



March 4, 2007

Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Diocese to inactive Catholics: 'You can always come home'



DON CLEMMER

Bishop John M. D'Arcy speaks at the Feb. 21 news conference in Fort Wayne announcing the campaign to call and welcome fallen away Catholics back to the full practice of their faith. The news conference included information on the Wells of Hope program, the 1-800-MERCY4U number, Mercy Day and the aggressive media campaign by the diocese to promote this initiative.

BY DON CLEMMER

FORT WAYNE — “We announce today the beginning of a public effort to draw back to Christ and the church the many Catholics — and there are many — who have stopped the practice of their faith,” Bishop John M. D’Arcy announced at a Feb. 21 news conference at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne. By making heavy use of the media, in what the bishop called a “full court press,” the diocese hopes “to reach those who have forgotten about God and have placed him on the back burners of their life,” and “be a welcoming church to those who need us.”

This initiative, made possible in part by a \$60,000 grant from Our Sunday Visitor, is to be part of the celebration of the Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. A similar news conference was held in South Bend on Feb. 26.

Going into other details on the campaign, Bishop D’Arcy explained that he has asked every parish to have a parish mission over a three-year period. He also noted that many fallen away Catholics feel a need to speak with someone, but also feel a need for anonymity.

“There may have been a reason why they left the church,” Bishop D’Arcy said. “It may have been an error on our part.” Or, he added, they might find certain aspects of the church or its teaching troubling.

To serve these people’s needs, the diocese has inaugurated the 1-800-MERCY4U phone line for

HOME, PAGE 20



**Looking for
someplace
new this
spring break?**

Find some peace
in God’s kingdom

Pages 10-11

**‘We are daughters of
God, and inherently
valuable and
beautiful
because of that’**

Edith Stein conference
hosted at Notre Dame

Page 3

**‘Especially when it
comes to God, I
believe in keeping
an open mind’**

Second installment
of Real Lent series

Page 9

Youth inspired to be Christ’s heroes

BY KAY COZAD

NORTH WEBSTER — In this Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year, the youth of the diocese have already had an opportunity to celebrate their faith together. On Friday, Feb. 16, over two dozen teens from around the area gathered for the first annual diocesan-wide youth retreat weekend, held at Epworth Forest.

The retreat, “Be a Hero,” was hosted by the Office of Youth Ministry, says director Cindy Black and designed as a spoof on American Idol, a popular television program. “We asked, ‘What does it mean to be a hero?’ and agreed Jesus Christ is the one true hero,” she says.

The fun-filled and inspiring weekend began on Friday evening with teachings from Black on the characteristics of a hero. Krista Gensen, parishioner at Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne, followed with a teen witness. The evening drew to a close with the teens praying over each other to rid themselves of all that held them back from

becoming heroes.

The youth and chaperones retired to gender-specific cabins on the grounds for a good night’s sleep and were treated in the morning to a hearty breakfast provided by Catering Kitchen. Epworth Forest kitchens provided all other meals.

Saturday was a full day with a variety of speakers from several diocesan locals. Our Lady of Good Hope pastor Father Mark Gurtner addressed compassion in heroes, St. Vincent School teacher Nate Proulx advised the youth on reckless vs. risking for Christ and Indiana-Purdue Universities at Fort Wayne (IPFW) teacher Bob Sedlmeyer spoke on the burdens heroes carry. Teen witnesses included Laura Schmidt, Reid Leazier and Whitney Soberalski, all from St. Vincent de Paul Parish.

Skits were interspersed throughout the day to bring the talks to life and later in the day, four area priests offered those in attendance the opportunity for reconciliation

HEROS, PAGE 20

MARKED FOR THE JOURNEY



DON CLEMMER

Katie Zoch receives a mark of ashes at Ash Wednesday Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, Feb. 21. Catholics worldwide began the season of Lent by being marked with this sign of repentance.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Official newspaper of the
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
P.O. Box 11169
Fort Wayne, IN 46856

PUBLISHER: Bishop John M. D'Arcy

EDITOR: Tim Johnson

ASSISTANT EDITOR: Don Clemmer

STAFF WRITER: Kay Cozad

Editorial Department

PAGE DESIGNER: Francie Hogan

FREELANCE WRITERS: Ann Carey,

Michelle Castleman, Elmer J. Danch,

Michelle Donaghey, Bonnie Elbersson,

Denise Fedorow, Sister Margie

Lavonis, CSC, Jennifer Ochstein,

Theresa Thomas, Kristi Ward

Business Department

BUSINESS MANAGER: Kathy Denice

AD GRAPHICS DIRECTOR: Mark Weber

BOOKKEEPING/CIRCULATION: Kathy Voirol
kvoiro1@fw.diocesefwsb.org

Advertising Sales

Tess Steffen (Fort Wayne area)

(260) 456-2824

Judy Kearns (South Bend area)

(574) 234-0687

Web site: www.diocesefwsb.org/TODAY

Published weekly except the last Sunday in June, second and fourth weeks in July, second week in August and last week in December by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, 1103 S. Calhoun St., P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46801. Second-class postage paid at Fort Wayne, IN, and additional mailing office.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856-1169 or e-mail: kvoiro1@fw.diocesefwsb.org.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES: Domestic in advance, one year \$20. Bundle rates available on request. Single copy 50¢.

MAIN OFFICE: 915 S. Clinton St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802. Telephone (260) 456-2824. Fax: (260) 744-1473.

BUREAU OFFICE: 114 W. Wayne St., South Bend, IN 46601. Telephone (574) 234-0687. Fax: (574) 232-8483.

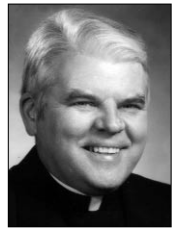
News deadline is the Monday morning before publication date. Advertising deadline is nine days before publication date.

LETTERS POLICY: Today's Catholic welcomes original, signed letters about issues affecting church life. Although we cannot publish every letter we receive, we strive to provide a balanced representation of expressed opinions and a variety of reflections on life in the church. We will choose letters for publication based on reader interest, timeliness and fairness. Readers may agree or disagree with the letter writers' opinions. Letters must not exceed 500 words. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification. We reserve the right to edit letters for legal and other concerns.

Mail letters to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856-1169; or e-mail: editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org

ISSN 0891-1533
USPS 403630

New evangelization welcomes all to hear the word of God



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

A time to evangelize

The word is overused, so perhaps we do not understand it or do not really hear it. But the mission of Christ is our mission, the mission of the church. It is to preach the word of God "in season and out of season," as St. Paul put it. The church, as Pope Paul VI said, "must first be evangelized in order that she might evangelize." It simply means preaching the Gospel. This has been my joy these past few weeks, as always, with each day full of his mission. Indeed, it must always be for bishops and priests but, in a sense, for all of us.

A new evangelization

Not new in content, but "new in method, new in expression and new in ardor." There is also a document in the church on media which says that the church would be "guilty before the Lord" if it did not use modern means of communication. This is why, with the help of a grant from Our Sunday Visitor, you will be seeing spots on television, newspapers and billboards. On Ash Wednesday in Fort Wayne and in South Bend a few days later, I explained all this to the media. There are also missions. This week I will be at the small parish of Blessed Sacrament, Albion and a larger, urban parish, St. Joseph, Fort Wayne. Next week, I will be at the large parish of St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne, and the following week in a smaller parish, St. Patrick, Walkerton.

I also had a most blessed meeting with our presbyterate; that is, with all our priests. Here my emphasis was on prayer and the teachings of our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI. In the annual talk he gives to the curia in Rome — that is, to the various officials who assist him — he referred to a visit to Bavaria, the place of his birth. It brought him to the theme of the priest as a man of God. He spoke of celibacy and he said the reason sometimes given for it; namely availability, is quite insufficient. Are we to say that the young mother with several children is less in her devotion to her family than the priest is to his parish? The pope says that such a reason can lead to egotism or hardness of heart. He then places celibacy in the context of a prayer that he says, "We senior priests used to say when we received tonsure." I recall saying this prayer also, and I think we used to say it when we put on the cassock. It is "Dominus Pars Hereditatis mei et Calecu meae." "The Lord is my portion and my cup." The pope recalls that the Levites of the old law, the priestly tribes were the only ones not to receive a portion of land, their portion was the Lord.

I reflected on this with our priests — our

celibate commitment takes on its full validity only if it is accompanied by prayer — that prayer in which we tell the Lord we belong totally to him. He is our portion and our cup and our inheritance. He is our "land." We also tell him that he is sufficient, and more than sufficient. This makes the priesthood a way of love, an adventure of love if you will.

This was a great day with the priests, which had been postponed because of the weather. We also spoke about vocations to the priesthood, and we saw a beautiful video entitled "Fishers of Men." On top of that, Cindy Black, our director of Youth Ministry spoke to our priests, as did Linda Furge, director of the observance of our jubilee. Cindy set out for our priests her approach to youth ministry, and also her love and respect for the priest.

A weekend to remember

I was off early on Saturday morning to Elkhart because I wished to celebrate Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Parish and visit with Father Philip DeVolder, who has been unable to offer Mass because of a serious back pain. He has been out for several months, and he had a serious infection. I wanted to be close to the parishioners when their local pastor was not so visible.

This also enabled me to attend the first half of the semi state basketball game. It was at North Side gym in Elkhart, and the spirit was extraordinary. Alas, the Lady Indians of Saint Joseph's High were beaten

In the afternoon, I led the Rite of Election in St. Matthew Cathedral Parish. Next week, it will be held at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. This is a diocese where you do everything twice.

after a great year.

After Mass at St. Vincent's, I met with members of the staff and also with Father DeVolder. He is an extraordinary priest, and I ask you to keep him in your prayers. I was impressed with the excellent staff and with Father Bill Sullivan, who is acting as administrator, as well as Father Wilson Corzo and Father Jay Steele, CSC, who have been a great help at St. Vincent's, the mother church of Elkhart.

I drove down the bypass then to South Bend. The next day, I offered Mass at Corpus Christi Parish. It was the 25th anniversary of their Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. It was a joy to celebrate Mass in observance of this occasion, especially on the first Sunday of Lent.

In the afternoon, I led the Rite of Election in St. Matthew Cathedral Parish. Next week, it will be held at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. This is a diocese where you do everything twice.

What a joy to see St. Matthew's filled with the presence of so many people who are preparing for baptism or entrance into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Many young students from the University of Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College and Holy Cross College.

A meeting with vicars

We have six new vicars — Father Thomas Jones, CSC, Father Terry Fisher, Father William Sullivan, Father David Carkenord, Father Daryl Rybicki, and Father David Voors. The vicar is important because he helps the bishop give pastoral care to a certain region. Canonically, they have been called deans, but they also are called vicars forane. They gave me excellent advice on how their office can be used to enrich the pastoral ministry of priests and laity. We will work to see that the vicar visits each parish to strengthen the priest, to make sure he is in good health — physically, emotionally and spiritually — and also to see that the people are being well served.

Still Catholic

I had a wonderful visit to St. Joseph Hospital, Fort Wayne. This was done at the invitation of Sister Carole Langhauser, PHJC. The two young men, Chad Towner and Kirk Ray, who are leaders of the hospital, greeted me and we had lunch with Sister Carole. I recall when the Poor Handmaids, who had served at St. Joseph Hospital with distinction and dedication for generations, with great reluctance determined that it was necessary to sell this beloved hospital. However, I recall quite well that, as part of their agreement with the for-profit company, they insisted that that campus would remain a Catholic hospital. What does this mean? It means that the Ethical and Religious Directives of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops are observed. It means that there will be excellent sacramental care. Father Daniel Chukwuleta visits every Catholic patient on a regular basis — sometimes every day. Also, he offers Mass daily at 4:15 p.m. and on Sunday morning at 10 a.m. It also means that some sisters are still present and visible at the hospital.

I toured the hospital. What a special joy. I went to the obstetric ward, and a woman came out to meet me. Her name was Juanita. She said, "Bishop, please come in and see my first grandchild." The baby was less than two hours old. What a gift for the bishop.

This hospital will remain in the middle of our city. Its tradition is to serve the poor. Indeed, this is one of the guidelines of the Catholic Ethical and Religious Directives — to continue a special effort to give to those in need. Thus, the spirit of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, who built and maintained this great institution, is being continued.

A wonderful few hours at our Catholic hospital. I am grateful that the spirit of the Poor Handmaids remains strong in this hospital.

So far, I have not been called to the Red Sox spring training site. Maybe it is best, because I am quite busy. If they want me to come and throw batting practice, I will be ready.

See you all next week.

Notre Dame's Edith Stein Conference focuses on feminism in a Catholic perspective

BY DIANE FREEBY
AND ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — "Love is powerful. It brings clarity and truth. In redefining feminism, we are reminded by the first papal encyclical 'God is Love,' to keep it simple."

Those were some of the opening comments from the student organizers of the Edith Stein Project held Feb. 23-24 at the University of Notre Dame.

In seeking to redefine feminism, conference organizers chose to focus on a uniquely Catholic perspective on healing; healing on an individual level for those who have been victimized by real violence, and on a cultural level for all who are negatively impacted by a society where eating disorders, pornography, sexual assault and attacks on women's sexual health are common concerns.

This is the third year for the conference, a product of research done by Notre Dame senior Anamaria Scaperlanda. The tone of the conference is reflected in the words of its patron saint, Edith Stein: "The capacity for empathy with others and their needs and the capacity and docility for adaptation are more developed in the nature of

woman."

In other words, according to the conference's missions statement, woman's inclination toward maternity draws her to all living and personal things, and to a more specific, contemplative knowledge. Gifted with the capacity for carrying life, as the continuation of Eve called "mother of all living," she is also responsible for preparing the "restoration of life."

To this end, some 25 women and men from all parts of the country were invited to speak on various topics throughout the two-day conference. Speakers included Notre Dame students and alumni, as well as national figures like Deirdre McQuade, director of planning and information for the U.S. Bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

Moral theologian Janet Smith talked about how contraceptives change women and men biologically and emotionally, negatively impacting the natural hormones that attract members of the opposite sex to one another. This results in relationship problems between the sexes, as well as physical problems for the woman, ranging from increased risk for depression and certain cancers.

Furthermore, the separation of sex from babies and marriage has



PHOTOS BY DIANE FREEBY

Annamaria Scaperlanda, a senior philosophy major at the University of Notre Dame, did the initial research into Catholic feminism that resulted in the Edith Stein Conference.

created a culture of recreational sex, resulting in a multitude of problems, including high incidence of sexually transmitted diseases, emotional trauma and at-risk families, said Smith, who is the Father Michael J. McGivney Chair of Life Ethics at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit.

Pia deSolenni, a theologian who writes and lectures on issues like feminism, culture and society, spoke on "Renewing the Feminine Image." She told the largely student audience that "We are desperately imperiled of losing the context of authentic feminine sexuality."

The "brokenness of today's culture is seen everywhere," she said, and is evidenced by our contracting and divorcing society in which adults seem to be afraid of making a commitment.

Women "have to make a conscious decision about how we want to be treated as women," she said, explaining that today's culture tends to define sexuality as "doing, not being," even though our sexuality is integrated into who we are as a whole person.

DeSolenni also touched on the inappropriate sexualization of women in the media, and this theme was further developed by Brandi Lee, founder and editor-in-chief of *True Girl* magazine. Lee explained that she founded the magazine, which has a target audience of Catholic girls ages 12 to 18 and a circulation of 5,000, because other publications for girls and women are focused on physical perfection, Hollywood celebrities and what it takes to attract and please a man. Lee said her maga-

zine emphasizes self-discovery, character development, social responsibility, modest fashion and love for God and the church.

The message girls and women should be getting, Lee said, is that "We are daughters of God, and inherently valuable and beautiful because of that."

Wendy Shalit, who at age 23 wrote "A Return to Modesty: Discovering the Lost Virtue," told the story of how she was motivated to research modesty after being repulsed by the lack of privacy in the co-ed bathrooms at her college. In her research, she came to realize that women and men are made in the image of God, and "Modesty is about protecting what is precious, what is inside, what's unique about us."

Economist Jennifer Roback Morse, author of "Love and Economics: Why the Laissez-Faire Family Doesn't Work," talked about "dumb sex," which she said included casual sex, living together without marriage and having a baby without a father in the picture. "Smart sex," she said has two purposes: procreation and spousal unity. St. Thomas Aquinas had this figured out centuries ago, Roback Morse said, and now science is catching up, for the results of "dumb sex" are wreaking havoc on individuals and society.

Speakers share stories of healing and faith

BY DIANE FREEBY

NOTRE DAME — It is God's infinite mercy that ultimately saved Bernadette Roy as she exclaimed in the session, *Trauma and Healing After Abortion: Neither Do I Condemn You*.

Her story began like many other women. Roy came from a large Catholic family, the fourth of eight children. She married her high school sweetheart and by 1973 had two children. There were problems in the marriage, and Roy found herself divorced and single. She made some poor choices, "hooked up" and became pregnant.

"I went to Planned Parenthood," recalled Roy. "They talked about termination because there could be complications."

Ashamed to tell anyone else, Roy made her decision without any more input. She made the decision alone to abort her baby.

"God kept calling me out," said Roy. "I was working, doing some repairs in a friend's home, when her curly-haired little girl jumped in my lap and hugged me. Her mother told me how her daughter was usually so shy around others. I just cried and cried. I went home and cried that entire night. The next morning, I put on my face and tried to return to my life."

The pain continued. One day, Roy visited her former in-laws. Her former father-in-law was touched by her visible pain, and he gently brought her back to the



Bernadette Roy shares her journey of healing after suffering from an abortion. Beth Bauer of Project Rachel followed with her talk on "Trauma and Healing after Abortion: Neither Do I Condemn You." Beth discussed the many healing resources available to those who survive the horror of abortion.

Catholic Church.

"I received an annulment," said Roy. "I went to confession 20 times about my abortion." She then remarried in the church and became more involved in the faith she had once abandoned.

Roy recalled the night she truly began to heal. "I went to dinner with five church friends, and one broke into tears as she revealed she had once had an abortion. I realized that at a table of six friends, two of us had abortions."

Rachel's Vineyard offers a message of hope and healing, providing retreats throughout the year to women in need. Beth Bauer, who helps women with this healing, said it takes on average five to 15 years for a woman to deal with the painful reality of her abortion.

Those interested in learning more may visit Rachel's Vineyard online at rachelvineyard.org.

"We want to take something Satan intended for evil and turn it into good," Bauer said, "to glorify God by helping other women and men suffering from abortion."

