCRIBES	PEOPLE	BORN
PROPHET	LEAST	RULERS
FOUND	MOTHER	TREASURES
OFFERED	GOLD	(frank)INCENSE
MYRRH	DREAM	COUNTRY

THE SEARCH

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

Catholic Latin Americans' ongoing tendency to blame the rest of the world for the region's economic problems, instead of acknowledging that Latin America's economic difficulties primarily stem from mercantilist economic structures and basic failures to uphold property rights and the rule of law.

Compared to Western European Catholicism — characterized by mass apostasy, often mediocre bishops, and declining vocations — Latin American Catholicism is in good shape. It enjoys deep reservoirs of authentic faith, a con-

tinuing rise in diocesan vocations, and strong and prudent leadership from many bishops. The May 2007 Brazil CELAM meeting represents a unique chance for Catholic Latin America to further strengthen itself by breaking free of the dead weight of fallacious economic thinking and the dregs of a suspect, moribund theology.

For the sake of Latin America's poor, let's hope they take it.

Dr. Samuel Gregg is director of research at the Acton Institute and author of "On Ordered Liberty" (2003), "A Theory of Corruption" (2004), and "Banking, Justice and the Common Good" (2005).

The civil disobedience of the Magi

As we move through the Christmas season, maybe you think it has nothing to do with the political season we just survived. If so, think again.

The Magi were latecomers to the Christmas narrative. But they tell us a lot about Christmas as a political event. According to tradition their names were Melchior, Gaspar and Balthasar. They got some good press from Benedict XVI last year at World Youth Day in Cologne.

In 1164 the relics of the Magi were formally transferred from Milan, across the Alps to Cologne where, in the words of Benedict, the people "produced the most exquisite reliquary of the whole Christian world and raised above it an even greater reliquary: Cologne Cathedral."

So what do the Magi have to do with politics? In their day there was no recognized moral limit to the power of the state. The Magi proclaimed, one, by defying Herod's command that they tell him where the Child was so "that I too may go and worship him." (Mt 2:8) He was, of course, a lying politician, which some may regard as a redundancy. When the Magi had departed for home, Joseph was warned by an angel to take the Child into Egypt because Herod wanted to kill him. Joseph obeyed and he and Mary joined the Magi as the first practitioners of civil disobedience in the Christian era.

What got into the Magi to make them challenge the king? At World Youth Day, Benedict explained that the Magi had come seeking the prophesied "King who would be intimately united with God, a

King who would restore order to the world, acting for God and in his Name."

That King turned out to be "quite unlike what they were expecting." Still, "they knelt down before this child and recognized him as the promised King. But they still had to ... change their ideas about power, about God and about man, and in so doing, they also had to change themselves. Now they were able to see that God's power is ... the power of love ... which constitutes the new divine intervention that opposes injustice and ushers in the kingdom of God."

Christmas made visible the Incarnation in which the second person of the Trinity became man. When that Child became an adult, he spelled it out for Pilate, that the power of the state is given by God and is subject to his law: "Thou wouldst have no power at all over me were it not given to you from above." (Jn 19:11) This juridical impact of the Incarnation had become reality at Christmas in the civil disobedience of the Magi and then of Joseph and Mary.

Benedict asked the youth at Cologne, "what does all this mean for us?" He answered his own question by giving them a short course on the nature of true revolution. "The saints," he said, "are the true reformers. ... In the last century we experienced revolutions with a common program — expecting nothing more from God, they assumed total responsibility for the cause of the world in order to change it. (This) meant that a human and partial point of view was always taken as an absolute

RIGHT OR WRONG?

BY CHARLES E. RICE

guiding principle. Absolutizing what is ... relative is ... totalitarianism. It does not liberate man, but takes away his dignity and enslaves him.

"It is not ideologies that save the world, but only a return to the living God, our creator, the guarantor of our freedom, the guarantor of what is really good and true. True revolution consists in simply turning to God who is the measure of what is right and who at the same time is everlasting love."

