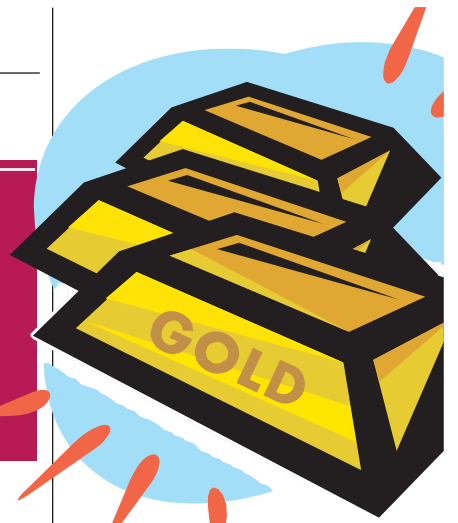




March 11, 2007

Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

# TODAY'S CATHOLIC



## Rite of Election celebrated in diocese, across the nation

Thousands across the country prepare to enter church at Easter

BY JERRY FILTEAU

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Bishop John M. D'Arcy celebrated the Rite of Election in South Bend on Feb. 25 at St. Matthew Cathedral and in Fort Wayne on March 4 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

About 500 total candidates or catechumens in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are in the final stages of their journey toward baptism or entering into full communion with the Catholic Church at Easter.

In dioceses across the country at the beginning of Lent, tens of thousands of Americans began the final stages of their journey toward baptism or entering into full communion with the Catholic Church at Easter.

Jamie Swan of Maryville, Mo., is taking it a couple of steps further. Not only will she receive baptism, confirmation and first Communion at the Easter Vigil in St. Gregory Parish, but she and her fiancé, Michael Casteel, are preparing to receive the sacrament of matrimony there a few months later. And Swan, the new second-grade teacher at the parish school, is making her preparations for first Communion along with her pupils, who will receive the sacrament later this spring.

Swan is one of the catechumens and candidates in the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo., who participated in the Rite of Election and Call to

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KATHY DENICE

Bishop John M. D'Arcy signs the Book of the Elect at the Rite of Election held Sunday, March 4, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. Behind him stand the catechumens he admitted into the elect who will be baptized and initiated into the sacred mysteries at the Easter Vigil.

### SOUTH BEND ANTICIPATES ST. PATRICK'S DAY



CNS PHOTO/MIKE CRUPI, CATHOLIC COURIER

A St. Patrick's Day Celebration begins Saturday, March 17, with a 9 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick Church in South Bend. Bishop John M. D'Arcy will preside. The Jefferson Blvd. parade will follow at 11 a.m. Festivities will continue with the East Race Greening, Celtic music and a corned beef dinner at St. Patrick Social Center.

### Indiana's bishops embrace the legacy and spirituality of St. Mother Theodore Guérin

BY DAVE COX

SAINT MARY-OF-THE-WOODS — Indiana's five Roman Catholic bishops and major superiors of religious congregations of Indiana met Monday at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods to celebrate the life of St. Mother Theodore Guérin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence.

The bishops concelebrated Mass in the Church of the Immaculate Conception. Archbishop Daniel Buechlein of Indianapolis presided.

"It was an opportunity for us to offer thanksgiving for St. Mother Theodore Guérin. We're so conscious that we have our own local saint in our part of the country. It's an extraordinary privilege and a blessing. We're interested in helping to spread the knowledge of Mother Theodore," Archbishop Buechlein said.

Indiana's Catholic leaders gathered for

their annual meeting before the Mass, where they heard from Sister Denise Wilkinson, general superior of the Sisters of Providence; Sister Marie Kevin Tighe, director of the office of the Shrine for St. Mother Theodore Guérin; Sister Jeanne Knoerle, executive director of Residential Services at Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, and Teresa Clark, the artist who designed and created the model for the statue of St. Mother Theodore that will be placed in the Marian Garden outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. later this year.

Sister Denise offered a welcome and talked about what the Sisters of Providence hope the lasting effects of St. Mother Theodore's canonization would be for the congregation. Sister Marie Kevin shared information about numerous favors that people claim to have received through St. Mother

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## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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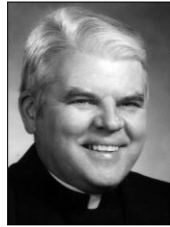
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# After a good confession, the soul is as innocent and pure as it is at baptism



NEWS  
& NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

## The forgiveness of Christ

I am grateful that as a bishop I continue to hear confessions. In great part it is because of our program of parish missions, sponsored by the Office of Spiritual Development. I thank those pastors who have a mission on a regular basis. I have required that every parish have one within a three-year period surrounding the observance of our Jubilee Year.

## 'Everything our Redeemer has accomplished has passed into the sacraments.' (Pope Gregory the Great cited in the Catechism of the Catholic Church)

The Gospels show Christ forgiving others and he continues this through the sacraments of baptism and reconciliation.

I am grateful also that so many of our parishes schedule the sacrament of penance not at the convenience of the priest, but at the convenience of the people. Sometimes, pastoral questions arise about the sacrament. Here are a few that I hear.

It is claimed that a priest who had been pastor in a particular parish many years ago said that it was sufficient to go to confession once a year. How should one answer this? The question is this: Should one strive to come closer to Christ? I once heard confession described as a second baptism. It can be said that after a good confession the soul is as innocent and pure as it is at baptism. Frequent confession brings many graces. Let us consider some.

When we go to confession, we are confronted with our sins. Self-knowledge increases. Also, we are asked to accept forgiveness. We meet him as did the woman at the well, the woman caught in adultery, Peter after his sin, and the good thief on the cross. To never go to confession or to go only rarely, one becomes unmindful of the redemptive act of Christ. Also, we receive the grace of overcoming sins.

## The question of vocations

We often wonder why more young men of good quality do not present themselves to the seminary. There are many reasons for this, some of them hidden in the culture of our times. But, I wonder if the loss of the sacrament of penance does not have an effect as well. I remember giving a retreat one time and a priest said publicly that he determined to be a priest as a young man after he made a good confession. As he put it, "I saw more clearly than ever the sacramental nature of redemption by Christ."

## Other questions

I often mention, when preaching on this sacrament, that it is not so much our seeking Christ as it is Christ seeking us. That is why I love the parish mission so. This week, after a meeting with our priests in Warsaw, I went north to the little town of Albion. After some soup and bread, (not much penance here as the soup and bread both came from the St. James Restaurant in Avilla supplied by one of the owners of that storied restaurant), there was a penance service, and I heard confessions along with several priests who came from a distance.

## Parish penance services

Right now, I am scheduled for penance services at St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne, and St. Patrick, Walkerton — two parishes that are quite different. It will be part of parish missions. I will hear confessions. This week, I will also lead the penance service and hear confessions at Bishop Dwenger High School during my annual visit.

Another good example of the fidelity of the priests to this sacrament who staff both of our cathedrals. Perhaps it is their location, the grace of the cathedral church, or, more likely, it is the fidelity of priests over the years, but at both St. Matthew's and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, confessions are heard frequently, and the priests make themselves available at the convenience of the people. There is also great availability of priests at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

## Is it proper to hear confessions during Mass?

I often say the noon Mass at MacDougal Chapel next to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, or, on the first Friday of the month, the 5 p.m. Mass. I notice that many people go to confession during Mass. Is this proper? The cleansing of one's soul is a preparation for the Eucharist. While it would certainly be wonderful to go to confession before Mass, we priests should make ourselves available at the convenience of the people. For many, this is the only time they can go, and we must never turn away the sinner.

I was pleased also to close a mission at St. Joseph Parish, Fort Wayne, with Father Timothy Wrozek. Father Tim is filling in part-time as administrator of St. Patrick, Fort Wayne. It was a great joy to be with him at St. Joseph.

## Rite of Election

It was a special joy to lead the Rite of Election in our cathedral and co-cathedral churches on successive Sundays. People are being joined to the Catholic Church by the power of the Holy Spirit, and there is no question that what is drawing many is the hunger for the holy Eucharist. I was quite impressed to read the words of a distinguished theologian, Scott Hahn, who spoke recently at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, and made clear to the people how

he was drawn to the Eucharist and became a Catholic.

## A special day with our priests

What can I say about the day with our priests in Warsaw. I gave a short reflection on the gift of priestly celibacy citing Pope Benedict XVI in a talk, which he gave at Christmas to those who work at the Vatican. He made it clear that celibacy for priests cannot be defended on the grounds of availability.

He said that celibacy is a way of belonging totally to Christ and taking him as one's portion and one's cup. He said that such a reason, mere availability, can lead to egotism or hardness of heart.

## Ministry to teenagers

Cindy Black, our director of Youth Ministry, gave a magnificent presentation on the philosophy of youth ministry in our diocese. Using that contemporary instrument of the Power Point, she shared with our priests her understanding of this task and what she hopes, with the help of God and the leadership of our priests and lay leaders, we can all do together throughout the diocese. The strength of her presentation, its soundness and beauty and the conviction with which she gave it, touched the hearts of our priests and certainly of the bishop.

We then saw the powerful video recently produced by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops on the priesthood entitled, "Fishers of Men."

After lunch, Linda Furge presented to our priests some of the works which are now beginning throughout the diocese for our Jubilee Year.

I then shared with the priests some housekeeping matters, and we left at 2 p.m. after singing the "Salve Regina." There is nothing more important for a bishop than time with his priests. It is a blessing for me.

## Odds and ends

I met this week with the very dedicated leadership of our 20th Annual Bishop's Appeal. It looks like it will be the second highest in our history. Our parishes will have about \$1.5 million returned to them after going over goal.

I am off tomorrow to Terre Haute. It is the annual meeting of bishops and religious superiors. It will be quite special because we will be honoring our new-canonized saint, St. Mother Theodore Guérin. There will be a Mass in her honor in the very church in which she is buried. I will pray for you all there and share it with you soon.

See you all next week.

# Biblical scholars reject filmmakers' claim about tomb of Jesus

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Catholic biblical scholars and an Israeli archaeologist rejected filmmakers' claim that a tomb uncovered nearly 30 years ago in Jerusalem is the burial site of Jesus and his family.

Dominican Father Jerome Murphy-O'Connor, a biblical archaeologist and expert in the New Testament at the French Biblical and Archaeological School of Jerusalem who was interviewed for the film two years ago, said he did not believe there was any truth to the claim.

"It is a commercial ploy that all the media is playing into," he told Catholic News Service Feb. 27.

Amos Kloner, an Israeli archaeologist who wrote the original excavation report on the site for the predecessor of the Israel Antiquities Authority, called the claim "nonsense."

"In their movie they are billing it as 'never before reported information,' but it is not new. I published all the details in the *Antiqot* journal in 1996, and I didn't say it was the tomb of Jesus' family," said Kloner, now a professor of archaeology at Israel's Bar-Ilan University.

"I think it is very unserious work. I do scholarly work ... based on other studies," he said.