In another session, *The Healing of the Feminine: A Case in Point*, Cathy Nolan illustrated that the glorification of God through prayer brings healing. She shared her faith journey and offered a plan for other women to begin their own healing.

Nolan, who took a 20-year sabbatical between her junior and senior year at Saint Mary's College to be a co-creator with God and begin a family, went on to complete her master's degree in theology. She was invited to be a member of the Mariological Society of America because, according to the society's president, "she encompasses the unique combination of a scholar's intellect and a mother's heart."

Nolan chronicled her journey from obedient daughter in the 1950s to a questioning college student during the confusion of the 1960s and 70s.

"When I entered Saint Mary's, the rules were strict," recalled



Cathy Nolan, wife and mother of eight children currently works at the Women's Care Center. She spoke of her personal faith journey and how prayer and journaling lead to healing.

Nolan. "By my junior year, everything was changing. Sexuality was up for grabs."

As Nolan described the terror she experienced when a male acquaintance made an attempt at rape, she also revealed the disconnect many of her generation appeared to be experiencing, between their behavior and what they were after in their hearts.

Depressed and confused, Nolan dropped out of college her junior year and went home. Nolan ended up marrying the one guy who showed genuine care and compassion by coming by to visit and see how she was doing. Denis

Nolan and Cathy continued to date when she enrolled at Northwestern University and then married. Cathy and Denis experienced spiritual and relational ups and downs early on, separating for a short time.

During their separation, Nolan made some choices she would later regret, including turning to a birth control device that could also work as an abortifacient. But as she and Denis reconciled, Nolan buried the shame and moved ahead into a life of prayer, joy and family having seven children in a row. God was clearly working in their lives.

"God's way is not to hide our shame," explained Nolan. "God's way is to name it, to entrust it into his hands and to teach us that he loves us more than anything we can do."

Today, in addition to praying with other women and teaching them how to use journaling as a springboard to conversation with Jesus and Mary, Nolan continues her pro-life calling on the front lines at the Women's Care Center.

"God wants us healed and not full of shame and brokenness," said Nolan. "God wants us recreated in his image."

The Edith Stein Conference was sponsored by the Notre Dame Departments of Psychology, Theology and Philosophy; the Center for Ethics and Culture; the Center for Social Concerns; Campus Ministry; and the Our Sunday Visitor Institute.

YOU CAN LEND A HAND HIGHLIGHTS



PROVIDED BY QUALITY DINING

St. Louis Academy took home the grand prize of \$250, the traveling trophy, 500 tickets to an additional Komets' game and a school visit by Komets mascot, Icy D. Eagle, for the second year at You Can Lend a Hand Night. In the photo are, front row from left, Jessica Van Horn, Noah Van Horn, Taryn Van Horn and back row, Jake Van Horn, Tiffany May, Jarrett Lortie, Mercedes Matter, You Can Lend A Hand Program Coordinator Kelly Van Horn and Nathan May. In South Bend cheerleaders and music students performed at the University of Notre Dame Women's Basketball game against De Paul.

Pope denounces trend toward 'designer embryos'

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI denounced the high-tech trend that encourages parents to seek the "perfect child" through genetic selection.

In a speech Feb. 24 to more than 350 Catholic medical professionals, the pope said so-called "designer embryos" represent one of many contemporary attacks on human life.

The attacks have increased to the point that the Christian conscience has been lulled, and even good people sometimes seem paralyzed in the face of collective social pressure against the right to life, he said.

The pope listed a number of ways in which human life is threatened in poorer nations today,

including pressure to legalize abortion, new forms of chemical abortion introduced under the pretext of "reproductive health," and the continuing politics of demographic control.

In richer countries, he said, biotechnological engineering aims to establish "subtle and extensive methods of eugenics in the obsessive search for the 'perfect child,' through artificial procreation and various forms of diagnosis that allow selection."

He said this kind of genetic selection is part of "a new wave of discrimination" aimed at unborn.

The pope also warned against increasing pressure to legalize euthanasia. In addition to such direct attacks on life, he said, efforts are multiplying to legalize "alternative" forms of cohabitation that are closed to procreation.



DENNIS FECH

Bishop Dwenger's fine arts addition is quickly taking shape. The goal is to have the new space ready for occupancy following spring break in early April. The inset photo shows interior construction in the fine arts addition of Bishop Dwenger High School.



Bishop Dwenger High School's fine arts addition takes shape

BY DENNIS FECH

FORT WAYNE — The first phase of Bishop Dwenger's expansion effort is moving towards completion. The 42,000 square-foot addition will house new band and choir rooms as well as space for campus ministry, the service coordinator, maintenance and Saints Alive. The goal is to have the new space ready for occupancy following spring break in early April.

Once complete, the new band room will accommodate approximately 100 students for both class and rehearsals. Individual practice rooms will allow students to work on private lessons as well as prepare for the annual Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) competition each year. Ample storage will be available for a music library, uniform and instrument storage.

A separate choir room will accommodate another 90 stu-

dents and a multi-purpose room can be used by the school's show choir, dance team and other groups within the school. Over the past few years, Bishop Dwenger has experienced tremendous growth in the fine arts curriculum. More and more students are pursuing the academic honors diploma, which requires a minimum of two semesters of either visual or performing arts. Over 300 students are taking visual arts at this time with another 150 or so in the performing arts.

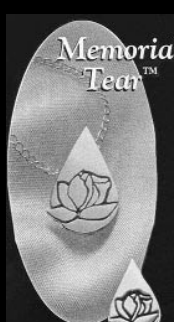
Once the band and choir move into their new space, the existing music room will be converted into three art classrooms. The school currently offers several classes in both two and three-dimensional art. The curriculum is expected to expand with the addition of the new classrooms.

Bishop Dwenger High School has raised nearly \$6.7 million towards an \$8 million goal in its ONE Family Committed to the Future Campaign. The goal is to raise an additional \$1.4 million in

order to begin construction of a new classroom wing in late spring. Dwenger has experienced nearly 15 years of steady growth in its enrollment. Currently more than 1,070 students attend Dwenger making it one of the three largest Catholic high schools in the state.

The additional classrooms are needed to meet the needs of the current students and staff. A number of teachers do not have their own classrooms and three of the current rooms in use are below the minimum size for a high school classroom.

Dwenger is now reaching out to all of its parents, alumni and friends in an effort to bring the campaign to a close. The school is confident it will reach its goal that will help insure the future of the school for many years to come. If anyone wants to learn more about the current campaign, they may contact the school's development office at (260) 496-1706 or e-mail dfech@bish-opdwenger.com.



Love never dies.

The Memorial Tear™ is a tear drop, to be worn in memory of someone loved. There is a rose inside as a symbol of the love that never dies.

(1 Corinthians 13:8, 13)

Available in necklace or lapel pin.
Sterling Silver or 10K gold

AQUINAS

2306 Mishawaka Avenue
South Bend 46615
(574) 287-1091



**A Dining Choice Tonight...
\$CRIP Money Next Month!**

Carry a Hall's Restaurant
Community Partnership Card,
Use it at any location as often as you like. Your parish or school will receive a monthly **5%** rebate check. Applies to dining, catering, lodging and banquet services.

Ask your SCRIP Coordinator or call Hall's Business Office 1-260-493-3522

Sister Thea Bowman lived a full life of hope, love and justice.

BY MAY LEE JOHNSON

She always had a song in her heart and a prayer in her soul for social justice for all races and creeds in the Catholic Church.

Bertha Bowman was born Dec. 29, 1937. She attended a Methodist church but went to Holy Child Jesus School in Canton, Miss. At the age of 9, she was so touched by the sisters who taught her that she received her parents' permission to become a Catholic.

With a beautiful voice, brilliant mind and dynamic personality, Bertha, who would become Sister Thea Bowman, a Sister of the Third Order of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, intended to make the world a better place. And she did.

"Many people considered Sister Thea Bowman to be a prophetic voice in the church," Holy Cross Brother Roy Smith, from the University of Notre Dame, said. "Some saw her as having a prophetic voice in calling the church, the people of God to bring about justice and peace to all of God's people."

After a career in higher education, she turned her immense energy and love into teaching others the beauty of a multicultural world.

She loved music, and had a candid and uncompromising personal acceptance of all people. She was singer, dancer, liturgist and evangelist, and she spent her life preaching the good news as a woman and as a Franciscan sister.

At the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in 1989, she was

remembered receiving a standing ovation after her presentation as keynote speaker. At the close of the meeting, she invited the bishops to stand, linked arm in arm, and sang with much enthusiasm, "We Shall Overcome."

At 46, Sister Thea was diagnosed with terminal bone cancer, which spread to her brain.

This didn't slow her down, as she continued to minister from her wheelchair. Her prayer was "to live until I die."

Sister Thea had lived a full life of hope, love and justice. A holy woman of our times, she loved God. She loved her faith. She went home to be with her loving God like a shooting star in 1990.

A personal witness

Today's Catholic contributor May Lee Johnson remembers personally meeting Sister Thea Bowman when she visited South Bend in the early 1980s.

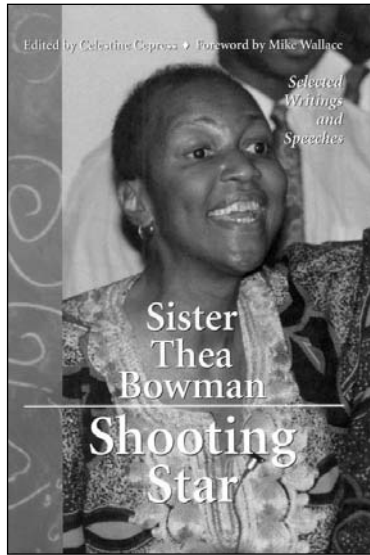
Johnson had never really met or spoken with a black sister, so when her friend Brother Roy Smith called her to say Sister Thea would be speaking at Notre Dame, Johnson went to the lecture.

Johnson said she thought it would be interesting to meet her and hear what she had to say about blacks and Catholics.

Johnson had no idea what to expect, so she had dinner with her.

"When I saw her decked out in her native African dress, I was shocked," Johnson said, "but she greeted me with a warm smile and big hug, and I quickly knew I was in good company."

After the two talked a few minutes, Johnson, who was thinking



"Sister Thea Bowman — Shooting Star" contains selected writings and speeches and is published by Saint Mary's Press Christian Brothers Publication, Winona, Minn.

about leaving the Catholic Church at the time, discussed her concerns with Sister Thea.

Sister Thea responded that she would never allow the undervaluing of African-Americans and women in the church and society stop her from doing her part.

Later, Johnson found this quote in some notes she had taken years ago: "I like being black. I like being myself, and I thank God for making me my black self and that's when I decided to become fully functioning, to the church and the world."

Pope says Christ on cross helps Christians recognize sin, God's love

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Contemplating Christ on the cross, Christians recognize the seriousness of their sins and the power of God's love, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Only by turning our gaze to Jesus, dying on the cross for us, can this basic truth be known and contemplated: God is love," he said Feb. 25 before praying the Angelus with visitors in St. Peter's Square.

The midday appearance was Pope Benedict's last public engagement before he and top Vatican officials began their weeklong Lenten retreat in the evening.

The pope asked the people in the square to accompany him with their prayers, and he promised to pray for them as well.

Pope Benedict asked Catholics during Lent to keep their hearts and minds focused on Christ's crucifixion, because it is the best way "to understand fully what sin is, how tragic its seriousness is, and at the same time how incomparable the Lord's power and mercy are."

Keeping their eyes on Christ, he said, people also should allow themselves to feel that he is watching them.

"The one we have pierced with our sins never tires of pouring out on the world an inexhaustible torrent of merciful love," he said.

Pope Benedict prayed that humanity would come to understand "that this is the only source from which to draw the indispensable spiritual energy needed to build that peace and happiness for which every human being is looking."

Cragan's Irish Imports

St. Pat's Day Headquarters

Authentic
Irish
Goods



Gifts
Music
Food

Open Monday-Friday 10-6 • Saturday 10-5
1643 Edison Plaza • South Bend • 243-1400



Michael Scheer
Labor and Employment Department
(260) 425-4628
michael.scheer@btlaw.com

Michael Scheer is one of more than 30 Barnes & Thornburg attorneys providing legal services to their fellow parishioners in the Diocese of Fort Wayne - South Bend.

BARNES & THORNBURG LLP
btlaw.com

CHICAGO • ELKHART • FORT WAYNE • GRAND RAPIDS
INDIANAPOLIS • SOUTH BEND • WASHINGTON, D.C.

TODAY'S CATHOLIC welcomes you!

Subscribe or renew now by calling
(260) 456-2824

or subscribe online by visiting
www.diocesefwsb.org/TODAY

- 1 Year — \$20 Seniors - \$16 (65 and older)
- 2 Years — \$37 Seniors - \$32 (65 and older)
- 3 Years — \$54 Seniors - \$48 (65 and older)
- Digital Subscription — \$18 Must provide email address

Please start or renew my subscription to Today's Catholic New Renewal

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ and Zip _____

Phone _____ Parish _____

E-mail Address _____

Method of Payment Bill Me Master Card Visa

Number _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Mail to: Today's Catholic - P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, In 46856

Al-Azhar's grand sheik agrees to meet for talks with pope in Rome

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — One of Sunni Islam's leading clerics has accepted Pope Benedict XVI's invitation to meet for talks in Rome, the Vatican said. Grand Sheik Mohammed Sayyid Tantawi of Cairo's al-Azhar University, a world-renowned center of Islamic scholarship, agreed to the encounter "with satisfaction," the Vatican said Feb. 20. No date was announced for the meeting. It would be the pope's highest-profile encounter with an Islamic leader since his September speech in Regensburg, Germany, that sparked controversy and criticism throughout the Muslim world. Cardinal Paul Poupard, head of the Vatican agency that coordinates interreligious dialogue, met Sheik Tantawi Feb. 20 in Cairo in what the Vatican described as "a climate of great cordiality" and conveyed the pope's greetings to the cleric. Cardinal Poupard also planned to meet with Egypt's religious affairs minister, Hamdi Zaquq.

Pope to canonize Brazilian in May, four others in June

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI will canonize a Brazilian Franciscan during his May trip to Brazil and will declare four other new saints in June. During a prayer service in the Apostolic Palace Feb. 23, the pope set May 11 as the date for the canonization of Blessed Antonio Galvao, an 18th-century Franciscan and founder of the Sisters of Our Lady of the Conception of Divine Providence. The pope will be in Brazil May 9-13 to participate in the Latin American bishops' fifth general assembly; the papal schedule published by the Brazilian bishops in early February said the pope would celebrate a morning Mass May 11 at the Campo de Marte airfield in Sao Paolo. Pope Benedict also announced the June 3 canonization at the Vatican of a Polish Franciscan, Blessed Simon of Lipnica; Blessed Charles Houben, a Dutch Passionist priest; Sister Anne-Eugenie Milleret de Brou, the French founder of the Religious of the Assumption; and a Maltese priest, Father George Preca, founder of the Society of Christian Doctrine.

Vatican rejects Call to Action appeal; bishop urges return to church

LINCOLN, Neb. (CNS) — The Vatican's highest court said it has no jurisdiction over a decision by Bishop Fabian W. Bruskewitz of Lincoln that Catholics in his diocese who are members of Call to Action, Call to Action Nebraska and 10 other organizations were automatically excommunicated. In the wake of the ruling, Bishop Bruskewitz renewed his invitation to Call to Action Nebraska members to leave that organization and return to full communion with the church. Rachel Pokora and Gordon P. Peterson of Call to Action Nebraska had asked the Apostolic Signature, the church's supreme

NEWS BRIEFS

CHARISMATICS PRAY DURING ANNIVERSARY IN DETROIT



CNS PHOTO/GREGG MCINTOSH, THE MICHIGAN CATHOLIC

Young adults pray Feb. 17 with more than 3,000 Catholics from across the country gathered in Detroit at the Cobo Center to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the charismatic renewal. Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher of the papal household spoke Feb. 17, saying "The first need of the church is for a perennial Pentecost — an ongoing Pentecost — in which the church would have fire in her heart, works in her midst and prophecy in her outlook."

court, to overturn Bishop Bruskewitz's 1996 decision and its affirmation last year by Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Bishops. In a Jan. 27 letter to Pokora and Peterson, which was copied to Bishop Bruskewitz, the court said it had "no competence," or jurisdiction, in the matter. Call to Action Nebraska was the only group to ask the bishop to reverse his decision.

Nashville bishop supports mayor's veto of 'English-first' legislation

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) — Saying that "we don't need a law to tell us what language we are already speaking," Nashville Mayor Bill Purcell vetoed a bill that would have required city agencies and officials to communicate in English "except when required by federal law or when necessary to protect or promote public health, safety or welfare." Bishop David R. Choby of Nashville, who stood with Purcell as he made the veto announcement Feb. 12, said the city is "noted for its friendliness and its willingness to welcome those who are new to the area." The bishop said, "The characteristics of kindness, for which this city has developed a national recognition, can also be called Christian charity." "This ordinance does not reflect who we are," Purcell said, noting the long tradition of immigration in middle Tennessee. A primary reason for the veto, he said, was that

exceptions to the ordinance would be so broad that unnecessary lawsuits would surely arise, potentially costing taxpayers hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Rome office issues prayer cards, relics to promote sainthood for John Paul II

ROME (CNS) — The Rome diocesan office charged with promoting the sainthood cause of Pope John Paul II continues to distribute the official prayer cards for the cause and the only authorized relics, an office spokeswoman said. "We receive dozens of requests each day and the distribution continues," she told Catholic News Service Feb. 26. The relic is a small piece of one of the white cassocks worn by Pope John Paul. The free cards and relics can be requested by letter, fax or e-mail. The e-mail address is: Postulazione.GiovanniPaoloII@VicariatusUrbis.org; the fax number is: (39-06) 6888-6240. The mailing address is: Postulazione Giovanni Paolo II, Vicariato di Roma, Piazza San Giovanni in Laterano 6A, 00184 Rome, Italy.

Pax Christi official: U.S. needs diplomats who know religion, Iran

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Diplomats who understand the religious sensibilities of Iran are needed to act as translators between Iranian and American officials to

resolve peacefully the dispute over Iran's nuclear weapons program, said the executive director of Pax Christi USA. "We have seen no evidence in this (U.S.) administration to practice any skilled" diplomacy, Dave Robinson told Catholic News Service after a Feb. 26 press conference by U.S. Christian leaders who had returned that morning from a weeklong trip to Iran. Pax Christi USA is affiliated with Pax Christi International, a Vatican-recognized Catholic peace movement. Iranian society is "a deeply devoted society and culture" of Muslims, and the administration of Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad is "particularly pious," he said. U.S. President George W. Bush "doesn't understand this language" of a country where religion and society are one, and diplomatic solutions can be lost in translation, Robinson said.