The Magi sent a news flash to the world that there is a law higher than the state. That higher law, however, like any law, makes ultimate sense only if we can identify its lawgiver and discern his intent. That lawgiver is the Child whom the Magi adored. As Benedict, the vicar of that Child, told the youth at Cologne, "Here in the Sacred Host he is present before us and in our midst ... as he was then in Bethlehem."

So Christmas tells us a lot about how to keep politics in perspective. That is so because that Child himself is still a current event.

Professor Emeritus Charles E. Rice is on the law school faculty. He can be reached at rice.1@nd.edu.

Meet The Priest

Father Daniel R. Leeuw

Ordained to the priesthood:
May, 25, 1957

Chaplain and director of pastoral care,
Provena Sacred Heart Home, Avilla, VA
Northern Indiana Health Care System
and Byron Health Center, Fort Wayne



What was your primary influence on your decision to be a priest?

There was a young assistant in our parish at Most Precious Blood Church in Fort Wayne by the name of Father Marcellus Foltz, CPPS, for whom I served Mass. I was impressed by his holiness of person and how he said Mass so devoutly. Serving him brought me closer to God, and this inspired me to become a good and holy priest like him.

Why do you like being a priest?

I am at my best when I am preaching and teaching about the Lord Jesus. In my life, I have had only one goal, and that is "to be a good and holy priest."

Do you have a special interest or hobby?

I enjoy historical reading and research. My interest in research started when I was a banker at the Peoples Trust and Savings Bank. After banking hours, I was assigned to research inactive bank accounts with small balances. My research took me to the Court House, the Board of Health and to the library where I read old newspapers on microfilm in hopes to find a lead to locate the account owner, relatives or the demise of the person.

Do you have a pet?

I have no pet animals. If I were to purchase an animal, it would be a dog. As a child, we had a little Manchester Dog, that I named Tommy.

What do you like to do for relaxation?

I have always enjoyed the winter sports, especially iceskating. This I did for many years, even as a priest. When I had open heart surgery, I had it done in January so I could watch the winter Olympics. I played tennis for many years. Now my relaxation is music (classical), genealogy, writing. As a seminarian I read the book, "The Ambassador of Christ," by Cardinal James Gibbons. In the book, he encourages newly-ordained priests to write out their Sunday sermon for the first year of their priesthood. I have never stopped writing my Sunday and weekday sermons for 49 years. I have files to prove my writing.

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

My favorite reading material and authors are St. Augustine, Pope John Paul II and Thomas Merton.



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

The greatest blessing of our Catholic faith is the assurance that it gives to all of us, that life is worth living because it has a future in Jesus in the kingdom of heaven.

What is your favorite prayer or Scriptural passage?

"No one makes a fool of God! A man will reap only what he sows. If he sows in the field of the flesh, he will reap a harvest of corruption; but if his seed-ground is the spirit, he will reap everlasting life." — Gal. 6:7b-8

What is your favorite food?

spaghetti and meatballs made by my mom

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

At age 14, I learned the meat cutting trade working for Kroger. The summer of my 16th birthday, I was relief manager as a meat cutter for Kroger on South Wayne Avenue next to Don Hall's Meat Market. I also worked for the Chicago Bears under Coach George Halas in their summer Football Rookie Camp. At the time I was in college, and his wages helped pay my way. After I was ordained a priest in 1957, I went back to his football Rookie Camp, and George Halas remembered me.

How do you prefer to be addressed by laity?

Father Dan

Nineveh lies in modern-day Iraq

Why did the ancient Assyrians fail to conquer Jerusalem?

The state of Assyria in northern Iraq centered around four cities: Ashur, Arbil, Nimrud and Nineveh. Nineveh, across the Tigris River from Mosul, was the third capital of Assyria. Here you can see palaces and the church of the prophet Jonah.

J. Ferguson says the booty from military campaigns and tribute from vassal rulers that flowed into the royal coffers were used to adorn the temples and palaces of the Assyrian capitals. Thus the prophet Nahum spoke of the wealth of Nineveh: "There is no end to the treasure, a mass of everything you could desire."