Toronto filmmaker Simcha Jacobovici and Oscar-winning Canadian director James Cameron announced at a press conference in New York City Feb. 26 that by using new technology and DNA studies they have determined that among the

10 ossuaries — burial boxes used in biblical times to house the bones of the dead — found in the cave by Kloner in 1980 are those of Jesus, his brothers, Mary, another Mary whom they believe is Mary Magdalene, and "Judah, son of Jesus."

The documentary film by Jacobovici and Cameron was aired on the Discovery Channel March 4 and in Canada March 6 on Vision TV. A book on the topic, written by Jacobovici and Charles Pellegrino and published by HarperCollins, was to go on sale Feb. 27.

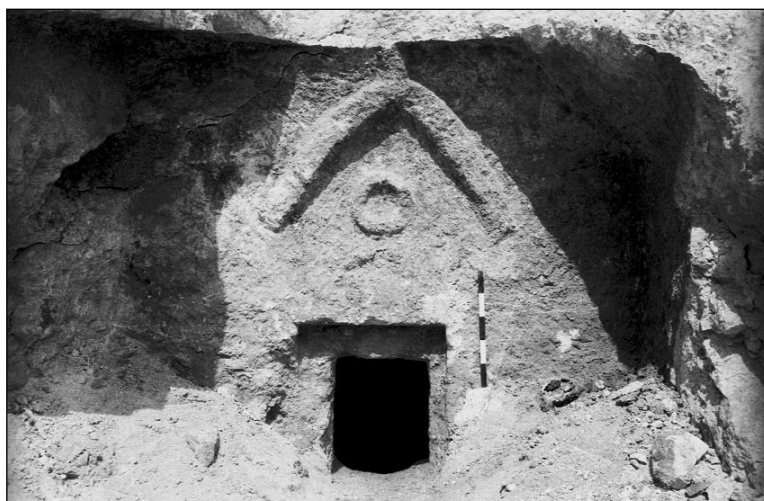
Father Murphy-O'Connor said the names found on the ossuaries "are a combination of very common names."

"Fifty percent of all Jewish women in the first century were called either Mary or Salome. It doesn't mean much at all," he said. "You can prove anything with statistics."

The DNA tests could "only prove that they are human" but "certainly did not prove" any familial connection, he said.

Father Murphy-O'Connor noted that Kloner had written about the findings a decade ago, and though it was all out in the public domain nobody had been interested.

According to press reports, the filmmakers said they had worked on the project with world-renowned scientists, including DNA specialists, archaeologists and statisticians. They said the ossuaries were not identified as belonging to Jesus' family when they were first discovered because the archaeologists at the time did not have the knowledge and scientific tools that now



CNS PHOTO/AMOS KLONER, ISRAEL ANTIQUITIES AUTHORITY VIA REUTERS

**An undated file photo released Feb. 23 by the Israel Antiquities Authority shows the entrance to a 2,000-year-old burial cave in Jerusalem. A Discovery Channel documentary suggested that several ancient burial boxes excavated 27 years ago in Jerusalem contained the remains of Jesus and his family. Israeli archaeologist Amos Kloner, who oversaw work at the tomb, has refuted the claims.**

exist.

But Kloner noted that Jesus' family was from Galilee and had no ties to Jerusalem, casting serious doubt that they would have had a burial cave in Jerusalem. He added that the names on the ossuaries were common during that time and their discovery in the same cave is purely coincidental.

He said the tomb belonged to a middle- or upper-middle-class Jewish family during the first century and the cave was in use for 70-100 years by the family.

Other books, films and articles about the tomb, including a full-page feature in London's *The Sunday Times*, a British

Broadcasting Corp. documentary film and a book called "The Jesus Dynasty" by James D. Tabor, have been published and produced on the topic in the years since the tomb's discovery.

At the New York press conference, Jacobovici said he thought the so-called "James ossuary," purported by its owner, Oded Golan, to have belonged to James, the brother of Jesus, was also from the tomb, and he cited a forensic technique used to determine this.

He did not mention that in 2003 the Israel Antiquities Authority declared the inscription on the James ossuary a forgery or that Golan is currently on trial for

forging part of the inscription.

Basilian Father Thomas Rosica, a biblical scholar and head of Toronto's Salt and Light Catholic Media Foundation, said this latest film shows that "self-proclaimed experts" have learned nothing from the James ossuary incident.

"One would think that we learned some powerful lessons from the media hype surrounding the James ossuary several years ago, and how important public institutions like the ROM (Royal Ontario Museum of Toronto) were duped in their hosting such fraudulent works," he said.

Father Rosica said: "Why did the so-called archaeologists of this latest scoop wait 27 years before doing anything about the discovery? James Cameron is far better off making movies about the Titanic rather than dabbling in areas of religious history of which he knows nothing."

A spokeswoman for the Israel Antiquities Authority said two of the ossuaries had been loaned to the filmmakers for their press conference as is customary for such requests for exhibiting antiquities as long as certain conditions are met. The loan was made in the name of freedom of expression and creativity, she said, and did not mean the authority supported their claims.

She said one of the Mary ossuaries has been on display for many years at Jerusalem's Israel Museum; the Judah ossuary is on display in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.; two ossuaries are currently with the filmmakers; and the other six are in the authority's warehouse just outside Jerusalem.

## RCIA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Continuing Conversion Feb. 25 at the Co-Cathedral of St. Joseph in St. Joseph.

Two other liturgies for candidates and catechumens were celebrated the day before at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Kansas City. In all, the diocese has 580 people preparing to be baptized or to enter into full communion with the church this spring.

For catechumens, people not yet baptized, the final part of the journey began with a Rite of Election on or near the first Sunday of Lent. For candidates, who are already baptized Christians, the start of Lent meant participating in a Call to Continuing Conversion. Many candidates were raised in a different faith. Some were baptized Catholic but never received first Communion as children or were not confirmed.

Catechumens will receive baptism, confirmation and first Eucharist at the Easter Vigil. Candidates will enter full communion with the church by receiving confirmation and first Eucharist.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults spells out the formation of catechumens and the steps of

their preparation for the three sacraments of initiation. For candidates, because they are already baptized, the program of formation and preparation is distinct, although there are often parallels with the RCIA and members of both groups often meet together in their parish formation programs.

Since 1993, when the Official Catholic Directory began recording separate statistics on adult baptisms and entries into full communion in the church in the United States and U.S. territories, the combined total of adults welcomed into the church has generally been running in the range of 154,000 to 162,000 a year. There were three above-average years: about 171,000 each year in 1999 and 2000, and more than 178,000 in 2001.

In most years receptions into full communion have outnumbered adult baptisms by a few thousand nationwide, but the baptisms outnumbered the receptions by 1,400 in 2003 and by more than 7,000 in 2005, according to the directory. Figures for 2006 will not be available until the 2007 directory is published later this year.

Marriage or children may often be the spark that leads someone to enter the RCIA process. That was the case for Theodore D. Klein of Old Bridge, N.J., who joined 71 other catechumens and 144 candidates in ceremonies Feb. 25 in the Diocese of Metuchen, N.J.

Klein said his parents were Methodist and he sometimes went to church as a child, but he was never baptized. After marrying a Catholic, he began to re-evaluate the role of faith in his life and his plans for raising children. "I always felt kind of empty in that part of my life," he said.

But it was the birth of their son that prompted him to act. "My wife getting pregnant and my son's birth inspired me," he said. "It made me realize that this is what I needed to do in order to really feel complete."

Fourteen-year-old Aaron Sepulveda of Cleveland had a different story. He was raised in a Catholic family but never baptized. His mother, Mildred Vazquez, explained that their family moved from Cleveland to New York shortly after Aaron was born, so his baptism was delayed because they preferred to keep godparents in the family and had no relatives in New York.

When Sepulveda's mother approached him about preparing to enter the church, the high school freshman resisted at first because he thought he would be a lone teenager in a class of young children. When he saw the range of people, including adults, in the RCIA program, he decided to join.

"RCIA is strengthening my belief," he said. "It helps you get a grip on life and I realize that I can always turn to religion."



## Annual Bishop's Retreat will be March 23-25

SYRACUSE — Young adults, ages 18-40, are invited to mark their calendars now for the weekend of March 23-25, for the Annual Bishop's Retreat for College Students and Young Adults at the Oakwood Inn, Syracuse. This year's retreat, "Behold the Face of Christ; Live in the Heart of Christ," will include dynamic talks by Father Larry Kramer, pastor of St. Paul of the Cross Parish, Columbia City, Father Manuel Evangelista from St. Michael Parish, Plymouth, and Bishop John M. D'Arcy. Along with these talks, Mass, reconciliation and other activities, retreatants will enjoy the beautiful facilities, chapel and lakeside surroundings in a peaceful atmosphere.

The retreat will begin 6:30

p.m. Friday and goes through lunch on Sunday. Retreatants are asked to eat dinner prior to arriving on Friday.

All meals and lodgings will be provided for \$65 for those registered by Thursday, March 15. Later registration is \$85. English and Spanish speakers are welcome.

For more information or to register, see your campus or young adult minister or parish priest, call the Office of Campus and Young Adult Ministry in Fort Wayne at (260) 483-3661 or in South Bend at (574) 259-5754, e-mail [srjacinta@fw.diocesefwsb.org](mailto:srjacinta@fw.diocesefwsb.org), [mgibson@fw.diocesefwsb.org](mailto:mgibson@fw.diocesefwsb.org), [mpirie@fw.diocesefwsb.org](mailto:mpirie@fw.diocesefwsb.org), or [lzepeda@fw.diocesefwsb.org](mailto:lzepeda@fw.diocesefwsb.org), or visit the diocesan Web site: [www.diocesefwsb.org](http://www.diocesefwsb.org).

## Priest finds strong faith among Amman's Chaldean Catholic refugees

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

AMMAN, Jordan (CNS) — At dusk, a handful of men and women begin to trickle into a stone-faced apartment building in Amman's Jabal Lweibdeh neighborhood. At the staircase leading to the entrance of the building a small sign proclaims "Chaldean Catholic Vicariate."

The people have come to attend the Wednesday Sacred Heart devotion and Mass said by Father Raymond Moussalli, patriarchal vicar, who was sent by the Chaldean Catholic Church in Baghdad five years ago to minister to the burgeoning Chaldean community in Jordan.

"Orthodox Christians go to (the) Orthodox church. I am Chaldean. I want to go to a Chaldean church," said Maisoun Gerdis, who has been in Jordan for seven years and regularly attends the Wednesday services in addition to Sunday Mass. Praying her own liturgy strengthens her, she said.

Father Moussalli is the sole Chaldean priest permanently assigned to Amman, although occasionally a priest is sent from Iraq or Syria to assist him.

The refugee population is always in transition, and the number of the faithful under his pastoral care can reach as high as 10,000 or fall to 8,000, Father Moussalli said.

Every Wednesday about 20 people come to the apartment — where a chapel has been set up in the living room — for the devotion and Mass, said Father Moussalli. Once a month he conducts a Bible study for the community. He describes the spiritual faith of his flock as strong.