Pope supports Polish archbishop who resigned after communist links

OXFORD, England (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI expressed support for an archbishop who resigned because of links to communist-era secret police. "I would like, above all, to offer words of encouragement, inviting you to stride forward with confidence and peace in your heart," Pope Benedict said in a letter to former Warsaw Archbishop Stanislaw Wielgus. "I express the wish that Your Excellency renew your activity in

Christ's service in every way possible, so your immense and deep knowledge will bear fruit, as well as your priestly devotion for the good of the beloved church in Poland." The pope said in a letter published Feb. 21 that he was "fully aware of the exceptional circumstances" in which Archbishop Wielgus had worked "when the Marxist regime used all means to smother the freedom of citizens, and especially priests." The letter was dated Feb. 12. Archbishop Wielgus had "given proof of great piety and deep love for Christ and the church," he added.

Geographers use GPS to mark Italy's prime meridian in Vatican Gardens

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Although the Global Positioning System has made meridians obsolete in mapmaking, a group of geographers used the GPS to mark the exact spot where the old prime meridian of Italy passed through the Vatican. Standing at the end of a technologically guaranteed straight line of flower pots, the geographers and Vatican officials dedicated a plaque marking the spot in the Vatican Gardens Feb. 23. A prime meridian is an arbitrarily determined line running around the globe from north to south; it is used to determine longitude as well as time zones. Although an international agreement was reached in 1880 recognizing the meridian in Greenwich, England, as the prime meridian, Italian government maps continued to use the Italian prime until the 1940s. In 2004, a group of Italian geographers and historians began a project to commemorate the Italian meridian by marking it in the Vatican Gardens and in several parks around Rome.

Religious leaders call Bush's Iraq War policies 'morally bankrupt'

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Baltimore Christian leaders used the backdrop of Ash Wednesday and props of a dead soldier's combat boots as they called President George W. Bush's Iraq War policies immoral and urged Marylanders to take part in an organized anti-war rally in Washington. The 13 religious leaders from varying Christian faiths — including Auxiliary Bishop Denis J. Madden of Baltimore — chose the first day of Lent Feb. 21 to launch their collective anti-war platform, because it's a penitential season. "The time has come to confess our mistakes and wrongdoing and withdraw our troops" from Iraq, said the Rev. Peter K. Nord, head of the Presbytery of Baltimore, part of the national Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). "The Jesus we follow prays for peace and so do we," Rev. Nord said at the news conference at City Temple Baptist Church in the Bolton Hill neighborhood of Baltimore. "I'm troubled that our commander in chief neither shares this prayer nor listens to his people."

Queen of Angels plans parish mission

FORT WAYNE — Queen of Angels Parish in Fort Wayne will host a parish mission March 11-14. The mission is built on the theme of the diocesan Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year, "Behold the Face of Christ: His Steadfast Love Endures Forever."

The following presenters will speak:

- Sunday, March 11, 7 p.m. — Father James Stoye will present Steadfast in Faith.

- Monday, March 12, 7 p.m. — Jim Didier will present Steadfast in Prayer.

- Tuesday, March 13, 7 p.m. — Father Tim Wrozek will present Steadfast in Forgiveness.

- Wednesday, March 14, 7 p.m. — Bishop John M. D'Arcy will speak on Steadfast in Communion at the closing Mass.

Morning sessions, presented by Sister Jolene Heiden, SSND, from the diocesan Office of Spiritual Development-Evangelization, will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. in the rectory.

The mission will have a special programming track for teens in grades 7-12. On Sunday, from 7-8 p.m. in the parish rectory, spiritual artist and faith speaker Mary Hilger will do a live chalk drawing and speak with the group. On Monday, from 7-8 p.m. in the activities center, local firefighter and former Purdue University cheerleader Jeremy Elder will explore the correlation of prayer in sports to daily life. Teens will attend the sessions in the church on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Babysitting for infants and children through first grade will be available for the evening sessions. Please call the rectory in advance for babysitting services.

Hospitality will be offered on Sunday and Wednesday evenings after the services. The parish extends an invitation to the community to attend the mission.

For additional information, contact Tom Szymczak at (260) 482-9411.

Dwenger students participate Indiana All-State Band Festival

FORT WAYNE — The Indiana Bandmasters Association has named three students from Bishop Dwenger High School to the 2007 Indiana All-State Band. Seniors Mary Andorfer and Katie Blakie along with junior Katie McDermott have been selected to participate in the 47th Annual Indiana All-State Band Festival sponsored by the Indiana Bandmasters Association (IBA).

Each student earned this honor by participating in a highly competitive audition held in early January at nine centers across Indiana. Nearly 900 talented young musicians applied to audition. After the selection committee reviewed tapes of these students, 167 outstanding high school band members have been selected to participate in the 2007 festival.

Dr. Frank Tracz, director of bands at Kansas State University, will direct the 83-piece Indiana all-state band. In addition to the

AROUND THE DIOCESE

BISHOP CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF HOLY HOUR PROGRAM AT CORPUS CHRISTI



DIANE FREEBY

Bishop John M. D'Arcy celebrated Mass with Father Camillo Tirabassi at Corpus Christi Church in South Bend Feb. 25. They commemorated 25 years of the Holy Hour program at Corpus Christi. Barbara O'Brien, left, is one of the original members of the holy hour program.

regular all-state band, there is a select honor band. Dr. Lowell Graham, music department chair at the University of Texas-El Paso, will direct the Indiana All-State Honor Band.

All members will participate in a series of activities including seating auditions, sectionals and full rehearsals from Friday, March 9, through Sunday, March 11. A grand finale concert will be presented to the public on Sunday, March 11, at 2:30 p.m. in the Musical Arts Center (MAS) on the Indiana University-Bloomington campus.

Hibernians celebrate Irish heritage

SOUTH BEND — The South Bend chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians will celebrate the Irish in the area with a St. Patrick's Day dinner and dance on Saturday night in the ballroom of the Santa Maria Council 553 of the Knights of Columbus. Thanks to historian Bernard Doyle, the South Bend chapter can trace its historic enterprise to more than 60 years ago. Area Irish groups highlighted their social functions with dinner and dance programs marking St. Patrick's Day. The Ancient Order of Hibernians in America was established in New York City on May 4, 1836.

Featured at the affair in Santa

Maria Council will be Irish step dancing of the World Academy and the Irish quartet of Pat Heiden.

Maury Hogan is president of the South Bend chapter. Reservations can be made by calling Hogan at (574) 232-7832. — EJD

Huntington Catholic School fundraiser has new benefactor

HUNTINGTON — Run for the Rams, Huntington Catholic School's annual gala fundraiser, has a new benefactor this year.

First Federal Savings Bank has signed on as corporate sponsor of the May 12 dinner and auction. The bank's support, Run for the Rams Chairman Kathy Elmore said, will allow a greater portion of the event's proceeds to go directly toward the operational expenses of Huntington County's only Catholic school.

"We're thrilled that First Federal Savings Bank is willing to be one of our sponsors for this event," Huntington Catholic principal Jason Woolard said. "It will definitely help us bring Catholic education into Huntington County and strengthen our offerings in the future."

The eighth annual Run for the Rams, to be held May 12 at the North Star Civic Center, includes

a dinner as well as silent and live auctions. The auctions feature goods and services donated by local businesses and handcrafted by area residents, as well as special projects created by Huntington Catholic School's students, priests and sisters.

"Huntington Catholic School is a strong asset to the community," said Michael E. Zahn, First Federal's president. "Being a local bank, we feel it's important to participate in a number of organizations in Huntington. ... We're a community bank, and we try to give back to the community as much as we can."

First Federal and its employees also have a number of personal ties to Huntington Catholic School. Zahn's father, First Federal CEO Stephen E. Zahn, and his mother, Alyce Zahn, are both Huntington Catholic graduates. Zahn and many of the bank's employees and customers are also members of one of the city's two Catholic parishes, which support the school.

Tickets for Run for the Rams are \$60 per person and can be purchased by calling Huntington Catholic School at (260) 356-1926.

For information about donating auction items, contact Tim Ness at (260) 224-1353. Donated items may also be dropped off at the school's Primary Building, 820 Cherry St.

Additional corporate sponsorship opportunities are available. For information, call Kathy Elmore at (260) 359-9333.

St. Matthew to host benefit Trivia Night

SOUTH BEND — St. Matthew Cathedral Parish in South Bend will host a St. Patrick's Day Trivia Night, March 17, in the Cathedral Gym at 6:30 p.m. All proceeds will assist with the medical expenses of Keely Quinn, the daughter born on Nov. 13, 2006 to a St. Matthew family.

Keely was born with Down Syndrome and has had heart difficulties requiring cardiac surgery. She is awaiting another surgery.

Cost is \$15 per person. Donations and program advertising space are also being accepted. Please contact St. Matthew School at (574) 289-4535 for more information.

Plymouth native elected to National Board of Trustees of Catholic Charities USA

ALEXANDRIA, Va — Kathleen Flynn Fox of Naples, Fla., has recently been elected to serve on Catholic Charities USA's Board of Trustees. Fox joins the board for a three-year term with the possibility of one renewal.

Fox is the daughter of Kay Flynn, Plymouth and the late Patrick J. Flynn. Fox and her husband are currently building their summer home on Pretty Lake.

Fox has volunteered in her communities for more than two decades, including having served on the board of directors of Catholic Charities of Minneapolis-St. Paul from 1998 to 2004. On the board she served as its chair, vice chair, public policy chair, governance chair, and vice chair of the agency's annual fund campaign.

She currently serves on the board of directors of the Christ Child Society and volunteers at a literacy program for Head Start children in Naples, Fla. Fox headed Silver Fox Partners from 1989 to 2005. The Minneapolis-based marketing and consulting company focused on assisting regional shopping malls and retailers with branding, marketing and merchandise buying and display.

Prior to starting her own firm, Fox served as vice president of marketing for Lieberman Enterprises, a national restaurant chain of 350 stores located in regional shopping malls in 46 states.

She holds a bachelor degree in history from Saint Mary's College of Notre Dame in Indiana. Fox is a board-elected trustee.

Catholic Charities USA's members-more than 1,500 local agencies and institutions nationwide provide help and create hope for over 7.4 million people a year regardless of religious, social or economic backgrounds. For more than 275 years, local Catholic Charities agencies have been providing a myriad of vital services in their communities, ranging from day care and counseling to food and housing.

Bill to provide permanent funding for affordable housing advances

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

INDIANAPOLIS — "Providing affordable housing is the single most effective way to solve homelessness in our state and nation," said Bill Bickel, director of Holy Family Shelter and Holy Family Transitional Housing in Indianapolis, a part of Catholic Charities. "And House Bill 1351 will do just that — help provide affordable housing in Indiana."

Rep. Jeb Bardon (D-Indianapolis) author of HB 1351 said, "There are two sides to this issue — a moral issue for society and a fiscal issue for government. This bill will help a segment of society that is struggling for survival."

The groups expected to be helped by the bill include the homeless, many of whom are single moms with children; victims of domestic violence; former convicts; and seniors in transition.

"It will also help reunite families since one-third of all kids in foster care could go home if their family had a more stable housing situation," said Rep. Bardon.

Rep. Bardon said that the only opposition to the bill is the real estate and building industry because of the additional fees that they may have to pay when they get documents from the recorder's office.

"Some think that poverty and homelessness is only an urban issue, but it's an issue that affects those living in rural counties as well," he said.

"We will get a better output on schools when poor children have a stable home environment and also save on health care because there will be less of need to use the emergency room on cold nights as a means to survive," said Rep. Bardon.

Rep. Bardon, who attends St. Michael Parish in Indianapolis, said "providing affordable housing for the poor is an issue everyone agrees is the ethical thing to do from a moral perspective and the right thing to do fiscally for the state, but there is a difference on how to achieve that.

Under HB 1351, affordable housing funds will be paid for by a mix of permanent funding sources including new fees from the county recorder's office, a portion of the interest from other state funds and an adjustment in big box retailers' sales tax collection discount. Current law does not provide a permanent funding source for affordable housing.

"Holy Family Shelter and crisis shelters in general were created to be temporary crisis relief shelters," said Bickel, "but unfortunately due to the enormous lack of affordable housing, these shelters have become permanent housing. This is completely unacceptable.

"Our faith calls us to uphold the dignity of each and every person — including the poor. Those who are at or below the poverty level can receive a subsidy to pay for their housing under this bill," Bickel explained. "For example, let's say the rent of an apartment is

Poverty and housing in Indiana

Information below extrapolated by a report compiled by the Indiana Coalition on Housing and Homeless Issues for Affordable Housing and Community Economic Development Awareness Day.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau's 2004 American Community Survey there are 2,690,619 housing units in Indiana, 10 percent that were vacant.

Face of homelessness in Indiana

Poverty rates: people 65 or older 7 percent; related children under 18 years of age 14 percent; female householder families 28 percent; all families 8 percent; all individuals 11 percent.

Poverty related statistics TANF monthly average families in 2004 were 54,330; Food Stamp recipients in 2004 were 516,360; Free and Reduced Lunch recipients in 2004 were 356,702. — Source: Indiana Business Research STATS Indiana Data.

Emergency sheltered population 3,230; transitional housing population 3,849; unsheltered population 2,798; total

homeless population in Indiana 9,877.

— Source 2005 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care Applications for Indianapolis, Evansville, South Bend, and the Balance of the State. Data includes both homeless individuals and person in homeless families with children.

Emergency Shelters in Indiana. HUD defines an emergency shelter as any facility the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary or transitional shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless. Family units 558; family beds 1,965; individual 2,152; total yearround 4,152; 71 seasonal; overflow/ voucher 1,000.

— Source 2005 Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Continuum of Care Applications for Indianapolis, Evansville, South Bend, and the Balance of the State. Data includes both current and under development.

\$750. A poor family could live in that apartment and pay \$250 and the affordable-housing fund would pay the difference of \$500.

"What's great about how this fund works is that poor people are not singled out by putting them in projects or subsidized housing. Lower income families could quite feasibly live side by side with other middle class families," he said. "That's the beauty about the way this fund is set up because no one knows who is receiving the subsidy except the owner or property manager who receives the check," Bickel said.

"The family maintains their dignity and the property owner is guaranteed the rental income," he said. "It's a win-win situation. Indianapolis is also in a good situation to handle increased rental tenants because there is ample stock rental properties. In some states, they have to build, but that would not be the case in Indianapolis since we have ample housing," said Bickel.

"Actually Indiana is behind the curve on this issue since our neighboring states already have permanent funding sources for their affordable housing funds," Bickel said.

Bickel, who also serves as a

board member for the Indiana Catholic Conference said his shelter and others like his will not benefit directly in the sense of getting a check handed to them, but he says there will be a tremendous benefit for those that they serve because they will have a much better chance to find permanent housing, which to Bickel is equally or even more rewarding.

Bickel explained that there are some concerns among those who work in with housing and homelessness issues that with ample affordable housing some lawmakers might think that temporary shelters won't be needed, but Bickel said even with ample affordable housing emergency shelters are "unequivocally necessary."

"There will always be people and families for some reason who will need emergency housing, just like there will always be a need in a community to have an emergency room at the hospital," he said.

Rep. Bardon said he expects HB 1351 to pass the House with at least a two-thirds majority of House members supporting the bill and is hopeful the bill will only improve as it makes its way through the Senate.

"Professional Insurance Services"



**KINTZ
INSURANCE
AGENCY**

- Life
- Health
- Annuities
- Disabilities
- Medicare Supplements
- Nursing Home Care
- Auto
- Home
- Business
- Liability

111 North Third Street • Decatur
(260)728-9290 • (260) 724-8042 • 1-800-589-5468

Your Real Estate Needs...

Need Personal Service!

In the Fort Wayne and surrounding area,

Call **Elaine M. Herber, Broker**



RE/MAX®

Results

O: (260)436-6363 Ex 317
R: (260) 639-6471

Voice Mail
(260) 479-1162

Indiana Monsignor Knueven Hosts...

Alaska Cruise

And Pacific Northwest Vacation

On August 19, 2007 join your Spiritual Director Monsignor Harold Knueven and other Roman Catholics on this 15-day vacation including a seven-day deluxe Alaska Cruise with Holland America Line and a seven-day Pacific Northwest vacation with Your Man Tours. Monsignor Knueven is Administrator at St. Mary's Roman Catholic Church in Greenwood, Indiana. Mass will be celebrated daily while on board ship for those in the group who wish to participate. Your group will fly into Salt Lake City starting a six-night motor coach tour of the Pacific Northwest visiting Salt Lake City (including the Mormon Tabernacle, Beehive House and Great Salt Lake); Jackson Hole, Wyoming; Grand Teton National Park; West Yellowstone; two days in Yellowstone (Old Faithful) National Park; Montana; Lake Coeur d'Alene; the Grand Coulee Dam; Washington; the Cascade Mountains; and British Columbia. In Vancouver you will board your five-star ship, HAL's ms Zuiderdam. Next, travel through a wondrous maze of forested islands and glacier-carved fjords, past charming coastal villages, migrating whales and calving glaciers to Juneau, Skagway, Ketchikan and spectacular Glacier Bay. After the cruise you'll take a scenic drive to Seattle, spending one night before flying home. Prices for this 15-day vacation start at only \$1898 (per person, double occupancy). Included is the seven-day deluxe Alaska cruise, seven nights hotels, lots of sightseeing throughout the Pacific Northwest, baggage handling, port charges and taxes. For optional airfare from Ft. Wayne add \$600.

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

For Information, Reservations, Brochure, and Letter
from Monsignor Knueven Call 7 Days a Week:

'YOUR MAN' TOURS 1-800-968-7626



PROVENA
Sacred Heart Home

Our experienced and professional staff is dedicated to providing the highest quality of nursing care.

- Daily Mass
- Skilled Care • Intermediate Care
- Medicare Certified
- Secured Units for Alzheimer Care
- Physical, Occupational, & Speech Therapies
- Assisted Living Apartments
- Independent Living Patio Homes on Campus

For Information, Call: (260) 897-2841

515 N. Main Street, Avilla, Indiana 46710

Provena Health, a Catholic health system, builds communities of healing and hope by compassionately responding to human need in the spirit of Jesus Christ.

