

TODAY'S CATHOLIC



Catholic Schools Week

Get ready to celebrate your Catholic education

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Vigils for life celebrated in diocese, Washington

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Despite the fact abortion has been legal throughout the United States for 34 years, there are “reasons for rejoicing,” primarily because of lower abortion rates and increased public opposition to abortion, said Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia.

Cardinal Rigali, chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, was principal celebrant and homilist at a Jan. 21 Mass on the eve of the annual March for Life. It was held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington.

“The rate and number of abortions in the United States continue to decline, most notably among teens,” he said to applause during the homily. He said many teens “are wisely choosing to abstain from sexual activity” because of religious and moral values and also to avoid sexually transmitted diseases.

“To be free of disease, to be free of the fear of an ill-timed pregnancy, to be free of a broken heart — this is the freedom that we want for our young people, and we rejoice that it is unfolding,” he added to further applause.

“Another reason to rejoice is that the American people are becoming more pro-life. According to a significant poll last year, general support for Roe v. Wade fell under 50 percent for the first time since 1973,” Cardinal Rigali said, eliciting more clapping.



DON CLEMMER

Bishop John M. D'Arcy delivers the homily at the annual Vigil for Life Mass Jan. 22 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. At the Mass, commemorating the anniversary of the Roe v. Wade decision, Bishop D'Arcy called the unborn “the poor and oppressed of our generation.”

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PARISHES MERGE



MARK WEBER

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish in South Bend, shown above, will merge with St. Jude Parish, South Bend. Bishop John M. D'Arcy will preside at the last Mass at St. Mary at 10 a.m. on Sunday, Jan. 28. After Mass, parishioners will travel to St. Jude Parish for a welcoming prayer service and dinner. The decree announcing the merger is on page 3.

Proclaim the Gospel message, experience Christ, serve others Notre Dame taskforce lays out strategic plan for elementary and secondary Catholic schools

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — The University of Notre Dame is launching a wide-ranging effort to assist Catholic grade and high schools meet increasing challenges by tapping into the expertise of Notre Dame personnel and departments.

Shortly before Holy Cross Father John Jenkins was inaugurated as president of Notre Dame in 2005, the U.S. Bishops issued a pastoral statement on Catholic education. In that statement, “Renewing Our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium,” the bishops called on Catholic colleges and universities to help address the future of elementary and secondary Catholic schools, which face increasing financial and enrollment difficulties.

Father Jenkins’s response to that appeal was to convene a national taskforce of 50 Catholic educators, diocesan representatives, philanthropists, investment special-

ists and Notre Dame faculty and staff to study Catholic schools and develop a strategic plan for improving their viability and effectiveness. The taskforce was chaired by Holy Cross Father Timothy Scully, director of the Notre Dame’s Institute for Educational Initiatives. Father Scully and Holy Cross Father Sean McGraw had founded the Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) in 1994, which has trained and placed hundreds of college graduates as volunteer teachers in underserved Catholic schools.

After a 15-month study, the taskforce issued its report last month, proposing some exciting and innovative ways for Catholic colleges and universities to help preserve and improve Catholic elementary and high schools, which Father Jenkins calls “national treasures.”

The report, titled “Making God Known, Loved, and Served: The Future of Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools in the United States,” agrees with the U.S. bishops that

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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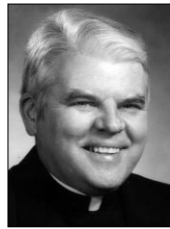
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Fifty years a priest, a golden jubilee is special



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Fifty years

It comes to me almost as a surprise. On Feb. 2, it will be 50 years since the day I was ordained a priest of Christ forever. There were 78 in our class, 52 for the Archdiocese of Boston. There were so many that we had to be divided in two churches. I was ordained at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross through the imposition of hands by the unforgettable Cardinal Cushing. I can remember the place where my family sat and the joy of my dear parents.

It was the custom then to go back to the seminary and spend a final night there. One of the new priests would give benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. In the morning, we all celebrated our first Mass in the seminary. When we returned from the cathedral, the seminarians would kneel, row upon row, to receive our first blessing. It was a joyous time. In the summer, I like to slip into St. John's Seminary and spend some time in the chapel there, thinking of the brave and good men who studied there and praying for them.

A golden jubilee is special. How could one ever expect that he might live that long and, through the special grace of God, be in good health and be able to carry out the priestly ministry every day?

I recall with special joy a conversation with Pope John Paul II at an "ad limina" visit when we bishops had lunch with him. I asked him what message he had for our priests. "Tell your priests," said the pope, "that the greatest day for the pope was not the day he was made a bishop or pope, but the day he was ordained a priest and could offer Mass for the people."

An act of love

The ordination of a priest is an act of love, not primarily for the priest but for the people. The ordination makes possible the celebration of the Eucharist, thousands of times by priestly service of the one ordained.

Understood only in prayer

We will observe this special moment together as a diocese on the Sunday after Easter with a Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. My family will come. Some of those ordained with me, my companions of a lifetime, will come. With due respect for the winters in Indiana and New England, it seemed best to wait until springtime.

I was afraid, however, that this special

moment of observance of the day might pass by without reflection. That is the kind of life I live. Like so many of you, I am sure, every day is intense. So, I will observe a few days of prayer at one of the religious houses in our diocese — just quiet prayer of thanksgiving in a place where there is exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Prayer and, hopefully, some rest. I will thank Jesus Christ for this gift and confess my unworthiness to him. I will give thanks for my parents and my sisters and that I was led by the hand of Christ to this wonderful place as your bishop.

Of course, in those few days, I will also pray for you and that Christ might give us more vocations to the holy priesthood.

Catholic Schools Week

We begin another observance of Catholic Schools Week. There will be All-Schools Masses in each of our major cities; at the Joyce Center on the campus of the University of Notre Dame in South Bend and at the Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne. There will be luncheons sponsored by Quality Dining, the beginning of a great annual fundraiser, "You Can Lend A Hand." I look forward each year to this opportunity to speak to all the young Catholics in our schools. I also reach all the high school students by visiting each campus once a year.

Central to Catholic identity

is the teaching of the faith.

Is the Catholic faith taught clearly?

Is it taught systematically?

Are there examinations and papers to be written?

What we all must strive for and what must be the focus of everyone — administrators, teachers and pastors — is the Catholic identity of our schools. Central to Catholic identity is the teaching of the faith. Is the Catholic faith taught clearly? Is it taught systematically? Are there examinations and papers to be written? In addition to this, there is the sacramental life through the Eucharist and the availability of the sacrament of penance.

A great help to me over the years in fostering Catholic identity has been my meetings with the Council of Catholic School Teachers. I have found that this is a central concern for them and for our schools office.

The presence of the priest in the school is something that can never be relinquished. Our priests are overworked as it is and they have many things to do, but I am grateful that our priests find time each week to be in our schools. Some even teach religion to the senior classes. I hope this will continue.

A historic beginning

I drove west on a snowy Sunday to Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw. This was to give the first presentation to a group of men who are beginning a formation program to

become deacons. This first semester will be on prayer and discernment, helping them to understand what it is they are seeking. These men have been gathered after first consulting all the priests in the diocese for their names. Thus a program of screening and discernment is present at the very beginning. We asked priests to tell us who among them might be a worthy candidate for this holy office. Only then did the screening begin.

One might ask, and one of these exemplary candidates did ask, why I waited so long. It is a good question. When I came and from the report I had received from the apostolic nuncio, I believed that it was necessary to place clearly in focus the ministerial priesthood. This is done by seeking exemplary candidates and by strengthening the priestly life of those who are ordained. This is what I have tried hard to do, and Christ has blessed us. We have a marvelous presbyterate, dedicated men who are very humble and hardworking. They are a blessing upon us. Also, we have splendid candidates, and our numbers are growing thanks to prayer.

With that made clear, we now undertake a small class of candidates for the diaconate. It is a major project to prepare these deacons well. There must be psychological screening and an admissions policy. Each one must have a spiritual director. There

also has to be a strong academic program and pastoral formation. Finally, there must be an evaluation of the men as they go through the program so that the bishop may receive recommendations that are not superficial.

We have begun. We hope this one small class will be a model for whatever may follow. Please keep it in your prayers.

After giving the opening class with a focus on faith and also the identity of a deacon and how it differs from the vocation of the priest and the baptized lay person, and how it must always be centered on humble service, I

hustled back to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne and celebrated Mass. Then, along with Father Robert Schulte, the rector of the cathedral, I led a eucharistic Holy Hour for Life.

By the way, did you happen to see on television — EWTN — the celebration of the holy Eucharist at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Washington? Huge crowds and so many young people. Very encouraging. Many came from our high schools and also from Notre Dame.

This week, I began my pastoral visit to the high schools. We always begin at Bishop Luers High, and it was a joy to be there with Mary Keefer, our excellent principal. Luers is a place of learning and faith.

I promise special prayers for you on Feb. 2. I will celebrate the noon Mass at the cathedral and then speak to the Serra Club, which helps foster vocations.

Congratulations to the Colts. A good thing for their wonderful coach and quarterback.

Even though my prediction proved incorrect, I will be rooting for the Colts against the Bears.

See you all next week.



Young people cheer at the March for Life rally in Washington Jan. 22.

CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Culture of life means changing hearts, president tells March for Life

BY JERRY FILTEAU

WASHINGTON (CNS) — “A true culture of life cannot be built by changing laws alone. We’ve all got to work to change hearts,” President George W. Bush told tens of thousands of participants in the 34th annual March for Life Jan. 22.

Bush spoke by phone at the beginning of a two-hour rally on the National Mall preceding the marchers’ slow, peaceful trek around the Capitol to the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court.

With temperatures hovering right around freezing, the

marchers packing several square blocks of the Mall and overflowing onto side streets turned the previous day’s snowfall into acres of muddy slush.

Among featured speakers was U.S. Sen. Sam Brownback, a Kansas Republican whose appearance at the microphone sparked huge cheers from a large Kansas delegation just in front of the stage. Hundreds of people in all parts of the crowd waved blue “Brownback for president” signs, reflecting support for his decision to make a bid for the Republican presidential nomination next year.

“We need a culture of life that respects all life ... from concep-

tion to natural death,” said Brownback, a Catholic.

“The unborn person is unique, is sacred, is beautiful” and he or she “deserves protection,” he added.

Later Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City, Kan., who also attended the rally, spoke privately with the senator.

The archbishop told Catholic News Service that he “thanked him for making the sacrifice for running for national office.”

“We support the values he stands for,” Archbishop Naumann added. “We need people like him.”

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TASKFORCE

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Catholic schools provide the fullest and best opportunity “to provide an atmosphere in which the Gospel message is proclaimed, community in Christ is experienced, service to our sisters and brothers is the norm, and thanksgiving and worship of God is cultivated.”

The report also reinforces the bishops’ statement that the vitality of the church is “inextricably linked” to the health of its Catholic schools because they provide the most effective way to evangelize and form holy men and women, and that Catholic schools will continue to play a vital role in American civic life, for they demonstrate how to form good citizens.

However, the report is realistic, acknowledging that Catholic schools face “complex, interrelated challenges” external to the schools, such as fundamental demographic shifts, the changing role of religion in the lives of American Catholics, increasing educational choices, and the “pressing responsibility” to embrace the growing Latino population.

Those external pressures, the report continues, influence the four major internal challenges facing Catholic schools today: Strengthening Catholic identity; attracting and forming talented, faith-filled educational leaders; ensuring academic excellence; and financing schools effectively so that they are accessible to all families who choose them.

The report contains proposals that heavily involve Notre Dame resources, personnel and departments:

- Recruit and form a new generation of effective Catholic teachers by continuing and improving the ACE program and disseminating it to other universities.
- Recruit and form effective Catholic school principals by expanding the ACE Leadership program to a 26-month master’s degree program in educational administration.
- Establish the Notre Dame Initiative for the Academic Improvement of Catholic Schools to provide research, development, and implementation of effective assessment, curriculum and instruction.
- Build a national initiative to strengthen the Catholic identity of schools and help strengthen religion curriculum and instruction with the help of Notre Dame’s Institute for Church Life and its Center for Ethical Education.
- Develop partnerships with individual Catholic schools through efforts like the Magnificat model, in which Notre Dame helps to improve a school’s leadership, academic quality, financial management, and vitality.
- Tap into Notre Dame’s marketing expertise to help Catholic schools attract new families.
- Attract the Latino community to Catholic schools with assistance from Notre Dame’s Institute for Latino Studies and the Institute for Educational Initiatives.
- Develop the ACE Consulting Initiative to provide expertise in marketing, governance, board training, management, strategic

planning and investing.

- Develop a National Parish School Leadership Team Workshop to convene pastors, principals and school board presidents to learn and discuss best practices in marketing, leadership, strategic planning, financial management, etc.
- Investigate how to access public funds and resources for Catholic schools and their students and educate the public on the social justice aspects of school choice.

John Staud, director of Pastoral Formation and Administration for ACE and a member of the taskforce executive committee, told *Today’s Catholic* that to date, feedback from Catholic dioceses has been very positive, and demand for the report has prompted a second printing of 5,000 copies. Also, Staud and Father Scully recently gave a well-received presentation to a joint meeting of the U.S. Bishops’ Committees on Education and Catechesis.

“It’s exciting to be at Notre Dame at a time when it’s trying to take on this challenge in a lot of different ways,” said Staud.

“We view the whole thing with hope. If you look at the challenges that have faced Catholic schools over the last 40 years, it’s a miracle that they’re doing as well as they are. Companies would have folded facing the sort of labor costs and diminished market share that schools have faced. And yet there’s this core group of Catholics and many non-Catholics who value these ‘national treasures.’”

The entire taskforce report is posted on the Notre Dame Web site at www.president.nd.edu/catholic-schools/.

Decree of merger for St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, South Bend, and St. Jude Parish, South Bend

According to canon 515.2 of the Code of Canon Law, “The diocesan bishop alone is competent to erect, suppress or alter parishes...” The Second Vatican Council, in its Decree on the Pastoral Office of Bishops in the Church, “Christus Dominus,” number 32, teaches that in creating or in any way changing the status of a parish, the bishop is to be motivated by his concern for the salvation of souls. This teaching was expanded upon by Pope Paul VI in his apostolic letter, “Ecclesiae Sanctae I,” number 21, “Every possible effort should be made that parishes where, because of too great a population or too large a territory or for any cause whatsoever, apostolic activity can be exercised only with difficulty or less effectively, should be suitably divided or dismembered, as the circumstances require. And likewise parishes which are too small should be united as conditions and circumstances demand.”

The merger of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, South Bend, with St. Jude Parish, South Bend, will strengthen the pastoral care of the area and add resources at St. Jude’s, which will make possible the strengthening of the educational and pastoral ministry of St. Jude’s.

This decision was made after consultation with members of the parish on July 30, 2006. This consultation was conducted after I celebrated the 11:30 a.m. Sunday Mass. It was advertised beforehand so as many as possible could attend. Among those in attendance were Father Michael Heintz, the vicar forane for the area, along with Father Derrick Sneyd, the pastor, and Father John Delaney, the incoming pastor.

There had been previous consultations with the pastor and the vicar. In addition, I visited St. Mary’s Parish on previous occasions to consult about the changes in the school.

Due to the present shortage of priests, it is not possible to place a priest in all the parishes of our diocese. It is necessary to distribute priests properly. While the addition of 22 priests from other countries has helped, most of these priests stay for a limited term. Accordingly, the joining of parishes to strengthen pastoral care needs consideration and, in this case, needed to be implemented.

A further reason is financial. Taken into serious consideration was the fact that St. Mary of the Assumption has a debt to the diocese of \$610,000. In the most recent fiscal year, this debt was \$48,000, and \$26,000 if we eliminate the cost of the school.

In light of the need to better distribute our priests and the serious financial condition of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, which has continued to deepen, the close proximity between St. Mary’s and St. Jude’s, and the need to strengthen pastoral care in the area, it was believed to be necessary to consult further.

On Oct. 26, 2006, I convened the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese for the purpose of consulting with them regarding the status of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, South Bend, Ind., and St. Jude Parish, South Bend, Ind., in accord with canons 127 and 515.2. The matter was presented to the council for advice. After lengthy discussion, each member was asked individually for his advice. The advice of the council, without a dissenting opinion, was to merge St. Mary of the Assumption Parish with St. Jude Parish.

Several years ago, a committee, under the leadership of Bishop Daniel Jenky, CSC, recommended several mergers, including the merger of St. Mary of the Assumption with St. Jude’s.

Therefore, after careful consideration of the advice of the Presbyteral Council as well as the input of the various members of the parish communities of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish and St. Jude Parish and the aforementioned committee, I decree the following:

I, the undersigned bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, in virtue of my pastoral office and in conformity with the Code of Canon Law, after consultation with the Presbyteral Council in accord with the norm of law, as well as with various members of both parish communities, do hereby decree that St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, South Bend, Ind., is merged with St. Jude Parish, South Bend, Ind. The effective date of this merger will be Jan. 28, 2007. The parish will retain the name of St. Jude Parish, and its territorial boundaries will be:

Beginning at the intersection of Trunk Railroad and Indiana 223 (Crumstown Highway) and moving clockwise: Trunk Railroad to Grant Street to Indiana Avenue to Brookfield Street to Prairie Avenue to Gertrude Street (which becomes Linden Road) to Norfolk and South Railroad Line to Donmoyer Street to Twyckenham Street to Clayton Drive to York Road to Byron Drive to Sampson Drive to Southern View Drive to Ironwood Road to Kern Road returning to Indiana 223 (Crumstown Highway).