"The people feel their faith



CNS PHOTO/DEBBIE HILL

**Father Raymond Moussalli says Mass for Iraqi refugees in the Chaldean Catholic Vicariate in Amman, Jordan, Feb. 14. Father Moussalli, the sole Chaldean priest in Amman, looks after the spiritual needs of 8,000-10,000 Catholics, including many refugees from Iraq.**

and like to be safe with us," said Father Moussalli. "But what they really want is (to get) a visa and go abroad. Here they have no house, no work, no studies. It is terrible ... this Bush peace. We don't understand the war. You are against Saddam Hussein, not against the people of Iraq."

Many Iraqi families have been separated because of the situation in their country, he said, and they face great emotional strain and come to him asking for material and spiritual help.

"They ask why this is happening to them," he said.

While he can't give them material help, he tries to "give them Jesus," he said.

"I answer them that we need

to have patience, that Jesus is with us all our lives. Maybe this is a temptation from the devil. We have to be very strong in our faith," he said. "The situation here really affects people. ... I try to visit them in their houses, but I can't visit them all. I am alone here. But they are very happy a priest comes to visit."

Since his arrival he has performed 100 marriage ceremonies, 60 baptisms and 20 funerals, he said.

"Before, many people would send their dead back to Iraq for burial. Now it is terrible and not possible," he said, adding that he expects to be performing more funerals and burials in Amman.

## Church officials say influx of Iraqis puts burden on Jordan

BY JUDITH SUDILOVSKY

AMMAN, Jordan (CNS) — The enormous influx of Iraqis over the past five years has put a large burden on Jordan, said church aid officials trying to help the refugees.

Though official estimates put the number of Iraqi refugees in Jordan at about 1 million, Catholic groups working with the refugees say that number is closer to 1.5 million.

"Overall the situation is very difficult," said Ra'ed Bahou, director of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine in Amman. "Most of the refugees are very poor, and this country does not have the resources" to deal with the situation.

The arrival of the Iraqi refugees in this landlocked nation of some 5 million people — more than half of whom are former Palestinian refugees — has caused prices to skyrocket, making the cost of living for the average Jordanian almost prohibitive, said Hania Bsharat, assistant manager of the Extremely Vulnerable Individuals project of Caritas Jordan, the local church's charitable aid agency.

"Most Jordanians do not welcome the Iraqis," she said. "We are a poor country. We need a solution — resettlement in Jordan or in a foreign country, and we hope that they will be allowed to work and send their children to school. There is no way they can go back to Iraq."

The only escape routes left open to Iraqis trying to flee their war-torn country lead to Syria or Jordan, but the regulations for entering those countries fluctuate, sometimes daily, leaving people bewildered and unsure of how to proceed, aid workers said.

For example, recently the minimum age for males permitted to enter Jordan was raised from 35 to 40 for "security reasons," and Syria also recently imposed a similar directive.

When they manage to cross into Jordan, the Iraqis arrive in Amman with no legal status and no rights, having escaped from threats of kidnapping, murder and daily bombings that leave hundreds of people dead every week. The refugees lack health care, employment and educational opportunities for their children.

Bsharat said the Extremely Vulnerable Individuals project, which provides funds for health care, food and humanitarian assistance, has seen an increase in the number of people turning to it for help in the past year; many have chronic diseases that went unchecked in Iraq.

"Most of the people who come seeking our help are (also) depressed," she said, sitting in the Caritas offices in downtown Amman. "They don't want just health care."

The elderly, young mothers with babies, women in wheelchairs — their faces all darkened by the same grim resignation — line the walls in the reception room as they wait for social workers to do the initial assessment. Later, they will sit with one of the seven caseworkers, who will then visit their homes to help determine the degree of need and amount of help Caritas can provide.

Each caseworker sees about seven families a day, said Bsharat.

Cathy Breen, a member of the Catholic Worker Movement in New York and researcher on Iraqi issues for Voices for Creative Nonviolence, said the most basic need of Iraqis in Jordan is to have their legal status clarified so they can work, send their children to school and be free from fear of deportation.

Currently, she said, one of the requirements for becoming a legal resident is to have \$100,000 frozen in the bank — a clear impossibility for the majority of refugees who have had to leave almost all their own in Iraq.

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# Supreme Court justice to deliver Saint Mary's commencement address

NOTRE DAME — United States Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr. will deliver the 2007 commencement address at Saint Mary's College. Commencement takes place at noon on Saturday, May 19 in front of LeMans Hall.

Alito was nominated to the Supreme Court by President George W. Bush, and was sworn in on Jan. 31, 2006. He previously served as a judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, having been appointed by President George H.



**Supreme Court Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr.**

Bush in 1990. Alito grew up in New Jersey and graduated from Princeton University in 1972 before attending Yale Law School.

Alito is the 11th Catholic to serve on the Supreme Court and the fifth on the current court, along with Chief Justice Roberts and Associate

Justices Antonin Scalia, Anthony Kennedy and Clarence Thomas.

"It is an honor and a privilege to welcome a United States Supreme Court Justice to Saint Mary's College," says Saint Mary's President Carol Ann Mooney. "I have known Justice Alito for several years. I worked with him on the Judicial Conference Advisory Committee on the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure. We were both members of the committee."

# New ND \$14 million building to house Institute for Church Life, Center for Social Concerns

BY DENNIS BROWN

NOTRE DAME — Gifts totaling \$14 million, primarily from Michael and Sheila Geddes and Thomas and Mary Cabot, will fund the construction of a new building for the Institute for Church Life (ICL) and the Center for Social Concerns (CSC) at the University of Notre Dame.

To be called Geddes Hall, the building will be approximately 64,000 square feet in size and will include a chapel named after the Cabot family. The facility will be located on an expanded site in the same area as the current Center for Social Concerns. Construction is expected to begin in the spring of 2008 and completed by the fall of 2009.

"The Institute for Church Life and the Center for Social Concerns are important components in Notre Dame's Catholic mission to better serve students, society and the church," said the university's president, Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins. "This new building will provide the expanded and enhanced space which the institute and center need because of the growth in demand for their services and programs. In addition, it

will help foster many synergistic opportunities for the two entities to work more closely together on programs involving students, alumni and other Notre Dame constituents in service to the church and society. We are deeply appreciative of the extraordinary generosity of our donors in making this important growth opportunity possible."

Michael Geddes earned his bachelor's degree from Notre Dame and a master of business administration degree from Harvard University. A member of Notre Dame's Board of Trustees, he is chairman and president of Geddes and Company of Phoenix, a private investment and consulting firm he founded in 1978. He also is chairman of several other Phoenix-based companies engaged in engineering, consulting, financial services and real estate.

Geddes is active in numerous civic and service organizations in Phoenix and serves as a trustee liaison on Notre Dame's Institute for Church Life Advisory Council. He has been awarded an honorary monogram from Notre Dame and was the 2006 recipient of the University's Rev. Edward F. Sorin, CSC, Award.

Thomas D. Cabot is a 1944

graduate of Harvard University, where he studied the then-emerging field of electronics. He served in World War II as an officer in naval aviation and spent his business career in venture capital and worldwide petrochemicals.

Cabot currently is in the top management of a dozen family-owned companies and trusts in Massachusetts, Maine and Colorado, including the Virginia Wellington Cabot Foundation, which he helped to create to promote philanthropy within his parents' 98-member Cabot family. Mary Cabot has been equally involved in these as well as other activities. The youngest of their six children, James, is a 1990 graduate of Notre Dame.

The Cabots have been active in nearly every aspect of education, primarily in Greenwich, Conn., and with the Archdiocese of Bridgeport, Conn. They now reside in Naples, Fla., and have been members of the ICL Advisory Council since 1996. They are the primary sponsors of the CSC's international Summer Service initiative, which helps those in need in underdeveloped nations and broadens the experiences and perspectives of the Notre Dame students who serve.

## GUERIN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Theodore's intercession. Sister Jeanne spoke about how the current practices of the congregation have their foundation in St. Mother Theodore's spirituality, in particular the practices of prayer, forgiveness, reconciliation and reliance on Providence.

"We are blest to have a Hoosier saint, someone who breathed our air and who trod our sod. The Sisters of Providence are especially blest in knowing their foundress, Mother Theodore, who was not only a woman of holiness, but a genuine superstar in the history of American Catholicism," said Bishop William Higi of the Diocese of Lafayette in Indiana, who offered the homily.

"In St. Theodore Guérin, God has given us a model of holiness and an example of trust in divine Providence. Today, we have gathered to praise God for this treasure, we seek our Hoosier saint's intercession, we marvel at her accomplishments, and we pray with an attitude of gratitude for those who have helped us,"

Bishop Higi said.

"To me, this day was like a pilgrimage.

Mother Theodore could be called the foundress of Catholic schools in Fort Wayne. The sisters have had a tremendous influence on our diocese, especially in the Fort Wayne area.

She is very close to us," said Bishop John M. D'Arcy of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Bishop D'Arcy said the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend is planning a celebratory

liturgy in honor of St. Mother Theodore later this year.

"I know so many of the Sisters of Providence. I worked with many of them in Indianapolis for 28 years and now in Evansville. I have very good friends here. It is kind of like coming home for me to be here. The sisters taught many in my family, including myself," said Bishop Gerald Gettelfinger of the Diocese of Evansville.

He said it is important for the local bishops to stay connected with St. Mother Theodore's message because they have a voice greater than the Indiana church and are able to share the message with the universal church.

"We are so pleased to have had the opportunity to host the leaders of Indiana's Catholic congregations," Sister Denise said. "They all seemed eager to hear more about Mother Theodore. We are grateful that the group chose to come to Saint Mary-of-the-Woods to share in Mother Theodore's legacy and spirituality. They will help amplify the story about our beloved foundress through the state that she adopted as her own."

St. Mother Theodore was canonized Oct. 15 in Rome by Pope Benedict XVI. She started Catholic schools throughout

Indiana, a practice that was maintained for generations of sisters after her. St. Mother Theodore founded the Sisters of Providence in 1840. She died in 1856.

As part of the morning program, the women and men religious

watched a video presentation on the making of St. Mother Theodore's coffin, which now rests with her remains at a shrine inside the Church of the Immaculate Conception. The shrine is open to the public.

**"We are blest to have a Hoosier saint, someone who breathed our air and who trod our sod."**

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## Polish leaders express praise for new head of Warsaw Archdiocese

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Two months after Pope Benedict XVI's first choice as archbishop of Warsaw, Poland, resigned amid accusations of collaborating with communists, the pope named a 57-year-old bishop to take the post. Archbishop Kazimierz Nycz, who had been bishop of Koszalin-Kolobrzeg, was named archbishop of Warsaw March 3. Newspapers have published quotations from the file that communist Poland's secret police kept on the cleric, saying that he repeatedly had refused to cooperate. A Polish priest's new book describes how the secret police attempted over the course of 12 years to recruit Archbishop Nycz as an informer but gave up in the face of his refusals. Archbishop Stanislaw Wielgus was named archbishop of Warsaw in December, but resigned during his installation Mass Jan. 7 after two separate commissions said they had seen signed documents indicating he had "deliberately and secretly collaborated" with Poland's secret police. In an interview with Vatican Radio March 4, Archbishop Nycz said that from the time he was named bishop of Koszalin-Kolobrzeg in 2004 he "was convinced that the entire past — mine, that of the priests and of the entire church — had to be faced, because the past of the Polish church is heroic."