Lent — Is that the one before Christmas?

Sometimes it is easy to think of the season of Lent simply as a set of rules and requirements, days of fasting and abstinence, giving up the customary foods or habits. But the real depth of Lenten experience occurs when the season plays out in the lives of real people, how these practices affect them and play a part in calling them back to God. This is the second installment of a series that looks at how the season of Lent plays out in the everyday lives of different Catholics.

Dressed in his usual T-shirts, jeans and black leather jacket, Doug Arnold comes across as a laid back guy with a lot going on just beneath the surface. His smile ranges from wry, like he's both amused and bemused by life's peculiarities, to sly, like he's in on a particularly wicked or possibly naughty joke. At 42, he possesses a quirky demeanor that sometimes gives him the feel of a mischievous teenager and at other times the feel of an old sage who is fond of dispensing his life observations in droll phrases such as, "I still consider myself a Protestant in Catholic clothes."

This would be because Arnold grew up in a Methodist church and came to Catholicism in the early 1980s when he married his wife, Regina.

"My feelings were, you know, I'd like to worship with my wife," recalls Arnold, "but I'm not sure if the Catholic life is the way for me." He ended up making the switch



Doug Arnold sits in the cockpit of a jet during his 2006 stint in Iraq. Arnold, a former Protestant, feels that he's never really had much exposure to Lent, but is open to the experience.

and now attends St. Vincent de Paul Church in Fort Wayne. His two kids graduated from Bishop Luers High School, and he says that he likes that the Catholic Church takes a firm stance on issues like abortion and gay marriage. But he'll also admit that those catechism classes were a long time ago and that his method of living a Christian life today has a Protestant ring to it.

"I try to spend time in that Bible every day," Arnold notes. He's currently working his way through the Gospels. He also enjoys daily reflection books, one of which he keeps in one of the many pockets of his uniform for the Fort Wayne Air National Guard, where he works as a full-time technician — essentially an

airplane mechanic, he explains.

But Arnold's faith life is not limited to books. He greets the Lord with prayer in the morning and — since his car's stereo busted — even spends time in quiet contemplation. Arnold tries to maintain an attitude of gratitude in his prayer because, as experiences like his 2006 stint in Iraq have shown him, he is "one lucky guy."

He is especially proud of his two kids, Brandon and Rachelle, noting, "They're both excellent in school. I haven't had to bail them out of jail or anything like that."

In the midst of this faith life, however, Arnold admits that his exposure to Lent has never been very substantial. From his Protestant upbringing to his life today, he still has trouble relating

REAL LENT

DON CLEMMER

to practices like giving up chocolate or television. But this does not mean that he is a stranger to what Lent means.

It's a time when people focus on the suffering of Christ and reflect on the sins and suffering in their own lives that they would like to see die with Christ, in hopes that they might share in the joy of the Resurrection.

For Arnold, suffering comes in the form of the daily drudge, as he puts it, "the little things that aggravate a lot of folks." It might be smashed fingers and the aches and pains that come from working all day in the garage or when he tries

to "move an F-16 with my head." It also comes in the form of dealing with people, be it the frustration of being caught in traffic, the ongoing learning experience of making a marriage work or feelings of anger, hate or prejudice toward others.

He also finds himself frustrated by repeated sins.

"How do you knock it off and knock it off for the rest of your life?" he muses, suspecting that a "one day at a time" approach is best.

So even if he still feels like a Protestant incognito, Arnold is open to trying for a meaningful Lenten journey.

"Especially when it comes to God, I believe in keeping an open

mind," he notes, "especially if he can show me something that can make me a better person, something that might have been missing." He wouldn't mind reading some books to guide the journey or maybe take a

class or hear a talk. He also likes the idea that a Lenten discipline, once habit, can be carried on throughout the year.

And then, in true Protestant form, Arnold has an idea for his Lenten discipline:

"Maybe I need to read that Bible even more."

"How do you knock it off and knock it off for the rest of your life?"

DOUG ARNOLD

Pretzel Day helps homeless in South Bend

BY JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

GRANGER — Casey Ziegert, 10, was happy to make pretzels and blankets, even if they weren't for her.

"It makes me feel good because I'm giving something to someone who really needs it," said Casey, a fleece cow print blanket on her lap.

Casey along with other parishioners of St. Pius X Catholic Church in Granger made soft pretzels to share with those living at The Center for the Homeless in South Bend as well as blankets for the Linus Project, a nonprofit organization that gives blankets out to kids who are sick or have been in difficult situations.

"We like during Lent to turn our thoughts toward others," said Amy Schlatterbeck, a pastoral associate who organized Lenten Pretzel Day at the church for the second year.

Because they want to turn their thoughts towards others, Schlatterbeck said they perform stewardship projects consisting of three elements: prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The pretzels represent fasting and prayer because they're made of a simple dough and they're shaped like arms in prayer. And the blankets represent the almsgiving "so other children can bene-



JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

From left, Collin Pica, 7, and his mom, Kristin Pica, and his brother, Evan Pica, 6, twist dough to make pretzels for Lenten Pretzel Day at St. Pius X Catholic Church in Granger. The church is sharing the pretzels with The Center for the Homeless in South Bend.

fit," she explained.

She went on to say that she wants to involve the children in hopes that it encourages them to be good stewards as they grow.

"We also want to take time away during Lent for prayer and to be with God and others in community," Schlatterbeck said. "And it's also a time to learn more about the faith."

And part of that is also having fun, as students — many

who participate in Catechesis of the Good Shepherd — could attest.

"Making the pretzels, it's just fun," said Collin Pica, 7.

His brother, Evan Pica, 6, added they also do it to "help the poor people because they don't have any food."

And, indeed, Evan said he likes to make the pretzels "because I like to help the people."

Lenten recipes

BY STACY VIERA

McLEAN, Va. — Lenten practices, such as abstaining from meat and giving them healthy alternatives, will help *Today's Catholic* readers adhere to the abstinence requirements.

What is good for the soul is good for the body, too. To that end, the National Fisheries Institute, found on the Web at www.AboutSeafood.com, is pleased to be a resource on fish and seafood during this holy season.

Smoked Salmon Pizza

Create a quick and healthy meal with omega-3 rich salmon in this creative, family friendly recipe!

Ingredients

- 4.5 ounces chunked Morey's Wild Alaskan Smoked Salmon or any flavor
- 1 large cooked pizza crust
- 6 oz. Alfredo sauce
- 1 Cup reduced fat shredded mozzarella cheese
- Red pepper
- Green pepper
- Red onion
- Black olives

Instructions

Spread sauce over the top of the pizza crust. Evenly sprinkle mozzarella cheese over the pizza. Chunk Morey's Wild Alaskan

Smoked Salmon and add to pizza. Add the remaining ingredients and cook at 450 degrees for 8-10 minutes or until cheese is melted through.

Source:

Morey's Seafood International LLC

Basil Baked Cod Fillets

Cod is one of the most versatile and popular species in the U.S., with a mild flavor that pairs well with herbs.

Ingredients

- 1/2 pound cod, haddock, lingcod or orange roughy fillets
- 1 teaspoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1/4 teaspoon dried basil, crushed
- 1/8 teaspoon black pepper
- dash salt
- 2 plum tomatoes, cored and cut lengthwise into thin slices
- 2 teaspoons grated Parmesan cheese

Instructions

Drain and pat fillets dry and cut into 2 serving pieces. Combine oil and lemon juice in a baking dish. Add fish and turn to coat both sides. Sprinkle with basil, pepper, and salt. Overlap tomatoes in an even layer on fish and sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Cover with foil and bake at 400° F about 10-15 minutes or until fish flakes easily.

Family Faith

PEANUT BUTTER CONTEST FINALIST Alexandra Yoder, sixth-grader at St. Vincent de Paul School, Fort Wayne, is one of the five finalists in the "Jif Most Creative Peanut Butter Sandwich Contest." Her Peanut Butter Rolls "Sushi Style," includes peanut butter, strawberry cream cheese, fresh fruit and granola. Alexandra and her family will be flown to New York on March 20 where she will vie for a \$25,000 college scholarship grand prize at a cook-off before a panel of judges.

God's kingdom comes alive at Queen of Universe Shrine

BY DIANE FREEBY

ORLANDO, Fla. — As Catholics, we are taught that when we are traveling, we still need to make an effort to attend Sunday Mass. Not to worry, though, if your spring break destination includes a stop at Walt Disney's Magic Kingdom in Florida.

Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine is easily accessible to anyone vacationing in Orlando, the beautiful grounds easily visible from Interstate 4.

Mass is offered daily and several times on the weekend and holy days. The primarily volunteer-run shrine also provides for a priest to be available Monday through Friday during normal business hours.

What began as a sort of traveling ministry for Catholics traveling to Orlando has resulted in a magnificent tribute to Jesus through his Blessed Mother.

In the late 1970s, as the popularity of Walt Disney World soared, so did the need to provide a place of worship for the millions of Catholics who joined vacationers there. In seeking to provide for their spiritual needs, the Diocese of Orlando arranged for Masses at an area hotel. As the number of visitors grew, additional hotel Masses were scheduled, including Mass offered on the grounds of Disney World itself.

Together with Bishop Thomas Grady, Orlando pastor Father F. Joseph Harte realized that makeshift hotel facilities would no longer be sufficient to accommodate projections of the 30 million annual visitors to the Orlando area.

The two Catholic leaders saw before them an extraordinary opportunity to reach greater numbers of men, women and children, embracing them with the good news of Jesus Christ. And, echoing

the newly inaugurated Pope John Paul II's call to "open wide the doors to Christ," Father Harte envisioned a permanent facility. He imagined a "spiritual oasis where the faithful could share in the Holy Mass, spend time before the Blessed Sacrament and meditate amidst the prayerful serenity of God's preserve."

Fittingly, in 1979 (the silver anniversary of the papal encyclical establishing the Coronation of Mary as a memorial feast of the church) the shrine was to be named under the patronage of Mary, Queen of the Universe.

"As Catholics, we look to Mary, Mother of God, for inspiration, encouragement and help in our lives," explained Father Harte. "Her words in the first chapter of Luke's Gospel, 'My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord,' provide motivation in our Christian daily living to place God



PHOTOS BY DIANE FREEBY

This bust of Pope John Paul II is located at the entrance to the Rosary Garden of Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine near the Walt Disney World entertainment complex in Orlando, Fla.



This statue of the Blessed Mother holds the baby Jesus is located inside the Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine near the Walt Disney World entertainment complex in Orlando, Fla.

above and beyond all else."

After much prayer and many private donations (the shrine is not supported financially by any diocese), ground was broken on Dec. 8, 1984, the feast of the Immaculate Conception. Within two years, the initial facility was completed. Across the courtyard, an outdoor chapel was constructed and anchored by an 80-foot bell tower.

Within the chapel walls is an inspiring 12-foot bronze work, entitled "Mother & Child." This was the first of several important pieces to be commissioned from noted sculptor Jerzy Kenar.

August 22, 1990, the feast of Mary's Queenship, saw the groundbreaking for the main church.

"We want this shrine to be a temple," said the Orlando Bishop Norbert Dorsey, at the ceremony, "a sacred place to give glory to God and honor our Mother."

After finishing his sculpture for the outdoor chapel, Kenar created two more magnificent additions to the shrine. The holy water font is a marble base, ringed in brass and accented by two ascending arches.

Even more striking is his 650-pound portrayal of the crucified Christ which, against an architectural glass backdrop symbolizing the shadow of the cross, hangs suspended above the main altar. Kenar said he depicted Jesus with his arms outstretched but with a spirit of repose.

"This image is designed to lead the faithful to dwell upon the suffering and sacrifice that was our Lord's gift to humankind."

Directly across from the crucifix is Kenar's rendition of the ris-

ing Christ, suspended at the rear of the nave. Here is reflected the joyful promise of the Resurrection, intended to gladden the hearts of the faithful.

Mary, Queen of the Universe Shrine Church opened its doors to the world on Jan. 31, 1993 before an overflow assembly of 2,500 worshippers.

"This is a day of great rejoicing," proclaimed Bishop Dorsey. "We ask God's grace upon all who will be drawn to this holy church."

The shrine complex continued to grow. The building, which first served as the temporary church, is now an Evangelization Center and religious bookstore. A bust of Pope John Paul II greets visitors to the beautiful grounds of the Rosary Garden, which is embedded with flowers and rich Florida landscaping. Those wishing to pray may follow a path of large stepping stones marking each rosary bead. Stations of the Cross are also posted amidst the flowing fountains for a serene and prayerful atmosphere.

The 2,000-seat shrine-church is adorned with inspirational stained-glass windows and sculptures, depicting the story of God's love for man and Mary's place in God's plan for salvation. The shrine's 14 aisle windows are entitled The Magnificat Windows. A specially designed Blessed Sacrament chapel within the church enables worshippers to spend time in communion with the Lord.

"It is really nice to have a church like this for visitors," said Larry Schroeder, who was visiting with his grandchildren from South Bend. "I felt very welcome, and I especially liked the life-size Nativity scene in the chapel."

The shrine's defining representation of Mary, Queen of the Universe, is located to the right of the main altar. This project was long-delayed as sculptor Jill Burkee combed the great quarries of Carrara, Italy, for a block of rare, pure white marble.

"I have to say that working on this commission is a humbling experience, even a bit scary" recalls Burkee. "To depict Mary both as the simple girl of Nazareth and as queen is an extraordinary challenge. But it is enormously gratifying to know this work can mean so much to so many people in years to come."

The completed eight-foot work stands on a marble base and encloses the names of some 3,330 Shrine Associates.

For more information, visit www.maryqueenoftheuniverse.org.

AMERICA'S FIRST COMMUNION STORE

Apparel for Girls and Boys...

DRESSES

(plus sizes) Veils, Gloves, Capes, Boleros, Shoes
Suits (including white and husky), Shirts, Ties, Shoes...



• Complete Line of FIRST COMMUNION INVITATIONS,
REMEMBRANCE ITEMS & PARTY GOODS!

www.CatholicChildrensCompany.com



America's First Communion Store is owned and operated by
GARY ANDORFER, BLHS Class of '76

With only five more cancer treatments, teen looks forward to baseball and bowling

BY JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

SOUTH BEND — Evan Graveel is a boy of few words when it comes to cancer.

He lets his mother do most of the talking about his health.

Asked how long he's been dealing with Ewing Sarcoma, a bone cancer found mostly in young males, he shrugs.

"I don't know," he says, a smile breaking out on his face and looking at his mom, Jennifer Graveel.

While he doesn't want to talk about how long he's had the cancer, he does know how much longer he's going to have to take chemotherapy.

"I've got five more treatments," says Evan, curled up on the couch in his home.

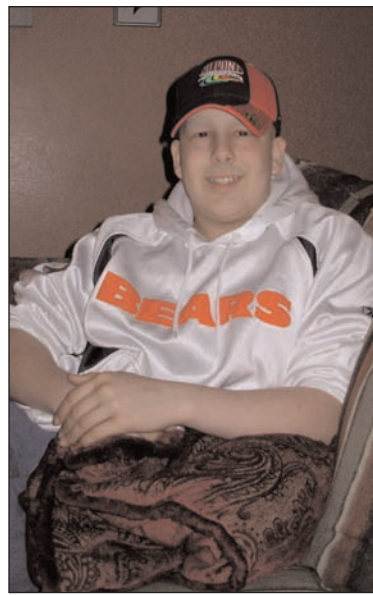
That's 14 more weeks, he says, adding later it will all be over by Memorial Day.

Just in time for summer. By that time, he should be back in the swing of things — literally. He'll be able to play baseball again, and while he and his family don't know how strong he'll be, at least he'll be playing again. He's already bowling again — albeit with a 10-pound ball. But that's better than not playing his second favorite sport.

"My therapist says I can play soon," Evan says of baseball, noting he's got about four more weeks of physical therapy. "And that's good because school ball is coming up."

Evan attends Marshall Intermediate Center in South Bend and wants to play on the school's baseball team.

Diagnosed with Ewing



JENNIFER OCHSTEIN

Evan Graveel, 14, has been battling Ewing Sarcoma, a bone cancer found mostly in young males.

Sarcoma last July, Jennifer Graveel says the onset began in May when he developed a 102-degree fever.

"And he's never sick," she says. "I hardly ever have to take him to the doctor."

And at first the family blamed it on the rain after Evan played baseball in inclement weather in the spring.

They finally got rid of the fever, but Evan remained weak, and on top of that his right shoulder would pop out of joint if he lifted his arm up too far.

After visits to the chiropractor, the chiropractor noticed a lump on the shoulder blade and advised the family to take Evan to the doctor. After a CAT scan, doctors wanted

Evan to have a MRI scan at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis, and after a few more tests, doctors confirmed Ewing Sarcoma. According to Jennifer Graveel, it was an unwelcome surprise, as all cancer is.

"No one has ever had (a diagnosed) cancer in our family," she says.

Since then, Evan has endured several rounds of chemotherapy and surgery to remove the cancer along with the bottom portion of his right shoulder.

"They saved most of the muscles around the rotator cuff," Jennifer Graveel says. "That's why he's going to physical therapy now because they reassigned some of those muscles."

Apart from having to work through their son having cancer, Jennifer and Michael Graveel have been surprised by the outpouring of care from St. Jude Parish in South Bend, where Michael Graveel is a parishioner.

On Feb. 17, the parish sponsored a fund-raiser at Marian High School to help pay for the family's expenses and medical care associated with the cancer treatment.

While the family doesn't know how much money was raised, over 400 people showed up to share their support.

"You know while all this is going on that people are praying for you or you'll get a check in the mail from people trying to help," says Jennifer Graveel. "But to actually see it ..." The family was seemingly overwhelmed with the amount of people who wanted to help. Even Evan, mostly quiet, was pleased, adding, "It was neat."

Seven ways to make a date for couple time

Nurturing your personal relationship helps to strengthen the family bond

BY LISA M. PETSCHÉ

The early years of raising children are physically and mentally demanding. It's easy for parents to get so caught up in meeting and anticipating their children's every need, in addition to fulfilling other obligations (employment, volunteering, household management, helping aging relatives), that the need for quality time with their spouse is neglected.

In order to flourish, the marital relationship must be continually nurtured by a conscious, ongoing investment of time and effort. Chances are, though, you won't "find" couple-time at this busy stage of your life — you have to carve it out, making it a priority. For instance, do you or your spouse devote time to individual leisure pursuits? If so, scale back and substitute couple-time.