Further, in accord with canon 121, St. Jude Parish will assume all assets and debts of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish.

Further, I decree that all parish records and registers from St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, South Bend, Ind., will be transported to St. Jude Parish, South Bend, Ind., where they will be maintained and preserved in accord with the norm of law.

Most Reverend John M. D’Arcy

Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

VIGIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"More and more citizens are coming to question abortion and to recognize — as a starting point for deeper conversion — that there is something radically wrong with abortion and the support given it by our laws," he added.

"In the midst of the enormous challenge posed by threats to life, there are new reasons to hope that the truth of God's law will prevail as a great light in our nation as our people move increasingly toward valuing human life from its earliest and most vulnerable stages onward. This indeed is cause for rejoicing in the Lord!"

The church's position on abortion is "one of profound concern for the unborn and deep compassion for all those affected by abortion," Cardinal Rigali said. "With utmost respect we express in the public debate our strong conviction that something terribly wrong has weakened our nation — something that flagrantly violates human rights and human dignity, in addition to the law of God."

The cardinal blasted "the so-called freedom of choice" that resulted from the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision in 1973, which legalized abortion virtually on demand, saying that those who get abortions do not experience freedom.

"Freedom comes only when they are able to turn to God in their sadness and brokenness and

accept his forgiveness, his mercy and his healing grace," Cardinal Rigali said. "They become truly free when they are able to acknowledge the truth of the wrong that they committed, and the greater truth that there are no limits to God's loving mercy or to his desire for our salvation. Jesus himself tells us: 'You will know the truth and the truth shall set you free.'"

Despite an afternoon snow that slickened Washington's streets, the shrine was again filled to capacity with worshippers who had set out from home in chartered buses long before winter's first snowfall in the nation's capital.

Worshippers, many of them students, also crammed the back vestibule and the side chapels of the shrine, and filled up its lower level as well. Many of them wore T-shirts or sweat-shirts with pro-life slogans, although some wore replica jerseys bearing the name and uniform number of their favorite sports star.

With the crowds in the upper church and on the lower level, the shrine estimated the number at 10,000.

Cardinal Rigali told the young people, "You are called to fulfill a special role: to bring all your energy to promote the cause of life. The Lord is calling you and confirming you in strength. The church and the nation are asking you to rise up to this challenge."

Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan., who had announced his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination Jan. 20, drew cheers when he was spotted inside the shrine for the Mass. Outside,

Brownback, who became a Catholic in 2002, talked with supporters, signed autographs and posed for photos.

At the March for Life in 2005, some in the crowd had held up "Brownback 2008" signs while he spoke.

Outside the shrine after the Mass, along with the requisite snowball throwing, some scattered cheering erupted once some had learned the Indianapolis Colts had beaten the New England Patriots for a berth in the Super Bowl. "Colts won!" some people shouted; the game had been played while they were inside the shrine for the Mass.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend also commemorated the Roe v. Wade with Vigil for Life Masses at both the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne and St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. Father Michael Heintz celebrated the Mass in South Bend. Bishop John M. D'Arcy celebrated the Mass in Fort Wayne.

In his homily, Bishop D'Arcy referred to the unborn as "the poor and oppressed of our generation." He also quoted Pope John Paul II's message on the "Gospel of Life."

"Could we think of anything more innocent or more incapable of harm or of being a weapon than the child who cannot even cry out in the womb when the destructive force comes close to it?"

Bishop D'Arcy continued to say that Jesus calls people to follow him by loving and taking care of the poor, the oppressed, the disabled and also the child in the womb.

Don Clemmer contributed to this story.

**"You are called to fulfill
a special role:"**

CARDINAL JUSTIN RIGALI



CNS PHOTO/NANCY WIECHEC

Young people attend the vigil Mass for life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Jan. 21. The vigil and several Masses preceded the 34th annual March for Life in the nation's capital Jan. 22. The events solemnly marked the 1973 Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion across the country.

MARCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Among the more than 20 Catholic bishops at the rally were Cardinals Justin Rigali of Philadelphia and Sean P. O'Malley of Boston.

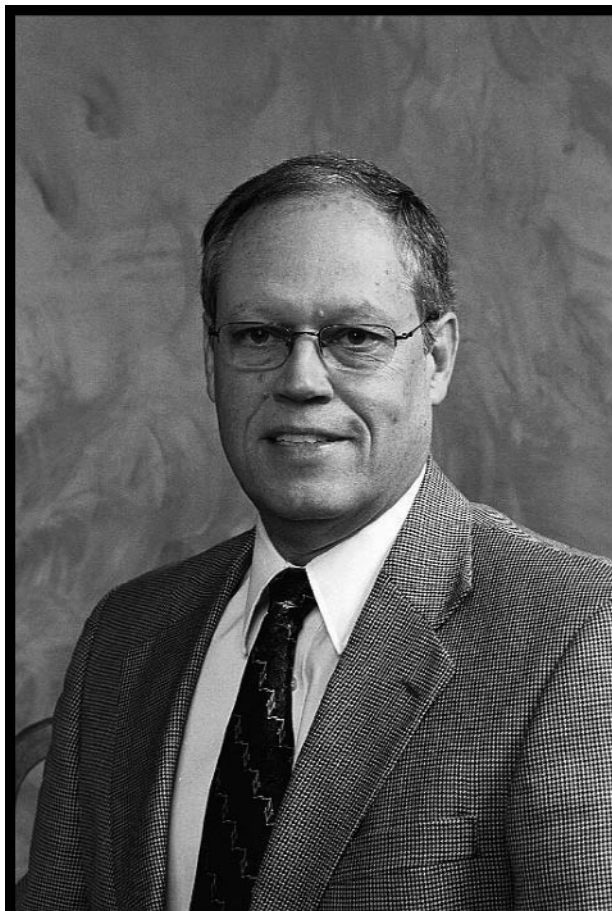
Archbishop Raymond L. Burke of St. Louis, who led the rally's final prayer before the start of the march, thanked the marchers for their "daily engagement in the fostering of human life ... without exception, without compromise."

The theme of this year's march was "Thou shalt protect the equal right to life of each

innocent human in existence at fertilization. No exception! No compromise!"

Nellie Gray, who has led the March for Life since its inception in 1974, said she warned abortion advocates back then that they were on a "slippery slope" that would also lead to euthanasia.

Among people she introduced on the stage were Bobby Schindler and Suzanne Schindler Vitadamo, the brother and sister of Terri Schindler Schiavo, the Florida woman who two years ago died after her life support was removed by court order at her husband's request, despite efforts by her natural family to keep her alive.



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Archbishop Buechlein shares vision on welcoming immigrants with lawmakers

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

INDIANAPOLIS — Most Rev. Daniel M. Buechlein, OSB, Indianapolis archbishop and chairman of the Board of the Indiana Catholic Conference shared his vision of welcoming immigrants with Indiana lawmakers during a Jan. 17, legislator luncheon at the Westin Hotel hosted by the Indiana Catholic Conference.

"Immigration reform is not only a complex, but a controversial issue," said Archbishop Buechlein. "We Catholic bishops of Indiana recommit ourselves and our dioceses to welcoming others as Christ himself. We embrace an authentic and enduring form of Hoosier hospitality that goes beyond superficial slogans to the heart of what it means to be a community of faith," said the Indianapolis archbishop.

"In the Gospels, we learn that our neighbor is anyone who is in need — including those who are homeless, hungry, sick or in prison. A neighbor may well be a complete stranger whose background, experience or social standing is very different from ours," said Archbishop Buechlein.

"As a Catholic community we vigorously support our nation's right and responsibility to provide secure borders, but we reject positions or policies that are anti-immigrant, Nativist, ethnocentric or racist. Such divisive and exclusionary attitudes are also profoundly anti-Catholic because they deny the dignity of human persons who are made in God's image. They

also contradict the essential unity and catholicity to which we are called as members of the one family of God."

Rep. Mike Murphy (R-Indianapolis) who led the fight against anti-immigration legislation in 2006 said, "The pastoral letter by the Indiana bishops and the archbishop's talk absolutely hit the mark. The Gospel passage of Matthew 25 quoted by the archbishop today is the essential guiding principle on this whole issue of immigration reform. The problem we have is there are a lot of people who have Nativist motives and it will take time and education as the Indiana bishops are doing to change minds. Rep. Murphy attends St. Jude Parish on the south side of Indianapolis.

Sen. John Broden (D-South Bend) said, "I'd prefer see a federal response to immigration reform rather than a patchwork of 50 states enacting different laws which is not really an effective way to deal with the issue. In general, I do support a guest worker provision and think we should take steps to provide immigrants a legal road to obtain citizenship. I was very happy to hear the remarks of Archbishop Buechlein and the call by the Indiana bishops for compas-

sionate treatment of immigrants. We have a Christian responsibility to provide a compassionate and coherent response to immigrants, rather than being punitive." Sen. Broden attends Holy Cross Parish in South Bend.

During the 2006, Hoosier lawmakers considered a driver's certificate bill which would have given undocumented immigrants a driver's certificate to drive legally in Indiana. Sen. Richard Young (D-Milltown) said, "I am very sympathetic toward immigrants and I certainly understand and appreciate the desire immigrants have to come to America for a better life, as many of our grandparents did," but said he has difficulty with the idea of granting legal documents, like a driver's license, to illegal immigrants. The driver's certificate bill failed last year.

Sen. Bob Deig (D-Mt. Vernon) said, "Let's face it, we are all immigrants. We have to be sensitive toward the immigrant and work together to strike a balance between placing limits on non-citizens while at the same time finding a way for immigrants to become citizens." Sen. Deig attends St. Phillip in Mt. Vernon.

Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon (D-Munster) who attended the luncheon said, "For the most part immigration reform is a federal issue. It is premature to pass legislation until the federal government does," said the Munster lawmaker.

Regarding the archbishop's presentation, Rep. Candelaria Reardon said, "It's nice to see the Catholic Church extending a welcoming hand to the immigrant

community." Rep. Candelaria Reardon attends St. Thomas More Parish, in Munster.

Sen. Jeff Drozda (R-Westfield) said, "I support helping the immigrants become citizens as long as they want to become citizens. The federal government has really dropped the ball on this issue and they expect the states to act." Sen. Drozda attends St. Maria Goretti Parish, in Westfield.

One immigration reform bill being considered by the Indiana General Assembly is HB 1253, the employment of illegal aliens measure. House Bill 1253, authored by Rep. Vern Tincher (D-Terre Haute), which passed the Indiana House Committee on Veterans Affairs and Public Safety Jan. 18,

by an 8-3 vote, would place sanctions on employers who hire undocumented workers.

"The problem with House Bill 1253 is that the bill does not help solve the immigration problem," said Indiana Catholic Conference Executive Director Glenn Tebbe, who testified in opposition to the bill before the House panel, "Rather it exaggerates problems for employers and immigrants alike." He said, "The Indiana Catholic Conference also opposed the bill because its ultimate target is the immigrant." House Bill 1253 will be eligible for amendment and passage in the House during the week of Jan. 22 through Jan. 26.



SEN. JOHN BRODEN

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Vatican says Chinese church growing; pope to write Chinese Catholics

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At the end of a two-day meeting to discuss the status of the Catholic community in mainland China and the problems it faces, the Vatican announced that Pope Benedict XVI would write a letter to the country's Catholics. Despite continuing instances of persecution and pressure, the number of Catholics in China is growing and the vast majority of bishops and priests have recognized the authority of the pope, said the statement issued at the end of the Jan. 19-20 meeting chaired by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state. "In the light of the troubled history of the church in China and the main events of the past few years, there was an examination of the most serious and urgent church problems, which need adequate solutions related to the basic principles of the divine constitution of the church and of religious liberty," the statement said. The Vatican did not say when Pope Benedict's letter to the Catholics of China would be written or released.

Pope says ecumenism should find increasing expression at parish level

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said ecumenism should find increasing expression at the parish level through prayer and works of charity. The pope made the remarks at his Sunday blessing Jan. 21 during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. On Jan. 25 he was scheduled to join other Christian leaders to close out the week with a prayer service in Rome. Addressing pilgrims from his apartment window, the pope said ecumenism must be understood as a "profound dialogue, listening to each other and speaking with each other, getting to know one another better." He said, "This is a task everyone can carry out, especially when it comes to 'spiritual ecumenism.'" He said, "I hope the yearning for unity, translated into prayer and fraternal cooperation to alleviate human suffering, can spread even more at the level of parishes, church movements and religious institutes." The pope expressed his gratitude for all those around the world who are praying and working for Christian unity.

Pope asks Turkey to grant church full legal recognition

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI asked the government of Turkey to grant full legal recognition to the Catholic Church and to establish a formal dialogue with the nation's Catholic bishops to work out concrete problems. Welcoming Muammer Dogan Akdur as Turkey's new ambassador to the Vatican Jan. 19, the pope said that while Turkish Catholics enjoy religious freedom in the country the church as a whole would like to have a recognized juridical status under Turkish law. "I have no

NEWS BRIEFS

CARDINAL SPEAKS AT INTERRELIGIOUS DISCUSSION



CNS PHOTO/TODD PLITT

Italian Cardinal Angelo Scola of Venice speaks during a panel discussion on "Peoples and Religions" at the United Nations in New York Jan. 17. Representatives of Catholicism, Islam and Judaism at the discussion cautioned against interreligious relationships in which differences are papered over in the name of tolerance.

doubt that your government will do everything in its power to advance in this direction," the pope told the new ambassador. The lack of legal status sometimes has made it difficult for the Catholic Church and other Christian communities to own and buy property officially and to build or operate churches, schools and hospitals.

Major archbishop of Syro-Malankara Church dies unexpectedly

BANGALORE, India (CNS) — Catholics in India mourned the death of Archbishop Cyril Baselios Malancharuvil of Trivandrum, the major archbishop of the Syro-Malankara Church, who was known for promoting unification of the Indian Catholic Church's various rites. The archbishop died unexpectedly Jan. 18 at the age of 71 after suffering a heart attack. Referred to commonly as Archbishop Baselios, he was a member of the Order of the Imitation of Christ. Pope Benedict XVI expressed his condolences, describing Archbishop Baselios' death as a "great loss" to the church. The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, of which Archbishop Baselios was president from 2000 to 2004, said he "was well respected in the entire Indian church for his wisdom, foresight and integral vision." The conference includes bishops from all three rites — Latin, Syro-Malankara and Syro-Malabar — that make up the Catholic Church in India. The Syro-Malankara Church has 500,000 Catholics in two archdioceses and four dioceses.

Nigerian archbishop calls for new structure for African bishops

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — Africa's Catholic bishops need a structure to enable them to speak and act as one unit, said Archbishop John Olorunfemi Onaiyekan of Abuja, Nigeria, president of the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar. "The time is ripe for this, not only because of the many challenges Africa faces, but because the church has the resources to be able to tackle these problems," he said in a Jan. 17 telephone interview from Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, where the symposium met Jan. 15-22. "It is not enough to have bishops good at managing their own dioceses; we need to find viable ways of talking as one and helping one another," he said, noting that the Catholic Church in Africa is one of the "best organized groups, with good and effective leaders." Over the past 40 years the symposium has provided a forum for member bishops' conferences to exchange ideas and experiences, "and now we need to bring in another dimension" through examining what role is appropriate at a continental level, Archbishop Onaiyekan said.

Bishop Nevins of Venice resigns; coadjutor succeeds him

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Bishop John J. Nevins of Venice, Fla., who is 75. He was appointed the first bishop

of Venice when the diocese was created in 1984 from portions of the Miami Archdiocese and the dioceses of Orlando and St. Petersburg, Fla. Coadjutor Bishop Frank J. Dewane immediately succeeds him. The changes were announced in Washington Jan. 19 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop Nevins turned 75 Jan. 19. A native of New Rochelle, N.Y., he was ordained a priest of the Miami Archdiocese in 1959. He was named an auxiliary bishop of Miami in 1979 and ordained a bishop March 24 of that year. He was appointed the first bishop of Venice July 27, 1984, and was installed in the new diocese Oct. 25, 1984. The diocese, covering 10 counties in southwest Florida, has 233,000 Catholics in a total population of 1.8 million. Bishop Dewane, who spent 15 years in Vatican service before he was made a bishop, is 56 years old.

British cardinal seeks exemption for adoptions by same-sex couples

LONDON (CNS) — The head of the English and Welsh bishops' conference told British Prime Minister Tony Blair that seven Catholic adoption agencies would close if the government forced them to place children with same-sex couples. In a Jan. 22 letter, Cardinal Cormac Murphy-O'Connor of Westminster, England, appealed to Blair to grant the agencies an exemption from proposed gay rights laws called the Sexual Orientation Regulations. "This is an appeal for fair play," the cardinal said. He said that without the exemption

the Catholic agencies, which are partly funded by the government, would be forced to end a service that each year places more than 200 problem children with new families. Cardinal Murphy-O'Connor said that closing the agencies was a "wholly avoidable" outcome. He said the bishops believed it would be "unreasonable, unnecessary and unjust discrimination against Catholics" if the government insisted that they must act "against the teaching of the church and their own consciences by being obliged in law to provide such a service."