## Prayer matter of eternal life, death for Christians, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said prayer was not optional for Christians but a matter of eternal life and death. He made the remarks at a noon blessing March 4, the day after finishing a weeklong spiritual retreat at the Vatican. The pope said Christ demonstrated in key moments of his own life that prayer is not an "evasion of reality" but a way to deepen the acceptance of life's responsibilities and God's will. "Dear brothers and sisters, prayer is not an accessory, an optional, but rather is a question of life or of death. In fact, only someone who prays and who trusts in God with filial love can enter into eternal life," he said. He encouraged everyone to find time for silence, meditation and prayer during Lent.

## Holy Cross Associates discontinued as order rethinks lay programs

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — A small Catholic volunteer program based at the University of Notre Dame is being discontinued and rethought. Meeting at the University of Portland last summer, delegates from the Congregation of Holy Cross recommended that the Holy Cross Associates program stop in 2007 because of lack of focus and interest. But, said one priest who is a former member of the program, the decision leaves the congregation "on the threshold of a new

# NEWS BRIEFS

## PRIESTS AND SEMINARIANS PRAY AT SOCCER MATCH



CNS PHOTO/ALESSIA GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Priests and seminarians from the Pontifical North America College pray prior to the start of a soccer match against the Pontifical Urbanian University during a first round match of the newly formed Clericus Cup soccer tournament in Rome March 3. The North American College squad beat the highly touted Pontifical Urbanian University 4-3 in a shootout after regulation time ended in a 0-0 tie.

beginning for lay association." Like Jesuit Volunteers, Holy Cross Associates are usually recent college graduates who live in small communities and work in social service agencies. Since 1978, the volunteers have served in six U.S. cities including Portland, the original site. They have served at parishes, drug and alcohol centers, homeless shelters and schools. There is also an associates' house in Chile.

## Australian cardinal launches countdown to World Youth Day 2008

SYDNEY, Australia (CNS) — Cardinal George Pell of Sydney launched the 500-day countdown to World Youth Day 2008 and encouraged pilgrim groups to register online early for the event. "It's a long way to Australia from other parts of the world, you can't just get on a bus in Warsaw and drive here," Cardinal Pell said at the launch March 2 in front of St. Mary's Cathedral in Sydney. A giant digital clock in front of the cathedral will count down the days until Sydney hosts World Youth Day in July 2008. "Our wish is to avoid a situation as occurred when Rome hosted World Youth Day (2000) and three quarters of a million pilgrims decided to come in the last three weeks," Cardinal Pell said. Auxiliary Bishop Anthony Fisher of Sydney, the chief organizer of World Youth Day 2008, said most come to the approximately five-

day events as members of diocesan pilgrim groups, religious movements and youth groups. He said online registration of groups had been opened up four months earlier "to capture information" on expected numbers, language groups and special needs.

## Popular Chicago pastor to head Catholic Church Extension Society

CHICAGO (CNS) — Father John J. "Jack" Wall, pastor of Chicago's historic Old St. Patrick's Church, has been named president of the Chicago-based Catholic Church Extension Society. His appointment was announced March 1. Father Wall succeeds Bishop William R. Houck, 80, who retired from the post at the end of February. Catholic Extension serves 80-plus mission dioceses in the United States. Over its 100-year history, it has distributed more than \$400 million in donations for church construction, religious education and seminary formation, campus and outreach ministries, evangelization and salaries for missionaries. For Father Wall, the church's mission is defined more by what it does than where it is located, after seeing his own parish reach far beyond its local ZIP code. Since he started at Old St. Patrick's as pastor in 1983, he has seen the parish grow to more than 4,000 active members. "At Old St. Pat's, I knew early on that the traditional, geographically or ethnically

defined parish was not what could happen here," said Father Wall, a co-founder of the popular Theology on Tap program for young adult Catholics. The church, which is the city's oldest public building, concentrated on serving young adult Catholics in Chicago as well as professionals from the nearby business district.

## Texas bishops urge moral guidelines for expanding energy resources

AUSTIN, Texas (CNS) — As Texans engaged in a statewide debate over building new coal-fired electric generating plants to meet their expanding energy needs, the state's Catholic bishops said that concern for the poor and the common good should help frame the discussion. In a statement Feb. 20 the bishops warned that the proposed coal plants "could pose significant health problems such as increased susceptibility to bacterial infection and increased cases of asthma." "The plants will release sulfur dioxide and nitrous oxides — pollutants which are a particular problem for poor families and children, vulnerable workers and farmers," the bishops said, noting that those who work outside are likely to feel the worst effects of additional air pollution across the state. The bishops' statement was released the same day a Texas district judge blocked a 2005 executive order by Gov. Rick Perry that would put government permits for

building coal-fired plants on a fast track, cutting the time for environmental objections and administrative hearings in half. Ranchers, environmentalists, mayors of major cities and many newspapers in the state have lined up in opposition to the fast-track order.

## Cardinal says pope's letter to Chinese will be sent at Easter time

ROME (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI's letter to Chinese Catholics will be released at Easter time and will encourage the faithful, clarify issues of doctrine and call for full religious freedom, said China's cardinal. Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kun of Hong Kong told Catholic News Service in Rome March 1 that he has seen drafts of the pope's letter. After a two-day meeting in January on the status of the Catholic community in mainland China, the Vatican had announced that the pope would be writing the letter. "On issues regarding the divine position of the church and freedom of religion, the Holy Father will seek to clarify the truth," Cardinal Zen said. The cardinal, a Salesian, was in Rome to give a speech and preside at a liturgy at the Pontifical Salesian University. Cardinal Zen said that as a diplomatic courtesy Pope Benedict's letter will be translated into Chinese and will be sent to the government of China several days before it is released to the public.

## Ill-fated nomination only one piece of Eagleton's political legacy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Fated to be remembered principally as the vice presidential nominee who had to step down because of treatment for depression, Sen. Thomas Eagleton also made his mark in the Senate as a strong opponent of abortion and harsh critic of the war in Vietnam. Eagleton died March 4 at St. Mary's Health Center in the St. Louis suburb of Richmond Heights from a combination of heart, respiratory and other problems. He was 77 years old. Although he served in various state offices in Missouri including as attorney general, and spent three terms in the U.S. Senate, Eagleton's lasting moment in the spotlight came in 1972 when he was nominated as the Democratic candidate for vice president. Sen. George McGovern of South Dakota topped the ticket. When it was disclosed by the news media that Eagleton had been treated in the 1960s for depression with shock therapy, he stepped down, after little more than two weeks as nominee. In an interview days after being nominated, Eagleton said he found it particularly interesting how little was being made of his Catholicism only 12 years after being Catholic was treated as a liability during the campaign of President John F. Kennedy. "The thing that was important in getting me the nomination was such a liability in 1960," Eagleton said.

## Ancilla College plans inaugural events

**DONALDSON** — Several community events are planned next week to celebrate the March 16 inauguration of Dr. Ronald L. May as the fifth president of Ancilla College in Donaldson.

A music recital featuring Vivian Taylor as soprano and Herman Taylor as organist is scheduled at 7 p.m. on March 13 at the Ancilla Domini Chapel at the motherhouse of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ adjacent to the college campus. A reception will follow at Cana Hall at the PHJC Ministry Center.

On March 14, Ancilla will host a College Community Fun Night at 7 p.m. at Charger Arena, located at the LifePlex Center on U.S. 30 west of Plymouth.

The public is invited to visit the Ancilla campus on March 15 during an open house at the Ball Library from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. and from 5 p.m. until 7 p.m.

Ancilla College is a liberal arts institution of higher learning sponsored by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ. The college's religious tradition is Roman Catholic, and its climate is ecumenical.

The college serves a diverse population, empowering students to achieve high academic goals, lifelong learning, successful careers and values-centered lives. It is located in Donaldson just south of U.S. 30 west of Plymouth.

For more information on the inaugural events call the college at (574) 936-8898.

## Local advisor earns first membership in Round Table

**PARK RIDGE, Ill.** — Outstanding product knowledge and client service have enabled Edwin R. Eckersall Jr., of the Knights of Columbus in Fort Wayne to earn his first membership in the prestigious Million Dollar Round Table (MDRT).

Achieving membership in MDRT is a distinguishing career milestone, attained only by those who have demonstrated exceptional professional knowledge, expertise and client service. The Round Table's membership represents the top life insurance and financial service professionals worldwide.

Eckersall attends St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne.

## ISSMA state results for Bishop Luers students announced

**FORT WAYNE** — Bishop Luers High School students participated in the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) competitions Feb. 17 and Feb. 24.

On Feb. 24 at Warren Central High School in Indianapolis, several students placed in the solo ensemble vocal-piano competition. Each Bishop Luers student who participated received gold with a total of 38 gold medals given to Bishop Luers students.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## STUDENTS JUMP ROPE TO FIGHT HEART DISEASE



PROVIDED BY ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL, NEW HAVEN

The students at St. John the Baptist School in New Haven raised \$2,058.85 during their Jump Rope for Heart event held during Catholic Schools Week. All donations benefited the American Heart Association to help fight heart disease and stroke. The students accounted for over \$1,000 of the total amount raised. Deb Buechner, the school coordinator, congratulated these top fund-raisers on a job well done. Their efforts helped St. John School surpass the school goal of \$2,000. In the photo are Autym Keller, Austin Pranger, Aaron Rorick, Alexis Adams, Olivia Hunt and Eric Trabel.

The following students participated:

- Solo — Tessa Derickson, Krista Swaidner, Abby Niederman, Jimmy Mitchell, Elliot Barger and Colton Derickson

- Bishop Luers Women — Tessa Derickson, Amber Gottfried, Allison Jackson, Elizabeth Clinger, Andrea Allphin, Danielle Quinn, Erica Brewer, Amanda Krouse, Emily Van Dyke, Talissa Drew, Krista Swaidner, Elizabeth Harrison, Katie Schultheis, Jeannie Gibson, Abby Niederman and Hannah Schindler

- Bishop Luers Men — Tom Saul, Colton Derickson, Spencer Coe, David Andrews, Jeff Andrews, David Bryant, Kris Andorfer, Nick Abbott, Michael Welling, Vince Koehl, Elliot Barger, Wardell Bradford, Brady Siples, Jimmy Mitchell, Joe Voirl and Tim Kawiecki

ISSMA Solo and Ensemble State Contest results from Saturday, Feb. 17, at North Central High School included a gold in instrumental by junior Mandi Lazzaro who performed "Chromatic Fox Trot" by George Hamilton Green.