The Assyrian troops were the terror of the ancient Near East. They intended to weaken resistance and discourage revolt by making horrible examples of rebels and enemies. Whole cities were entirely destroyed, kings were flayed, armies were decapitated, and populations were enslaved. The Assyrian king Tiglath-pileser III (BC 745-727) moderated this by removing populations from one part of the empire to another, as he removed the Israelites from Samaria and replaced them by colonists likewise displaced. By uprooting them from their soil, he hoped they would become citizens of the one kingdom of Assyria.

In their movement westward, the Assyrians conquered Damascus in Syria in BC 732 and Samaria in Israel in BC 721. Then their king Sennacherib invaded Judah and menaced Jerusalem in BC 701 during the reign of the Jewish King Hezekiah (BC 716-687) who paid tribute of silver and gold to Assyria. Although Sennacherib proclaimed that Hezekiah's God would be no help against the strength of Assyria, Hezekiah, with the help of the prophet Isaiah, stood his ground and firmly retained his power.

Suddenly an unforeseen calamity forced Sennacherib to abandon his attempt to breach the walls of Jerusalem, and he returned to Nineveh. The Bible says the angel of the Lord went forth and struck down 185,000 Assyrian soldiers. Modern scholars suggest that: 1) maybe the Assyrians were struck with the plague or severe illness and could not fight, or 2) maybe there was an attempt to overthrow the government back at Nineveh, and Sennacherib had to return.

Father J. Murphy-O'Connor says that, realizing Sennacherib's advance was preliminary to an attack on Jerusalem, Hezekiah cut off the water supply from the perennial Gihon springs outside of Jerusalem through the former tunnel of King Solomon, for the water supply would aid the Assyrian enemy. So Hezekiah camouflaged the source of the city's water sup-



FATHER RICHARD HIRE

HIRE HISTORY

ply and constructed a pool and tunnel to bring the water down to the west side of the city. Today you can walk through the 512-meter long "Hezekiah's Tunnel" where the water is knee-deep beginning at the Gihon spring and ending at the pool of Siloam. At this pool Jesus cured the man born blind. The first church at the pool was built by the empress Eudokia c. AD 450. The Piacenza pilgrim in AD 570 says: "You descend by many steps to Siloam, and above is a hanging basilica beneath which the water of Siloam rises." The Persians destroyed this church in AD 614, but the tradition of the curative powers of the waters continued.

Father Richard Hire is the pastor of Queen of Peace Parish in Mishawaka. His history column runs every other week in Today's Catholic.

Sports

JOE KERNAN TO DISCUSS MANAGING MINOR LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM The details of managing and directing a minor league baseball team will be the subject of a talk presented by former Indiana Gov. Joseph Kernan at a meeting of the Father Nieuwland Assembly, Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus, Thursday, Jan. 18. Kernan, who is also a former South Bend mayor, assumed direction control of the South Bend Silver Hawks two years ago. The Silver Hawks are a farm team of the Arizona Diamondbacks. — EJD

Blending the spiritual life with the physical life



FROM THE SIDELINES

BY TIM PRISTER

Sweat dripped from their chins to the tile floor. They stood with hands on knees, panting heavily, t-shirts drenched, physically spent.

The fun was just beginning. Voluntary winter conditioning for a sport that officially doesn't begin practice until March isn't always the easiest sell, especially for a sport like baseball where conditioning is often viewed as an unnecessary evil. After all, they just stand around most of the time during a game anyway, right? Why condition in November?

There was a time when I wondered the same thing. Today, I have an easy answer to the question, Why exercise? If we can, we should, because it's a blessing from God.

I can remember as a young boy running on the country roads on the south side of South Bend. In fact, I still pound that same pavement, although it's more walking than running these days.

It is a beautiful area, a place where you can get away from the stresses of life and just enjoy the sheer beauty, mixed with the exhilaration of testing yourself physically.

As a young person, growing up in a Catholic environment, I often looked at long distance running as a form of penance. You know, experience pain so as to make up

for my sinful ways.