After venturing into world of blogs, Boston cardinal now has podcast

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, already believed to be the first U.S. cardinal to have his own Web log, or blog, is apparently the first U.S. cardinal to have his own podcast. While Cardinal O'Malley may be unique among the highest levels of the U.S. Catholic hierarchy, the archdioceses they head are keeping abreast of the newest communications technologies. During the holidays the *Boston Globe* reported that Boston Catholic Television, the Archdiocese of Boston's video arm, would make available downloadable Christmas video messages from Cardinal O'Malley in English, Spanish and Portuguese, with regular podcast recordings to start this year. For those not in the know, a podcast is a computer file distributed over the Internet for playback on mobile devices and personal computers. Like radio, "podcast" can mean both the content and the method of distribution. Podcasters' Web sites may also offer direct download or streaming of their content.

Students' forum promotes understanding of people on society's margins

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — In an English class last year, a group of students from Jesuit High School in Portland established a movement to increase respect and justice for those who are not mainstream members of society. Now these students are helping their schoolmates and the wider community understand and champion people with AIDS, addicts, the poor, the homeless and those persecuted because of religion, sexual orientation, race, culture or gender. "Students at Jesuit have a unique sense of community," said Maddy Bennett, a senior and student body president who is one of the founders of what is being called "Crusade for Respect." Bennett credits the Catholic identity of the school for making the wide-ranging project possible. Last year, students met for a forum each Friday, discussing current issues usually within the framework of the Catholic notion of the dignity of the human person. "It was a chance for students to voice opinions and students respected one another," said Bennett. "We are hoping to extend that to the whole community."

Forever Learning Institute ready for spring classes

SOUTH BEND — Spring classes at the Forever Learning Institute will begin in February. Over 20 new classes will be offered this semester including a 21st century lecture series. Many popular classes are returning such as the digital photography and the computers along with several new academic and two new exercise classes.

The institute recently relocated its classes to Little Flower Parish, 54191 Ironwood Rd., in South Bend. Executive Director Joan Loranger reports, "We are continuing to experience large numbers of students from all areas in the city and its adjoining communities."

Last semester, the institute had over 675 students enrolled in 83 classes and seven clubs. This semester they are offering 76 classes and seven clubs.

The course guide can be obtained at the South Bend and Mishawaka/Penn-Harris Public Libraries. Also, the classes are online at www.foreverlearninginstitute.org.

The Forever Learning Institute admits students age 50 and over. Call (574) 282-1901 for information.

The St. Joseph Community Health Foundation announces \$476,850 in local grants

FORT WAYNE — The St. Joseph Community Health Foundation, operated by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, announces \$476,850.00 in grants to local organizations to improve health and health care access for the low-income, underinsured and uninsured in Allen County.

The St. Joseph Community Health Foundation was reorganized as an independent foundation in 1998 with proceeds from the sale of St. Joseph Medical Center. The foundation is charged with maintaining the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ 140 year commitment to help everyone in the Allen County community, especially the poor and vulnerable, access quality health care and attain health. The following funds and amounts were announced:

- Allen County Education Partnership, \$2,000
- Center for Nonviolence, \$10,000
- Christian Community Healthcare Clinic, \$5,707
- Fort Wayne African-American Cancer Alliance, Inc., \$1,475
- Fort Wayne Healthy Cities Committee, Inc., \$2,925
- Fort Wayne Medical Education Program, \$2,951
- Fort Wayne Parks and Recreation, \$5,000
- Hope Alive, \$20,000
- A Hope Center, \$28,600
- Leadership Fort Wayne, \$1,500
- Lutheran Social Services of Indiana, \$10,000
- Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic, \$67,522

AROUND THE DIOCESE

HOLY CROSS COMMUNITIES CELEBRATE MOREAU DAY



BROTHER CHARLES MCBRIDE, CSC

The Sisters of the Holy Cross at St. Mary's College Convent hosted the annual Moreau Day Celebration for priests, brothers and sisters of Holy Cross serving in the South Bend area. Sister Joy O'Grady, CSC, congregational leader for the Sisters of the Holy Cross, pictured at podium, was the ceremonial leader of the "The Life and Legacy of Father Moreau: A Celebration in Word and Song." Father Basil Moreau will be beatified in LeMans, France, on Sept. 15. A local celebration will be held at Sacred Heart Basilica, Notre Dame, on Sept. 30. Priests, brothers and sisters of Holy Cross along with seminarians and Holy Cross Associates are pictured at the Church of the Loretto, St. Mary's, Notre Dame.

- Matthew 25 Health and Dental Clinic, \$86,652
- Neighborhood Health Clinics, Inc., \$127,758
- One Church, One Offender, Inc., \$11,400
- Power House Youth Center, Inc., \$2,500
- Super Shot, Inc., \$19,440
- Turnstone Center for Disabled Children and Adults, \$15,000
- Women's Care Center, \$30,420
- Northeast Indiana Burn Council, Inc., \$20,000
- Broadway Christian Church, \$1,500
- The Society of St. Andrew, \$1,500
- Wellspring Interfaith Social Services, Inc., \$1,500
- YWCA of Fort Wayne, \$1,500

Bishop Luers High School announces scholarship winners

FORT WAYNE — A total of 134 eighth grade students from the surrounding area took the Bishop Luers Scholarship Exam in November and December. Of those 134 students, 10 received scholarships for the 2007-2008 school year. These scholarships were awarded on academic merit.

This year's scholarship award winners and the schools they are currently attending are: Sean Driscoll, St. Therese; William McManus, St. John the Baptist (Fort Wayne); Colleen Quigley, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth; Peter Ali, Woodside Middle School; Anna McNamara, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth; Ann Kebede, St. Jude; Caleb Shutt, St. Therese; Dave Andrews, Benoit Academy; Katherine Dwire, St. John the Baptist (Fort Wayne); Taylor Gillie, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth.

A total of \$5,250 was awarded to these incoming freshman students.

Bishop Luers students donate coats

FORT WAYNE — Meg Hanlon, head of the religion department at Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne, asked her students if they would consider donating coats to the "Coats for Kids." The students collected 24 coats. The Coats for Kids Program is a joint effort between WANE-TV, Peerless Cleaners, Scott's Foods, Retired and Senior Volunteer Center (RSVP) and Wayne Township Trustees Office. WANE-TV promotes the project, Scott's and Peerless collect the coats, Peerless cleans them and RSVP and Wayne

Township Trustees Office distribute the coats. The coats range in size from infant to adult and are distributed to people in need. The collecting of coats ran through Jan. 20.

Walk raises money to help women, children of South Bend center

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center is a lead sponsor for St. Margaret's House upcoming Winter Walk 2007. The walk will be held this year on Sunday, Feb. 11, beginning at 2:30 p.m. with a 1:30 p.m. on-site registration. Those wishing to pre-register can do so by visiting www.stmargarethouse.org or by calling (574) 234-7795.

The theme for Winter Walk is "Walk a Mile In Her Shoes," as participants can experience the life of a woman or child whose everyday means of transportation is their feet, regardless of weather conditions.

Winter Walk is a one-and-a-half-mile walk that begins and ends at St. Margaret's House, located at 117 North Lafayette Blvd. in downtown South Bend. Proceeds from Winter Walk will enable St. Margaret's House to continue to be a haven of hospitality and of life changing support and service for women and children in need within our community.

St. Margaret's House is a day center dedicated to providing a safe and caring environment where women and children can help themselves and each other develop their self esteem and potential.

For more information on how to participate in the Winter Walk 2007 or on how to make a donation, please call (574) 234-7795 or visit www.stmargarethouse.org.

KNIGHTS LEAD ST. DOMINIC MARCH



BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

Over 100 marchers took part in the annual St. Dominic Parish Right to Life March led by the Knights of Columbus group. After the group marched to downtown Bremen, participants returned to St. Dominic's parish hall to hear guest speakers who included a young mother, who found herself pregnant at 16 and chose to raise her child and get her degree, and Kim Perry of Miller's Merry Manor in Wakarusa who works in the Alzheimers's unit.

Octogenarian recognized for ministering to troubled youth

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Over 100 youth, staff and volunteers gathered Sunday, Jan. 14, at the Northeast Juvenile Correction

Facility for an annual program hosted by St. Vincent de Paul Parish Youth Detention Ministry. The ministry was the brainchild of Bob Swindler, who created the volunteer program with the help of a few fellow parishioners.

"It was his idea," says Judy Kruck, who works with Swindler in the ministry. "He had the vision for the ministry at St. Vincent and had a way to carry it through."

Swindler, who is stepping down this year, was honored at Sunday's

program with a plaque commemorating his years of service. At age 86, he says, "I believe in the ministry and hate to leave, but I feel it's time."

Hailing from Indianapolis, Swindler met his wife, Betty, of 57 years while in the armed services.

Following his tour of duty, Swindler completed his college education earning a degree in business. His work history includes business and accounting positions in companies that had his young family, growing to include four children, moving from Indianapolis to Tennessee and back to Indiana. Upon arrival in Fort Wayne in 1968, the family joined St. Vincent de Paul Parish where they continue to be active members.

Following his retirement in 1985, Swindler continued offering his business savvy as a consultant where needed but focused more on his volunteer work. He and Betty are active members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, where they team to visit those in need. It was at one society meeting over a decade ago that Swindler learned of the Prison Fellowship and immediately signed up to participate. The group consisted of volunteers from several area churches and brought Bible studies to the youth at the correctional facility at its former location in downtown Fort Wayne. Swindler says, "I was the only Catholic in the group. But it didn't matter — we all worked together."

Over the years as that group diminished, and the correction center moved north to a new facility on Venture Lane, Swindler decided to approach his pastor at St. Vincent, Father John Kuzmich, for permission to create their own ministry.

"Bob felt it deeply in his heart to help the kids," recalls Kruck. In 2001, with the support of the parish, Swindler organized a program called Youth Detention Ministry, consciously avoiding the use of words such as prison and inmate.

Bulletin announcements helped recruit volunteers but Swindler says, "There was not much trouble getting volunteers. It spread by word of mouth."

Using his superior organizational skills from his accounting days, Swindler scheduled the volunteers, numbering over 20, to visit the youth facility in groups of three. Each Sunday morning visiting volunteers invite interested boys to join the hour-long Bible study and discussion group. Swindler says some Sundays up to 20 boys use missals provided by St. Vincent Church to investigate the Sunday readings.

According to Eric Anthony, safety coordinator of the center, the new facility has a capacity to house 130 "students." The average age there is 15, but the range includes boys from 12 to 21, with offenses from truancy to theft. Swindler is adamant that he has never felt threatened during any of his visits there. "The boys are quiet, really no problem," he reports.

The most important aspect of the ministry, says Swindler, is "to show the boys someone cares



KAY COZAD

St. Vincent de Paul parishioner Bob Swindler, 86, was honored by the church's Youth Detention Ministry for his many years of service there. He is passing the torch of this ministry that he was instrumental in forming, to other members of group.

about them." But he admits, "I got more out of it than I gave them." He is pleased that in addition to mentoring the boys, his knowledge of the Bible has grown over the years due to his research for the sessions.


Fellow Youth Detention Ministry volunteer, Laura Heidenreich, says Swindler is a great and humble man. "He is humble, so full of the Holy Spirit, so sincere and serious. The boys love him. He is one of a kind." St. Vincent de Paul Society member and friend, Carol Hurst agrees saying, "He's fair and discerns needs well. He's always available at the drop of a hat, the most selfless person I know."

The octogenarian quietly says he "enjoys working with kids" and has also been involved with the Study Connection through Fort Wayne Community Schools for over 10 years, where he assisted with homework and mentored students in need. His friends say he is a father figure to the youth who many times come from broken homes. He also assists with volunteer scheduling and entertainment for patients at the Byron Health Center and has been known to bow his head at eucharistic adoration from time to time.

As he steps down from these long held positions in these worthwhile programs, Swindler unpretentiously looks forward as he approaches his 87th birthday. His passion for the ministry is evident when he says, "There is a need for this ministry, and it will continue. I would encourage other (St. Vincent de Paul) conferences to form this type ministry."

For more information on volunteering for or starting a Youth Detention Ministry in your parish call St. Vincent Parish at (260) 489-3537.

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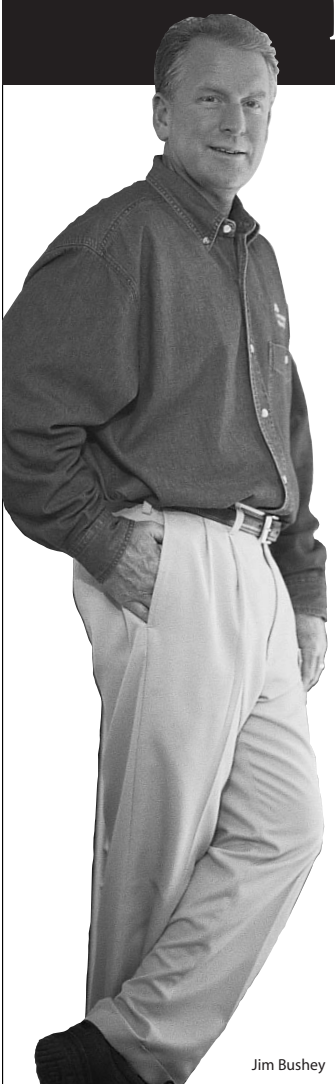
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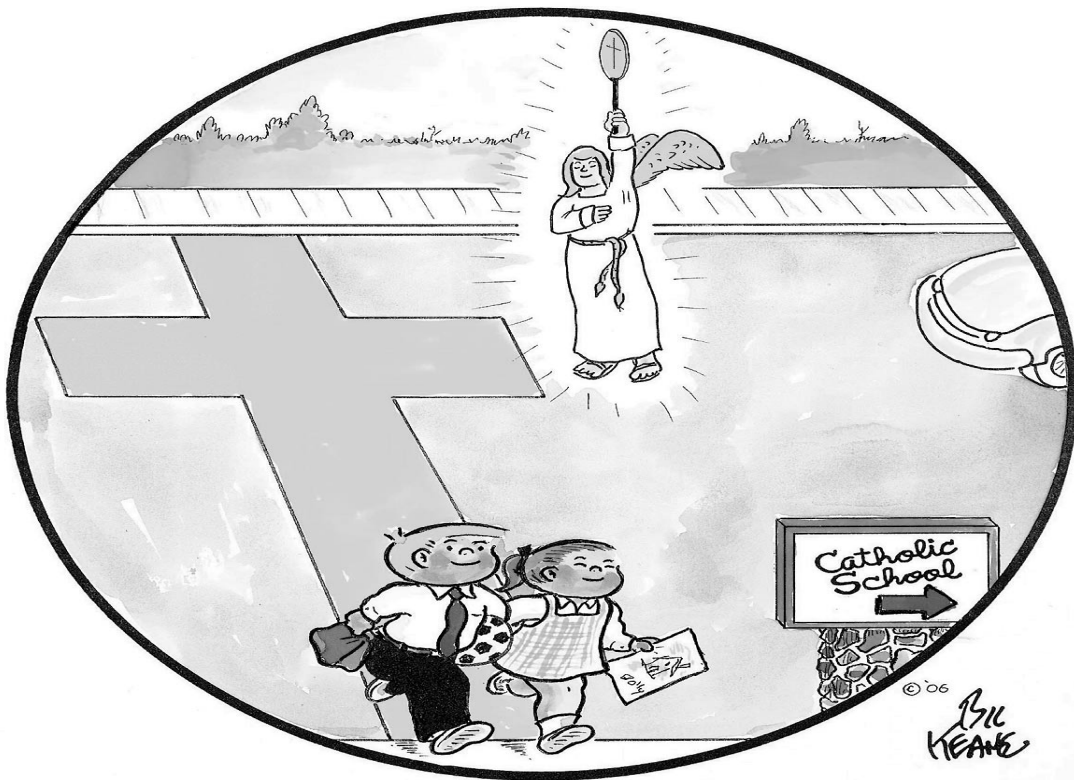
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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



The Good News in Education

The 2007 Catholic Schools Week logo features an open book, symbolizing both the Bible and knowledge and underscoring the Christ-centered, religious foundation and academic excellence of Catholic schools.



A VERY SPECIAL CROSSWALK

BISHOP D'ARCY VISITS WITH PEER MINISTERS



DON CLEMMER

Bishop John M. D'Arcy visits with senior peer ministers at Bishop Luers High School in the school chapel. Bishop D'Arcy kicked off his annual visits to the four diocesan high schools with this Jan. 17 visit, which included an all-school Mass in the gymnasium.

Each and every child is a true gift from God

BY FATHER STEPHEN KEMPINGER, CSC

Catholic Schools Week is a time where we celebrate who we are and what we do in Catholic schools across our nation. It is a time to honor our schools and highlight our mission and traditions. The theme for our schools this year is "Catholic Schools: The Good News in Education." This theme underscores the Christ-centered foundation that all of our schools are built on and is the focus of our mission to bring the message of Christ to a world that hungers for the living word.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is part of the largest private school system in the United States. Here in the diocese we have 44 schools, 40 elementary and four high schools, with an enrollment of 14,200 students. We are the 19th largest school system out of 339 in the state of Indiana. With close to 1,000 teachers and administrators, our focus always remains on the individual child. Each and every one a true gift from God.