## Shaughnessy to speak at New Eve Project at USF

**FORT WAYNE** — The New Eve Project will take place on

Thursday, March 22, at 7:30 p.m. at the University of Saint Francis Student Center: Caitlin Shaughnessy will discuss Healthy Dating Habits: A Forum for Women.

Shaughnessy is counselor for the Women's Care Center and a 2006 graduate from the University of Notre Dame. She was one of the founders and organizers of the Edith Stein conference there last spring at Notre Dame and wrote her senior thesis on Pope John Paul II's vision of the dignity and vocation of women and where it intersects with and diverges from secular feminism.

Shaughnessy currently works full-time as a counselor and chastity outreach coordinator for the Women's Care Center in South Bend-Mishawaka and is preparing for her wedding this summer. She will also be speaking at this year's Edith Stein conference about her experiences as a counselor.

## Organists receive ISSMA recognition

**INDIANAPOLIS** — Gayle Elizabeth Arend, a freshman at Lakeland High School in LaGrange, and Kelly Landrigan, a senior at Homestead High School in Fort Wayne, are two parish organists who also placed in the Indiana State School Music Association (ISSMA) competitions Feb. 17 and Feb. 24.

Arend, who plays piano and keyboards for Masses at St. Gaspar Church in Rome City, received a first-place gold medal on Feb. 24 for her solo piece, "Juba" by R.N. Dett. Arend is the daughter of Rick and Mary Arend. She follows in the footsteps of her grandmother Rita Girard, the parish organist at St. Mary of the Assumption in Decatur.

Landrigan, a graduate of the diocesan Organist Training Program, plays organ and piano at St. Aloysius, Yoder, competed at the state level on Feb. 17 and received gold for clarinet in Division 1 trio. On Feb. 24, Landrigan and her sister Michelle took gold for Division 1 piano. They are the daughters of Dan and Linda Landrigan.

## Catholic school teacher named South Bend's citizen of the year

**SOUTH BEND** — Melissa Scott was recognized Sunday, Feb. 25, as South Bend's citizen of the year by City Councilman Derek Dieter. This recognition goes to a person who has impacted others and the city in significant ways throughout the prior year.

Scott is a fifth grade teacher at Holy Cross Catholic School, an inner city school on South Bend's near west side. She has taught there for the past seven years and

dedicates her time to every aspect of the school, including her teaching responsibilities, coaching athletic teams, coaching academic quiz bowl teams, assisting with other extracurricular activities, participating in and facilitating fund-raising activities, and taking students home after school when their parents have conflicts. In addition, Scott lives with her grandparents near the school and helps strengthen her neighborhood with her daily involvement.

## Bristol Catholics announce activities

**BRISTOL** — Bristol Catholic Singles Group, founded by St. Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church, has announced their upcoming singles' events. Participants range in age from 18-50. Single parents are welcome in the group, but children are not allowed at the events.

The group will go roller skating on Sunday, March 18, from 2-5 p.m. at Eby's Family Fun Roller Skating, located three miles east of Bristol on State Road 120 on the north side of the road. Admission is \$3.50 at the door and skate rental is \$2.

The group will also host a guest speaker and probably pizza at the church on Friday, April 27. Time will be announced.

Planned for Saturday, May 19, is a chartered 29-passenger bus to Cedar Point Amusement Park in Sandusky, Ohio. The bus leaves St. Mary's at 7 a.m. and returns at midnight. The cost of \$80 per person payable by May 1 includes park admission, but meals are not included.

Check for events in What's Happening of *Today's Catholic* or visit the Web site at [www.bristolcatholics.com](http://www.bristolcatholics.com). For information e-mail Jeanne or Joe Drust at [info@bristolcatholics.com](mailto:info@bristolcatholics.com).

## Christ Child Society raises funds with raffle

**SOUTH BEND** — The South Bend Christ Child Society was founded in 1947. It has provided more than 113,000 children with new clothing and has recently launched a two-month fund-raising drive on a 50-50 raffle, which will end March 28.

The society's membership has grown from a handful of members to more than 500 today, according to President Mary Liddell.

"From a handful of babies our organization started to help clothe in 1947, during recent years our group has worked diligently and successfully to help clothe more than 4,000 infants and youngsters annually," Liddell says.

The society generates 100 percent of its fund-raising to assist in this work, receives no state or local funding and has no employees, she says.

The tickets for the fund-raising raffle are \$100 each and may be purchased from any member, by mailing a check to Christ Child Society, P.O. Box 1286, South Bend, IN 46624 or by calling (574) 272-0960.

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## Pro-family agenda advances as General Assembly reaches halfway point

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

INDIANAPOLIS — After two months of steady legislative action, the Indiana Catholic Conference's pro-family agenda advances as the Indiana General Assembly reaches the halfway point.

Bills designed to help immigrants, poor families and marriages are moving forward and gaining momentum for the final two-month stretch before the April 29th adjournment deadline.

Two immigrant reform measures both authored by Catholic lawmakers have cleared the first major hurdle in the process. Senate Bill 445 authored by Sen. John Broden (D-South Bend) and co-authored by Sen. Joe Zakas (R-Granger) on notaries, passed the Senate 47-0. This bill protects immigrants from legal services fraud by making it illegal for notary publics to advertise as if they were legal advisors.

Senate Bill 445 would punish a person who knowingly or intentionally implies the person is an attorney using the word "notario." Currently individuals who are a notary public, may advertise in Spanish, as "Notario Publico" which in Spanish refers to a highly trained attorney. Under SB 445, the penalty for such actions could be a maximum fine of \$5,000 or up to one year in jail. Rep. David L. Niezgodski (D-South Bend) is the House sponsor of SB 445 and Rep. Mike Murphy is House cosponsor.

The other immigrant reform measure Senate Bill 463 authored by Sen. Tom Wyss (R-Fort Wayne) helps temporary legal residents gain a driver's license. The Real ID Act of 2005, a federal law aimed at providing better national security, requires anyone obtaining a driver's license to provide a Social Security number. However, immigrants who are in the United States legally with temporary visas for employment are not issued Social Security numbers and therefore cannot be issued a driver's license.

Sen. Wyss' bill, SB 463, which passed the Senate 47-2, would allow Indiana's Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) to issue a one-year driver's license to a

temporary legal immigrant who does not have a Social Security number. Before an Indiana driver's license would be granted, the applicant would have to verify ineligibility for a Social Security number and verify the applicant's lawful status in the United States.

Rep. Vern Tincher (D-Terre Haute) is the House sponsor of SB 463.

Three bills to help poor families have also passed the first chamber. The affordable housing bill, HB 1351 passed the Indiana House by a 62-36 vote. 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. Sen. Broden will be the Senate sponsor of HB 1351.

Another measure to help poor families is the earned income tax credit bill. House Bill 1074 authored by Rep. John Day (D-Indianapolis), provides an increase in the credit on earned income of low income families. The bill passed the Indiana House by an 83-17 vote. Sen. Vaneta Becker (R-Evansville) is the Senate sponsor of the bill.

House Bill 1167, the child and

ported by ICC did make the cut and could be considered and passed.

While some bills did not make the cut, overall many significant issues are still alive. Several pro-family issues cleared the first hurdle. Income tax credits for the working poor, protection of marriage and programs to help those most in need have a chance to become law. Now the process starts up again. Bills must get a hearing, pass committee and floor votes. This phase will end about mid April when the last phase of the process begins — conference committee. ICC will be a part of all the steps. The session deadline is April 29.

### A legislative update

BY GLENN TEBBE

We have reached the first benchmark of the session, commonly referred to as "crossover." In the coming weeks bills that passed the opposite chamber will be considered by the other body. For example bills that passed the Senate will "crossover" to the House for consideration. Bills that passed the House will "crossover" and go to the Senate for consideration. There is no guarantee that if a bill passed one house that it will pass the other. Committee chairs still decide which bill is heard and can move through the process. Several bills sup-

dependent care tax credit bill, passed the House 77-16. The bill, authored by Rep. Joe Micon (D-West Lafayette), provides a refundable income tax credit, of up to 50 percent of the federal tax credit, to working families earning less than \$45,000 per year. Sen. Ron Alting (R-Lafayette) is the Senate sponsor of HB 1167.

And a measure to amend the Indiana constitution to protect the sanctity of marriage Senate Joint Resolution 7 passed the Senate 39-10. The resolution, which would ban same-sex marriages in Indiana and prohibit courts from conferring marriage benefits on other couples or groups, now goes to the House for passage. It must pass the House in exactly the same form for the amendment to be eligible for a vote by Hoosiers in the 2008 election.

Once on the ballot, if SJR 7 is passed by a majority of Hoosiers, the amendment would become part of the Indiana Constitution. SJR 7 amendment defines that marriage in Indiana consists only of the union of one man and one woman. It provides that Indiana law may not be construed to require that marital status or the legal incidents of marriage be conferred upon unmarried couples or groups. Rep. Eric Turner (R-Marion) is the House sponsor of SJR 7. Rep. Scott Pelath (D-Michigan City) is the House cosponsor.

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# Lent is all about relationship

*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 third installment of a series that looks at how the season of Lent plays out in the everyday lives of different Catholics.*

While Lent is a time for looking inward, Joyce Racine asserts that it is also a time to work on relationships — with God, others and self. And while so many themes of Lent are solemn, she believes that the season is also a time for joy.

Joyce Racine is not some rebel or troublemaker. She is actually the RCIA director at St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, and it is her experience with RCIA that has given her yearly Lenten experience these intriguing qualities.

Up to the beginning of Lent, she and the class go over various aspects of what the Catholic Church is all about, but once Lent starts, the lessons end, and the focus shifts to prayer and living in a faith community.

"I'm not the teacher," explains Racine. "I'm just in there with them, walking with them, hopefully modeling, but not setting myself up as a model, because we all are."



DON CLEMMER

**Joyce Racine speaks to her RCIA class at St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne about Lent. Her work with RCIA has made Lent a community experience for Racine and has convinced her that relationship — with God, others and self — is a key component of the Lenten journey.**

This community approach to Lent is reflective of the interactive approach Racine takes to the entire RCIA program, allowing the spirit to work as the candidates learn from one another.

"The saints were just ordinary people who did extraordinary things," Racine notes, "and sometimes we see God doing extraordinary things in our relationships."

This could include helping each other have a successful Lent, Racine says, as friends are often best at pointing out the things that people might not notice about themselves that may have become habitual and gotten in the way of their relationship with God.

"And so that will be my focus for Lent, to really walk closer with Jesus," she says. "And, if I'm going to do that, well then I'd better act more like him. And if I'm going to do that, then I'm certainly going to reach out to others as he would and treat them with the kindness that he would."

Relationship with God is also highlighted on Ash Wednesday when the faithful are told to repent and believe the good news and to remember they are dust. The dust of this life, the fleeting things people are called to turn from, are the things that take time and energy away from a better relationship with God.

## REAL LENT

DON CLEMMER

"Lent, to me, is a time of fasting of something that is ungodly in me and that I want to improve," Racine explains. "And hopefully, by the time Lent is over, it's going to become a part of who I am."