Today, I look at exercise not as penance or punishment, but rather, a form of prayer — physical prayer. What better way to give glory to God — and to thank him for the physical capability — than to test myself and push myself to my physical limits. It has become a harmonious blend of my physical and spiritual world.

A few years back, I encountered some heart problems. I had always exercised, but I made up my mind that once I got past this little crisis, I would never allow laziness or a lack of discipline to get in the way of consistent exercise.

Now it's knee pain and the most recent reminder that I'm in my mid-40s-hip soreness. It seems like it's something new every day. But as long as God gives me the ability to test myself physically, it's the least I can do to say thank you for the blessing. If I can't run, I'll walk. If I can't walk, I'll ride a bike. I'll lift weights, do pushups, or simply stretch if that's all I can do.

For those who have been physically blessed by God to undertake these activities, there is no greater way to express your gratitude. And the more we can allow our spiritual life to blend with the other aspects of our lives, the more complete and fulfilling life we can lead.

"You must know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is within — the Spirit you have received from God. You are not your own. You have been purchased, and at a price! So glorify God in your body." — Cor 6:19-20.

If we use our physical activities as a form of giving thanks, we not only take full advantage of the

gifts God has given us, but we get all the residual benefits as well: we feel healthier, we increase our mental capacity, we gain discipline, and we present a better image, one of spirit and vitality.

Why put yourself through so much physical agony? Well, as Christians, that's an easy one. Who was put through more physical pain than Christ himself? We can handle a little muscle soreness and temporary shortness of breath.

Sometimes our baseball players think I'm punishing them by putting them through such strenuous off-season workouts. I'm trying to make them better prepared so that when the spring season begins, we are as physically and mentally equipped as we can be.

But it goes much deeper than just getting ready to win baseball games. I want our kids to establish a pattern of exercise that they can carry through their lives.

When one of our former players goes on to run cross country in college, even though he didn't run cross country in high school, or another participates in the Bengal Bouts at Notre Dame with no previous boxing experience, or another begins training for half-marathons right out of high school, I know we have planted a seed that will grow for a lifetime.

Physically, they will be better prepared to live a long, healthy, productive life. More importantly, if they can take that demarcation between our spiritual, mental and physical lives and erase the line, allowing everything they do to be shaped by a spiritual framework, they can lead a more fulfilling and gratifying life.

So if you can still run and jump and sweat and lift weights, or even if all you can do is walk at a very slow pace, go for it. It's the least we can do for the One who makes it all possible.

Tim Prister is a 1978 graduate of Mishawaka Marian High School and a 1982 graduate with a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Notre Dame, where he was the starting third baseman for the Irish baseball squad in 1981-82. Prister is the senior writer for *Blue & Gold Illustrated* after serving 20 years as editor. He is the author of "What It Means To Be Fighting Irish" and is currently working on "The Gold Standard," a book which will detail Charlie Weis' first year as head football coach at Notre Dame.

ICCL basketball returns to the hardwood Jan. 7

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — The basketball teams of the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) will open the 2007 portion of the season on Sunday, Jan. 7, at Saint Joseph's High School in South Bend, where the John Bosco Division will be in action, and at Marian High School in Mishawaka, where the Martin De Porres Division swings into play.

Currently, undefeated teams in the John Bosco Division are St. Anthony and Corpus Christi, each

with 3-0 records.

St. Joseph of Mishawaka, with a 3-0 mark, is the unbeaten squad in the Martin De Porres Division.

Schedule at Saint Joseph's High School — St. Anthony vs. Christ the King; St. Joseph, South Bend, vs. Holy Cross; St. Thomas, Elkhart, vs. Corpus Christi; St. Matthew vs. Holy Family.

Schedule at Marian High School — St. Monica vs. St. Adalbert; St. Bavo vs. St. Jude; St. Michael, Plymouth, vs. St. Pius, Granger; St. John vs. St. Joseph, Mishawaka.