Let us explore and celebrate the Good News in Education.

We can see the Good News in Education in our parishes. Being Christ-centered schools, the schools in our diocese sustain their daily lives rooted in the sacraments. Our grade schools receive their spiritual nourishment through the parish. Children attend Mass every week and have religion class or catechesis everyday.

Sacramental preparation takes place in second and seventh grade.

Our high schools continue the traditions that are started in grade school and expand students' minds with the teachings of the church through four years of required religion.

Parishes have a large part in sustaining our schools. Each of the grade schools receives a financial subsidy from their parish. The tuition paid by parents is not the true cost of educating their children. The difference is made up by the weekly stewardship of parishioners and participation in the Legacy of Faith and Bishop's Appeal contributions. As one family, the parish and the diocese work together to bring the good news to the next generation of Catholics.

Another source of Good News in Education is the support we receive from people and organizations in our local community. Individuals, businesses and organizations have recognized the importance of a Catholic Education in their local community and economy. Supporters in Freedom 22, Guardian Angel Fund and others provide funds for scholarships that are used to support students that might not be able to attend our schools. The Good News is that Catholic Schools are recognized by

others as having value in educating future generations of young people.

The Good News in Education also includes our students. The Good News can be seen through students' academic endeavors, their growth in their Catholic faith, and their progress toward a values-filled life. Each year our students have consistently scored above the state average on the ISTEP+. Several of our schools scored in the top 5 percent in the state of Indiana. This year St. Jude, Fort Wayne, joined Bishop Dwenger High School and Saint Joseph's High School as a National Blue Ribbon School. Many people contribute to the academic excellence but it is our students who are truly the Good News in Education.

Vocations are very important for the future of the church. Our schools offer many opportunities for students to consider a possible future in religious life or the priesthood. Father Galic and the diocesan Office of Vocation work hard providing literature and visiting our schools. Many of our seminarians and recently ordained are products of our four high schools.

Pastors are present in their schools and lead the parish community toward the importance of Catholic schools. It is also important to note that our bishop is committed to our high schools by assigning a priest to be a chaplain. These dedicated priests are not just on the sidelines but are in the classrooms where their very presence is an example of the importance to future vocations.

Finally, the Good News in Education can be seen in our staff that is essential to the success of our schools. These include teachers, administrators, secretaries, bus drivers, crossing guards, cooks and janitors. This group of people keeps our schools running and has dedicated their lives to a future generation. They have made large sacrifices in carrying out their vocation as "educators in the faith." The good news is that through a faith-filled and professional staff, we will all benefit as our children grow in mind and spirit under their care.

Catholic Schools Week is a time to reflect on the wonderful gifts that God has given us through our schools. The people that have experienced our schools go forward in our world that is hungry and in need of the presence of Christ. With the tools and experience they have gained in our schools a student is ready to face the challenges of the world and modern society. The good news is that together we can continue this unique endeavor of passing on the faith to our children.

Holy Cross Father Stephen Kempinger is the superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

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Bloom recognized around the diocese for exemplary teaching

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Most Precious Blood School is 109 years old and enjoys strong neighborhood ties as it continues the business of educating its student body ranging from pre-kindergarten to eighth grade. Held to a high standard of academic excellence, the 190 students there receive their Catholic education from a superior staff of teachers. One teacher, Jessie Bloom, is the school's beloved first grade teacher. She has been recognized this year with not one, but three outstanding teaching awards, including the Light of Learning Award, the Outstanding Allen County Educator for the diocese and Indiana NewsCenter's Golden Apple Award. Though Bloom is thrilled about the awards, she says humbly, "It's not about awards. It's about what I do."

Bloom has been teaching first grade for 17 years and says she knew she would be a teacher from early in her childhood. "In

first grade, I was a struggling reader. I knew someday I wanted to help other children be successful," she recalls. With the help of her teachers, Bloom learned to love reading and went on to pursue a college education.

After her marriage to Phil, Bloom went from full-time student to full-time mom with the birth of their two children, Jacob and Jennifer. After raising the

children she returned to college to earn her teaching degree at age 36.

Following graduation she agreed to teach first grade for one year at Most Precious Blood and has been there ever since.

Bloom is no stranger to Most Precious Blood School. She and her family grew up in the area. "My dad went to school here. I went here and my children went here," she says proudly. Of teaching in her old neighborhood school, she adds, "It's nice know-

ing the families ... It's a community. It does take a village to raise and educate a child. We all work together as a family."

This year Bloom's class holds 16 "very intelligent" students, all of whom are delighted to have this special teacher. From student to student, they all agree that Mrs. Bloom is "really nice and teaches us things we don't know."

"She loves us," they say. In her brightly decorated, book-filled classroom, Bloom's soft spoken and loving voice

seems to draw the best from the students as they ponder their work.

Her faith, Bloom admits, plays a large role in her love of teaching. "The Holy Spirit is my guide and part of my vocation here," she says. Raised by devout Catholic parents, Bloom credits her mother, a convert to the faith,

"She loves us."

FIRST GRADE STUDENTS OF JESSIE BLOOM

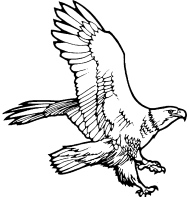
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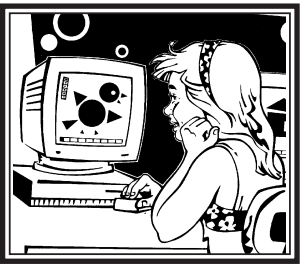
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KAY COZAD

Jessie Bloom stands in her first grade classroom at Most Precious Blood School holding her Golden Apple Award. Bloom has taught first grade there for 17 years and has been recognized recently with three outstanding teaching awards including the Light of Learning Award, the Allen County Outstanding Educator of the Year Award and Indiana NewsCenter's Golden Apple Award.

with teaching her to love Jesus as a person and reading the Bible. The dedicated award-winning educator believes in the value of Catholic education and says, "There is a freedom to talk about Jesus and faith and how he works in our lives. I know for some it's a sacrifice. But they'll never regret it." Bloom was instrumental in bringing a special program, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, to Most Precious Blood where she and another trained instructor teach pre-kindergarten through second grade students in the "atrium" to know Jesus personally.

Shortly before the Christmas holidays, an assembly was held to announce that Bloom had been selected for the Light of Learning Award. This award is presented annually to outstanding teachers who contribute to the excellence of Catholic education. Bloom received a plaque and has been invited to a special banquet for Light of Learning recipients in February. Most Precious Blood Principal Alexandria Bergman appreciates Bloom's dedicated teaching, saying, "She is a great Christian role-model for students and teachers. And she looks for ways to meet the needs of the students and families." Of the award Bloom, who prefers to be in the background,

says she felt humbled by the experience. "I felt very affirmed and honored by the award. But everyone here is outstanding."

During the holiday, Bloom was again notified that she was being honored with recognition for her outstanding teaching ability, this time with the Allen County Outstanding Educator of the Year Award for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Of receiving the second award she says, "I share this with all the staff."

More recently Bloom and her class attended an all-school assembly called, she thought, to discuss Catholic Schools Week. She was left "speechless" as it was announced that she was the recipient of the Indiana NewsCenter's January Golden Apple Award, which included a plaque and a \$50 savings bond.

Her gratitude is evident as she speaks of the awards, but she's quick to remind all that the staff at Most Precious Blood is her support, saying, "They are all talented and as much a part of my success." But the real sparkle that lights her eyes shines when she speaks of teaching her students at Most Precious Blood. "Everyday, I want the kids to be safe, have fun, learn something new and love Jesus."

Faculty Position

PHILOSOPHY

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Kenrick-Glennon Seminary, the major seminary of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Saint Louis, is instituting a new undergraduate program and seeks applicants for a full-time faculty position in the philosophical disciplines. Applicants should be Roman Catholic, should exemplify the Gospel in their lives, and manifest a love for the Eucharist as a source and sign of unity in the Church. They should possess an advanced, preferably terminal degree, be dedicated to the total formation of seminary students, and be willing to form, with students and colleagues, a genuine community of faith, formation, and learning. Applicants should be well versed in the classic themes of Western philosophy and capable of providing a consistent and sound philosophical education to undergraduate seminarians studying for the Roman Catholic priesthood.

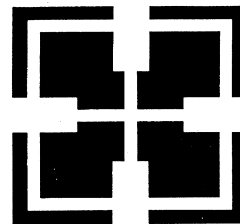
Women and persons of color are encouraged to apply. Rank is open. Salary will be determined by qualifications and experience. Review of applications begins March 7, 2007, and continues until the position is filled. Appointment is effective July 1, 2007. Applicants are asked to send a letter of application and curriculum vitae to the following. Inquiries are welcome to the same.



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Holy Cross College Student Government Association purchases evacuation chair to assist students with disabilities

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross Brother Chris Dreyer is the director of student counseling services at Holy Cross College at Notre Dame. He does a lot on campus, from his vocation as counselor to his "hobby" landscaping. One role he takes very seriously is acting as an advocate for students with disabilities. Brother Chris aims to make Holy Cross a comfortable environment for all.

Although it isn't required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, Brother Chris really wanted evacuation chairs in the college's class-

room building. An evacuation chair is used to transport students who require a wheelchair down stairs, or even back up if needed. An ordinary wheelchair is not designed for that. Although the college has an elevator in the classroom building, in an emergency the elevator might not work.

Brother Chris decided to ask the Student Government Association if they might see the need and help his cause.

"They didn't even hesitate," he says.

On the spot, the group decided to fund one chair for \$2,196, making the contribution in Brother Chris's name, in gratitude for all the hard work he has done on campus.

SGA president Jared Sawyer '08 says, "We try to look out for the students' needs and help and represent the whole student body."

A dedication for the new evacuation chair will be held Thursday, Jan. 25, at 3 p.m. in Holy Cross College's Vincent Classroom Building.

The college is very blessed to have an evacuation chair, however two would be ideal for the main classroom building. Those interested in donating funds toward a second chair are asked to contact Brother Chris Dreyer at cdreyer@hcc-nd.edu or (574) 239-8383.

USF announces scholarship opportunities

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis has announced scholarships for students who will be attending the university in the

2007-2008 academic year.

- Lilly Room and Board Scholarship — a scholarship in the amount of a traditional double room for any Lilly Scholar who lives on campus

- University of Saint Francis Second Bachelor's Degree Grant — a \$2,500 grant to students who are full time and have already received a bachelor's degree

- University of Saint Francis 21st Century Grant — a minimum of \$4,500 in institutional funding to students who are 21st Century Scholars (includes academic, athletic or other aid from USF)

- University of Saint Francis Phi Theta Kappa Scholarship — a scholarship up to \$10,000 to full-time undergraduate students who are members of Phi Theta Kappa and have a minimum GPA of 3.5 (students must be working on a

higher degree at USF)

- Catholic Heritage Scholarship — a scholarship of up to \$3,500 to students who have attended Catholic school in Allen County (students must be full-time undergraduate students without a prior bachelor's degree)

- Tom Jehl Lifetime Sports Academy Scholarship — two full-tuition scholarships and multiple scholarships up to \$3,000 to students who have participated with the Lifetime Sports Academy, have participated in volunteer activities and have a high school GPA of 2.7 or higher.

Other qualifications may be required for consideration. Please visit www.sf.edu/financialaid/ for more detailed information, contact the office of financial aid at (260) 434-3283 or e-mail finaid@sf.edu.




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Christian brother and teacher

**Mark Niemoeller
exemplifies non-Catholics
in Catholic school**

BY DON CLEMMER

FORT WAYNE — Mark Niemoeller insists that had someone told him 20 years ago that all three of his kids would graduate from a Catholic high school, he would have made a face and said, “Who do you think you’re talking to?”

A fair response, as Niemoeller is a devout Missouri Synod Lutheran minister. But all three of his kids did graduate from a Catholic high school — Bishop Luers in Fort Wayne — due in large part to the other major item on his resume. For the past decade, he has been the Latin teacher at Bishop Luers, and the program has flourished under his care, now including a fifth-year course for students who studied Latin in middle school.

According to John Gaughan, assistant director of high schools for the diocese, Catholic schools are looking for the best teachers in their subject areas. This may be a Catholic in good standing with the church or a non-Catholic who agrees to respect the Catholic Church and its teachings and abide by its tenets. In the four diocesan high schools, non-Catholics represent 28 percent of the total faculty.

In the classroom, a non-Catholic teacher would never be asked to violate his or her conscience by teaching something he or she does not believe. On the other hand, if a student were to ask a question on a controversial topic where the teacher’s views might clash with Catholic teaching, the teacher is to direct the student to a priest or theology teacher.

When Mark Niemoeller first entered this environment as not only a non-Catholic, but a non-Catholic minister in the fall of 1997, he and Luers principal Mary Keefer had what he calls some interesting conversations.

“We agreed that I wouldn’t ever have to compromise my faith, apologize for my faith,” but that proselytizing would be contrary to both of their missions, recalls Niemoeller. He also had to buy some shirts and ties, as they agreed that he should not regularly appear in the clerical collar of his ministry work.

From there, Niemoeller embarked on a journey that he calls “almost indescribable.”

It has been one in which he has not only been able to build a solid Latin program, but also develop a great rapport with students, faculty and staff. This rapport has led numerous people to seek him out over the years in more of a coun-



DON CLEMMER

Mark Niemoeller, Latin teacher at Bishop Luers High School for the past 10 years, works with one of his classes. Niemoeller, a Missouri Synod Lutheran minister, has found his time at Luers a gift that has strengthened his faith and his appreciation of other Christians.

selor role, something Niemoeller says he has always been “humbled to do.”

While Niemoeller receives a fairly constant flow of questions from students about his Lutheran background, and once a year, he gets an opportunity to discuss these issues in a formal setting when Luers theology teacher Marilyn Fech invites him to her church history class to help present the lesson on Luther.

“It’s just awesome to have that opportunity,” says Niemoeller, “and then to field questions and to realize we do have Christian brothers and sisters. There are so many similarities and a very common heritage that we share.”

It is in this greater understanding of Catholicism that

Niemoeller says he has grown tremendously in his time at Luers. And he believes that he too is appreciated as a Lutheran, noting that Bishop D’Arcy has always been very cordial to him, even sending him old Latin missals, not-

ing that he knows Niemoeller will use them the right way.

And since Latin is a language greatly associated with the Catholic faith, Niemoeller has worked the study of the Vulgate — St. Jerome’s Latin translation of the Bible — into his upper-level classes. He says it is “overwhelming to see students begin to do readings and see the light that Scripture brings, especially through the images of another language.”

Outside of his work at Luers, Niemoeller has continued his work as a Lutheran minister. Oddly enough, his teaching has not hindered his ministry, but actually opened up new avenues, as it makes him an ideal candidate to serve as interim pastor at various churches. Over the past 10 years, he has served Lutheran communities in Defiance, Antwerp and Van Wert in Ohio, Three Rivers, Mich. as well as Logansport, Peru and Hudson in Indiana.

“I’ve really been able to travel and get to do some things that I never thought I’d be able to do,” says Niemoeller, “and a lot of it’s because of being here at Bishop Luers.”

He is currently assisting a small community in Fort Wayne, Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, fittingly, a church with a Latin name.

“There are so many similarities and a very common heritage that we share.”

MARK NIEMOELLER



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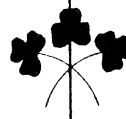


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From the pulpit to the chalkboard

Yoder priest ignites artistic expression

BY TIM JOHNSON

YODER — Pastor, religion teacher. Students at St. Aloysius School in Yoder are accustomed to seeing Father Dominique Carboneau in those roles. But this year, he adds another role — art teacher.

At the beginning of this school year, St. Aloysius School was in need of an art teacher. With a new principal, some budget constraints and time quickly drawing near on the new school year, Father Carboneau offered to take the art classes for the 80-plus pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students at the rural southern Allen County school.

Father Carboneau is no stranger to artistic talent.

"I've always been an artist," he told *Today's Catholic*. "My formal training ended with high school, but I had an awful lot of training in high school."

That training included nine semesters — every art class offered — at Wawasee High

School, a program that Father Carboneau described as "phenomenal."

"I've always thought a good teacher is someone who loves the subject matter, but one for whom the subject matter did not come easily," Father Carboneau said. "Sometimes if something comes too easily, too intuitively, you don't always have a good sense of the struggle to master something — where if you really have to struggle to become like an artist, it gives you a lot of insight on how to help a lot of others to acquire skill."

In no time at all, Father Carboneau has managed to excite the creative side of the students and has drawn out talent they never realized they had. He has amazed parents and the staff at the school.

"I am thrilled to have Father Dom teaching art to our students," St. Aloysius Principal Chuck Grimm said. "Father Dom is extremely dedicated to teaching his classes every week. He has looked at the standards that need to be taught for art and has put a lot of thought into what he is doing in his classes. The one thing that he makes all of the students do is to



PHOTOS BY TIM JOHNSON

Father Dominique Carboneau, pastor and art teacher at St. Aloysius, Yoder, demonstrates to the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten students how to use the full space of paper and how to draw in circles in preparation for a scribble art project.

visualize how things can and should look from different points of view."