This is where Lent becomes about relationship with self. One of the first RCIA lessons is on how people are created in the image and likeness of God.

"We talk that night about how that God part of us wants to grow," Racine says, "but whatever's going to grow within us is what we practice. And if we're practicing bad habits, that's going to take over. But if we really spend time with God ... and if you're in that relationship, you feel the love, and when you've got love, you can't help but give it away."

And again Lent becomes about relationship.

The other aspect of Lent for Racine — that it can be a time of joy — first emerged over 30 years ago when she received a note from a priest friend, who signed off, "Happy Lent."

Racine's first response was to think that "happy Lent" was an

oxymoron. Growing up, Lent was always a time of suffering and sacrificing, a somber time, but since she respected the priest, she knew there had to be something there and that she needed to figure out what.

Racine concludes, "When I'm living like I should be, when I'm really working on it, there is that happiness, there is that joy, there is that peace beyond understanding that comes from that."

One of her RCIA students once described it as the joy that comes from one's religious life and everyday life being one, the joy of being whole and authentic.

A significant part of the happy or joyful Lent for Racine is the element of surrender, of taking something ungodly in oneself to God, knowing that, alone, the task cannot be accomplished.

"I say, 'Take this from me, and give me the grace and the strength not to take it back.'"

And not taking it back, really letting it go, is a real challenge, one that can only be met when people let the God part in them grow.

## St. Vincent Girl Scouts help Women's Care Center

FORT WAYNE — While working towards their community service bronze award, members of the sixth grade Girl Scout troop at St. Vincent de Paul Church in Fort Wayne collected items for the Women's Care Center in Fort Wayne. The Women's Care Center assists woman in crisis pregnancy situations, offering an alternative to abortion.

The girls made presentations to the WINGS (Women in God's Service) Bible study group, to the sixth grade classes at the school, advertised their collection of items in the St. Vincent bulletin and collected donations at the church and in the sixth grade classrooms. A \$250 grant was also given to the girls through Youth As Resources of Allen County.

With the money received, the girls shopped and delivered baby diapers and wipes, car seats, gates, baby outfits, receiving blankets and onesies.

The Women's Care Center will use these gifts in the Crib Club. Clients of the Women's Care Center earn coupons to use at the Crib Club by attending parenting and birth prep classes at the center. They also receive coupons by going to doctor visits and other social services throughout the community. They can then use their coupons to purchase baby items in the crib club shop.



PROVIDED BY CHERYL HEISE

**The girls in the sixth grade Scout troop of St. Vincent de Paul School in Fort Wayne recently earned their Bronze Award by collecting and delivering items the Women's Care Center in Fort Wayne. The Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne staffs the Crib Club at the center, which through the distribution of coupons, allows Woman's Care Center clients to obtain such items as baby diapers and wipes, car seats, gates, baby outfits, receiving blankets and onesies. Many of the girls have expressed interest in volunteering at the Woman's Care Center.**

## Lenten recipes

BY STACY VIERA

McLEAN, Va. — To help *Today's Catholic* readers adhere to abstinence requirements, the following recipes are offered.

### Mexican Shrimp Pilaf

Warm up your family with this festive dish.

#### Ingredients

- 1 (6.8-ounce) package Spanish rice and vermicelli mix
- 2 tablespoons margarine, melted
- 2 cups water
- 1 (14 1/2 -ounce) can diced tomatoes, undrained
- 3/4 pound large shrimp, peeled and deveined
- 1 cup zucchini, chopped
- 1/2 cup frozen whole kernel corn, thawed
- 2 tablespoons ripe olives, sliced
- 2 tablespoons tortilla chips, crushed
- 1/2 cup cheddar cheese, grated
- 2 tablespoons green onion, chopped
- 1 jar picante sauce

#### Instructions

Sauté rice in margarine in a large skillet until golden, stirring frequently. Slowly add water, seasoning packet from rice, and tomatoes; bring to a boil. Cover; reduce heat to low and simmer

10 minutes. Stir in shrimp, zucchini, corn and olives; cover and simmer 5 to 10 minutes or until shrimp are pink and rice is tender. Transfer to serving bowl. Sprinkle with chips, cheese and onion. Serve with picante sauce. Makes 4 servings.

### Tilapia Piccata

Mild tilapia is an ideal pairing for stronger flavors such as lemon in this easy to prepare dish.

#### Ingredients

- 2 Tilapia fillets
- salt and pepper
- 1 Tbsp flour
- 1 Tbsp butter or margarine
- 2 Tbsp lemon juice
- 2 Tbsp minced parsley
- 4 thin slices lemon for garnish

#### Instructions

Pat tilapia dry and season lightly with salt and pepper. Dredge in flour, shaking off excess. Heat butter in a nonstick skillet over moderate heat until it bubbles. Add fish and cook for 3 minutes. Turn fish and continue cooking until fish flakes when tested with a fork. Remove fish from pan. Add lemon juice and parsley to pan; cook 30 seconds, stirring to loosen contents in the pan. Pour over hot fish. Garnish with lemon slices. Makes 2 servings.

# STEWARDSHIP

## The Christian steward models the life of Jesus

BY HARRY VERHILEY

Stewardship is a fairly new term in the vocabulary of the modern American Catholic. Yet the term, and concept, of stewardship is older than Christianity itself — dating back to the creation of the world in the Book of Genesis. God is the source of all things and God gives his creation to human beings, who are made in his image and likeness.

We are not made to be passive recipients, merely accepting and consuming God's gifts. To take these gifts for granted is an extreme misinterpretation of our role in a relationship with a loving Father. We are made, however, to be like God and share the gifts of his creation, just as God shares.

Stewardship defines our relationship with our Creator. Stewardship is an invitation to each of us to draw closer to God our father with a prayerful response to ask: "What does God want to do through me?" The

focus of stewardship is on the Giver, our loving Father, not on the gifts.

Jesus is the ultimate example of a Christian steward. Jesus lived a life one with God, living and acting as he kept his focus on God and God's will moment to moment. We, too, as Christian stewards are called to collaborate with God in his work of creation and re-creation throughout all of history.

Jesus shows us how to live as the image and likeness of God. To be like God is to be like Jesus — Christ-like. Jesus spent his entire earthly existence reliant on the Father and seeking to do the will of the Father. Are we not called to live the same?

Stewardship is an invitation, a call to vocation that is rooted in our biblical tradition, which reveals our relationship with God. God is the creator and giver of all gifts. We are the caretakers, "the stewards," placed here to care for God's gifts. A good steward takes on the same spirit of Jesus and

lives as Jesus — always concerned about pleasing the Father. Always asking, "What would God have me do?"

Those who give of themselves to the building of God's kingdom, to the life and mission of the church, are "disciples of Jesus." Being a disciple of Jesus means that we respond to the call of Jesus to follow his examples and teachings. His way of life becomes our way of life. Stewardship constitutes a way of life that is both privileged and challenging. Becoming a disciple of Jesus leads naturally to a life of stewardship and results in intense joy.

### A disciple's response

Our American bishops communicated this understanding of stewardship in their 1993 pastoral letter *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*. "The life of a Christian steward models the life of Jesus. It is challenging and even difficult, in many respects, yet intense joy comes to those who take the risk

to live as Christian stewards."

We are called to use our own gifts to participate in and support the church's mission of proclaiming, teaching, serving, sanctifying; there are many opportunities to serve through God's church. Each of us has the fundamental obligation that originates from the sacrament of baptism. The U.S. bishops point out even Jesus' self-emptying is unique, it is within the power of disciples and a duty that they be generous stewards of the church giving freely of their time, talent and treasure.

The U. S. bishops' pastoral letter, *Stewardship: A Disciple's Response*, does not provide a formal definition of the word stewardship. Instead, the bishops pose the question, "Who is a Christian steward?" Then they provide us with four characteristics that describe a Christian steward. The Bishop's Pastoral Letter on *Stewardship* expresses a Christian steward as "one who receives God's gifts gratefully, cherishes and tends them in a responsible and accountable manner, shares them in justice and love with others, and returns them with increase to the Lord."

### Gratitude

The first characteristic of a Christian steward is one who lives with gratitude. A Christian steward is "one who receives God's gifts gratefully." Gratitude presumes that we first acknowledge God as the giver of all gifts — the true owner of all that we have and all that we are. A profound sense of gratitude to God provides us a true perspective of our reliance on God — as children of God and as disciples of Christ.

### Accountability

The second characteristic of a Christian steward is one who lives with accountability. A good steward is "one who cherishes and tends God's gifts in a responsible and accountable manner." A true disciple knows that he or she will be held accountable for how all God's gifts have been managed or used. We are not solely responsible for what we do, or fail to do, with the gift of life — our time, our talent and our possessions. As disciples of Jesus, we are also very much responsible for proclaiming his Gospel and for building up his kingdom, and we will one day render an account of our stewardship of this awesome responsibility.

### Generosity

The third characteristic of a good steward is one who lives with generosity. The bishops

describe a Christian steward as "one who generously shares God's gifts with others out of a profound sense of justice and love."

Generosity may be the most powerful attribute of a Christian steward because it impels us to live outside of ourselves — often in ways that seem to contradict our own interests. The Scriptures and the lives of the saints give us countless examples of disciples who lived a radical life of selflessness. Their lives were counter-cultural, and they pushed the extreme in following Christ by living generously and won true spiritual freedom and lasting joy.

### Give back to the Lord with increase

The fourth characteristic of a Christian steward is one who gives back to the Lord with increase. Jesus' parable about the stewards makes it clear that God wants us to take the gifts that we have been given and develop them — not just for our own sake, but also for the common good and the building of the kingdom. A Christian steward is called to be productive and to make a profound difference in the world.

Stewardship promotes a way of life that is both privileged and challenging. A stewardship way of life is one that identifies us as disciples of Christ, and being a disciple of Christ leads naturally to a life of stewardship. Stewardship is how we live after we claim to be a "Christian."

The U.S. bishop's pastoral letter on stewardship invites all Catholics to invest themselves — time, talent and treasure — in the mission and ministries of the church. This invitation is a challenge for each of us to live a life of gratitude, accountability and generosity. A stewardship way of life is a way that truly seeks to live as a disciple of Jesus.

### A conversion process

Stewardship is a conversion process to which all baptized Christians are called to experience. It is a lifestyle based on prayer and the recognition of how we are blessed by God throughout our lives. Stewardship calls each of us to commit ourselves to God and to live that commitment by becoming personally involved in the mission of God, through his church, to the world. Stewardship challenges us to make conscientious decisions about our lives. Stewardship calls each of us to account for what God has given us, not only for the sake of knowing how much we have

## Giving God-given gifts is stewardship

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

SOUTH BEND — "Because Lent is 40 days, which is approximately 10 percent of the year, traditionally Lent is seen as a type of tithe of time especially dedicated to God. In the sacred Scriptures, 10 percent of everything that one possesses is set aside for the direct works of Lord," said Father Dan Scheidt, speaking on stewardship.