Holiday Hoop Fest scores another success in its 10th year

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In its 10th year, the 2006 Hoop Fest was a great success according to coordinator Denny Jamison. The tournament was held at three different locations over the Christmas break and sizzled with four brackets of 31 teams for 55 games in five days.

"This was not a record year — a few years back we had 38 teams with 70 some games," said Jamison. "It's not always easy getting teams to participate over the holidays, but the weather cooperated and we had great attendance.

The stats will show four overtimes in this year's record books. The St. Vincent seventh grade lady Panthers were involved in two, winning the first and losing the second. In this same bracket, St. Jude came out on top beating Zion Lutheran 30-28 in a championship thriller. Third place ribbons went to the girls from St. John, Fort Wayne.

In the eighth grade girls' bracket, Kurt Patterson's Cardinals faced St. Peter's Lutheran three times before finally taking home the blue ribbon. St. Charles sent St. Peter's Lutheran to the loser's bracket first in early play by a score of 34-32. St. Charles then lost to them 35-18, which forced them to match up one more time when the Cardinals pulled off a final 32-22 win.

"We were very similar teams," said Patterson. "We matched up well and both had quick guard sets and good post players.

The Cardinals improved their overall record to 10-2. They are 3-0 in the CYO Gold League. Patterson feels the team is really starting to "come around after a bad beating by DeKalb in the season opener."

In seventh grade boys' action, St. Vincent came out on top with a championship victory over runner up St. Charles, 39-28. St. Jude came in third place, while Chris Yaney's St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth team battled out of the loser's bracket after an opening loss to Herb Widner's St. Louis-St. Rose Twins to finish in fourth place.

The eighth-grade green team from St. Vincent had an impressive runner-up finish despite playing without three of their starting line up. The team had two players on vacation and another broke his arm during the tournament. They lost to Memorial Park 54-28 in the championship game.

"I was very pleased how our team played with heart and determination with our big scorers gone," said Coach Todd Martin. The Panthers list 12 players on their roster and are now 11-4 overall (3-0 in the Gold League). Greg Kaiser stepped up and led all scoring. St. Vincent hopes to participate in a "Kids Helping Kids" tournament at Spiece in mid-February then have their sights set on the CYO Gold League tournament.

St. Aloysius finished a strong third, while St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel, (sixth, seventh and eighth combined team) finished in fourth place in the eighth grade boys' bracket.

For complete bracket information and scores go to www.all-prosoftware.net/2006hoopfest.

Fifth-sixth grade scoreboard
St. John, Fort Wayne, 41; St. Joseph, Decatur, 39
St. John, Fort Wayne, 28; St. Vincent 23
St. Louis-St. Rose over St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel
St. John, Fort Wayne, 34; Queen of Angels 18

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Stallone back in church, back in theaters

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Sylvester Stallone grew up Catholic, stopped going to church after he tasted fame and fortune, but now considers himself a churchgoing Catholic again.

Stallone's shift back to church started when his daughter Sophia was "born sick," Stallone told Catholic News Service in a Dec. 7 telephone interview from Dallas to promote his new movie, "Rocky Balboa."

In November 1996, at age 2 months, Sophia underwent open-heart surgery at the University of California at Los Angeles Medical Center.

The operation went well, and Sophia, now 10, is doing "great," Stallone said. "She's the No. 1 athlete in her class."

Stallone tried to find the words to describe what brought about his self-imposed exile from Catholicism.

"I don't know. Life," he said. "Your career is going, you're not communicating with your family."

The weight of celebrity was "very heavy," he added. "I didn't have any strong foundation behind me of people that would keep my feet on the ground. I was extremely seduced by the newfound freedom."

Things started turning around for Stallone, he said, before his marriage in 1997 to his third and current wife, Jennifer Flavin.

"When I got married everything changed," he said. "When my daughter was born sick, and I realized I really needed some help here, I started putting everything in God's hands, his omnipotence, his all-forgiveness."

Stallone added that being Catholic "puts me where I should be. I was alone in the world. I thought I would have to handle things in my own way."