Make regular dates

Consider establishing a weekly, biweekly or monthly "date," perhaps going out for dinner, attending a cultural or sporting event, or trying a new activity together. If you're on a tight budget, collect and use coupons for local restaurants and attractions, go out for dessert instead of a meal, take a long walk or go cycling, pack a picnic lunch or supper and go to a park, or drive somewhere that offers a great sunset view. Vary activities and the time of day to make dates even more fun and take turns planning them.

Carve out alone time

Give preference to activities that allow you the opportunity to be alone and to communicate (remember how much time you spent talking — both face to face and on the phone — when you were dating?). So if you like going to the movies, build in time for coffee or a walk afterwards. Once or twice a year, try to arrange an overnight date, at home or away.

Find a reliable babysitter

It's best if the babysitter is someone your children know well: a grandparent, aunt, uncle, teenage cousin or a good friend of yours. Another option is to hire a teenager from your neighborhood — someone whose family you know, or who has good references. If you don't know of anyone, ask around.

Or consider taking turns babysitting with another set of parents you know. Also, check out the weekend preschool programs at YMCAs/YWCAs and area recreation centers, or at local children's museums; they allow enough time for you and your spouse to go for coffee or a walk, or do some errands together.

Enjoy late-night dates at home

If it's hard to arrange babysitting, or you feel your children are too young to be left with a sitter, plan home-based dates.

Once the kids are settled in bed, order your favorite takeout food and enjoy a candlelit dinner in the dining room; have a picnic on the living room floor; cook a special meal together; cuddle up and watch a movie (perhaps one you enjoyed while courting); or play cards or board games, to give just a few ideas. Turn off the phone so you aren't interrupted.

Use flex time at work

If you both work outside the home, arrange a lunch date, or jointly arrange an afternoon off to do something fun together until it's time to pick up the kids. If you can flex your work time, plan to go in later one day and have breakfast together after taking the kids to school or day care.

Take time to talk

It's also important to find ways to build quality couple time into daily life, even if all you can manage for now is 15 minutes.

It can be as simple as habitually sitting down together to talk about your day once the kids are settled in bed, instead of automatically turning on the TV or computer, delving into your briefcase or dashing off to do household chores. Give each other your full attention, eliminating all distractions.

Show appreciation

Get into the habit, too, of demonstrating affection on a daily basis, and expressing appreciation for the things your partner does for you and your family. Perform thoughtful gestures such as completing a household task your mate customarily handles or serving breakfast in bed. Revive courtship practices you once engaged in, like giving flowers or writing notes.

Rest assured that as your children grow, couple time will be easier to come by. However, you must lay the groundwork now. Without question it's a challenge, but well worth the effort, because a good marriage is a source of refuge from the trials and tribulations of life, providing great fulfillment and joy while mirroring God's unconditional, everlasting love for us.

By fostering intimacy as a couple, you also create a nurturing home environment and set a positive relationship example for your children. In other words, the whole family benefits.

Lisa M. Petsché is a clinical social worker and a freelance writer specializing in family life

Altar server awarded Eagle Scout rank

BY IDA CHIPMAN

CULVER — "The Eagle has landed" in the basement of Conlan Deery's grandparents, Mike and Judy Deery, in Culver.

It was there a few weeks ago that Conlan and a crew of helpers that included his scoutmaster, Dan Murphy, his parents, Sean and Connie Deery, a sister, Shannon, and a friend and fellow Scout, Cree Gerlach, put together his Eagle Scout Leadership Service project.

Conlan has been a member of Boy Scout Troop 206 of Monterey since the sixth grade at Culver Community School.

Now 16, a Life Scout and a junior in high school, Conlan was ready to reach the highest advancement attainable in the Boy Scouts of America — the Eagle rank.

He has earned more than the required number of 21 merit badges, having a total of 27 and has served as a Life Scout, demonstrated Scout Spirit and is a leader in his troop.

The Eagle project must be one that benefits an organization other than the Boy Scouts of America; it cannot be performed for an individual or a business,

cannot solely be a fund-raising project and cannot be commercial in nature.

Conlan began working on his project in May of 2006.

He decided that he wanted to do something to benefit the Saint Joseph Health Center (SJHC) in Plymouth.

His idea was to assemble flu, wound and hygiene kits to be handed out to needy patients served by the SJHC.

The plan was approved by various committees of Boy Scouts with the final authorization granted by the Sagamore Council in Kokomo.

Conlan worked for months getting cash and item donations for the 50 kits, to be packaged in zip-lock bags.

The flu kits contained hand sanitizer, pocket tissues, cough drops, a can of soup, a drink box and Blistex. The wound kits had Band-Aids, lotion, antiseptic ointment and soap, while the hygiene kit had 14 items — nail clippers, Q-tips, shampoo, conditioner and deodorant. It also contains razors, toothpaste and toothbrush, a comb, dental floss, baby powder, lotion, soap and pocket tissues.

Conlan, who is an altar server at St. Mary of the Lake Catholic



IDA CHIPMAN

Conlan Deery, 16, of Culver, packs flu, wound and hygiene kits to be distributed to needy patients at Saint Joseph Health Center in Plymouth. Deery's project earned him Eagle Scout rank with Boy Scouts of America.

Church, aspires to attend St. Joseph's College, Rensselaer, and eventually become a veterinarian.

A member of the Culver Community School's varsity golf team, he has an after-school and summer job at the Mystic Hills Golf Course, Culver.

He plans to formally present the kits to the director of the SJMC soon.



Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization

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

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

Putting out into the deep — to tell our story

BY LINDA FURGE

Opening prayer

Lord, I believe my life is touched by you, that you want something for me, and of me. Give me ears to hear you, eyes to see the tracing of your finger, and a heart quickened by the motions of your Spirit. Amen. — Ted Loder, "Guerrillas of Grace"

Scripture: 1 Tm 4: 6-16

Commentary:

By now you know the celebration of our 150th anniversary of the diocese has begun — and there is much to celebrate as we look to the past and the future. We are a lot like the first disciples. Even as they celebrated Jesus' resurrection, they remembered the past when he walked with them — and wondered and argued and prayed about the future. They worried they were not doing what Jesus would've done when they encountered new communities with new concerns. They struggled to remain faithful to his teachings as a community of believers while they hoped for his second coming.

Such has been the life of the church throughout the ages. One thing has remained constant. We are all members of the same pilgrim church, always searching to be holy and faithful, always looking to reach out to others, always struggling to transform to Gospel values the world in which we live. This is the nature of evangelization — then and now.

In our place and time, we are commissioned by Christ to

spread the good news of salvation to the people in our lives. A minority of us is called to be prophets, publicly preaching in the marketplace, asking the hard questions and confronting the status quo. The rest of us are tasked with quietly and persistently sharing the good news in our own circles of influence.

Evangelization for us begins when we share our own faith stories with another.

Excuses

Okay, so now we're on shaky ground! "Who me?!" you ask. Yes, you.

"But it's not my job!" Oh, yes, it is! None of us is exempted from being evangelizers, from sharing with others our faith — it is our mission as a baptized Christian. Each of us will do it differently, according to our personality, profession and talents ... but none of us is excused from doing it.

"But I don't know enough!" Many of us fear not knowing the answers to questions of faith. All the more reason to dust off our Bibles and catechisms; join classes, faith-sharing or Bible study groups; and really begin to explore our faith. Something we already intimately know is our own journey of faith. The most effective form of evangelization is simply sharing our faith story. This means telling others what God has done for us and how God is a part of our lives.

Johnette Benkovic in Women of Grace gives us a simple formula: "I was, God did, I am. It is non-threatening, irrefutable and engaging. It is one way we can all share our love of God."

"I don't want to offend anyone." None of us ever wants to be irritating or annoying, especially if we are unsure how our efforts will be received. If we are attuned to moments of opportunity, we can invite another into a conversation or a prayer or to join us as we attend Mass or prayer or Bible study or whatever.

Circles of influence

Steven Covey popularized the concept of "circles of influence." In the center is the person most easily influenced — each of us. When we change, this affects those in the closest circle around us — that of our family and friends. Other circles we influence, but perhaps not as directly, are circles of acquaintances and colleagues ... and, finally, a circle that includes the wider communities in which we interact. As we witness to the importance of faith in our lives, as we tell our faith stories, we influence each of these circles to a greater or lesser extent.

When the time is right

The bottom line is there is no excuse for not evangelizing, but we should be wise as we go about it. We want to lead others to Christ, not away from him. Praying is always the first option, along with the daily conviction of your own life. Wait and be watchful for a "right" time. You'll know when that moment arrives. You may be asked a question or for advice; you may be sharing a particularly difficult or especially joyful time together; you may be discussing a current event or debating a controversial issue.

Let the other person lead the conversation: if they continue, you follow; if they are quiet, become quiet as well. Be loving, gentle and kind. Seeds often take time to germinate in order to bear their fruit. Finally, trust in God's time, knowing that God loves the other person as much as God loves you.

Each day God gives us opportunities to honestly and appropriately share our personal faith story. Each day we should pray that we recognize evangelizing moments in our circles of influence, that we have the courage and conviction to act on these opportunities, and that we trust God to do the rest.

Reflection questions

• Of the three excuses mentioned for not evangelizing, which apply to me? In what practical ways can I resolve these excuses?

• Who are the persons in my circles of influence?

• "A rippling pool of water captures the broad impact created by a small force." We are our own innermost circle of influence. As we change, we affect all the other circles. In what ways can I change to positively influence my other circles of influence?

Evangelizing action item

Each of us has a personal story of faith. When we know our own journey of faith, the next time someone asks, "Why are you Catholic?" we will be able to comfortably share our story. Here are some important questions for our reflection:

• When did faith first come to me?

• When did I first acknowledge the reality of God?

• What were/are the most powerful religious moments of my life?

• What changes have I undergone and what role has faith played in them?

• How have I come to think of God? What images, what scriptural stories or sayings speak most deeply to me?

• What are my hopes?

• How does God address my fears? My longings?

• How does God underlie my life values?

• How have I as a believer touched another's faith life?

— TAKEN FROM "THE EVANGELIZING CATHOLIC: A PRACTICAL HANDBOOK FOR REACHING OUT," FRANK P. DESIANO, CSP.

Closing Prayer

A Prayer for Zeal

Implant within my heart, O God, the fiery zeal of a Jeremiah, the conviction of a Ruth or Rebecca and the zest of a Francis of Assisi.

Stir my slumbering soul, that it might sing a song of passion and devotion, drunk with dancing joy and desire for you, my divine and loving Friend.

May my heart be as hot as the heart of Moses for all your children burdened by slavery, for all who feel oppression's steely heel or suffer rejection in an alien land.

May I, like your son Jesus, be consumed with zeal for you, for life, for justice and for peace; for all that I know in faith.

Fill me with zeal, O God.

— ED HAYES,
"PRAYERS FOR A PLANETARY PILGRIM"

Jubilee Pilgrim Cross



Feb. 23-March 2	Little Flower	South Bend
March 2 - 9	University of Notre Dame/Holy Cross House	
March 23-April 13	Notre Dame Complex/St. Mary's College/Holy Cross College/Saint Joseph's High School	Notre Dame/South Bend

Mercy Day celebrates reconciliation in jubilee year

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

A toll-free phone line (1-800-MERCY4U) (1-800-637-2948) will be in service throughout Lent to provide a confidential and anonymous venue for those with questions on any subject regarding the Catholic faith. **The lines will be manned by priests or trained lay or religious persons and will operate from 2-10 p.m. Monday through Thursday as well as on Sunday afternoons from 1-5 p.m. Mondays are for the Spanish speaking.**

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

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

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

EDITORIAL

Nothing compares to the Eucharist

Recently we heard about a young Catholic family who joined one of the new mega churches because the family wasn't "getting anything out of the Mass."

This family was attracted to that Protestant church by its wide selection of activities for children, as well as a variety of clubs and groups for adults. Furthermore, the parents found the new church's 50-piece orchestra to be very "entertaining."

We agree that people should feel comfortable and welcome in their churches and should enjoy a certain fellowship with the other members of the congregation. Many Catholic parishes don't do a very good job in this department, and certainly that is something we should work on.

We do not agree, however, that one should choose a church based on the feel-good social benefits or the level of entertainment provided. That's motivation for joining a country club or planning a Saturday night out with friends.

Rather, we attend church to worship our God within a faith community, and Jesus Christ has provided us with the blueprint for doing that through the church he established and through the holy Mass in which he becomes present to us in the Eucharist.

Ideally, good music will be part of the Catholic liturgy, not to entertain us, but rather to help us worship better. As Pope Pius X noted, the purpose of sacred music is "the glory of God and the sanctification and edification of the faithful."

Undoubtedly there are many other Catholics who share this family's feeling that they are "not getting anything out of the Mass," but perhaps this "feel good" attitude could be replaced with an analysis of what they — and we — are putting into the Mass:

Do we approach the Mass with the intention of actively worshipping our generous God? Do we see ourselves as part of the Body of Christ, gathering together to pray, just as Jesus directed?

Do we listen to the Word of God and try to figure out what it means in our lives? Do we open our hearts to what the priest says in his homily? Do we prepare ourselves to receive the graces present in the sacraments?

Do we make an effort to participate in the liturgical prayers and songs? Have we considered becoming more involved by volunteering to be a lector or to carry up the Offertory gifts? Have we thought about what we can do to help improve other aspects we find lacking? What do we do to welcome and acknowledge other members of the congregation?

Of course, because the church is made up of human beings, the Mass is not always done well, and liturgical music is frequently less than excellent. Even so, Jesus Christ still becomes present in the Eucharist at every valid Mass, whether it's celebrated at the Vatican or in a mud hut in a remote village. And being able to participate in that miracle in your own Catholic parish just can't be compared to even the best orchestra or the most entertaining activity.

'You Can Always Come Home'

For those families or individuals who have stopped going to Mass, now is the perfect time to return to the Catholic Church and the sacraments. During Lent of this Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year for our diocese, there will be a joint diocesan and a parish media campaign welcoming back of inactive Catholics, with the theme "You Can Always Come Home."

In many parishes, teams of parishioners are reaching out to inactive Catholics in their parishes in a confidential, nonjudgmental way. This program, called Wells of Hope, is based on Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well.

Of course, inactive Catholics need not wait to be contacted, and may call a priest at any time. Many inactive Catholics may feel more comfortable approaching a Catholic friend or neighbor who can help them contact a priest and/or accompany them on the journey back to the church.

Additionally, a toll-free telephone line (1-800-MERCY4U) (1-800-637-2948) is available throughout Lent for anyone to ask a question about the Catholic faith or discuss a path for returning to the faith. Callers may remain anonymous, and their questions are confidential. The lines are answered by priests or trained laity or religious on Mondays through Thursdays from 2-10 p.m. and Sundays from 1-5 p.m. Spanish speakers are available on Mondays.

Every parish will also celebrate Mercy Day on Tuesday, March 20. On that day, all parish priests will be available from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4-8 p.m. to hear confessions.

There's an old saying that "You can't go home again," but when your home is the Catholic Church, "You Can Always Come Home."

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

Diocese offers financial support for Wabash College marchers

On Jan. 22, the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision in *Roe v Wade* which legalized abortion in the United States, 12 students from Wabash College and DePauw University were joined by seminarian Michael Parrett in attending the March for Life in Washington, D.C. Included in this group were five college students from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. There were four

graduates of Bishop Dwenger High School — Courtney Hague '04, Joe Hake '04, David Peden '05, and John Grashoff '06; and one student from Marian High School — Samuel Borrelli '03.

The group arrived in Washington late in the evening on Saturday, Jan. 20, and spent Sunday touring the nation's capital before attending a late-night Mass at the national basilica for people who had arrived for the march. The next morning the group attended an early morning Mass at St. Patrick Church during the National Catholic Youth Rally, as the MCI Center had filled to capacity.

After Mass, the pro-life

marchers assembled on the National Mall for a rally with a number of speakers, both political and religious, including presidential hopeful Sam Brownback. From there the march went up Capitol Hill to the U.S. Supreme Court building, with many people praying the rosary along the route.

The group wishes to express thanks to all who supported the effort with prayers and to offer special thanks for the financial generosity of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for making the trip possible.

Travis McLaughlin
Wabash College student
Crawfordsville, IN

Time saved — and given

If you're eager to "spring ahead" to begin Daylight Saving Time, you're really in luck. Because of changes in federal law, the United States, with the exception of Arizona and Hawaii, will start DST earlier and end it later, giving us an additional month of more "usable" daylight.

March 11 is the kickoff this year for changing watches and clocks, including those in all the electronic gadgets we own. Some gizmos will do it automatically, for others, you're on your own. Now, where did I put that instruction manual?

People can't stop tinkering with time. Because we can't really create time we exert our control by trying to measure it. Take the calendar. Over the centuries people have come up with many variations to account for the 365-plus days it takes us to travel around the sun: hence, Leap Year. Did you know that under the ancient Roman calendar March was the first month? That's why September, October, November and December (our ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth months) have their linguistic roots in the Latin words for seven, eight, nine and ten.

We even talk about how we spend time as though it were a precious commodity which, indeed, it is. We find ourselves trying to get the most "bang for the buck" by multi-tasking even to the point of absurdity — or danger. I cringe when I see drivers not only eating snacks or tuning their radios, but also having cell phone conversations that are clearly more absorbing than any car or person on the road. At the office, I suspect most of us are not content to simply speak with someone on the phone when we can answer e-mail at the same time.

All this is part of our continuing efforts to control time, our own time. Remember the first line of the Jim Croce song, "If I

could save time in a bottle ..." But of course we can't and we know it. So we do the next best thing by getting through as many things as possible that we want — things that are part of our to-do list for our day or our life. Up to a point, I think that's a good thing. We do need plans and goals to accomplish our unique purpose in life. Still, I have to believe that while God expects us to use our time well, He also expects us to stay open to change, to our own many needs and the needs of those around us. There are times when the interruptions to our plans are the most valuable moments of all.

Think about it. You want to finish writing a report for work. Your kids want you to read them a bedtime story. You want to relax in front of the TV. Your best friend needs a heart-to-heart conversation. You want to live a long, healthy life. Your doctor tells you that you have cancer.

What's that saying, "Life is what happens while you're making other plans"?