"Lent as a liturgical season is especially set aside for the prayer, fasting and almsgiving that unite us to the perfect sacrifice of Christ," noted Father Scheidt.

Stewardship, explained Father Scheidt, is the acknowledgment that everything that we receive is a gift and is intended ultimately to be given as a gift.

"The word steward is used often in the parables of Jesus to refer to somebody who is placed in the service of a master or a king so that possessions the steward administers ultimately don't belong to the steward but rather to the master. Christ wants us to think of the goods that we have at our disposition as being as if it were on loan from God to be used well," he noted.

Stewardship is really a func-

tion of holy Communion, further explained Father Scheidt.

"If we think of what we possess is ultimately in the service of heaven, that requires us to keep goods and good things in circulation. The only thing that will inherit the kingdom of God is that which is at the service of holy Communion. So that which we hoard for ourselves ends in us and isn't going to attain the sharing of

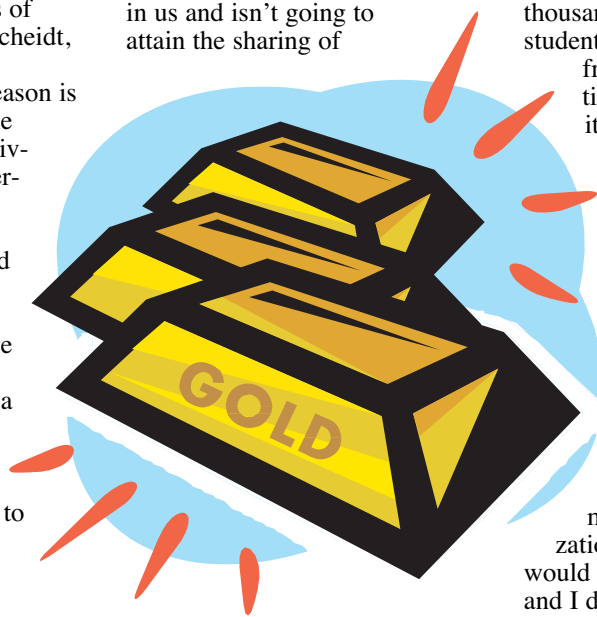
clogged within us, but to flow from us," he noted.

Father Scheidt knows that, for all of us, it takes a direct effort at times to make sure one is giving of their time, talent and also treasure. Years ago, he found that a suggestion of another person was all that was needed to give of his treasure to help others.

"I was just out of college, thousands of dollars in debt with student loans, when one of my friends suggested that I start tithing 10 percent and give it away. I was so deeply in debt it really didn't matter, as I had no hope of paying the loan off soon, and I have done that ever since. I found it very liberating.

Whenever I receive any money, I have a little piece of paper that I call my alms page," said Father Scheidt, "and I add up 10 percent of all that is given to me. I keep a file of organizations and institutions that would most benefit from my gift, and I disperse those funds accordingly," said Father Scheidt, who feels people could find more money to give if they only changed their habits.

"I think most people tend to spend money impulsively. ... Immediate and powerful desires



goods which is heaven. That's why Jesus is so insistent in the Gospels to wisely invest what is given instead of burying it in the ground. Even if we think of ourselves as the mystical body of Christ, charity is meant to circulate — it is not to be

# GIVING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

shape our spending. What stewardship emphasizes is the first percentage is given to the Lord, whatever that is. It's just important that it is the first. Even financial planners emphasize giving, saving and then spending on necessities and other wants. What stewardship does its actually shape a more balanced mature attitude to the spending of money so it is less impulsive, more deliberate. Less selfish and more generous."

The same thing applies to time, said Father Scheidt who says it isn't as hard as we think.

"I always emphasize the first tithing of our time is the third we have least control over — the time we are asleep. If we are nourished by the word of God in Scripture, even a tiny little paragraph from the Gospels before we go asleep, it's a way of setting aside that portion of the day exclusively to God. It's much easier to give the night over to Christ," said Father Scheidt who noted that "tithing of that third of our life, the other two thirds can be shaped accordingly, it can be lighter and happier."

During the day, it is also easy to give time to the Lord he noted.

"I emphasize carrying in a pocket or purse a little passage of Scripture or crucifix so that in the countless moments when waiting in line, in traffic or a doctors office, that little verse of Scripture or crucifix is a time that is consecrated to the Lord."



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samr@bonahoom.com**STEWARD**

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

and how God has blessed us, but also to know how much God is calling us to share what he has given us with others, and to invest his gifts in the building of his church. In the end, as good stewards, we recognize that we must give God an accounting of how we cared and shared for the gifts that he has given us.

**Three convictions**

The U.S. bishops underline three convictions in the pastoral letter on stewardship:

First, each baptized Christian is called to be disciple of Christ.

This calling is challenging, it's difficult, and it requires a daily struggle. We cannot do it on our own and we need God's help; therefore, we must pray.

Second, we are called to a change of heart through an entire way of life. It is not just tithing. It is not just giving ten percent of our earnings; rather it is giving a proportionate amount and then being held accountable for what we do with the other proportion. This change of heart — conversion — requires us to be involved with the mission of Jesus. It is not just giving a percentage of our time; it is involving us completely in the mission of Jesus. We simply cannot spend time on a worthy parish project and then not be accountable with how we spend our relaxation or entertainment time. Stewardship identifies God as the source of all that I have, even every momentary breath. The Christian steward recognizes that each breath is a gift from God. All that we have in life results from God's abundant generosity and we need to recognize our reliance on him and thank him.

Third, God calls us to look at who we are and what we do with the gift of life. To ask: "what do I own, and what owns me?" Prayerfully consider — on the day you die, are you leaving your treasure or going to it?

**Caretaker's outlook**

There is more to living as Christians, than just calling ourselves Christians. To live as Christians means that we have responded to the call of Jesus to follow him and imitate his way of life. The imitation of Jesus is a stewardship way of life. Our catechism teaches, "The ownership of any property makes its holder a steward of Providence... Those who hold goods for use and consumption should use them with moderation, reserving the better part for guests, for the sick and the poor." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, 2404 and 2405) In other words, we are caretakers of something that does not truly belong to us, and we have a responsibility for how we use these gifts. In the end we must give an account to the one who provides — God.

The bishops talk about a number of destructive "isms": materialism, relativism, hedonism, individualism, consumerism, all of these exert a power influence on our society and make it more difficult for us to grow as disciples and good Christian stewards as we struggle to live out our lives according to God's will.

The bishops see themselves, and us, as Catholic citizens of a wealthy, powerful nation facing many questions about its identity and role. We are members of a community of faith blessed with many human and material resources, yet often uncertain about how to sustain and use them.

A Christian steward has a deep understanding, an insight of a certain way of seeing life and all that life holds. This insight is a grace in which we can see God present and active in the works of creation, not only at the beginning of time, but moment to moment, throughout our lives in the here and now. This outlook of life is

*A strong shoulder  
in a difficult time.*

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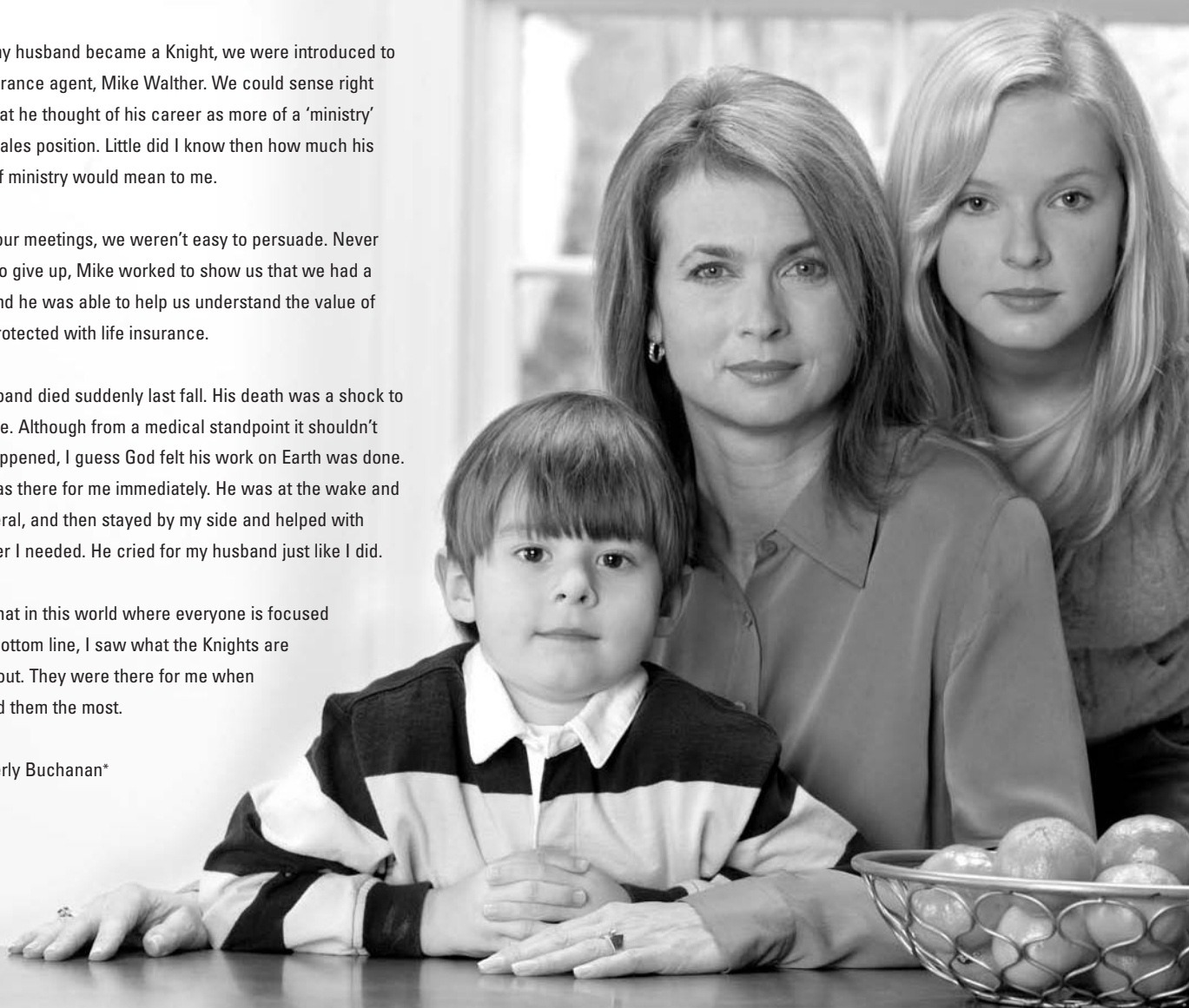
When my husband became a Knight, we were introduced to our insurance agent, Mike Walther. We could sense right away that he thought of his career as more of a 'ministry' than a sales position. Little did I know then how much his sense of ministry would mean to me.

During our meetings, we weren't easy to persuade. Never willing to give up, Mike worked to show us that we had a need, and he was able to help us understand the value of being protected with life insurance.