But then "I thought if I put

myself in Jesus' hands and asked for insight and guidance I am basically taking the yoke off of me and using his intelligence and wisdom to make the proper decision," he said.

It's a process Stallone uses not only in life, but in his profession. "I really feel that in the writing of (the first) 'Rocky,' I felt my hand was truly guided," he said.

And so it is for "Rocky Balboa," which opened Dec. 20. "Let me put it this way," Stallone told CNS. "He's coming in there this way, buoyant, being pushed by a different kind of energy — Jesus energy. At the end of the movie, he points his finger up and shows respect (to Jesus)."

If you're rolling your eyes at the prospect of a 60-year-old Stallone playing an aging boxer, that's OK with him.

"I actually embrace that, and the rolling of their eyes (is) a 100 percent natural valid reaction. I rolled my eyes when I thought of it," Stallone said. "You can't judge anything until you see it. When you see the film, it's about actually being able to listen to your heart and not so much your mind, following the guidance of someone much more powerful than you: Jesus."

"In 'Rocky I,' the first person we saw was Jesus," he said, referring to an opening scene of the boxing club where there is a big mural of Jesus on a back wall.

And if a sixth "Rocky" movie isn't enough, there's "Rambo IV: Pearl of the Cobra" in the works.

"It's also a Christian movie," Stallone said. "Here's how it is. I believe that you can have a Christian theme but you can't hit it too heavy. You can't hit 'em over the head with a hammer. You have to be subtle about it."

Stallone described the plot to "Rambo IV," now in pre-production: "Rambo is a borderline atheist. He doesn't believe in anything anymore. His job is to bring a



CNS PHOTO/TIM SHAFFER, REUTERS

Actor Sylvester Stallone makes a fist at the premiere of "Rocky Balboa" in Philadelphia Dec. 18. Stallone came back to portray the heavyweight champion for a sixth return to the big screen since "Rocky" opened in 1976.

group of Christians upriver into a very hostile territory, and they're there to bring the word of God and medicine and dentistry to these natives. He has conversations with some of these Christians and he doesn't see it their way. They get captured, and ... he starts getting influenced by their faith in the face of such incredible odds.

"I think it may work," he added.

Mark Pattison is media editor for Catholic News Service.

When you keep your eye on TV, what do you see? What are your likes or dislikes? What are your concerns and criticisms? Be as general or as specific as you wish. Send your comments to: Mark Pattison, Media Editor, Catholic News Service, 3211 Fourth St., NE, Washington, DC 20017.



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

"Eragon" (Fox 2000)

Reasonably diverting, if predictable, fantasy adventure for youngsters about a farm boy (Ed Speleers) who, after the death of his uncle, learns it's his destiny to become a dragon rider battling an evil king (John Malkovich) and his henchman (Robert Carlyle) in a mythical kingdom, all the while assisted by a retired dragon rider (Jeremy Irons). The script, based on a novel by Christopher Paolini, trots out every cliché known to this genre, but the special effects, especially involving the hero's majestic dragon (voice of Rachel Weisz) are well done. Action violence, magical hocus pocus. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.

"The Pursuit of Happiness" (Columbia)

Feel-good tale based on the true story of a selfless medical supply salesman (an ever-appealing Will Smith) who, after his wife (Thandie Newton) walks out, raises his 5-year-old son (Jaden Smith) on his own while pursuing a new career path as a stockbroker in an unpaid internship while enduring financial struggles, homelessness and other vicissitudes. Smith's character does all he can to nurture his son under trying circumstances and projecting admirable decency throughout. The USCCB Office classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

WHAT'S HAPPENING carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@fw.diocesefwsb.org. Events that require an admission charge or payment to participate will receive one free listing. For additional listings of that event, please call our advertising sales staff at (260) 456-2824 to purchase space.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

First Saturday devotions

Fort Wayne — The World Apostolate of Fatima will hold devotions of reparation at St. Joseph, corner of Brooklyn and Hale on Jan 6. Confessions will be heard beginning at 7:15 a.m., meditation at 7:30 a.m. and the rosary at 7:45 a.m. with the Mass to follow. First Saturday devotions are also held at St. Patrick, Arcola; St. Rose, Monroeville and St. John, New Haven.