A day in class

On a Tuesday morning, Father Carboneau can be observed teaching the pre-kindergarten and kindergarten children special concepts — how to use the entire piece of paper (as opposed to a

corner). The "little squirts," as Father Carboneau affectionately calls them, are rewarded with a special blessing on the top of their heads when they do their task well. Then the seventh grade students enter the room, teen attitude in tow, and are soon pulling out their watercolor or pencil drawings. Some pieces are ready to frame, and Father Carboneau works with



St. Aloysius seventh grader Alayna Kelty works on a pencil drawing in art class taught by Father Dominique Carboneau, pastor.

a group of students on that aspect. "They never complain about this class," St. Aloysius teacher Kathy Hartman told *Today's Catholic*. And Hartman, who teaches the upper grades, knows this is a group uninhibited to voice a complaint.

"Not every child in grade school is going to be an artist," Father Carboneau said. "But being able to think in the same ways as an artist is helpful."

Father Carboneau's art classes are centered to help the students think in analogical terms.

"I think, increasingly in the world, things are more and more digitized and it patterns our minds so it becomes increasingly difficult to think analogically or proportionately," Father Carboneau said. "And so it is very difficult for children to make comparison between one reality and another reality, and analogical thinking and proportions are at the basis of any symbolic thinking."

From third grade on, Father Carboneau works with the students in thinking from the right side of the brain. From there, they worked with colors, making comparisons to colors and then producing water colors, drawings or pastels. "We don't do any type of craft work," he said, which is geared more toward production. "Making and creating are two different types of operations," he added.

What others are saying

"He makes us think with our right side of our brain instead of our left side," St. Aloysius student Dominic Frecker said. "We usually think with our left side."

The fifth grader recently amazed his parents, Brian and Jodie Frecker, with a watercolor project. The art project stems from a picture selected from *National Geographic* and is a watercolor of a stingray from below with the sun coming through the water.

Before unveiling the artwork at the school's Christmas party, Father Carboneau would pique the Freckers' interest. Jodie Frecker noted that from past experience she would have said her son "is not well endowed in the art department."

"Generally he has disliked art," said Brian Frecker. "He never really took any interest in it at all."

After the Christmas gathering, Jodie said, "I would not have been able to pick out my child's artwork," and she plans to frame and hang the artwork.

ART, PAGE 16

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Sushi never tasted so good

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — The city is buzzing with the news. One of its own has been chosen as a finalist in a national recipe contest. But this is no ordinary contest. The contestants range in age from six to 12 year olds, and the recipes, believe it or not, involve peanut butter. Don't let the main ingredient fool you though. The finalists' creations are surprisingly innovative and nutritious.

Alexandra Yoder, a shy but excited sixth grader at St. Vincent de Paul School, has been named one of the top ten finalists in America in the fifth annual "Jif Most Creative Peanut Butter Sandwich Contest." Chosen from among thousands of entries, Yoder says she is surprised and happy about the announcement.

Yoder, who celebrated her 12th birthday this month, has been cooking with her mom, Vickie, for several years. "She's always in the kitchen cooking with me. We love to cook," Vickie reports. The young chef's list of favorites include pasta, sushi, desserts, and of course, peanut butter. "I pack my lunch everyday and I usually bring a peanut butter sandwich," she says smiling.

So when her mom told her about the Jif contest, the young Yoder set to work in the kitchen. Using ingredients she found in the refrigerator, Yoder's creative spirit took over. Having become a fan of sushi a few years ago, she incorporated the idea of a wrap into her recipe. She first experimented with a combination of strawberry cream cheese and peanut butter spread on a tortilla wrap, but found it thick and difficult to roll. Taking her cue from the dinner her mom was preparing, she tried her peanut butter filling on a crepe. Adding sliced, fresh fruit and granola to the wrap gave it zip. Following refrigeration, Yoder sliced the treat to resemble sushi and cleverly added chocolate yogurt in lieu of soy sauce. With pretzel rods used as chopsticks to finish



KAY COZAD

Alexandra Yoder, sixth grader at St. Vincent de Paul School, presents a plate of her peanut butter rolls "sushi style." The creation has won her a top ten spot in the finals of the national "Jif Most Creative Peanut Butter Sandwich Contest." The top five finals chosen by on-line voting will vie for the \$25,000 college scholarship fund grand prize in a cook-off in New York City in March.

the recipe, she had the perfect snack, dubbed Peanut Butter Rolls "Sushi Style."

After mailing the contest entry forms and required photo of her creation, Yoder waited for news. Each entry was rated on creativity, nutritional balance, taste, appearance and ease of preparation. Then in mid-December the Jif representative phoned to announce her place in the top ten finalists.

"I was at school when they called. My mom and dad told me when I got home," Yoder recalls. Her friends at school stood in disbelief as she told them that night at a school game where she led cheers as her proud parents told everyone they know of their daughter's accomplishment.

Of the thousands of entries vying for the title of most creative Jif peanut butter sandwich maker, 10 young boys and girls

hailing from Alaska to South Carolina were chosen for their culinary efforts. The contest progressed to the Jif Web site where each recipe is presented for public scrutiny. Online voting open till Feb. 6 will determine the top five finalists, who will be flown to New York City in March for a live judging event, netting the grand prize winner a \$25,000 college scholarship fund. The four runners-up will each receive a \$2,500 college scholarship fund and all five finalists will enjoy a Jif gift basket.

Though Yoder believes the other nine finalists exhibit "pretty good" recipes, she feels she has a shot at the grand prize. "I want to make it to the top five, so I can go to New York," she says. Her parents and older brother Michael hope for her success as well.

In addition to cooking, this 12-

SUSHI, PAGE 17

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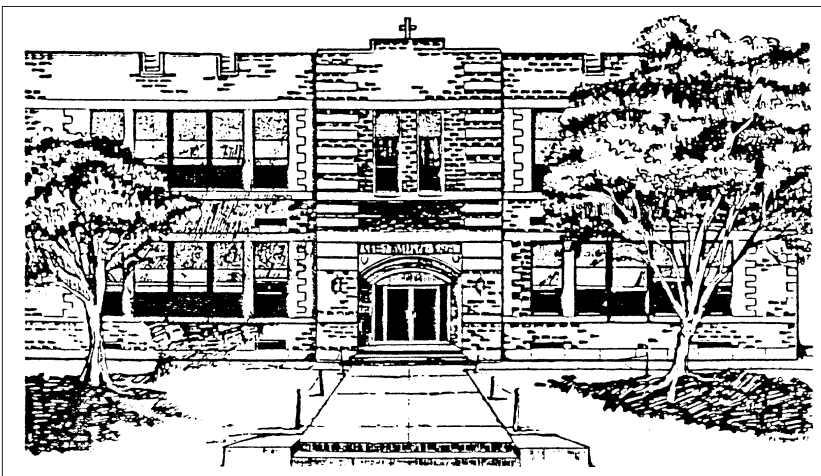
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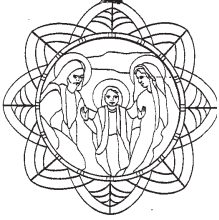
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ART

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

“When I saw it, I was amazed,” Brian said, “I could not believe that was Dominic’s drawing.”

As for Father Carboneau, “I think his enthusiasm is contagious,” Jodie said.

“It’s something I like to do,” Father Carboneau said. “It is the way in which the students can see me in an environment other than teaching religion or at Mass, and, because of my own background ... giving them an outlet in the course of the day that is totally different from anything else they do, they’re stepping out of one pattern of thinking and entering into an entirely different realm.”

“It is wonderful to have his presence in our school every week in the role as a teacher,” Grimm added. “It allows the students to see a different side of him outside of the church setting. This also presents another side of the life of a priest to the boys in our school who might be considering the priesthood as their vocation in life.”

“And it helps them with the capacity to think symbolically,” Father Carboneau said. “Because so much of our religion is spiritual reality symbolized through material means, and being able to think in symbolic terms is incredibly helpful for growing and in understanding the faith.”

“All the key truths to the faith are spiritual. How is it we represent what is spiritual in a material world?” he asked. “It’s by taking matter and investing it with a much deeper meaning than it might ordinarily have.”

Peanut Butter Rolls "Sushi Style"

BY ALEXANDRA YODER

- 1 (8 inch) crepe
- 5 tablespoons strawberry cream cheese
- 5 tablespoons Jif peanut butter
- 40 (1/4 inch) pieces of fresh strawberries
- 6 (1/2 inch) pieces of bananas
- 1 tablespoon granola
- 2 long pretzel rods (to use as chopsticks)
- 1 small container chocolate yogurt (to use as dipping sauce)

Spread cream cheese over crepe. Top with peanut butter and smooth over cream cheese. Sprinkle strawberries and bananas over peanut butter. Top with granola. Roll up sushi-style and chill in refrigerator for 5-10 minutes. Cut rolls.

Use pretzel rods as chopsticks and dip in yogurt.

SUSHI

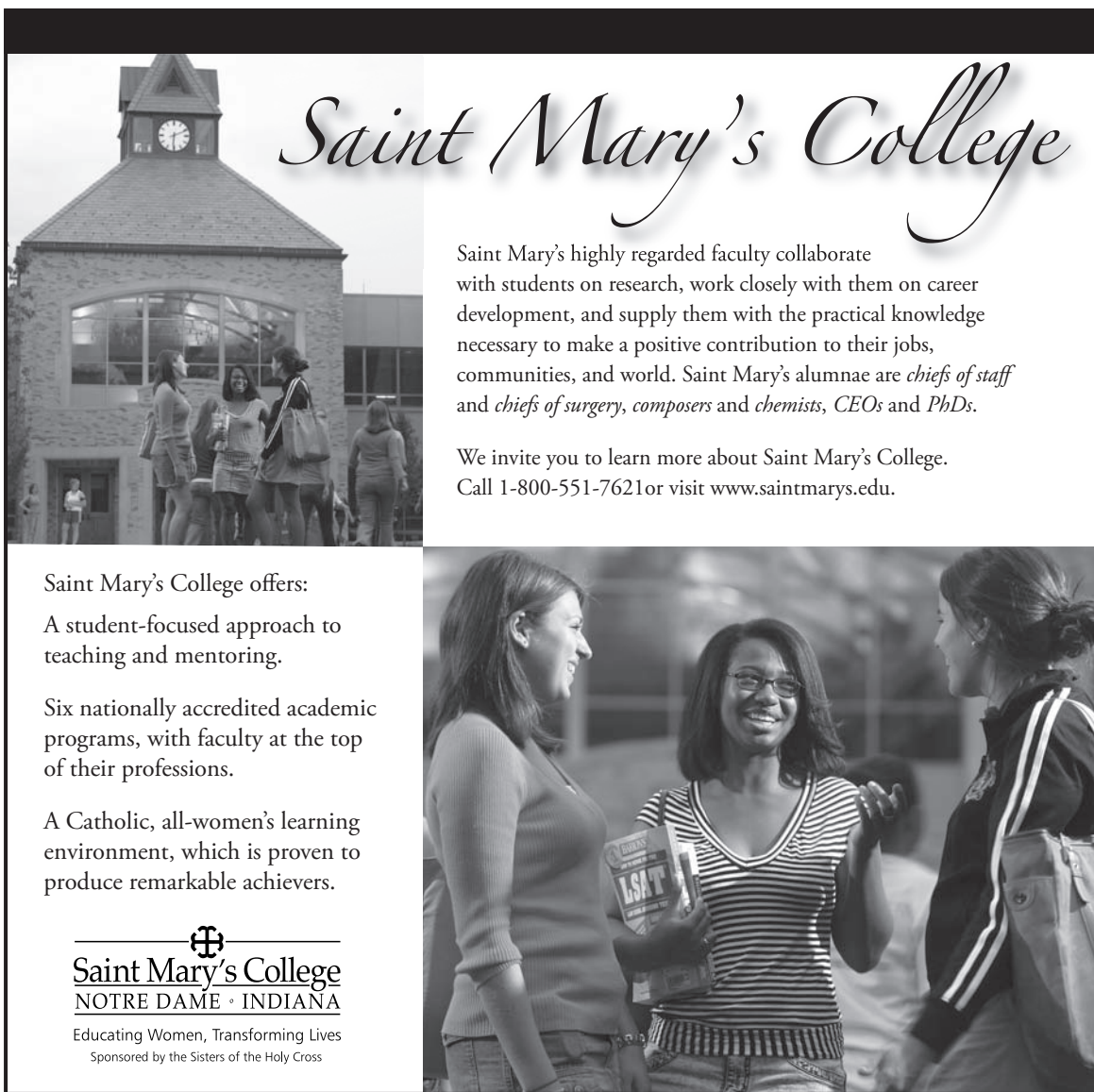
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

year-old cheerleader is an excellent student and enjoys reading, playing games with her friends and participating in gymnastics. Her new found celebrity status is "kind of fun" right now as she has had the local media at her door for several days. Her school supports her in this adventure as well and hosted a live cooking demonstration for the entire student body during their regular

"morning show" video directed by the school's computer teacher.

Future plans for this young chef include eventually attending college, where the scholarship prize would be put to good use, though her field of study is yet undecided. As for now, Alexandra Yoder will simply enjoy her peanut butter rolls "sushi style."

Log on to www.jif.com to view Yoder's (see: Alexandra/Indiana) and the other finalists' peanut butter recipes and vote for your favorite.




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Salute to Catholic schools scheduled Jan. 28-Feb. 3

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The nation's nearly 8,000 Catholic schools will celebrate Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 28 through Feb. 3. This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: the Good News in Education."

The theme was chosen because of its appeal to Catholic schools and for the strong message it sends to parents and supporters.

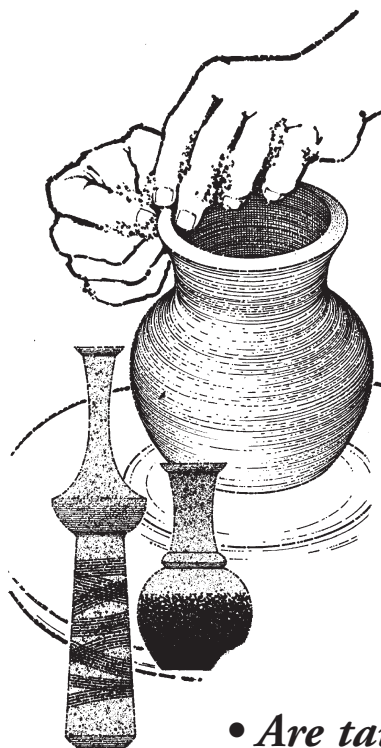
Catholic Schools Week is an activity of the National Marketing Campaign For Catholic Schools, a joint project of NCEA and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Dr. Karen M. Ristau, president of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), said, "Catholic Schools do good work all year around. But on this week we want to focus everyone's attention on the fact that Catholics schools are good news. In addition to learning reading, writing and arithmetic, students also learn responsibility — and how to become persons of character and integrity."

Father William Davis, a priest of the Oblates of St. Francis de Sales and interim secretary for education at the USCCB, said "High achievement rates, high retention rates, high moral values and high student and parent satisfaction are the distinctive marks of a Catholic school. That's the good news and we want to share it."

National Appreciation Day For Catholic Schools will be observed Wednesday, Jan. 31. National Appreciation Day was established to encourage supporters nationwide to showcase the great accomplishments and contributions of Catholic schools to our country.

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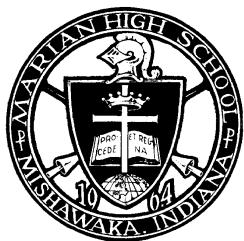


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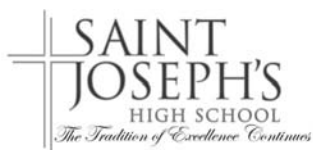
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Bishop Luers High School adds lift for students

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Traditionally, the beginning of each school year at Bishop Luers High finds prankster upperclassmen selling "elevator passes" to unsuspecting freshmen. But that tradition will be foiled when the high school completes the installation of a lift this month as part of a \$3 million capital improvement to the school. Elevator pass-holders from previous years can finally cash in on their tickets.

One of the first beneficiaries of this capital improvement is Stephanie Wyatt, freshman at Bishop Luers. Wyatt, youngest of Larry and Kim's eight children, is following the family tradition. All seven of her siblings have graduated or are currently attending the high school. But her educational experience is a little different. Wyatt, who will celebrate her 16th birthday next month, was born 11 weeks early and later diagnosed with cerebral palsy. The condition affects fine and gross motor skills and limits mobility, requiring her to use a motorized wheelchair.

Though mom Kim reports her daughter's elementary experience was challenging, she commends past teachers and principals for their accommodating spirits. She

is particularly grateful to Principal Mary Keefer and the staff at Bishop Luers saying, "The principal and vice principal met with us before school started ... they wanted to be prepared. Luers has done a lot to accommodate her."

Bishop Luers High School's two-story building is designed with hallways assigned to each of the four classes of students. With the freshman hallway upstairs, those unable to navigate the steep two-tiered staircase is presented with quite a challenge. Pre-lift accommodations for Wyatt include a locker located in the sophomore hall on the first floor of the school and freshman classmates' and teachers' relocation to the first floor for Wyatt's scheduled classes. The new lift will provide Wyatt with access to the upstairs halls and classrooms.