Religious writer Father Ronald Rolheiser said this in his article "Interruptions, Our Real Work": "We have to always look for the hand of providence in our

LIGHT ONE CANDLE

BY DENNIS HEANEY

interruptions. These often constitute the conspiracy of accidents through which God guides our lives. If we were totally in control of our own agendas, if we could simply plan and execute our lives according to our own dreams, with no unwanted derailments, I fear that many of us would, slowly and subtly, become selfish and all too soon find our lives empty of the simple joys that come from real family and real community."

Let's not worry so much about saving time, or spending time or even wasting time. Let's just live it well.

For more information write: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org

Chad

died 672
feast — March 2

The historian Bede said this English bishop "administered his diocese in great holiness of life, following the example of the ancient fathers." Born in Northumbria, Chad studied under St. Aidan at Lindisfarne and succeeded his brother, St. Cedd, as abbot of Lastingham in Yorkshire. He was called to be bishop of York, but an irregular consecration blocked the way. When this was corrected, he became bishop of the Mercians at Lichfield. He was noted for humility, traveling on foot, and high winds always prompted him to pray for God's mercy on the human race.



'Economic Justice for All': Where does it fit in today's society?

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Since 1997, more than 36,000 copies of a 10th-anniversary edition of "Economic Justice for All," the U.S. bishops' pastoral letter on the economy and Catholics' role in it, have been sold, as well as about 57,000 copies of a U.S. bishops' reflection on the 1986 pastoral's 10th anniversary. No figures are available on sales when the document was first issued.

Its legacy, though, suggests that the pastoral letter has staying power beyond that of the sales figures.

One outgrowth of "Economic Justice for All" is "the explosion in corporate social responsibility and linking business practices to our higher calling," according to Charles Clark, associate dean of the economics and finance department at St. John's University in Jamaica, N.Y.

"There are tons of groups that look at spirituality in business, both Catholic and non-Catholic, and even outside of that a larger percentage of management professors are now looking at questions of corporate social responsibility," he added in a telephone interview

with Catholic News Service. "Everything is framed in terms of the corporation as citizen."

Twenty years ago, Clark was an economics instructor at St. John's and working on his doctoral dissertation. "I remember going to the presentation at my parish on it and I followed the debate and discussion that came out" afterward, he recalled.

The bishops' pastoral emphasized that economic decisions have human consequences and moral content. It challenged people to make economic choices based on whether they enhance or threaten human life, dignity and rights, and measure success by how the weakest are faring.

Now the author of 100 published economics papers including 20 on Catholic social thought and economics, and in the midst of writing a book on economic insights from the Catholic social tradition, Clark said those who challenged the bishops' competency to write a pastoral letter on the economy "had a fundamental flaw" in their critique of "Economic Justice for All."

"The economic view of the

THE WASHINGTON LETTER

MARK PATTISON

human person really looks at humans as animals, and animals look out only instinctively for themselves," Clark said. This view ignores "the human aspect, or humanity, (that) comes from our being made in the image and likeness of God, that gives us reason and free will, and our ability to work and cooperate with each other, and to cooperate in our own development — now highlighted as the foundation principle of Catholic social thought," he said.

"I can't imagine a time or a place where those ideas (in 'Economic Justice for All') wouldn't have importance, relevance, that they wouldn't command the

LETTER, PAGE 15

Jesus is access to true and eternal life



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

2nd Sunday of Lent Lk 9:28b-36

The Book of Genesis is the source of the first reading. It is a story about Abraham, whom the Jews regard as the father of their race. In addition, Abraham is seen as the spiritual father of all who know and honor the one God, hence he is a special figure in the religious traditions of Christians and Muslims.

Scholars believe that Abraham was an actual person. He is not a figment of imagination, nor a figure constructed in some literary effort. He actually lived.

Several points are important in hearing, or reading, this passage. The first is that God communicates with Abraham, and God is in Abraham's world. However, God is above and beyond Abraham's world. In other words, God is not Abraham's peer. Abraham does not relate to God as if God were an equal.

God has command over nature and the living beings of nature. God can order Abraham to capture animals and then to sacrifice them. Since the animals that Abraham captured were sacred, as they were intended for sacrifice to praise God, Abraham protected them from being taken by birds of prey. It is not as if birds of prey were inherently evil, although Jewish

tradition later would proscribe eating the flesh of any bird of prey, or any other predator. Rather, they simply were victims of their own instincts and unaware of the most important of all realities, that God is and that God lives.

Abraham himself is vulnerable. Darkness overtakes him. The sun sets. He is terrified. Without God, he is at risk, powerless before the elements, helpless before whatever might come.

The second reading is from the Epistle to the Philippians. Philippi was one of those cities, Greek by background, its name honoring the father of Alexander the Great, in which a Christian community had formed.

Paul wrote to these early Christians to give them direction and encouragement. He expanded their knowledge of Jesus. He challenged them to be more loyal and fervent disciples.

Such occurs in this reading. St. Paul says in this reading that human beings are imperfect, even without their willful sinning. Human bodies are "lowly," the epistle declares. Christ elevates and restores humans. In Jesus, by the grace of God, human beings never die if they earnestly follow the Lord.

St. Luke's Gospel provides the last reading. It is Luke's story of the Transfiguration, a story found also in Mark and Matthew.

The story is brilliant and powerful. As is so often the case in New Testament accounts, apostles are with Jesus at a very important moment. In this case, Peter, James, and John were with Jesus. They knew Jesus. They interacted with Jesus. They certainly saw the human characteristics of Jesus.

Yet in this situation, they saw the divinity of Jesus. The Lord showed

them this divinity. On their own, they were unable to see it. Strong symbols from Hebrew tradition conveyed the reality of this divine identity. God spoke from a cloud. Gleaming light surrounded Jesus.

Jesus was fully in the tradition of God's relating to, and with, people. On either side of Jesus were the prophets Moses and Elijah.

Reflection

As we progress in Lent, the church offers us several important lessons. These lessons are intended to strengthen us in our Lenten resolve, and ultimately in our Christian commitment.

First, we are limited. We are humans. Second, in our human limitation we are shortsighted, even blind very often, and we shall all die. Third, God loves us with a love shown Abraham and the prophets. He loves us in Jesus, the Son of God. Jesus is our only hope. He is our only access to true and eternal life. Using Lent to relate to Jesus more closely is worth every effort.

READINGS

Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18 Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14 Phil 3:17-4:1 Lk 9:28b-36

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10 Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13 Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20 Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23 Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: Jer 18:18-20 Ps 31:5-6, 14-16 Mt 20:17-28

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28 Ps 105:16-21 Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Ps 103:1-4, 9-12 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Campion

"Where's the meat?"

"There is no meat. It's Lent!"

"Who'd you lend it to?"

This Lenten joke introduces this quiz about lending.

1. What aspect of lending was forbidden in the Old Testament?

- the imposition of interest on money lent to other Jews
- lending to non-Jews
- lending anything except money

2. Exodus includes this rule about what to do if you take a cloak as security for a debt:

- You had to wear it with a sign saying it was not yours.
- You had to return it to him before sunset.
- You had to wash it and return it ritually clean.

3. Deuteronomy lists the following law:

- Interest is not allowed to be charged on money or of food or of anything else on which interest is usually demanded.
- Interest is not allowed on anything destined for the Temple unless the Levites have agreed.
- Interest is only allowed on goods which are to be sacrificed.

4. And Deuteronomy shows that the prohibition is not total because it only applies to:

- non-Jews
- loans to other Jews
- loans to one's relatives

5. This part of the Bible does not deal explicitly with lending issues:

- the Old Testament
- the New Testament
- the gnostic gospels

6. The Catholic Church early on adopted this stance:

- Lending was permitted, but usually not interest.
- Lending had to include a 10 percent interest as a tithe.
- Only bishops could charge interest.

7. Lending with interest was not allowed to be undertaken by this specific group according to two councils, Arles and Nicaea:

- Jews
- clerics
- pagans

8. A later council (Aix), found this practice was objectionable even for:

- Muslims
- madmen
- laymen

9. Eventually in Europe, lending with interest was:

- allowed for Christians but forbidden to Jews
- allowed for Jews but forbidden to Christians
- allowed for Christian laymen but permitted for clergy

10. These rules were based on this view of money, since discredited:

- Money was merely a medium of exchange and could not generate wealth.
- Money was filthy lucre and always resulted in spiritual death.
- Money was the root of all evil.

11. This movement against the Catholic Church gradually also freed up the lending business in Europe:

- the restoration
- the Russian revolution
- the reformation

12. One reason for the more permissive stance on lending is that borrowed money is now generally seen in capitalist societies as:

- another tool for making money
- a sign that one is lost
- a trick played against the gullible

13. In this movie, Christopher Reeve handled millions of dollars and ran a bank for the Vatican:

- "The Shoes of the Fisherman"
- "The Scarlet and the Black"
- "Monsignor"

14. The Catechism of the Catholic Church addresses the issue of lending in broad terms. What prevents Catholics from charging excessive interest?

- basic principles of social justice, care for the poor, a proper understanding of the purpose of wealth
- Catholics who charge more than 4 percent interest are automatically excommunicated.
- Interest cannot be more than the individual earns in a week.

ANSWERS:

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

The original meaning of Lent was a time of prayer and penance

Why can't babies be baptized during Lent? SN, Fort Wayne.

Nothing in church law forbids the baptizing of children during Lent. However, the original meaning of Lent was a time of prayer and penance set aside by the church for non-baptized adults who wish to be baptized. The baptized faithful journey along with the non-baptized so that through prayer and penance their own gift of baptismal grace is renewed and deepened. This time of preparation culminates at the Easter Vigil during which the non-baptized who have been preparing throughout Lent are baptized. Thus, the Easter Vigil is the moment par excellence for baptism.

For this reason, some pastors choose to refrain from baptisms during Lent in order to emphasize the Easter Vigil as the great moment for baptism. In fact, it seems to be a widespread practice within the parishes of this country. However, Canon 867.1 states "Parents are obliged to take care that infants are baptized in the first

few weeks ..." That babies are baptized within the first few weeks after birth would be a higher value than the emphasizing of the Easter Vigil as the great moment for baptism.

It seems though that both could be accomplished. Pastors could decide to keep baptisms during Lent to a minimum by, first of all, encouraging and giving the opportunity for non-baptized babies who are already born to be baptized the Sunday immediately before Lent begins. Then, should a child be born within a couple of weeks before Easter, it would not be unreasonable for the pastor to wait until Easter for the baptism. If the child should be born at the beginning of Lent, then canon 867 should be followed, and the pastor should find a time during Lent to do the baptism. Of course, if a baby is in danger of death, he or she should be baptized immediately.

More and more Catholics are believing that they can be Masons in addition to being Catholic. Some believe that the condemnation of becoming a

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

Mason was overturned in recent years. I have come across priests who have no clue about the position of the church and yet I am of the opinion that the church has never allowed membership in the Masons because their ultimate aim is destruction of the Catholic Church. Would you please state the current position of the church and give reference? B. Shonka

You are correct that the church has never allowed Catholics to be members of the Masonic Lodge because one of their founding purposes is the destruction of the Catholic Church. In 1983, the Congregation of the Doctrine of the Faith under Cardinal Ratzinger, now Pope Benedict XVI, reaf-

firmed the church's unchanged position that Catholics were forbidden from joining the Masons.

The document, which declared this is called, "Declaration on Masonic Associations," and it was issued on Nov. 26, 1983. It can be found on the Vatican Web site. It states, "Therefore the church's negative judgment in regard to Masonic association remains unchanged since their principles have always been considered irreconcilable with the doctrine of the church and therefore membership in them remains forbidden. The faithful who enroll in Masonic associations are in a state of grave sin and may not receive holy Communion."

I heard that Pope John Paul II added a 15th station, the Resurrection, to the Stations of the Cross. Is this true and

what is the background? MW, Fort Wayne

There has been no official change in the Stations of the Cross.

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

Today's Catholic welcomes questions from readers. E-mail your questions to editor@fw.diocese-fwsb.org or mail them to *Today's Catholic*, That's A Good Question, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856. Include your name, city and an e-mail address or phone number so we can contact you if necessary. Anonymity will be preserved upon request.

Lent and family life

Well, we managed to get to the first Lenten Stations of the Cross at our new parish last Friday. At the tenth station, as the kids and I slunk into the back seat, I was mentally flogging myself for failing to get there on time. The high school basketball and track practices ran until a half hour before.

I mistakenly told the high school kids to come home first so we could go together, as a family. A quick shower for them took too long. As I sat in the car in the driveway with the little ones buckled up, waiting, I knew then I made a blunder. It really was just five minutes until they reappeared, dripping and clean, and we set off down the road to church. But it didn't matter. We were late. And it was my fault.

Welcome to family life, you say. And you would be right. It takes a lot of juggling to orchestrate everyone's activities and to lead. Sometimes, as I realized on Friday, parents don't always make the best judgment calls. And the bigger the family, often the more commitments that need juggling, and quick decisions and priorities must be made. But the first and foremost in our priorities should be God. "... seek first the kingdom (of God) and his righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides." (Mt 6:33)

On Friday, we weren't seeking the kingdom of God first. We sought first the shower and in the process missed out on the devotion and peace of mind that comes from meeting with Christ in contemplation. God isn't something to



EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Theresa A. Thomas

be fit in when convenient. It's God first, and then everything else should follow in line. I learned my lesson on Friday. Next time I might have to give up my goal of coming to the devotion as a family, and my athletes might have to give up an immediate shower and just meet us there.

So on Sunday, with the memory of the stations flop fresh in my mind, the kids were herded out the door for Mass in plenty of time — 20 minutes early. But the roads were a sheet of ice, and despite our best efforts, we arrived just as the opening song was being sung. No pre-Mass prayer or contemplation for us. No time to comfortably take off the coats and get ready to pay attention and concentrate. I felt like a failure ... again.

It just got worse during Mass. After our one-and-a-half-year old was flailing and simultaneously begging for a drink and freedom from the pew (during consecration, no less) I wondered a few more things: How can a child belt out a memorized song from the Disney movie "Cars" all the way to church but have to be nudged to sing a simple responsorial psalm whose words are printed directly in front of them? How can my sweet off-spring recite intricate catechism questions beautifully at home, but sometimes barely mumble the Our Father at Mass? Do anybody else's

kids covertly fight over whether the kneeler should be up or down?

My struggles last week motivated me to go to Matthew 6 to contemplate (alone in my room, later, thank you). I found Matthew 6 a perfect recipe for Lenten devotion. There's no room here to quote the whole chapter, but grab your Bible and see if you agree.

My conclusions upon reading the Bible were pretty simple. Lent is for mortification, for trying. If perfection is not reached, well then welcome to life. I think the important thing is to resolve to do better when we fail and to try again. Because that's what families do. Work together. Try together. And eventually we will succeed together. We might have to help the little ones "practice" participating at Mass. We've sung responsorial psalms before lunch after particularly tepid participation at church. We do have to teach, discuss, discipline. And I personally might have to learn to start gathering coats and putting on little one's shoes a little earlier so that we are not late.

I've heard this analogy: We all fall in mud puddles. Some sinners wallow in the mud, enjoying it. Others bemoan the fact that they fell in the mud and despair. But saints pick themselves up, clean off and keep trying. I think I'll try to follow that last bunch.

Theresa Thomas, parishioner of St. Matthew Cathedral Parish in South Bend, is the mother of nine children and wife of David. Visit her Web site at www.theresathomas.typepad.com.

Do anybody else's kids covertly fight over whether the kneeler should be up or down?

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for March 4, 2007

Luke 9:28b-36

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Lent, Cycle C: the revelation on the mountaintop. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

PETER	JOHN	MOUNTAIN
TO PRAY	APPEARANCE	BEHOLD
TWO MEN	MOSES	ELIJAH
GLORY	SPOKE	ACCOMPLISH
JERUSALEM	MASTER	THREE
A CLOUD	(over)SHADOW	A VOICE
MY CHOSEN	ALONE	HAD SEEN

APPEARANCE

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

© 2007 Tri-C-A Publications

LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

attention of leaders, be they elected officials or corporate executives," said Ed Soule, an ethics scholar in the public policy program at Georgetown University in Washington. "You can't open up an annual report today and not see some substance to it," he added, "where these principles would find a home."

Soule said, "If the bishops sat down today to pound out principles, they may have a shade of difference in the wording, but they did a really good job" 20 years ago.

"Look at the Sullivan Principles

that were enunciated" to address global corporate social responsibility, he added. "You have a pretty good common denominator. Look at the Millennium Principles (for global economic development). There's a lot of similarities between that" and the pastoral.

Jesuit Father David Hollenbach, who served as a consultant and a drafter for early versions of the pastoral, said it has had "a significant influence in the Catholic community in the United States, primarily through long-term educational programs where it has incorporated many of its fundamental ideas, especially toward concern for the poor — now taken for granted as a key component of what the Catholic Church should stand for."

Singles ministry is vocation formation

BY DAVE SLOAN

The most radical demographic shift ever to take place in human history has been the very recent shift away from family life and toward single life.

Between 1970 and 2000 in the U.S.:

- The marriage rate dropped by half as the divorce rate doubled.
 - The number of people between 25 and 34 who were unmarried tripled.
 - The percentage of Americans living alone increased 2.5 times.
- (All statistics from the U.S. Census Bureau.)

We are failing to marry and have children. Our nonimmigrant birthrate is 20 percent below replacement and dropping fast. Even with this birth rate, and not considering how fast it is dropping, in three generations our population will be half what it is today. Our society is committing fast and sure suicide. Singles ministry, almost nonexistent in the Catholic Church today, is the antidote to this trend, and the great hope for the future of the church.

The Catholic Church has found it particularly difficult to come to grips with these rapid, radical societal changes because singles typically live outside of family life and structures. Family is really what

the church knows and understands. God is family. Church is family. This explains why, to my knowledge, there are no singles ministers employed full time in any parish or diocese in America, though there are now 100 million singles in America, comprising, as of 2005, a majority of all households. (We do have Catholic Young Adult Ministers and ministries doing great work, but they are not normally designed to minister to singles as singles and in need of vocation formation.)

What we need in the church today is a revolution, a revolutionary new focus on ministry to singles. Singles ministry should consist of these two essential elements:

- Drawing singles into the family life of the church;
- Helping singles to find and live their vocations to married and to celibate life.

Another way to put it is this: Singles ministry is vocation formation.

Effective singles ministry requires us to clarify the prevailing confusion about the meaning of the word "vocation." First, there is a universal vocation, shared by every Christian, as explained in "Familiaris Consortio": Love is "the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being." ("Familiaris Consortio," n. 11)

Next, from the same document, we see that there are, "two specific ways of realizing the vocation of the human person, in its entirety, to love: marriage and virginity or celibacy." ("Familiaris Consortio," n. 11)

When we move from discussing the universal vocation of all Christians to love, to discussing particular vocations, we are always referring either to marriage or celibacy — consecrating one's whole life to virginity for the sake of the kingdom of heaven.