SAJES luncheon brings humor

South Bend — The SAJES will meet for Mass Jan. 10, at St. Matthew Cathedral at 11 a.m. Mass will be followed by a potluck luncheon that will feature Charlie Adams humor and inspiration. RSVP to Sister Agnes Marie Regan at (574) 289-9439.

Oplatek dinner planned

South Bend — The American Relief Committee for Free Poland will have an Oplatek dinner on Sunday, Jan. 14, at 1:30 p.m. at the Z.B. Falcon Hall, corner of Sheridan and Western Ave. Advance ticket sales only by Jan. 5. Tickets are \$12.50 for adults, \$6 for children under 12. Contact Dolores Liwosz at (574) 259-7001 or Dr. Z. Sobol at (574) 272-3392.

Christmas music concert

South Bend — St. Adalbert's St. Cecelia Choir, together with the Chopin Choir of St. Mary's Polish National Catholic Church will present a concert of Christmas music on Sunday, Jan. 7, at 3 p.m. at St. Mary PNCC, 1601 W. Sample St. Free admission.

Center for Hospice to Offer Living With Loss Group

South Bend — The Center for Hospice and Palliative Care, Inc. will begin a Living With Loss Group on Tuesday, Jan. 9 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at 111 Sunnybrook Ct. The group will meet for six weeks. Registration is required by calling the Life Transition Center at (574) 255-1064 or (800) 413-9083. There is no charge to attend.

First Sunday rosary for all families

Fort Wayne — The First Sunday rosary for families will be at MacDougal Chapel on Sunday Jan. 7, from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. with Father Bob Schulte and Sister Gertrude attending.

Knights plan fish fry

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

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

Knights plan fish fry

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

Square dancing is back

New Haven — Square dancing at Besancon Hall will be Saturday, Jan. 13, and Feb. 10 from 8-10 p.m. Tickets are \$15 per couple or \$10 per single. Music by Breakaway. Proceeds will benefit St. Louis Academy.

Award nomination deadline extended

Fort Wayne — The "Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award" deadline for nominations is extended to noon on Friday, Jan. 19. The committee is seeking persons of faith, high-school age or older, whose activities serve as an example to youth in the area of peace and justice. Application guidelines are available online at www.diocesefwsb.org and from the St. Mary Church office, (260) 424-8231.

REST IN PEACE

Angola

Marilyn Dunten, St. Anthony

Avilla

Eileen Lenore Dini, 70, St. Mary/Assumption

Decatur

Esther C. Braun, 87, St. Mary/Assumption

Elkhart

Anna Marie Ernst, 88, St. Vincent de Paul

Claire S. Thimlar, 79, St. Thomas the Apostle

Anne M. Spotaro, 34, St. Vincent de Paul

Isabella Skye Barajas, 4 mo., St. Vincent de Paul

Dominic Betfista, 83, St. Vincent de Paul

Fort Wayne

James R. Crowe, 89, Our Lady of Good Hope

Edward W. Mahrt, 62, St. Joseph

Martha Francis Mayer, 97, St. Peter

Mary Rodgers, 57, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Viola G. Hecke, 81, Most Precious Blood