According to Principal Keefer, Hoch Associates are the architects of the plan and the WOV 355 vertical platform lift will be installed by CME Contractors, who hope to complete the \$75,000 project early this month. The approximately 11 feet wide and six feet, eight inch interior height accommodates a 750 lb capacity and will be card accessible. The lift will be accessed in the junior hall between the art room and the former home economics room on the first floor and will deliver rid-



KAY COZAD

Stephanie Wyatt, freshman at Bishop Luers High School, is confined to a wheelchair due to the effects of cerebral palsy and looks forward to the installation of the new lift. The lift, part of a \$3 million capital improvement to the school, will provide her access to the upstairs freshman hall for classes.

ers to the second floor in the middle of the east wing of the building.

Of the lift, Wyatt remarks that although she was initially distressed, thinking the installation

hallway, and says, "I'll be able to see the upstairs of the school and get to know more freshmen. I think the other kids and teachers will be happy to stay up there, too."

Principal Keefer feels the lift will enhance Wyatt's freshman learning experience as well, saying, "I'm thrilled that the lift will enable Stephanie to get upstairs for her classes." And this freshman will be in good company as those students who must use crutches will also have access to the lift for ease of transport.

Keefer reports, "This year, more than ever, it seems that we have had more students on crutches than in past years. It is difficult to get up the stairs on crutches. This lift will enable those young people a safer way to get to the second floor."

Current inability to attend classes upstairs has not deterred this forthcoming young woman, who has a full schedule of freshman classes, including many honors classes and theater arts, to achieve grades that have placed her on the first quarter honor roll. In addition to her studies she enjoys reading and writing stories and participates regularly in therapies to stretch and strengthen her muscles. Following graduation from Bishop Luers in 2010, Wyatt hopes to study journalism in college.

Of the \$3 million capital improvements to the nearly 50-year-old Bishop Luers High School building, including replacement of the original heating system, many find that the lift is a significant initial venture in the accessibility to academic excellence the school provides.

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The Redemptorist saint behind Catholic Schools Week

St. John Neumann, CSsR, established the Catholic school system in the 1850s

DENVER, Colo. — From Jan. 29 to Feb. 4, Catholics around the country will observe Catholic Schools Week. But what tends to go unobserved during these seven days is the name of the Redemptorist saint who established the system of Catholic schools in this country in the 1850s.



St. John Neumann, CSsR., the fourth bishop of Philadelphia, embarked on a project he considered to be his most important in 1852 — the establishment of a system of Catholic schools.

Bishop Neumann was very concerned that religion as a subject for study had been virtually eliminated from the public schools. As an active pastor and confessor, Bishop Neumann was aware of the dangers posed by this void in the curriculum.

He feared that the whole system of public instruction represented a threat to the faith of Catholic children. One of Bishop Neumann's first steps was to set up a central board of education in his diocese. Besides the bishop, the board consisted of the pastor and two laymen from each parish. They would have general supervision over this new system of schools throughout the diocese. The board would recommend a general plan of instruction and have some say over the distribution of funds. But it was

the pastor who hired the teachers and paid their salaries.

Some of the teachers employed came from the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis, which Neumann founded. They taught from Neumann's text for the classes, what would become the Baltimore catechism.

Because of Bishop Neumann's efforts, the number of Catholic schools jumped sharply in Philadelphia. When he arrived as bishop, there were about 500 children in Catholic schools throughout the diocese. Eighteen months later, there were 5,000.

This parochial school system model eventually became the standard used throughout the United States, and it stands as one of Bishop Neumann's most important achievements.

St. John Neumann's feast day is Jan. 5.

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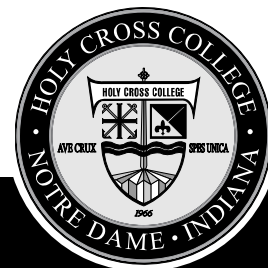
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New Orleans Catholic school leader appeals for help

Send money and prayers

WASHINGTON, D.C. — There will be 19 fewer schools celebrating Catholic Schools Week in New Orleans this year, thanks to the continuing ravages of Hurricane Katrina. That's the bad news.

On the bright side, Catholic schools have been a beacon of hope in a storm-torn city. The first school to reopen the week after the hurricane was Cathedral School. Administrators there welcomed hundreds of students, most of them newcomers and most non-Catholics, refugees from unopened public schools and the children of the first responders — the firemen, policemen and city workers who were charged with bringing the city back to life.

Yet the situation remains so severe that Dominican Father Neal McDermott, who heads the archdiocesan educational endeavors, asked the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) to alert Catholic educators nationwide to appeal for their help.

"It's a year and a half later," said Father Neal, "but only 200,000 of the 455,000 pre-Katrina population has returned." He added that insurance shortfalls and complicated federal government grants for homeowners are the impediment. Out of 78,000 requests, fewer than 200 had been granted after a year.

"Yet we've found that when we open a school, people return," said Father Neal. Although school enrollment has gone from 49,000 pre-Katrina to 41,000 today, families are clamoring for schools. Many parents shuttle their youngsters more than 50 miles from temporary housing so that they can attend the Catholic school of their choice.

Father Neal hopes that once

Catholic educators learn of the plight, they will encourage parents and students to send the two most valuable commodities needed: money and prayers. Father's hopes for the generosity of the Catholic educational community are well grounded. A hurricane relief fund mounted by NCEA last year raised more than \$1.1 million — funds given by students for student needs. NCEA leaders personally distributed the money to New Orleans and several other dioceses impacted by the storm last year.

"That money has been a God-send," noted Father Neal. "It's been used to pay tuition for families that have lost everything; it's

opened with 25 students and now has 350. Visionary plans also are underway for a new Holy Cross High School, to be built on 20 acres of land where a destroyed parish stood with a grade and high school. All will be demolished for new school.

"The potential is there," said Father Neal. "We simply need more spiritual and financial resources to unlock it."

In terms of prayer, the educator said it is needed now more than ever. "There is a certain sense of helplessness that develops when conditions continue to deteriorate and it appears that many have forgotten the plight of all — especially the young," added Father Neal.

As to the money, Father Neal said that that is vital as well for students in schools and parish programs. He added that some schools and parishes across the country may wish to adopt their counterparts and provide financial

and spiritual support in a more personal way.

Because of the unreliable postal service in the Gulf area, money for the New Orleans relief fund should be sent to: Dr. Karen Ristau, President, National Catholic Educational Association, 1077 30th Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20007. Attn.: New Orleans. Checks should be made payable to the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

For more information on the situation in New Orleans, contact: Father Neal McDermott at this e-mail address: cformation@archdiocese-no.org.

Catholic educator urges schools to add fourth 'R' to curriculum

Reading, Writing, 'Rithmetic — and Responsibility

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The traditional "Reading, Writing and 'Rithmetic" has long been the core curriculum in America's schools. Now one leading Catholic educator has suggested that the nation's 95,615 elementary and secondary schools add a fourth "R" — responsibility.

Dr. Karen Ristau, president of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), said, "Responsibility goes way beyond basic accountability such as making the bed or doing a homework assignment on time. It should encompass having empathy for one's neighbors and fellow students. It should translate into active participation in community service activities."

A former college professor, teacher and administrator in both elementary and secondary schools, Ristau's association represents more than 200,000 educators nationwide who serve 2.5 million students in Catholic schools. She observed that too often contemporary culture seduces children into thinking "it's all about me."

"Children must be taught responsibility but also should see it in action from parents and other adults whom they respect," she added.

The NCEA leader has these suggestions for parents and teachers:

- Explain responsibility to your students and children. Define your understanding of the word and give examples of how young people can serve as responsible students, neighbors and citizens of the community — and world.

- Promote community service programs in schools. These initiatives should not be optional but a planned component of the school year. Faculty can encourage students to embrace service opportunities that reflect their abilities and interests. Fourth-graders may adopt the residents of a nursing home as grandparents; eighth-graders can embark on a neighbor-

hood clean-up program.

- Remember that service begins at home. Parents are the first educators of their children and are the best role models when it comes to service. Family activities may be as elaborate as leading the fund raiser for the city's Special Olympics — or as basic as serving dinner in the community's homeless shelter.

"Whatever parents do, they should talk about it with their children," said Dr. Ristau.

"And when they're old enough, the children should be encouraged to participate as well."

The Washington educator added, "Community service opportunities are everywhere and serve as a powerful way to teach religion and character development to young people."

Established in 1904, NCEA is the largest private professional education organization in the world, representing 200,000 Catholic educators serving 7.6 million students in Catholic elementary and secondary schools, in religious education programs, in seminaries and in colleges and universities.

Many parents shuttle their youngsters

more than 50 miles

from temporary housing so that they can attend

the Catholic school of their choice.

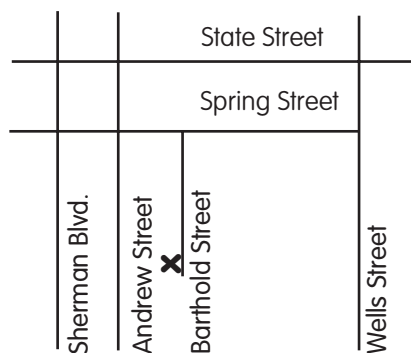
been a resource for uniforms and school supplies for children who are homeless; it's helped save families living in cars."

The archdiocese has been in the vanguard in terms of reviving the city. At the National Prayer Breakfast in Washington, D.C., the Catholic Church was credited for its quick response to opening schools and parishes. Archbishop Alfred Hughes celebrated Mass in a parking lot for 1,500 parishioners who lost their church in the flood — just so that they could return to their old neighborhood and begin to feel hopeful.

In several areas where people can't live because of flood damage and where churches remain shuttered, the archdiocese has opened Central Schools made up of five or six parishes. One such school — Our Lady of Prompt Succor —

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**TODAY'S
CATHOLIC
SUPPORTS
Catholic
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Week**

Tulsa Catholic schools test tablet computers

BY AMANDA WILLIAMS

TULSA, Okla. (CNS) — Paper and pens may soon be a thing of the past for students at Benedictine-run Monte Cassino School, a Catholic elementary school in Tulsa that is conducting a pilot project incorporating tablet computers in classrooms.

In July 2006, the school's third-grade teacher, Vikki Calvert, attended a National Educators Computing Convention, where she learned about tablet computers and how they can enhance classroom learning. The convention drew more than 17,000 other participants and was the largest gathering in the country for educational technology.

She shared her findings with Benedictine Sister Mary Clare Buthod, the school's director, who immediately got on board.

"I saw such promise in the program and how it could help organizationally challenged students to succeed," Sister Mary Clare said.

A tablet computer is a notebook or slate-shaped portable computer. The user can operate it by touching the screen with a stylus or a fingertip, instead of using a keyboard or mouse.

The next step was obtaining the technology. School officials did not want to finance the new technology through tuition. Instead, they used proceeds from school fundraisers and a donation from a foundation to purchase 72 tablet computers via a special arrangement with Hewlett-Packard.

The computers were distributed to Calvert's third-grade class, a fifth-grade science class and teachers of the sixth, seventh and eighth grades.

Technology Director Nancy Stutsman oversaw the process and credits Calvert with pioneering the project. "She received the tablets at the end of October so really had no time to prepare but has done an amazing job seamlessly incorporating the new technology into the curriculum," she told the *Eastern Oklahoma Catholic*, Tulsa's diocesan newspaper.

Stutsman said the project has full support from school families and that one parent even donated a network upgrade to support the high-tech devices.

The pilot project has also attracted the interest of a professor at the College of Education at Oklahoma State University who is interested in monitoring the tablet learning process. In October, pretests were administered to students assessing skill levels in writing, chart and graph comprehension, research and general technology use. Post-tests will be conducted in May measuring any degree of change.

Third-graders are using their tablets for journal entries, spelling words, music and art. They are even learning how to read charts and graphs with Microsoft Excel database software. So far they have learned how to chart and read temperatures and their favorite ice cream flavors.

"I just had to tweak my lesson plans a bit to incorporate the tablets into the class," said Calvert. "Since we started using the tablets the students have been begging for homework."

In class, teachers are able to view any student's screen from their teaching station as well as project their computer screen onto the white board at the front of the



CNS PHOTO/EDANA BROOK, MONTE CASSINO SCHOOL

Third-graders Tobe Nightengale, left, and Gaby Lawson familiarize themselves with their new tablet computers at Monte Cassino School in Tulsa, Okla. The school is conducting a pilot project incorporating tablet computers into the classroom environment and may make pen and paper obsolete.

class for task demonstration. If teachers observe a student struggling with an assignment, they can send an electronic message with instructions to the individual student's screen.

That function, along with the ability to erase mistakes directly on the screen, takes pressure off students, allowing them to focus more on the content of their work instead of stressing about the process, said the technology director.

Students have learned how to

routinely get their computers out and loaded at the beginning of class — even navigating the system and opening the appropriate folders.

Top responses from third-graders when asked what they like best about the tablets were that they could "flip (them) over and write, touch the screen, send in homework and (the computers) are easier and better than pencil/paper."

The fifth-grade science class works with the tablets in groups.

Students have huddled around the computers engrossed in decoding a letter from Benjamin Franklin, determining the effectiveness of various types of heat insulation or conducting a series of glass-lens experiments.

The long-term plan is to incorporate tablets into every classroom from third through eighth grade. For now, the school is looking toward next year when the goal is to have two complete grades using the computers, not just individual classes.

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EDITORIAL

The duty to share the good news in education

Many assume that the duty of "marketing" our Catholic schools is a duty assigned to an individual parent, teacher or school principal. In reality, promoting our Catholic schools is a task that involves the parents who send their children to Catholic schools and even the students themselves who attend the schools.

In a sense, this "marketing" goes far beyond promoting a school, it is part of evangelization — something we are all called to do.

Whenever one of our high schools attends a state sporting competition, Bishop John M. D'Arcy, when speaking at school rallies, always reminds students that when they are in Indianapolis sporting their school jackets and school colors, they are representing their school, representing what that school stands for. Others outside of that school community are watching and actually critiquing their behavior, their sportsmanship, their representation of Christianity and Catholicism. The old saying, "more is expected of Catholic school students," still applies today. All of our students are ambassadors of the schools they attend. They serve as a witness to how we "practice what we preach."

When students share with their friends in the neighborhood or at other outside activities what they are learning and doing in school, they are serving as ambassadors.

The same is true with parents who can be the best ambassadors for their Catholic school.

Word-of-mouth promotion certainly is the best form of advertising. For example, let's say you are planning a vacation to the ocean, would you trust the advice of a friend who knows you, understands your likes or dislikes, more than the advice of a complete stranger?

It is good to share with our friends and families the positives of our schools — to talk about how the students pray before lunch or at the start of class, or to talk about how they attend and participate in the school Mass as proclaimers, singers, musicians, altar servers. Many parents will go to work late so they can attend the school Mass when their child participates in such activities. You never know the seed that could be planted when sharing with a coworker, "My son was a proclaimer at Mass this morning and I had to hear him read."

It is good to express how, when assisting your child with religion homework, you actually were re-catechized or learned something new about our faith. Talk about this sometime around the watercooler.

Our Catholic schools have achieved much academic success, but they also provide a spiritual foundation. They prepare our second grade students for first Communion and reconciliation. They prepare our seventh graders for confirmation. They stress service to others. It's not just Christ that is taught in our Catholic schools; it is Christ who is the center of our Catholic schools, as he is the center of our homes. And our schools reinforce what is valued at home. And it is Christ who gives us the good news.

Won't you share the good news of Catholic education with your friends and families?

Fifty years a priest

On Friday, Feb. 2, Bishop John M. D'Arcy, publisher of *Today's Catholic*, will mark his 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood. We congratulate Bishop D'Arcy and thank him for his years of guidance, especially to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. A public celebration is scheduled Sunday, April 15.

Hear ye, hear ye, read all about it!

The Feb. 4 issue celebrates Catholic Press Month. Renewal envelopes should be in your church envelope packet. Please note on your label, the last four numbers — such as "0407" — would indicate your paper expires April of 2007 and your subscription would be up for renewal. Please make checks payable to *Today's Catholic*.

During this Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year, we wish every Catholic household to subscribe to the newspaper. And, through the generosity of Our Sunday Visitor, four times this year, a complimentary issue is sent to all registered Catholics in the diocese. The next issue will be delivered Feb. 18 and provide information on evangelization and welcoming Catholics home. On April 29, the newspaper will contain the registration packet for the Eucharistic Congress. On Aug. 12, *Today's Catholic* will contain the Eucharistic Congress booklet to help you review and plan for the Aug. 18, Eucharistic Congress, the pinnacle of the 150th jubilee year.

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

Wanted: More small miracles

Do you know a small miracle? Most people do, if they really think about it. Not necessarily something major-league, like turning water into wine, but rather the everyday stories that let us recognize the presence of God.

Several years ago, I wrote a book titled, "Small Miracles, the

Extraordinary Stories of Ordinary People Touched by God" (Zondervan, 1996). It told stories of people who responded to a letter just like this one.

Since God continues to touch our lives I think it's time for a sequel. So I'm again inviting people to share their small miracles. It might be something that seems unimportant — except to you — perhaps a healing, an insight, an opportunity or an event that let you

know God came close when you least expected it.

If your small miracle is included in the book, I'll send you a copy. And even if it's not used, you'll know that just by sharing it, you'll be helping to proclaim the presence of Lord.

Tom Sheridan
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Senators, workers in trenches agree: Children must get health care

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Among four U.S. senators in Washington, there was optimistic talk of a bipartisan commitment to expand health coverage for the nation's 9 million uninsured children. But 40 miles away at a Catholic hospital in Baltimore, there was more nitty-gritty talk of getting children into state and federal health programs — and keeping them there.