As Christopher West, perhaps the leading expert on vocation and family in the church today, explained it to me, "We could describe being single as a 'state in life' but not strictly as a vocation — not, anyway, as the church has traditionally understood that word in this context. The word vocation implies a total, definitive and irrevocable gift of self."

The concept of total gift is critical here. Single life, when properly understood and lived, is what makes this gift possible. In order for the gift of our lives to have value and meaning, then we must be truly free to make that gift. Freedom then, true freedom, is the essential character of the single life.

John Paul II explains this freedom in the theology of the body. Speaking of married couples he

writes of "the depths of their freedom, which is freedom of giving." (p. 74) Speaking of celibates he writes of "the freedom of the gift." (p. 248) In his book, "Love and Responsibility," John Paul II expressed it this way, "Freedom exists for the sake of Love. ... Freedom is the means, and love is the end." (p. 136)

The modern crisis in vocations, both married and celibate, will be corrected only by helping single people to find true freedom — the freedom of the gift, the freedom which makes love possible. This freedom cannot be found in the isolation and self-centeredness, which are so much at the center of modern, materialistic life. The freedom to give is learned and lived only in the family.

All life is family life. Outside the family there is only death. We must help singles live the fullness of family life within the family of the church.

In this way, singles can make a free and creative commitment of our lives each day in the universal Christian vocation to love and give, even as we strive to become so free as to be able one day to give ourselves permanently in particular vocations to marriage or celibacy.

The Third National Catholic

Singles Conference, to be held in both in Chicago April 27-29, and in San Diego June 29 through July 1, is a profound sign that the revolution in singles ministry, in true vocation formation, is at last underway.

After selling out two years in a row in Denver, Colo., the conference is expected to attract over 500 singles in both Illinois and California. International speakers such as Matthew Kelly, Christopher West, Father Thomas Loya, Father Robert Faricy, Rose Sweet, Dr. Philip Mango, and others will address the challenges of living the Catholic Faith as a single person.

They will discuss what it means to live out masculinity and femininity in an authentic way in the midst of a culture that sends mixed messages, and they will offer practical suggestions for dating and discerning one's vocation. These talks will be accompanied by powerful times of prayer and plenty of time to socialize with hundreds of singles from around the country.

For more about the conference visit NationalCatholicSingles.com

Dave Sloan's Web site is www.Godofdesire.com.

Jews find religious tolerance from Romans, hostility from others

What did the Jewish people face when they returned to Jerusalem from exile in Babylon?

King Cyrus the Great of Persia (modern Iran) conquered Babylon (in southern Iraq) in 539 B.C. He then allowed the Jewish exiles in Babylon to return to Jerusalem in 538 B.C., if they wished, to rebuild the temple and the city walls.

B. Metzger says Cyrus was acting in accord with a general policy of religious toleration followed by the Persians for political expedience. The Cyrus Cylinder, a clay barrel-shaped document found in Babylon in 1879, says Cyrus returned various city gods to their original sanctuaries. Later on, the Romans too would be tolerant of the Jewish religion to keep the peace.

The return of the Jews to Jerusalem is recorded in the Old Testament books of Ezra and Nehemiah. The first return was led by Sheshbazzar, the prince of Judah, who probably was the fourth son of Jehoiachin, the king of Judah, taken captive to Babylon in 598 B.C. King Cyrus even returned to Sheshbazzar the utensils of the former Jerusalem temple that King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had taken from Jerusalem and placed in the temple of his pagan god.

Father Peter Ellis mentions the economic prostration of the land of Palestine after the exile. This caused much discouragement among the repatriated



FATHER RICHARD HIRE

HIRE HISTORY

exiles and explains, to some extent, the 20-year delay from the rebuilding of the altar and laying the foundation of the temple in 536 B.C. to the completion of the temple in 516 B.C. The rebuilding of the temple from 520-516 B.C. was accomplished by the high priest Joshua and the governor Zerubbabel, a grandson of Jehoiachin. This temple was completed during the reign of the Persian king Darius I (521-485 B.C.) who continued Cyrus' generous policy toward subject peoples and encouraged the Jews to rebuild the temple.

Another problem the returning Jews faced was the hostility and guerrilla warfare of the Samaritans. B. Metzger says these Samaritans were a mixture of those Jews not deported by the Assyrian king Sargon II (from northern Iraq) in 721 B.C. and various peoples from conquered lands introduced into this region by the Assyrians. These Samaritans were religious conservatives, who did not want Jerusalem to grow powerful, and their hostility continued into New Testament times.

Probably in 458 B.C. Ezra the scribe came from Babylon to Jerusalem with a second group of exiles to carry out religious reforms and to preach God's Law. Father John McKenzie says Ezra was a secretary for Jewish affairs. He was an officer of the Persian court sent to impose the law upon the Jewish community of Jerusalem. Ancient documents show the interest of the Persian court in religious affairs. The Persians also wanted to establish peace and order in Jerusalem, for it was near troublesome Egypt.

Later on in 445 B.C. Nehemiah, a Jew who was the cupbearer of the Persian king Artaxerxes I (464-423 B.C.) and appointed as governor of Judah, came to Jerusalem to rebuild its city walls, which would give the Jewish community physical security. Although the Samaritans objected to rebuilding the city walls, Nehemiah accomplished the task speedily. Silver and gold coins from this period have been found with the letters YHD, the Aramaic form of the name Judah. Aramaic was the international diplomatic language of the Persian empire and also the language of Jesus. Father McKenzie mentions that Nehemiah's appointment as governor may have included the erection of a new separate province of Judah, which had previously been a part of the province governed from Samaria. This would certainly arouse the opposition of the authorities in Samaria.

Meet the Priest

Father Philip A. Widmann

Ordained Jan. 15, 1977

Pastor, St. Peter Parish, Fort Wayne
St. Mary Parish, Fort Wayne

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

It was overall my parents and homelife, my schooling with the Sisters of St. Peter's and the parish priests, most especially Bishop Joseph Crowley and Msgr. Thomas Durkin.



Why do you like being a priest?

I am humbled by the power of ordination — the power to consecrate the body and blood of Christ and the power to absolve from sin. I try to remind myself of this awesome power each day and pray that I am worthy.

Do you have a special interest or hobby?

When I have time, I like to go to antique shops and do some work with the Cathedral Museum. I've always liked history and especially historical artifacts.

Do you have a pet?

I've always been surrounded by dogs and now cats. I have two Persian cats, Roulette and Ota Mae — so loyal, a lot of company. I cannot imagine life without a pet



and really feel sorry for those who do not know or understand this joy.

What do you like to do for relaxation?

"antiquing," spending time with mother and the cats, some reading

What is your favorite reading material?

History — World War II and the Civil War in particular, as well as histories of the church, especially the so called Reformation period. For novels — Jack Higgins.

What is the best part of being Catholic?

It is knowing that you have the "fullness of the truth."

What is your favorite prayer?

the rosary

What is your favorite Scripture passage?

John 3:16

What is your favorite food?

shrimp and pastries

Sports

WARRIORS DASH INDIANS' CHANCE FOR ANOTHER STATE TITLE Saint Joseph's High School gave their Lady Indians basketball team a spirited welcome even though their favorites were nipped by the Wawasee High School Lady Warriors, 58-46, in the semistate round of the Indiana High School Athletic Association tournament on Feb. 24. The Lady Indians wound up the season 22-3. Sydney Smallbone, Saint Joseph's leading point getter, tallied 11 points, which enabled her to become the Lady Indians all-time scoring leader with 1,712 points. — *EJD*

CYO leagues name new champions

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In final-game action of the 71st annual Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) tournament Feb. 24 at St. Charles School in Fort Wayne, all three leagues, both boys and girls, named new champions. St. Jude, Benoit Academy (boys and girls), St. Vincent (seventh and eighth grade boys), and St. Joseph, Decatur, were all awarded gold medals.

In the six-game lineup, the closest battle all day came in the 54-52 Blue League Boys' division match up between the undefeated Benoit Academy Phoenix and the Squires from St. Joe. Hessen Cassel. With 8.4 seconds left in regulation, Wil Knapke scored a bunny on a Ty Wyss steal to put the Squires up 52-50 for the first time since early in the first quarter. Next the scoreboard read 52 points each with just 3.9 seconds courtesy of a Steven Kiermaier bucket.

After the final time out, Benoit ran a play they had practiced for just this type of situation. Marquel Cooper got open and took his shot that was nothing but net at the buzzer. Cooper told his coach, "It was not me shooting. I had help from 'the man upstairs.'"

"It's tough to beat a team three times without getting over confident," said Benoit coach Paul Gerardot. "I was so proud of the boys. I told them all week that even though we beat Hessen Cassel twice during the season, it means nothing during the tournament. Hessen Cassel gave us one heck of a game. They came ready to play."

The Squires came out firing and jumped out to an early 9-6 lead thanks to a trey from Hunter Tobe. Benoit's "Shannon Curry and company" answered back over and over fighting every trip down the court to keep control of the game. The Squires kept applying pressure and came closer than any-

one all season to upsetting the No. 1 seed and untouched league champs. Curry finished with 30 points to lead all scoring, while Luers-bound Kiermaier ended his CYO career with 26. Benoit will go in the record books with a perfect 15-0 record.

White League girls: St. Jude 27; St. Vincent 19 (Mayers 20, Shen/Litchfield 6)

White League boys: St. Vincent 43; St. Joe, Decatur, 32 (Fiechter 11, Selking 15)

Blue League girls: Benoit 48; St. Therese 44 (Gorman 36, Colvin/Hofrichter 12)

Blue League boys: Benoit 54; St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel 52 (Curry 30, Kiermaier 26)

Gold League girls: St. Joe, Decatur, 46; St. Charles 32 (Schultz 20, Burkhardt 12)

Gold League boys: St. Vincent 52; St. Charles 36 (Springman 21, Book 12)



PROVIDED BY ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, DECATUR

St. Joseph, Decatur, girls celebrated a sweet victory after the CYO championship Gold League game. They beat St. Charles marking just their third title in tournament history. St. Charles had beaten St. Joe earlier during regular season play and last year for the 2006 title. The Decatur team consists of the following: front row, from left, Alexandria Davison, Abby Stimpson, Madison Schultz, Dana Kaczmarek, Gabbie Weaver, Jesse Brewer and Alex Fuelling; second row, Brea Henkenius, head coach Mike Stimpson, Ariel Davison, Kaylie Girod, manager Janelle Lose and assistant coach Dan Kaczmarek

ICCL teams to play final playoffs and championship game this weekend

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — The four basketball teams that set the pace most of the way in the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) will have another opportunity to validate their claims in the final round of the post season hardwood tournament, which officially winds up the campaign this weekend.

The St. Joseph Wildcats of Mishawaka, who finished the regular season as the only unbeaten team and captured the Martin De Porres East Division pennant, will face Christ the King in the first game of the semifinals. Then the Corpus Christi Cougars, who lost only one game during the regular season, will face Holy Family in the other semifinal. The two winners will clash in the championship round for the Knights of Columbus' Fourth Degree trophy.

St. Joseph beat St. Thomas of Elkhart, 51-43, in the quarterfinals, leading start to finish. Coley Schultheis, the leading point scorer of the Wildcats all season, poured in 24 points in a blazing individual performance. It marked the fourth time he has gone over the 20-point threshold. Taylor Krugh bagged 14 points for Elkhart.

In another high-scoring performance, Christ the King swarmed over St. Joseph, South Bend, 61-43, behind the firebrand performance of Max Matthew who drained the nets for a sizzling 32 points, the highest single individ-

ual total for the year. Nick Pellegrino had 18 points for St. Joe.

The Corpus Christi Cougars edged St. Anthony, 45-37, with Andy Klimek and Tate Bellegrande each tossing in 16 points.

Holy Family defeated St. Michael of Plymouth, 39-16. Collin Skodinski dumped in 15 points for the victors.

The four semifinalists in the Colors Division will be St. Thomas Gold of Elkhart, Holy Family Blue, Christ the King Gold and St. Jude Green.

St. Thomas Gold beat Holy Cross Blue, 41-28, with Parker Devenney picking up 10 points for the victors.

Holy Family Columbia Blue defeated St. Anthony Gold, 34-28, with Zack Zehender snaring 12 points for Holy Family. Zach Fozo with 10 points, Joey Pinkowski had 10 points for St. Anthony

Christ the King Gold defeated school rival Christ the King White, 48-31, as Kyle Wieschaus placed 12 points for the Gold.

St. Jude Green beat St. Thomas White, 34-23. Michael Henry scored 13 points for St. Jude.

First round playoffs: boys varsity

St. John 44, Corpus Christi 71
St. Anthony 74, St. Pius 45
St. Michael 27, St. Adalbert 10
Holy Family 49, St. Jude 39
St. Bavo 48, St. Joseph, Mish., 61
St. Thomas 47, St. Monica 33
St. Joseph, SB 45, St. Matthew 41
Christ/King 58, Holy Cross 41

First round playoffs: Colors Division

St. Pius Blue 13, St. Thomas White 50
St. Jude Green 31, St. Anthony Maroon 30
Corpus Christi Blue 27, Christ The King Gold 38
St. Thomas Maroon 22, St. Thomas Gold 32
Holy Cross Blue 35, St. Joseph, South Bend, Blue 34
Holy Family Columbia Blue 34, Christ The King Blue 20
St. Matthew Black 11, St. Anthony Gold 38

St. Joseph, South Bend, Gold 31, Christ The King White 38

Second round playoffs: boys varsity

St. Joseph, Mishawaka, 51, St. Thomas 43
Christ The King 61, St. Joseph, South Bend 43
Corpus Christi 45, St. Anthony 37
St. Michael 16, Holy Family 39

Second round playoff scores: Colors Division

St. Thomas Gold 41, Holy Cross Blue 28
Holy Family Columbia Blue 34, St. Anthony Gold 28
Christ The King White 31, Christ The King Gold 48
St. Thomas White 23, St. Jude Green 34

Semifinal pairings: boys varsity

St. Joseph, Mishawaka vs. Christ the King
Corpus Christi vs. Holy Family

Semifinal pairings: Colors Division

St. Thomas Gold vs. Holy Family Columbia Blue
Christ the King Gold vs. St. Jude Green

PANTHERS SHARE CO-CHAMPIONSHIP



PROVIDED BY PETER GILLIS

The St. Anthony Panthers were the co-champs of the John Bosco East Division of the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL). The Panthers shared their championship status with St. Joseph of South Bend.

Principal Catholic School Pre K - 8

Precious Blood Parish School - Dayton, Ohio

is encouraging faith-filled dynamic persons to apply for the position of Principal, beginning in academic year 2007-08. The school, Pre K Grade 8, located in northwest Dayton, with a current enrollment of 360, is committed to living Gospel values, fostering academic excellence and celebrating diversity. Candidates should be practicing Catholics, have or be eligible for Ohio Elementary Principal certification, and have successful experiences in motivating and affirming others through effective leadership and management. Interested candidates please send cover letter and resume by March 31 to:

Helen Weber, C.P.P.S. Chair, Search Committee

c/o Precious Blood Parish 4961 Salem Avenue, Dayton, OH 45416
email: PrincipalSearchCommittee@preciousbloodchurch.org

Oblates of Blues — Gospel, blues are about life

BY JUDY BRADFORD

SOUTH BEND — The Gospel is about failed relationships and despair, as well as love and celebration — “the whole mix of life and the human condition,” says Maxwell Johnson.

So are the blues.

These two worlds — the Gospel and the blues — aren't very far apart, and you can live fully in both of them without contradiction.

That's what he, and others with connections to Notre Dame's theology department, do as part of a band called the Oblates of Blues.

The band traces its roots back to Saint John's Abbey and University in Minnesota where Johnson taught in the mid 1990s. He and some graduate students started out doing a couple of talent shows.

In 1997, he came to South Bend to take a teaching job with the University of Notre Dame. Two graduate students followed, although they've since left the area.

Now the band has six members — all professors, doctoral candidates or alumni of the school of theology.

They don't consider themselves full brothers of the blues. They simply make their oblation, or offering, by spreading the message of the Chicago blues.

But the term “oblates” also honors the Benedictine legacy so influential in the intellectual and spiritual formation of many of its original members. According to the Web site of the Benedictine Order, the role of the oblates is “to live in the world. To become holy in the world, to do what they can to bring the world to God by being witnesses of Christ by word and an example to those around them.”

During the weekday at Notre Dame, Johnson talks with students about the life-affirming acts of Christian worship — like baptism, confirmation and the Eucharist with particular interest in the first four to six centuries of the church.

On weekends, while making his



PROVIDED BY MAXWELL JOHNSON

Maxwell Johnson is one of six members of the Oblates of Blues band, who are all professors, doctoral candidates or alumni of the University of Notre Dame's School of Theology. They don't consider themselves full brothers of the blues. They simply make their oblation, or offering, by spreading the message of the Chicago blues. The band will have a benefit concert at Brigid's Pub on March 23 to benefit the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

guitar scream, he might be singing about another life-affirming act: just getting through the week.

His favorite tune, “Call It Stormy Monday” by T-Bone Walker, is just about getting through the work week.

The band plays in local taverns as well as summer festivals in the Michiana area. And last fall, they played at the Eck Alumni Center, on campus before every home football game.

Other members include:

- Hugh Page Jr., who is Notre Dame's dean of first-year studies and a professor of Africana studies and theology, on harmonica and vocals;

- Larry Sullivan, professor of world religions and a concurrent professor of anthropology, plays keyboard;

- Tom Guinan, Notre Dame's associated controller, with a mas-

ter's degree in theology from Notre Dame, takes the drums;

- Nick Russo, a doctoral candidate in liturgy, plays bass;

- Mark Cichra, doctoral candidate in ancient history, plays guitar.

They also write some of their own songs, varying in subject matter from the biscuits that everyone loves at KFC, to being a father of four daughters. They've recorded their own CD.

The band avoids songs with explicit lyrics.

“Because the blues are about life, the lyrics are sometimes very explicit about sex or drugs,” says Johnson.

“We stay away from songs like ‘Champagne and Reefer,’ or ‘Hoochie Coochie’ by Muddy Waters. But we're not beyond doing lyrics with innuendo.”

After all, the Gospel and the blues are about life.