Pamela Sue Carroll, 50, St. Joseph

Wilfred W. Clark, 89, St. Jude

Maxine J. Kinder, 84, St. Peter

Geneva

Mary H. Harping, 87, St. Mary/Presentation

Goshen

Mary Ann Miller, 85, St. John the Evangelist

Mishawaka

Veronica Frayman, 95, St. Monica

Ann Kwiecinski, 94, St. Joseph

New Carlisle

Mary M. Ginter, 89, St. Stanislaus Kostka

New Haven

James B. Woenker, 76, St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame

Margaret Peyton, 95, Sacred Heart Basilica

South Bend

Esther Chwalek, 78, Holy Family

Stanley Gorski, 77, St. John the Baptist

Thomas G. Kubsch, 58, Little Flower

Deborah A. Bloom, 52, St. Matthew Cathedral

Victor C. Sulok, 83, St. Jude

Stanley L. Rozmarynowski, 60, St. Casimir

Alma K. Kuharic, 77, St. Joseph

Barbara R. Moreland, 83, St. Jude

Carmella S. Rappelli, 87, St. Joseph

John N. Bryan, 88, Little Flower

Rick F. Zalas, 54, Holy Family

Venera Verteramo, 87, St. Joseph

Frank J. Suter, 83, Christ the King

Miguel Salazar Sr., 63, St. Casimir

Wabash

Anne Watkins, 85, St. Bernard

Warsaw

Carla A. Messmore, 53, Sacred Heart

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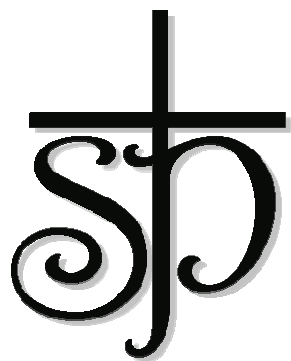
Join your Spiritual Director Father Paul Cochran departing Friday, August 24, 2007. Father Cochran is pastor of two parishes: St. Mary's in Alexandria, Indiana; and St. Joseph's in Elwood, Indiana. This will be his eighth trip as a Roman Catholic Chaplain. Mass will be celebrated daily aboard ship and some days on tour. Start in Seattle for one night with an included city tour. In Seattle board your Norwegian Cruise ship, the "Star" for your 7-day inside passage cruise to Ketchikan; Juneau; Sawyer Glacier; Skagway; and Prince Rupert, BC. Enjoy total freedom with NCL's *Freestyle* cruising. You pick what to wear, and where and when to dine from 10 different restaurants. Next, your Catholic group will travel to San Francisco through Washington State. See the Columbia River; Mt. St. Helens, and Mt. Rainier. Travel through Oregon; then spend two nights in the beautiful Lake Tahoe/Reno area. Explore one of the most beautiful lakes in the world. Next, take a scenic drive to San Francisco for your final two nights where you'll see the Golden Gate Bridge, Fisherman's Wharf, and lots more on your included city tour. Fly home from San Francisco. *Your price of \$1898 (per person, double occupancy) includes the 7-day cruise on NCL's "Star", 7 nights hotels, baggage handling, taxes, port charges and lots of sightseeing. Add \$550 for round trip airfare from Ft. Wayne.

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Christmas bells are ringing

SEMINARIAN ASSISTS AT HIS HOME PARISH



MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

Seminarian Jake Runyon, who is studying at Pontifical College Josephinum, celebrated the Christmas liturgies at his home parish, St. Louis, Besancon, with Father Steve Colchin. Shown here, they are amidst a sea of poinsettias on the altar.

CROSSES IN THE PROCESSION



TOM UEBBING

The sight of two crucifixes reminds us that the shadow of the cross is never far even from the infant Jesus, as Simeon prophesied eight days later at his circumcision to Mary his mother "This child is destined to be the downfall and rise of many in Israel, a sign that will be opposed, and you yourself shall be pierced through with a sword..." (Lk 2:33). Or as the verse from "We Three Kings" foretells "Myrrh is mine, its bitter perfume..."

'WISE MEN' CARRY OFFERTORY GIFTS



MICHELLE DONAGHEY

Wise men at St. Dominic Parish in Bremen, Nikolas and Hunter Swihart and Brandon Van Campen, carried up the gifts during the offertory.

Looking back



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Bishop John M. D'Arcy met briefly with Pope Benedict XVI at the Wednesday, Oct. 18, audience in St. Peter's Square. Bishop D'Arcy, in the second photo, is with the pope as he greets University of Notre Dame theology professor John Cavadini. Bishop D'Arcy led a group of pilgrims to Rome for the canonization of St. Mother Theodore Guérin on Oct. 15, 2006.

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