Both events were part of a national town hall meeting on children's health care, broadcast by satellite to 34 hospitals across the country Jan. 11. National sponsors of the meeting included the Catholic Health Association and the Campaign for Children's Health Care, whose partners include Catholic Health Initiatives and Network, a national Catholic social justice lobby.

"We're the only industrialized nation that doesn't cover all its children," said Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who is CHA president and CEO, in a panel discussion during the broadcast.

She finds that situation perplexing, adding, "We love our children as much as any other nation."

Universal coverage of children also would be good for society. Studies have found that children who receive regular health care are less likely to miss school and do better in school and in life.

According to the four senators who spoke at the town hall meeting, prospects are bright for the reauthorization of the State Children's Health Insurance Program, known as SCHIP, and possibly for expansion of the joint state-federal Medicaid health program to cover more children of the working poor.

Although SCHIP has brought health coverage to an estimated 6 million U.S. children since it began 10 years ago and another 28 million children are enrolled in Medicaid, more than 9 million remain uninsured. Nearly three-fourths of those 9 million are eligible for Medicaid and/or SCHIP but not enrolled, according to the Kaiser Commission on Medicaid

and the Uninsured.

At St. Agnes Hospital in Baltimore, a group of hospital officials, political aides, medical professionals and others who watched the national town hall presentation shared their day-to-day struggles with keeping Maryland children healthy and brainstormed about ways to bring more children into the programs.

Kathleen Westcoat, president of Baltimore HealthCare Access, the lead outreach and eligibility determination agency in Baltimore City for the Maryland Children's Health Program, said efforts to enroll more children have been hurt by a new federal requirement that applicants — and those seeking renewal — prove both their U.S. citizenship and their identity.

The requirement has led to such absurdities as "sending an infant to the DMV (Department of Motor Vehicles) to get an identity card," Westcoat said.

Back in Washington, Sen. John D. "Jay" Rockefeller IV, D-W.Va., said SCHIP developed "in the most ideal circumstances, which all of us here yearn for — a totally bipartisan atmosphere."

Rockefeller would like to see a major expansion of health coverage for children. His MediKids proposal, which he admitted "has gotten absolutely nowhere" since it was first introduced in 2001, would enroll every child in Medicaid at birth and automatically cover them through college. Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, an original co-sponsor of the legislation that created SCHIP, said the effort to help uninsured children brought together a divided Congress back in 1997 and was "the glue that helped pass the first balanced budget in 40 years."

Hatch said the first priority must be on outreach to all eligible children not yet enrolled in Medicaid or SCHIP. "We must take care of these children," he said, to make the United States "the compassionate, caring, giving country we all want it to be."

"I think the passion is still there" for ensuring health cover-

WASHINGTON LETTER

NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

age for every child, said Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., the new chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. He pledged to begin hearings on SCHIP reauthorization within "the next few weeks" and to bring the issue to the floor of the Senate "by the spring."

Sen. Gordon H. Smith, R-Ore., noted that he and eight other Republican senators wrote to President George W. Bush late last year asking that his fiscal 2008 budget — due out Feb. 5 — ensure "adequate federal funding for states to both maintain their existing SCHIP caseloads and for states to cover all children and pregnant women up to 200 percent of the federal poverty line."

The 2006 poverty guidelines of the Department of Health and Human Services say a family of four living in the 48 contiguous U.S. states and making \$20,000 a year or less is living in poverty. The levels are higher in Alaska and Hawaii. The 2007 guidelines were due out by the end of January.

Whatever Congress does this year, political pundits seem to agree that health care will be a crucial issue in the 2008 election.

"I promise that in 2008, (health care) will be the biggest issue in the election," said Terry McAuliffe, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, at a forum in Washington late last year sponsored by Ceasefire on Health Care, an organization seeking to find common ground on health care.

And Ed Gillespie, former head of the Republican National Committee, agreed, calling health care "the defining domestic policy debate in the 2008 presidential campaign."

Usual images of heaven don't impress

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A recent sermon by the papal preacher, Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, took aim at John Lennon's famous line, "Imagine there's no heaven," saying it represented an empty, secularized vision of human destiny.

But an Italian biblicist, Father Carlo Buzzetti, has approached the question from a different angle: The modern church, he said, does a lousy job imagining what heaven is like and communicating it to the faithful.

Most Catholics, Father Buzzetti said, understand heaven as a vague place of eternal survival, where happiness can become monotonous and where the absence of human passions creates an "anemic" atmosphere.

In other words, boring. And if heaven is seen as a dull routine of perpetual bliss, how can it possibly stimulate people to live a good and moral life in this world?

Father Buzzetti posed the questions in a long article in a recent issue of Italian Clergy Review. He based his analysis on extensive discussions with pastors, who told him the traditional images of heaven — a vision of God, a banquet or eternal repose — were making

little or no impression on modern Christians.

Most people, in fact, seem to relate more to the concept of purgatory, where sinners atone for their faults in a final reckoning, than to a paradise that lacks any sense of interior struggle, he said.

Throughout the ages, Christian pictorial representations of heaven, with placid rows of angels, have always seemed bland compared to the interesting if gruesome goings-on in hell or purgatory.

The Bible, Father Buzzetti pointed out, has little to say about heaven, and most of its references to paradise are in images: life, the feast or the heavenly Jerusalem.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says the lack of specific description is part of the point: The "mystery of blessed communion with God and all who are in Christ is beyond all understanding" (No. 1027).

But Father Buzzetti argued that this vision is unlikely to fascinate or attract anyone — which it should, if reaching paradise is still a goal for contemporary Christians.

One major problem with heaven in the eyes of many Christians is the idea that family ties, particu-

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

larly marriage, no longer count. According to the Gospels, Jesus told his disciples that those in paradise neither marry nor are given in marriage, but will be like angels. That has led many to assume people married in this life will become free agents in the next.

But Father Cantalamessa took a different view in a commentary last fall. He said Christ's words leave open the possibility that marriage — like friendship or family relations — will be transfigured, not nullified, in heaven.

Even spouses whose marriages were difficult and the source of suffering may find that, in heaven, the defects drop away and true love is experienced for the first time, Father Cantalamessa said.

Father Buzzetti took a similar

LETTER, PAGE 24

The long awaited spokesman of God



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time Lk 4:21-30.

The Book of Jeremiah provides the first reading for this weekend.

Regarded as one of the major Hebrew prophets because of the extent of his recorded writings, and the brilliance with which he wrote, Jeremiah descended from priests. He was from a small village, Anathoth, only a few miles away from Jerusalem.

As occurred with many, indeed even most, of the prophets, his prophecies drew sharp rebukes. He even was accused of blasphemy, a crime that had death as its punishment in the Hebrew code of law. (It was this statute that centuries later led to some of the demands for the crucifixion of Jesus.)

Despite the ordeals created by these rebukes and accusations, Jeremiah never relented in proclaiming fidelity to God as a personal, and national, imperative, and he never doubted that he was on a mission from God.

In this weekend's reading, Jeremiah recalls the day when God called him to the mission of prophecy. He gives the date. It was during the reign of King Josiah, who ruled the Kingdom of Judah from BC 640 to 609. God told Jeremiah to be bold. God predicted the controversial response to Jeremiah's

prophesying, urging the prophet not to be daunted by unfriendly or angry reactions.

As its second reading for this weekend, the church offers us a passage from the First Epistle to the Corinthians. It is one of the loveliest, and best known, sections of the entire corpus of Pauline literature. It is the beautiful explanation of love.

Few better definitions of love, this ability unique to humans in nature, exist. It is clear and straightforward. It is greatly inspiring.

Paul then reveals what happens when a person embraces the Gospel. Imperfections fade away. Knowledge increases. Maturity is reached. The insecurities and smallness of youth pass.

St. Luke's Gospel is the source of the last reading. Jesus, as the story clearly states, appears in the synagogue in Nazareth. In earlier verses, not part of this weekend's reading, Jesus stands to read a section of the Book of Isaiah. In this section, Isaiah recalled his own calling to be a prophet. Isaiah gave details as to what this calling meant. It meant that he was God's spokesman, sent by God to bring liberty to the oppressed, hope to the poor and sight to the blind.

Then, continuing, in the passage read this weekend, Jesus declares that this prophecy has now been fulfilled. In other words, Jesus is the long awaited spokesman of God.

At first, the audience is impressed. But then Jesus recalled an incident, mentioned in the Old Testament, in which God showed mercy upon gentiles.

This mention of divine favor for anyone outside the Chosen People infuriated the audience in the synagogue so much that they tried to murder Jesus. He, of course, escaped.

Reflection

The church remembers the great feasts of Christmas, the Epiphany, and that of the Baptism of the Lord in early January. In these feasts, it celebrated the mercy of God that came to us through and in the Lord Jesus.

Building upon this idea of God's gift of mercy and consequent eternal life, the church this weekend presents these readings.

Within them, first, is the theme that God supplies to us that which we cannot find or create on our own, namely eternal life. Thus God sent Jeremiah to prophesy. Thus God sent Jesus.

As the Gospel made clear, no one is beyond God's mercy. But, we must do our part in receiving this mercy. We must love others, with the pure love as pure described by St. Paul.

Reactions to Jeremiah and to Jesus remind us that our insights are limited. We can even foolishly resist God's efforts to redeem us, so blind we may be.

READINGS

Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19 Ps 71:1-6, 15-17 1 Cor 12:31-13:13 Lk 4:21-30

Monday: Heb 11:32-40 Ps 31:20-24 Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4 Ps 22:26-28, 30-32 Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15 Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18 Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24 Ps 48:2-4, 9-11 Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Mal 3:1-4 Ps 24:7-10 Heb 2:14-18 Lk 2:22-40

Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21 Ps 23:1-6 Mk 6:30-34

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

In January we remember St. Anthony, the father of monasticism.

This quiz looks at that institution.

1. Monasticism derives its name from the Greek monos/monachos meaning:

- a. holy, holiness
- b. alone, living alone
- c. Godly, serving God

2. Basic to most forms of monasticism is a:

- a. religious vocation to the priesthood
- b. rejection of the hierarchy of organized religions
- c. withdrawal to a degree from the world for spiritual purposes

3. There are two types of monasticism — eremitical and cenobitical. What does eremitical refer to?

- a. living alone as a hermit
- b. having no role other than prayer
- c. being gifted in healing

4. And what is cenobitic monasticism?

- a. living a common life with others
- b. living in a non-religious environment
- c. living amongst non-believers and pagans

5. What are male monastics usually called?

- a. monks
- b. canons
- c. deacons

6. And women monastics are usually called:

- a. cistern
- b. nuns
- c. deaconesses

7. Monastics live as:

- a. celibates
- b. married men
- c. polygamists

8. In most communities, although monks may have jobs, what is their main occupation?

- a. knitting
- b. making beer
- c. praying

9. Central to this activity for many is:

- a. The Divine Office
- b. the keeping of sheep
- c. the role of Brew master

10. The term "white martyrdom," when applied to monasticism, referred to it as a substitute for what?

- a. the green martyrdom of the earliest monks who brought agriculture to Western Europe
- b. the blue martyrdom of those monks who died at sea spreading the word
- c. the red martyrdom of those killed for the faith by pagans such as Romans

11. Although there were many fathers of monasticism, this man's rule came to be the basic for most western monasteries:

- a. Anthony
- b. Cassian
- c. Benedict

12. Eastern monasticism flourished, but was slightly different to Western. What was one key difference?

- a. In the East the monks did not generally belong to separate distinct orders.
- b. In the East the monks could be married.
- c. In the East the monks often practiced Islam or Buddhism with permission.

13. What was the effect of the Reformation on monasticism?

- a. After a short while, monasticism took off in the main Protestant churches.
- b. After a short time, monasticism virtually vanished in the Protestant churches.
- c. After a short time, all the monks in Europe joined the Reformation.

14. The swift decline of monasticism in England was precipitated by this one person:

- a. Pope Benedict XI
- b. Archbishop Basil Hume
- c. Henry VIII

15. What is the status of monasticism today?

- a. Alas, it is a thing of the past.
- b. It is still in existence, but only in three countries.
- c. Monasticism survives in many nations, both East and West, and with renewed vigor in places.

ANSWERS:

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

Anyone in a state of grace can love unconditionally

At the recent U.S. bishops' meeting, their document for ministry to homosexuals affirmed the dignity of homosexuals and reiterated the teaching that the orientation itself is not sinful, but that the act is disordered. My question is, does the church teach that this disorderedness applies only to physical acts? For instance, in a marriage, the husband and wife have expressions and feelings of their love for each other outside of the sexual expression of it. They feel great devotion and affection that is not "eros," but an all-encompassing "agape." Would the church teach that a homosexual person is capable of feeling "agape" for another if the disordered physical act is not part of the equation? — R.E., Fort Wayne

First of all, it is important to realize that homosexual persons are held to no higher a standard of chastity than heterosexual persons. Often, it is assumed that the church somehow expects something "more" of homosexuals — by no means: it asks only the same commitment to chastity asked of every baptized person.

Any baptized member of Christ's body, so long as he or

she is in a state of grace, is capable of agapic love (the divinely infused supernatural gift of charity). Someone who struggles with same-sex attraction, presuming he or she is living the life of faith and is in the state of grace, is thus capable of this kind of love. In the same way that a married man can experience affection, friendship and agapic love toward a woman to whom he is not married (and certainly there is no sin in that), so to an individual who is homosexual can, without necessarily sinning, experience affection, friendship and agapic love toward someone of the same sex.

What is a proper motive for taking on additional religious practices, like going to daily Mass, or saying the Divine Office, or attending adoration every day? — Anonymous, Mishawaka

The proper, necessary and sufficient motive for all devotional or pious practices is the desire to grow in holiness of life expressed in active charity and in accord with one's state in life. This last phrase is crucial: it means, for example, that a married mother of six should not attempt to live the

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

life of a cloistered Trappistine nun (this would not be in accord with her other obligations); for her, holiness is to be worked out precisely in and through her other obligations and in the course of her daily life.

Someone told me there is a heresy called "Americanism," and one of the popes wrote a letter condemning it. Is this true, and is it possible to be a good American and a good Catholic at the same time? — Anonymous, Mishawaka

"Americanism" was a prominent — but certainly not organized — tendency among some Catholics in the United States in the 1880s and 1890s to broker a kind of "betrothal" between Catholic faith and many of the

ideals and values associated with the distinctive traits of Americans and in effect "watering down" the Catholic faith in the process. Pope Leo XIII (+ 1903) condemned this in a letter entitled "Testem Benevolentiae" and sent to Cardinal James Gibbons, archbishop of Baltimore, on Jan. 22, 1899. What is important to take from this is that there are elements of any culture — including our own American culture — which are simply at odds with the basic tenets of Catholic faith and thus must be uncovered, critiqued and ultimately held as incompatible with Catholicism. What we can take from this brief episode in American Catholic history is the inherent danger for all of us in measuring the principles of our faith by the standard of our culture instead of using our faith as

the lens and arbiter of the good and bad that are part and parcel of any culture.

Father Michael Heintz, rector of St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend, answered these questions.

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.

Polish Catholicism's opportunity

It's been a tough month for Polish Catholicism. Yet, even in the wake of the resignation of Warsaw's new archbishop and the revelations of clerical cooperation with the communist secret police, the Catholic Church in Poland can reconfirm its traditional roles as the guardian of Poland's noblest instincts and the nation's tutor in moral truth — if it remembers something Pope John Paul II said to a French journalist, Andre Frossard.

Frossard asked, "What is the most important word in the New Testament?" John Paul immediately replied, "Truth." Why? Because the truth sets us free in the deepest meaning of human liberation. And from that spiritual liberation, much good can come. Poland lived that fact of moral and public life in the 1980s, when a revolution of conscience, ignited by John Paul II and supported by the Polish Church, led to the nonviolent Revolution of 1989 and the restoration of Poland's liberties.

Amidst the drama and controversy of the past several weeks, that great truth — "No Church, No Solidarity, No Revolution of 1989" — remains intact. Now, however, the world knows something every Pole, and every serious student of modern Polish history, already knew: not everyone was an anti-communist resistance hero. That fact should not obscure two others, however. First, there were far, far more heroes than scoundrels in Polish Catholicism under communism; perhaps 10 percent of the Polish clergy were involved with the SB, the secret police. Second, the people who produced the SB files now being scrutinized are moral villains, too — as much as, or

even more than, those who collaborated, in different ways and with different degrees of culpability.

The Polish Church can regain control of its own story if it provides a comprehensive account of its stewardship during the communist period, using the archive of SB files kept in Poland's Institute of National Memory (IPN). Those materials are "raw files," and some reflect the ambitions of unscrupulous police ferrets more than the truth of particular situations. Yet the IPN archives do contain truths that should be brought to light, both to liberate the church from burdensome aspects of its past and to confirm the larger truth of the nobility of the Catholic struggle, under extraordinarily difficult circumstances, for the church's freedom and Poland's. If, in the process, Poles are reminded that moral clarity sometimes lies on the far side of moral complexity, that is no bad thing; it is, in fact, an essential understanding in a democracy. In rendering an account of its stewardship, the church would also perform a public service. The media is rarely an instrument of precise moral analysis. The church can help Poles understand that there were different forms of interaction with the SB, and that some activities were far worse than others.