The band's playing schedule for the next several months:

- March 17 — Riverfront Café in Niles, Mich, 9 p.m. to midnight

- March 23 — Brigid's Pub, Waterford Estates in South Bend (the old Ramada Inn, on U.S. 933 just north of Cleveland Road.) This is a benefit for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which provides the poor and needy with clothing, food, household items and financial assistance. Donation is \$10. Music begins at 8:30 p.m.

- April 14 — Riverfront Café, Niles, Mich., 9 p.m. to midnight.

- May 5 — Riverfront Café, 9 p.m. to midnight

- June 7 — Thursdays in the Park, Niles, Mich. Time to be announced.

- June 23 — Riverfront Café, 9 p.m. to midnight.

ND Campus Ministry offers new podcast for prayer

NOTRE DAME — “NDPrayercast,” a weekly Internet podcast of Gospel readings, psalms, meditative songs and homilies was launched Ash Wednesday, Feb. 21, by Notre Dame's Office of Campus Ministry.

The free podcast will be available at www.ndprayercast.org/.

The program, which will be updated weekly, includes music by the Notre Dame Folk Choir, a meditation on the Sunday liturgical readings, a sung version of the weekly responsorial psalm, the Gospel reading and a corresponding homily by one of Notre Dame's Holy Cross priests, prayers for the week, and the Lord's Prayer as it is regularly sung at the 11:45 a.m. Sunday Mass in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

“NDPrayercast” was conceived by Steven Warner, director of the Notre Dame Folk Choir and member of the Campus Ministry staff. He is assisted by Joshua Stagni, campus ministry intern, and Emmeline Schoen, a 2003 alumnus of Notre Dame and former member of the Folk Choir.

Warner hopes soon to produce separate podcasts for Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline.



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

“Amazing Grace” (Samuel Goldwyn/Roadside)

Compelling historical biography about William Wilberforce (a dynamic Ioan Gruffudd), the great 18th century British abolitionist, who with the help of the young British Prime Minister William Pitt (Benedict Cumberbatch), and other like-minded friends in Parliament and elsewhere (Rufus Sewell, Michael Gambon, Albert Finney and Youssou N'Dour), managed — after tireless and courageous struggle — to pass an anti-slave trade bill in Parliament. With its solid performances, accessible script and handsome production design, director Michael Apted's film recalls some of the best historical dramas from Hollywood's golden age, and is all the more admirable for its unabashed portrait of a passionate man of God. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.

“The Number 23” (New Line)

Psychological thriller about a man (Jim Carrey) whose reading of a curious novel — in which the hard-boiled detective-protagonist's story eerily mirrors elements of his own life — leads him to increasing paranoia and madness, as he, like his fictional counterpart, becomes obsessed with the “23 enigma,” the theory that the number 23 holds a numerological significance in nature and world events. Despite an intriguing premise, director Joel Schumacher's dreary noir tale is all style and little suspense, with a muddled plot and a contrived twist payoff. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

Your source for reliable services
within the Diocese of Fort
Wayne-South Bend

Ready for Winter Ice Storms?

The storms are coming...
are you ready?



Brehob
GENERAC GENERATORS
Sales & Rentals
Call Mitch Steffen

Parishioner, St. John the Baptist Fort Wayne

260-490-5237

This doctor makes house calls!

The big name in small jobs.



- FULLY INSURED
- FREE ESTIMATES
- FREE SERVICE CALLS
- EXPERIENCED CRAFTSMAN

(260) 424-1293

Painting • Plastering • Drywall • Carpentry • Electrical • Kitchens
• Ceiling Repair • Bathrooms • Interior Trim • Caulking
Serving the Fort Wayne area since 1996!
Parishioner - St. Charles, Fort Wayne



DRY CLEANING

Supporters of SCRIP Program

Auburn
Angola
Columbia City
Fort Wayne
Warsaw
422-9374
TOLL FREE
1-800-514-9689

HIGHTECH SIGNS

Need A Solution, Sign With Us.

Stan Abramowski, President

www.hightech-signs.com

888-484-2600

Fort Wayne - Indianapolis - Grand Rapids

Free Delivery - Design Assistance

★ Life
★ Auto
★ Home
★ Business

260 424-5600

THE
DEHAYES
GROUP

Full Service Insurance Agency

5150 West Jefferson Blvd.,

Fort Wayne 46804

Kevin Pikel • Nick Groves

Dave Steffen • Jeff Pikel

www.dehayes.com

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

FISH FRIES

Fish fry
Fort Wayne — Queen of Angels will have a family style fish fry on Friday, March 2, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Adults \$7 adult, \$3 children 6-10, children under 5 free. Carry-out available.

Jonah fish fry
South Bend — Corpus Christi Parish will have a Jonah fish fry and salad bar on Friday, March 16, from 4-7 p.m. Adults and carry-out \$8, children 6-12 \$3, children 5 and under free.

Athletic boosters plan fish fry
Fort Wayne — The St. Therese Booster Club will have a fish fry on Friday, March 2, from 4:30-7 p.m. Adults \$7, children (6-12) \$4.50 and children 5 and under free.

St. Joseph Hessen Cassel plans fish fry
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Parish will have a fish fry on Friday, March 23, from 4-7:30 p.m. in the hall. Adults, \$6.50, children 11-5 \$4 and children under 5 free.

Rosary Society plans fish fry
Arcola — St. Patrick Parish will have a fish fry on March 9, from 4-7 p.m. at the Arcola fire station. Adults \$7.50, seniors \$6.50, children 6-12 \$4 and children under 6 free.

Holy Name Society fish fry
South Bend — A fish fry sponsored by the Our Lady of Hungary Holy Name Society will be held at the school, 735

W. Calvert, on Friday, March 2, from 5 to 7 p.m. Tickets are \$7 at the door, \$6.50 presale, \$4.50 children 6-12, under 6 free. Presale tickets may be purchased at the Our Lady of Hungary rectory (574) 287-1700.

Fish fry time
Walkerton — A fish fry will be held Friday, March 2, at St. Patrick School, 811 Tyler St. from 4 to 7 p.m. Adults and carry-outs \$7, children 6-10 \$3.50 and children under 6 free.

St. Aloysius hosts fish fry
Yoder — St. Aloysius Catholic School will have a fish fry on Friday, March 9, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. Adults \$7, children 5-12 \$4 and children under 5 free. Carry-outs \$6.50.

Knights plan fish fry
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, March 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, March 9, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$7, children (5-12) \$3. Chicken strips for \$7 and shrimp for \$8 will be available.

Athletic board sponsors fish fry
Fort Wayne — St. Charles Borromeo's athletic board will sponsor a fish fry on Friday,

March 9, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria, door #9. Carry-out is also available. Cost is adults \$7, students (k-8) \$4, preschool and under free. St. Charles is located on the corner of Reed and Trier roads.

Fish Fry at St. Matthew Cathedral
South Bend — St. Matthew Cathedral, 1701 Miami St., will host a fish fry on Friday, March 23, from 4 to 7 p.m. in the school gym. Carry-out and drive-through available. Adults \$7, seniors \$6, children (7-12) \$4, children 6 and under eat free.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

SAJES meet for retreat
South Bend — A Lenten day of reflection is planned for Wednesday, March 14, at St. Francis Convent in Mishawaka by Sister Barbara Anne Hallman, OSF, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Cost for the day is \$15 and includes lunch. Reservations are required by March 12 to Sister Agnes Marie at (574) 259-5427.

Get back on track with series by IPFW Newman group
Fort Wayne — Embark on a journey with others to "Get back on track." The next session "Working for the Treasure that is Priceless" will be held Thursday, March 8, from 7:30-9 p.m. in Walb room 222. Sessions are independent of one another, so feel free to join us at any time. For more information contact Mike Gibson at mgibson0428@yahoo.com, studentipfw.edu/~newman or call (260) 481-6994.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council #5570 is sponsoring a spaghetti dinner on Thursday, March 8, from 4 to 6 p.m. Adults \$7, children ages 5 to 12 \$2.50. The council is located at 5202 Linden Ave., one block east of Mayflower Road.

Grand re-opening of the Ave Maria Press bookstore
Notre Dame — The Ave Maria bookstore will have a re-opening sale Monday, March 5, through Friday, March 9, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Everything in the store located at 19113 Douglas Rd. Call 1-800-282-1865 for information.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father Bernard Galic will celebrate the Holy Hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, March 6, at 7:15 p.m. Father Galic is pastor of Holy Family Parish in South Bend and vocation director for the Diocese. Bring a friend for prayer with the special intention

REST IN PEACE

Arcola
Lawrence F. Sablic, 82, St. Patrick

Fort Wayne
Carmen G. Haines, 63, St. Joseph

Alice Ann Smith, 59, St. Peter

Emily R. Young, 78, St. Vincent de Paul

Larry W. Bulmahn, 64, Our Lady of Good Hope

Lois J. Kranz, 83, St. Jude

Joseph E. Quinlan, 89, St. Jude

John P. Huneck Sr., 78, St. Vincent de Paul

Granger
Emma K. Nagy, 89, St. Pius X

Huntington
Sister Florence Garbacz, OLVN, 88, Victory Noll Chapel

Mishawaka
Joseph J. Bieganski, 80, St. Joseph

Edna Mae Chamberlin, 77, Queen of Peace

Monroeville
Mary M. Crabill, 83, St. Rose of Lima

New Haven
Salvatore J. Ebetino, 81, St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame
Brother Peter Claver (Edward) Tessier, CSC, 84, Holy Cross Village

Clarence F. Dineen, 90, Our Lady of Loretto

South Bend
Eleanor M. Orszulak, 80, St. Adalbert

Lillian L. Burzynski, 97, St. Jude

Howard E. Horne Jr., 82, St. Matthew Cathedral

Robert M. Kuminecz Sr., 77, St. Anthony de Padua

Linda B. Lloyd, 69, Little Flower

Carl J. Mitts, 82, Holy Family

Richard V. Nemeth, 83, Corpus Christi

Jose A. Galicia, 33, St. Adalbert

Delores M. Jozwiak, 78, St. Adalbert

Helen J. Speybroeck, 86, Little Flower

Wabash
Jacquelynn Arricka Mendoza, 77, St. Bernard

for priests and vocations.

Organist to perform at Ancilla Domini Chapel

Donaldson — Dr. Herman D. Taylor and his wife, Vivian Taylor will perform on March 13, at 7 p.m. in the Ancilla Domini Chapel. The organ recital/vocal performance is jointly sponsored by the PHJC Ministry Center, Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center, Ancilla College and the First Federal Savings Bank. The recital is the opening event in a week-long series of celebrations leading to the installation of Dr. Ronald May on March 16 as president of Ancilla College.

St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Garage Sale
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Catholic School will sponsor a garage sale on Saturday, March 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Joseph Parish at the corner of Brooklyn and Hale. The garage sale offers clothing, household and baby items, toys, furniture and more. All proceeds support St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School.

Parish Mission
Warsaw — A Parish Mission will be held at Sacred Heart Parish, 125 N Harrison St., March 18-22 at 7 p.m. each evening. The presenter will be Father Richard Hart from the Capuchin Preachers office. The theme is "The Reign of God." Babysitting is available each evening. Please call the parish office (574) 267-5842 to let us know how many children and their ages.

St. Adalbert announces bake sale
South Bend — The St. Adalbert Sisters Auxiliary bake sale will be Saturday, March 31 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Lamb cakes, sweet-sour cabbage and other baked goods will be available. Pre-orders for lamb cakes at \$13 each can be

made to (574) 288-5708 ext. 203 by March 23.

Evening prayer offered at St. Joe
South Bend — St. Joseph Parish will be offering Sunday evening prayer each Sunday of Lent at 6:30 p.m. The Lenten Vespers series is entitled, "Journey to the Words and the Water" and will use Old Testament readings from the Easter Vigil to help us prepare for the great liturgy of the church year.

Rummage and bake sale planned
South Bend — The St. John Altar and Rosary Society will have a rummage and bake sale on Saturday, March 17, from 8:30 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and on Sunday, March 18, from 7 a.m. to noon.

Lenten day of recollection
Fort Wayne — Bob Deck, a Secular Franciscan, will offer a Lenten day of recollection entitled, "The Seven Last Words of Christ" on Saturday, March 10, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the St. Vincent de Paul Spiritual Center. Lunch will be potluck style and a freewill donation will be taken to cover the cost of materials. Call (260) 490-9571 for information and to register by March 9.

Card party planned by Rosary Society
South Bend — The Rosary Society of St. Hedwig Parish will have a card party on Sunday, March 4, at 1 p.m. in the memorial center. Lunch will be served. Donations are \$4.50 in advance by calling (574) 259-5675 or (574) 287-9880 by Feb. 18. Bring own cards or dice.

Centering prayer
South Bend — Centering prayer is held every Tuesday from 4 to 5 p.m. at Little Flower Chapel, 54191 N. Ironwood.

Special Notice

The Catholic Cemetery in Fort Wayne wants to remind you that

SPRING CLEAN-UP

begins March 15th and ends March 31st.

Should you wish to save any decorations, they must be removed prior to March 15th.

✻

Please do not place any new decorations until after March 31st.

Thank you for your cooperation.



CATHOLIC CEMETERY
ASSOCIATION, INC.

HEROS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

before Jeff Jehl, also of St. Vincent Church, gave a teen witness on the Eucharist. A special Mass was celebrated by Father Gurtner followed by reverent participation in eucharistic adoration.

The day was complete when the youth were treated to the praise and worship sounds of the popular Christian band Frankie and the Holy Rollers. "The kids all said the music was great," reports Black.

Martin Wheeler, youth director at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, set the tone for Sunday morning with his talk on listening heroes. Teen witness was Beth McManus from Immaculate Conception Parish in Auburn. Seminarian Matt Coonan offered his teachings on a hero's courage as well as sharing his own inspiring vocation story.

Eight parishes were represented at the retreat, which Cindy Black hopes will become a growing annual event. "The parishes have suggested March for next year in cooperation with sports and dance events," says Black, who was encouraged by the youth this year. The teens were more open than anticipated, she reports. "They opened up to praying and jumped right in to praise and worship. Their hearts were open right away."

Bishop Luers sophomore John Till was in attendance because his mother, a member of the youth ministry at St. John, New Haven, made him go. "I'm so glad I went though. I felt like I needed that experience to get closer to God," he says.

The skits enticed him, but Till admits that adoration was his favorite part of the retreat. "The priest talked about Jesus lifting our problems from us. It made it real," he says, adding, "I received part of the Holy Spirit."

DeKalb High School junior Brittney Koza attended with friends from her home parish of Immaculate Conception in Auburn. Of the retreat she says,



PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE OF YOUTH MINISTRY

Young people representing parishes throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend participated in the first annual diocesan-wide youth retreat weekend held at Epworth Forest. The retreat, "Be a Hero," was hosted by the Office of Youth Ministry on Feb. 16-17.

"It was pretty cool. Better than I expected." The witness stories, she says, were inspiring to her and she feels her faith has been renewed.

Would she recommend it to others? "Yes," she says. "Try it out. I wasn't sure I wanted to go. But I was sure glad I did."

German exchange student and junior at Adams Central High School Anne Wedekind says the weekend was "awesome!" Though a non-Catholic, Wedekind has been attending youth group at St. Mary, Decatur, her host family's parish. Following the invitation to the retreat Wedekind decided to attend.

"It was the best weekend of my life," she says. Attending church in Germany, she reports, is not a common event and following the events at Epworth Forest she realized what was missing in her life. "I found God that night," she says reverently.



She, like the others, would recommend the retreat to everyone and has hope for the future, as she says, "I know I have faith support here, but when I go back to Germany, I don't think I will. I

hope I can make a difference in Germany."

The Office of Youth Ministry may just have successfully inspired the start of a new generation of Christ's heroes.

HOME

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

those who have questions about the Catholic faith or who need spiritual counseling. The phone line will be open until Mercy Day, March 20, when there will be priests available all day in the confessionals of their parishes to offer the sacrament of reconciliation.

In conjunction with the media campaign and the phone number, the diocese has also begun its Wells of Hope program, which was explained at the news conference by Ginny Kohrman and Sister Jolene Heiden, SSND, of the diocesan Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization.

Ginny Kohrman described the program's method of going out to people's homes two by two, to show fallen away Catholics that they are loved and missed and also "to see what it is that we can do for them."

Bishop D'Arcy emphasized that the people involved in going out two by two — like the disciples in the Gospels — have had training and formation so that they can listen to, understand and help the people they visit.

After this presentation, the diocese unveiled four new 30-second television spots to accompany the campaign.

When asked by the media how many Catholics the diocese hoped to bring back to the full practice of their faith, Bishop D'Arcy said that the program was not so much oriented toward numbers as it was on ministering to people.

"I hope to get at least one," the bishop joked before noting that Mass attendance in the diocese is relatively strong. He also cited the words of Christ in Scripture that there is more joy over one who has returned than over 99 who are in no need of repentance.

When asked about the emphasis on media outreach in this campaign, the bishop cited Pope John Paul II, who once said that, in American culture, nothing happens until it happens on television.

"Christ went out into the highways and byways and preached the Gospel," the bishop added, "and the media is the highways and byways of contemporary life."

The bishop also expressed that the need for an campaign to call inactive Catholics back to the full practice of their faith is something with numerous parts. On one hand, the Catholic faith is a demanding faith, one that asks something from people, "and complications arise."

But more importantly, he noted, the campaign should exist because, ultimately, it is not the church that is doing the calling.

"God is seeking them," he said. "It is our obligation as church to welcome them home through prayer and instruction and through public signs that Christ wishes to meet them on the road and welcome them home."



Stop by for a tour and a cup of hot coffee today. Let us know how we can help you meet the care needs of a senior in your life.

Redefining Senior "HOME"

Whether it's our pets in residence, our flowering plants or our staff that acts more like family than caregivers, Sunrise Senior Living provides everyday experiences that make our communities simply, more livable.

At Sunrise, we understand that the transition to a senior community isn't always easy. So, we focus on the details

of living, from beautifully appointed living spaces to delicious meals, engaging social activities, transportation, and personalized assistance and care.

Visit or call Sunrise of Fort Wayne to see what we do to make our communities into places seniors can call home. In Fort Wayne, we offer Assisted Living and Alzheimer's Care.



Fort Wayne Sunrise of Fort Wayne 260-471-3110 3110 East Coliseum Blvd

Assisted Living Alzheimer's Care

For more information and a FREE online newsletter, visit www.sunriseseniorliving.com