Casual interaction with the ferrets by people seeking passports to study or do research abroad is one thing; others refused even that minimum of cooperation, and their steadfastness should be honored. Still, we have to ask whether someone's interactions with the SB led, with that person's knowledge and will, to material or moral harm to oth-



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

ers. Some churchmen — who imagined themselves more clever than the police and accepted advantages in return for clerical gossip — cooperated because of their egos; they strike me more as fools than villains, although their foolishness was not morally neutral. Venality was the sin of others, and a more serious moral failure, too. Those who pridefully imagined that they could "use" their secret police contacts to build a more open Polish Church, and ended up doing the communists' political bidding, bear a particularly heavy burden; they betrayed both church and society.

The kind of comprehensive, carefully calibrated moral reckoning needed here can only be provided by the Polish Church itself, in cooperation with reputable scholars. During the years I've been aware of the IPN archives, I've been waiting for the Polish Church to seize what struck me as a great opportunity. It didn't; the result is the drama and damage of the past month. Yet the opportunity remains. In the spirit of John Paul II who taught the liberating power of truth, it should be seized — quickly.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for January 28, 2007

Luke 4:21-30

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: some hard words for the people of Nazareth. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SCRIPTURE	HEARING	SPOKE
GRACIOUS	JOSEPH	PROVERB
PHYSICIAN	NO PROPHET	ISRAEL
ELIJAH	FAMINE	SIDON
ELISHA	CLEANSED	NAAMAN
SYRIAN	BROW	THE HILL
BUILT	HEADLONG	WENT AWAY

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

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LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23

view and said more people need to understand that heaven is not emotionally sterile. Many people, he said, view the prospect of losing relationships of love and friendship as terribly sad and not at all paradisiacal.

The church, he said, needs to urgently find a way to describe heaven in a "simple, accessible and imaginable" way that builds on the positive things in earthly

existence. Pastors should explain to the faithful that this life will be present in the next life, in a way that infancy is present in the life of an adult, he said.

In a series of talks in 1999, Pope John Paul II set aside the traditional geography of the afterlife. Heaven and hell exist, he said, but not as places of celestial merit or eternal fire.

The best way to imagine heaven, he said, is to reflect on the happiness one feels when doing good. He characterized paradise as "neither an abstraction nor a place in the clouds, but a living, personal relationship with the Trinity."

Sports

ST. MONICA COACH FINDS REWARDS IN COACHING VOLLEYBALL For Maureen Delahanty of St. Monica Parish, Mishawaka, coaching a girls' volleyball team in a real pleasure. The St. Monica volleyball Comets wound up the season by winning the Colors Division of the ICCL overall championship with a sensational 20-1 mark. Prior to the Comets two titles, they also won the Mishawaka St. Joseph Holiday Tournament with an impressive 4-0 record. "Coaching girls' volleyball teams is a real pleasure for me," said Delahanty. — *EJD*

ICCL teams maintain top positions

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — All four division leaders in the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) maintained their top positions, although two of them, St. Jude of the Martin De Porres West and St. Anthony of John Bosco East divisions, had losses pinned to their records.

St. Joseph of Mishawaka, unbeaten in six games, topped St. Jude, 37-18 runaway and unbeaten Corpus Christi of the John Bosco West division tripped St. Anthony in a 47-33 free scoring game. Tate Belegante of Corpus Christi singled the nets with 24 points as well as the top individual performance of the day. He was the seventh player this year to score more than 20 points per game.

Christ the King held on to second place in the John Bosco West division by edging St. Thomas of Elkhart, 41-39. A. J. Fitzpatrick had 11 points for the winners, while Ben Brewers with 16 and Jordan Grise with 10 points led the way for St. Thomas.

Holy Cross defeated St. Matthew, 24-14. St. Michael of Plymouth downed St. Monica of Mishawaka in another nip-and-tuck affair, 27-23. St. Michael was paced by Karl Faulstich with 13 points.

St. Joseph of South Bend beat Holy Family, 41-28. Nicholas Pellegrino with 13 points and Greg Weaver with 10 points paced St. Joseph.

St. Pius of Granger won a 29-23 verdict over St. Adalbert. St. Pius' Jacob Burgess tossed in 12 points, and Jerry Alston had 17 points for St. Adalbert. St. John the Baptist defeated St. Bavo of Mishawaka, 27-23. Alex Bauters shot 10 points for St. John.

In the Colors Division, St. Anthony Maroon beat St. Matthew Black, 24-13, Christ the King White beat St. Joseph Blue of South Bend, 38-27, St. Joseph Gold of South Bend downed St. Thomas Maroon of Elkhart, 29-28, St. Thomas Gold of Elkhart overcame St. Anthony Gold, 34-21, Christ the King Gold beat Christ the King Blue, 50-27, in the highest scoring of the afternoon.



Standings:

John Bosco East

St. Anthony	3-3
St. Joseph (SB)	4-2
St. Matthew	1-5
St. Thomas	1-5

John Bosco West

Corpus Christi	6-0
Christ the King	4-2
Holy Family	3-3
Holy Cross	2-4

Martin De Porres East

St. Joseph (Mish)	6-0
St. Pius	5-1
St. Monica	2-4
St. Bavo	0-6

Martin De Porres West

St. Jude	4-2
St. John	3-3
St. Michael	4-2
St. Adalbert	0-6

St. Joseph Squires sets their eyes on Blue League title showdown

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) boys' action, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel remained undefeated in Blue League play with a big win over St. Aloysius. This sets up a showdown Saturday for the league title when the Squires face the Phoenix from Benoit.

Lady Eagles

Coach John Adams is in his third season with the lady Eagles from St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, seventh grade team. This year's roster includes Katie Kurus, Alex Clinger, Abby Oberley, Rachel Crouch, Sarah Woodfill, Anna Eifrid, Morgan Skordos, Johanna Deakin, Brooke Ridley, Meaghan Adams, Catherine Barnett and Olivia Soehngen.

"I really enjoy working with this group of girls," said Adams.

"They're all wonderful to be around and they work hard to improve their skills."

Overall, the team has won four games and had four losses. They are 2-2 in White League CYO play. Their goals include having fun and improving their individual skills each practice. As a team, they plan to be competitive and "play better this week than we did last week."

The assistant coaches are Jeanine Skordos and Randy Crouch.

Scoreboard

St. Joe Hessen Cassel 33; St. Aloysius 28 (boys)
 St. Joseph, Decatur, 37; St. Vincent 32 (Fuelling 10)
 St. Joseph, Decatur, 37; St. John, New Haven, 22 (girls)
 St. Joseph, Decatur, 39; Queen of Angels 18 (girls)
 Benoit 31; St. Louis/St. Rose 30 (fifth and sixth grade boys)
 St. John, Fort Wayne, (19-0) 32; St. Vincent 18 (sixth grade boys)

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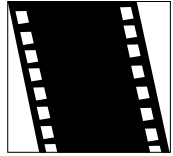


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MOVIE CAPSULE

"Three" (Fox)

Pedestrian thriller about a seminary student (Marc Blucas) being stalked by a serial killer who's targeted him as retribution for some dark secret buried in their shared past, while a police psychologist (Justine Waddell), whose brother was also a victim, races to crack the case. Director Robby Henson's adaptation of author Ted Dekker's spiritually accented novel scores points for not indulging in the exploitative lurid excess common to this genre, yet despite a twist ending, the movie's flat writing, competent but colorless performances and overall made-for-TV vibe generate only low-grade suspense. Some violence, including several explosions and a shooting, mildly disturbing images and a few mildly crude expressions. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.



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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.

FUNDRAISERS

Wish upon a star at dance
Fort Wayne — St. Jude School's dance and silent auction 'Wish Upon a Star' will be Saturday, Jan. 27, at 6:30 p.m. Join emcee Bob Sweigert, beverages provided by Mad Anthony Brewing Company and music from the band Unwrapped. Tickets are \$12 per person in advance or \$15 at the door. Contact the St. Jude Parish Office at (260) 484-6609 for information. All proceeds benefit the school.

Ed Fox fish fry
Monroeville — A fish and tenderloin dinner will be Friday, Jan. 26, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the Monroeville Park Pavillion. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$5 for children 6-11. Children 5 and under eat free. Proceeds benefit the seventh and eighth grade class trip. For information call (260) 623-3447.

Knights plan fish fry
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 2, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$7 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, Feb. 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$7, children (5-12)

\$3. Chicken strips for \$7 and shrimp for \$8 will be available.

Drive through chicken dinner
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph Hessen Cassel will have a drive-through broasted chicken dinner at the hall on Friday, Feb. 2, from 4-7 p.m.

Italian dinner benefits school
Walkerton — St. Patrick School will host a benefit Italian dinner on Saturday, Jan. 27, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the American Legion. Tickets are \$10 and are available at the door or at the parish office. Silent auction, tip boards and raffles. All tickets are entered for door prizes. All proceeds benefit the school.

Fish and tenderloin dinner
Fort Wayne — St. Peter Church will have a fish and tenderloin dinner by Ed Fox on Friday, Feb. 16, from 4-6:30 p.m. in the pavilion, corner of DeWald and

REST IN PEACE

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Ege Catherine M. Miller, 98, Immaculate Conception	Glenda W. Casey, 91, St. Vincent de Paul	William M. Kenna, 92, Holy Cross
Elkhart Arelly Pozos Gonzales, 2 months, St. Vincent de Paul	Jayne A. Collins, 86, St. Joseph	Casimir R. Spychalski, 80, Holy Family
Janis K. Torres, St. Vincent de Paul	Thomas E. Yarman, 66, St. Jude	Stanley F. Zurath Jr., 62, St. Adalbert
Margaret E. Pawlina, 82, St. Thomas the Apostle	A. Louetta Eisaman, 82, St. Charles Borromeo	Alice G. Kowalski, 94, St. Hedwig
Thomas E. Davis, 70, St. Vincent de Paul	Granger Benedict L. Hahaj Sr., 87, St. Pius X	Joan Lisek, 95, St. Stanislaus
Fort Wayne Agnes Hart, 74, St. Mary	Huntington Harold Johnson, 92, Ss. Peter and Paul	Barbara J. Lamb, 76, Christ the King
Sue M. Luken, 50, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton	Mishawaka Maria T. Partyka, 56, St. Michael Ukrainian	Warsaw Exiquio H. Delgado, 65, Our Lady of Guadalupe
Harry Vincent Ryan, 79, St. Peter	Plymouth Michael T. Raffin Sr., 58, St. Michael	
	South Bend Severiana Hernandez, 80, St. Adalbert	

Warsaw streets, which is handicapped accessible. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$4 for children ages 5 to 10, under 5 eat free. There is a \$25 max for larger families.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council #5570 will have a spaghetti dinner, Thursday, Feb. 8, from 4 to 6 p.m. Adults \$7, children ages 5 to 12 \$2.50. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, bread, beverages and dessert. The council is located at 5202 Linden Ave., one block east of Mayflower Road.

OPEN HOUSE
Holy Cross School plans open house
South Bend — Holy Cross School, 1020 Wilber St., will have an open house on Sunday, Jan. 28, from noon to 2 p.m.

St. Henry to celebrate 50th Jubilee
Fort Wayne — St. Henry will celebrate a 50 year jubilee with an open house on Sunday, Jan. 28, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tours of the school, church, rectory and parish center will be offered. Refreshments available.

MISC. HAPPENINGS
First Saturday devotions
Fort Wayne — The World Apostolate of Fatima will hold devotions at St. Joseph, corner of Brooklyn and Hale on Feb. 3. Confessions will be heard at 7:15 a.m., meditation at 7:30 a.m., and the rosary at 7:45 a.m. with Mass at 8 a.m. First Saturday devotions are also held at St. Charles, Fort Wayne; Little Flower, Our Lady of Hungary, St. John the Baptist and St. Anthony, South Bend; St. Patrick, Arcola; St. Rose, Monroeville; and St. John, New Haven.

Pray the rosary during life march
Fort Wayne — The Society of St. Gianna of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception will pray the rosary during the March for Life on Saturday, Jan. 27, led by Father Tony Steinacker. Meet at the Scottish Rite Center.

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TV MASS GUIDE FOR FEBRUARY

DATE	FEAST	FORT WAYNE		SOUTH BEND	
		CHANNEL 33 - WISE 10:30 A.M.	CHANNEL 16 - WNDU 10:30 A.M.	CHANNEL 16 - WNDU 10:30 A.M.	CHANNEL 16 - WNDU 10:30 A.M.
Feb. 4	Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Father Bruce Piechocki St. Francis Xavier Piercetown	Father Daniel Scheidt St. Pius X Granger		
Feb. 11	Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Father Dominique Carboneau St. Aloysius Yoder	Father Christopher Young St. Patrick Walkerton		
Feb. 18	Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time	Father John Kuzmich St. Vincent de Paul Fort Wayne	Father Christopher Cox, CSC St. Adalbert & St. Casimir South Bend		
Feb. 25	First Sunday of Lent	Father John Overmeyer St. Patrick Fort Wayne	Father Edward O'Connor, CSC Corby Hall Notre Dame		

"Catholic Comment" airs Sundays at 7:05 a.m. on WOWO 1190 AM in Fort Wayne and at 7:30 a.m. on WSBT 960 AM in South Bend.
"Radio Rosary" airs M-F at 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday at 7:30 a.m. on Redeemer Radio WLYV 1450 AM

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ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS
SESQUICENTENNIAL
THE DIOCESE OF FORT WAYNE-SOUTH BEND

BY MARK WEBER

St. Jude, South Bend, Est. 1948

In the postwar years of World War II, Americans were amazed with new products. In 1948, a device called the Polaroid Land camera produced instant pictures. Favorite moving picture of the time included "Easter Parade," "Gentlemen's Agreement" and "The Treasure of Sierra Madre."

In South Bend, Father William Voors got a phone call from Bishop Leo Pursley telling him to begin a study for a new parish on the south side of South Bend, which would be called St. Jude's; and on Dec. 5, 1948, in the Southmore Community Building, the first Mass was celebrated with what was to be the founding community of the new parish.

In July, 1949, Father John J. Szot was assigned as first pastor for 110 registered families.

On the feast of the Assumption, 1950, a groundbreaking ceremony was held for a combination school and hall which would serve as a temporary church.

Sweat equity went into the construction of the new building, with men from the parish salvaging lumber and other materials from a chapel donated



by the Franciscan Sisters of Mt. Alverno. This represented a significant savings for the new parish.

The cornerstone was blessed Oct. 29, 1950, on the feast of Christ the King and sealed on Nov. 1, 1950, on the feast of All Saints. The first Mass in the new church was said by Father Szot on April 22, 1951, and the church was dedicated the following June 10.

On April 8, 1956, another groundbreaking ceremony saw the beginning of a new parish school, which opened the following September with 100 students in the first four grades.

As St. Jude's looks forward to its 60th anniversary, it will grow in another way by welcoming members of nearby St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, which after 125 years in South Bend, is being suppressed.

Formal liturgical ceremonies will commemorate this merger with a Mass and dinner at St. Jude's on Jan. 28.



MARK WEBER

This six-foot statue of Christ called "Come to Me" by sculptor Richmond Barthe stands in front of the church. It was a gift to the first pastor, Father John Szot.

St. Mary of the Assumption, South Bend, Est. 1882

German Catholics in South Bend in the mid 1800s were a nomadic clutch of Catholics, walking several miles to Notre Dame for a sermon in German, but after assisting in the construction of a wooden church for St. Patrick Parish on Western Avenue, they were rewarded with a 9 a.m. Mass reserved for them there with Holy Cross Father Joseph Carrier, preaching in German.

This ceased when Father Carrier volunteered to be a chaplain in the Civil War, and for the next 12 years this group was deprived of sermons in their native tongue.

In 1872, an event in Cincinnati changed this situation when Joseph Dwenger, a Precious Blood priest and a former missionary was ordained a bishop and appointed as the second bishop of Fort Wayne. Being German himself, Bishop Dwenger was sympathetic to the needs of German Catholics in South Bend and, through his efforts, arranged for Holy Cross priests to provide for the German Catholics at St. Patrick Parish.

The next need was for a church of their own and in 1882 a cornerstone was laid for "Maria Himelfahrt Kirche," St. Mary of the Assumption. The three altars were built by a Holy Cross Brother at Notre Dame. Bishop Dwenger said the first Mass



in the church on May 11, 1884, for about 50 registered families. By 1900, there were nearly 900.

Membership remained solid until the late 1940s when the moves to the suburbs caused many families to join churches closer to their homes.

This decline was followed by the shocking announcement in 1957 from the federal government that by right of eminent domain, St. Mary's on Taylor Street would be forced to vacate its property to make way for a low-cost housing project.

Bishop Pursley, the parish trustees, the Holy Cross provincial and Msgr. John Sabo, dean of the South Bend deanery, all consulted on where to relocate and picked a 42-acre lot on Locust Road. They may have made a better choice had they flipped a coin. Their conclusion to build south of the city instead of north was 180 degrees off target. Growth went to Granger, and the new St. Mary's languished.

Now, after 125 years, the parish will be merged with a neighbor, St. Jude Parish as sticks and bricks stay, but living stones move on.



MARK WEBER

The statue of St. Mary of the Assumption adorns the sanctuary in the lower level church. At right is the original St. Mary of the Assumption Church.