My husband died suddenly last fall. His death was a shock to everyone. Although from a medical standpoint it shouldn't have happened, I guess God felt his work on Earth was done. Mike was there for me immediately. He was at the wake and the funeral, and then stayed by my side and helped with whatever I needed. He cried for my husband just like I did.

I think that in this world where everyone is focused on the bottom line, I saw what the Knights are truly about. They were there for me when I needed them the most.

— Beverly Buchanan\*



\*Based on an actual letter. Names have been altered to preserve anonymity.

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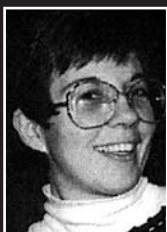
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the outlook of a Christian steward.

A stewardship way of life is a set of values, a spirit that affects our entire life, not based on what we have, or do not have, rather, based on gratitude to God for what we have, and awareness that God expects something of us. A good steward knows that life is

beyond living with this constant urge of desire whenever we see what we don't have. We must be careful about what we desire.

**Harry Verhiley** is the director of development for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.



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# Stewardship



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## EDITORIAL

## Indiana marriage amendment is for the good of family, society

The Indiana Senate's SJR 7 — the marriage amendment — passed 39-10, just days before Valentine's Day. The resolution, as summarized in this week's legislation article, "would ban same-sex marriages in Indiana and prohibit courts from conferring marriage benefits on other couples or groups."

Some may say that the state has no business regulating marriage, but in truth, the state has set regulations for marriage based on age, family relation and number of persons, as Sen. Brandt Hershman (R-Wheatfield) pointed out in the legislation article which ran in the *Today's Catholic* on Feb. 25.

Indiana Catholic Conference Executive Director Glenn Tebbe, who testified before a Senate panel in support SJR 7, said, "Even though the Indiana Court of Appeals has affirmed current law, the debate and effort to redefine marriage continues in our nation and state. SJR 7 will strengthen Indiana's law to defend and protect the definition of marriage and the church supports that."

Such an amendment would be supported by a 2003 document published by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which was published in the Feb. 25 issue of *Today's Catholic*. The document concludes: "The church teaches that respect for homosexual persons cannot lead in any way to approval of homosexual behavior or to legal recognition of homosexual unions. The common good requires that laws recognize, promote and protect marriage as the basis of the family, the primary unit of society. Legal recognition of homosexual unions or placing them on the same level as marriage would mean not only the approval of deviant behavior, with the consequence of making it a model in present-day society, but would also obscure basic values which belong to the common inheritance of humanity. The church cannot fail to defend these values, for the good of men and women and for the good of society itself."

The marriage amendment goes to the House for a vote, but it must pass the House in exactly the same form as passed by the Senate for the amendment to be eligible for a vote by Hoosiers in the 2008 election.

There are active forces desiring the defeat of the marriage amendment. We urge readers to voice their concerns with their House representatives that marriage be protected and family values encouraged. To contact the representatives, visit the Web site [www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl#house](http://www.in.gov/cgi-bin/legislative/contact/contact.pl#house).

### Prayer in tragedy's wake

If Lent is a time to reflect on suffering in the world, then two events in the last week have given us plenty. Both were tragic occurrences — one an accident, the other of nature — that feel particularly horrible because the victims were young people. Four students from Bluffton University in Ohio were among six killed when the charter bus taking them to Sarasota, Fla. plunged 30 feet off an overpass in Atlanta, Ga. to the highway below, and eight students from Enterprise High School in the town of Enterprise, Ala. died when a tornado tore through their school, completely demolishing it. Assistant Superintendent Bob Phares told the media shortly after the tornado, "We need your prayers." Suffering and tragedies go on every day, both in our country and around the world, from the ravages of disease, poverty or war, and most of the time, it goes unnoticed. But when a tragedy is so visible and involves young people, it would be a good idea to honor Phares' request and remember to pray, for them and all who suffer tragedies in the world today.

### Using our resources as good stewards

This week's issue focuses on stewardship. Lent is a good time to examine how we view our time, talent and treasure and how they influence our relationship with God — the giver of all gifts.

How do we use our time? Do we focus on those entrusted to our care — our spouses, children, family members, coworkers, friends, parish members?

Do we have gifts and talents that we bury? Do we discourage others from using their gifts or even nourishing their gifts?

Do we give God our leftover treasure or is he first?

Stewardship is about selfless giving and generosity. It's putting God first and using wisely the resources that he has set before us. Time is one thing we can never get back, so let's make the best if it and use it in selfless generosity.

**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](mailto:editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org)

## A Promise to Keep mentor writes about program

A Promise to Keep (APTK) is, in a word, a gift. It is a gift for all involved. A Promise to Keep is a program at Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, that is aimed at teenagers to promote, in general, good decision making. However, it is pinpointed toward the gift of our chastity and how it can be stained when we become involved in sinful activities such as drinking, drugs and premarital sex.

The APTK program teaches decision making skills, ways to boost self-esteem, and how to say no to drugs, alcohol and sex, while being confident about it. The program helps teens to realize how

important our chastity is to us and to God, since we all are a temple of the Holy Spirit.

As an APTK mentor, I go around to many of the Catholic schools in the Fort Wayne area, along with many other students from Bishop Dwenger, and speak to the seventh and eighth graders about linking drugs to sex.

That was the topic I was assigned last year, my sophomore year, along with two other students. As a mentor, I let my life experiences and my drive to help others lead me in talking to the students. I definitely believe it helps being so close to their age in speaking with them about these issues. I see using students to teach as a more down-to-earth approach, because we can relate to them, and they can relate to us. The mentors use stories and facts to truly help the students learn

that partaking in bad activities can ruin their lives.

The APTK program has affected me in several ways. I have learned many things; things quite possibly I may have never known if I was not involved in APTK. It has also strengthened my feelings and beliefs regarding self purity. It has, of course, improved my public speaking skills, and helped me feel secure about myself when speaking to others about issues that are not usually talked about. I am proud to say that I have never drunk alcohol, used drugs or had sex. It has led me closer to God. A Promise to Keep is a fantastic program, and I am glad that I am able to be one of its mentors.

**Eric Shoemaker**  
Junior, Bishop Dwenger High School  
Fort Wayne

## Christian marriage, participation and transformation

BY THERESA NOTARE

St. Augustine often gets bad press for his teachings on marriage and sex. Some say he "had issues," that he "feared" or had contempt for marriage and sex. Others say he was generally pessimistic and didn't have a happy thing to say about human nature.

These criticisms are challenged in a paper presented in October 2006 to the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Marriage and Family by Dr. John Cavadini of Notre Dame. Dr. Cavadini says some of Augustine's insights can serve to enrich the lives of Christian married couples. They can even help to transform their lives.

Augustine taught that the Christian life is "a journey of healing or purification of the heart," and that this is so because our baptism incorporates us into the body of Christ. These points seem so simple that we can easily miss their power, especially as they apply to building a loving, life-long marriage.

Although people often have admirable desires and aspirations, human nature can be pretty sloppy. People can act from less admirable motives, justifying even poor choices to themselves. This is only too clear with regard to married life and human sexuality. Dr. Cavadini points out that Augustine was especially mindful of how the effects of original sin harm relationships. For example, he observed that a husband and wife's conjugal relations should be a participation in "wondering joy in the presence of the other as a creature of God." It should therefore give "a type of praise of God." But due to the effects of original sin, sexual

pleasure can degrade into "domination, manipulation," or even "use of the other for self admiration or gratification."

If Augustine is right and human nature is so deeply flawed, what are we to do? That's where participation in the life of Christ comes in.

Augustine taught that baptism radically changes a person. It incorporates him or her into the body of Christ. Because each Christian has been grafted onto Christ's actual body, in St. Paul's words, "the life we lead is not our own." This has wondrous implications for Christian marriage.

Christ's very identity is that of love. Participating in his life by being incorporated into his body is to participate in Christ's love. Dr. Cavadini explains that this does not mean each baptized Christian is perfect like Christ. We are still human beings. It does mean, however, that each of us is in the process of "being transformed more and more fully by that love as we interact with each other." In the end, says Augustine, our human

hearts should be "conformed to the 'deep heart' of Christ." Spousal love is then transformed into a true offering of one heart to the other.

Christian marriage is a life time vocation, because Christ is an integral part of this covenant. Even though human love may fail, Christ's love does not. As members of the body of Christ, Christian spouses are never alone in their struggles and difficulties. They have the very lifeblood of Christ in them, to help them lay aside selfish desires and petty differences, to go the distance in mutual growth. Their one-flesh union participates in the reality of grace. As St. Augustine says, they are taking part in a journey with Christ. If Christian couples persevere, they will be transformed to love as Christ loves.

**Theresa Notare** is the assistant director for the Natural Family Planning program of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Washington, D.C.

### Clement Mary Hofbauer

1751-1820  
feast — March 15

A baker, Czech-born Johannes Hofbauer, after a period of solitary living and wandering between Rome and Vienna, established the Redemptorists north of the Alps and is considered the order's second founder. He was ordained a Redemptorist priest at age 34 and served in Poland for 20 years, until 1808, when Napoleon suppressed religious orders. He spent the rest of his life in Vienna, battling state control of the church, establishing a Catholic college, and working behind the scenes at the Congress of Vienna. He is the patron saint of Vienna.



# Women chip Vatican's glass ceiling with increased numbers, influence

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — If he looked around the chapel during his Lenten retreat this year, Pope Benedict XVI would have seen an all-male assembly.

The absence of women was not deliberate. The invitation to attend the pope's spiritual exercises goes out to the top two or three officials of Vatican agencies, and almost all of them are men.

The retreat chapel offered a snapshot of a Vatican reality: The number of women working in the Roman Curia has steadily increased but, with rare exceptions, they have not broken through to the upper levels.

Six months ago Pope Benedict said that, leaving aside the ordained priesthood, women need to "make their own space" in the church and that the hierarchy shouldn't stand in their way.

The pope expressed satisfaction that women today were "very present in the departments of the Holy See." But he noted one problem: The power to make legally binding decisions in the Roman Curia is linked to holy orders.

That means the top two positions in each Vatican agency are

filled by cardinals and bishops.

In a breakthrough in 2004, Salesian Sister Enrica Rosanna was named an undersecretary of the Vatican congregation that deals with religious orders. That's No. 3 in the chain of command, and it made her the highest-ranking woman at the Vatican. But it didn't settle the question of whether she could exercise the power of governance in her role.

In general, the presence of women at the Vatican has increased dramatically over the last 30 years or so. Since the beginning of Pope John Paul II's pontificate in 1978, the percentage of women employees in the main Roman Curia offices — Secretariat of State, congregations and councils — has approximately doubled, from 11 percent to 21 percent.

"I've definitely seen a change," said Filomena D'Antoni, who has worked at the Congregation for Eastern Churches for 25 years.

"When I came here, there were not only fewer women but they were also more closely monitored, in terms of behavior, dress and mentality. Today it's much more

## THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

open and women are more accepted," she said.

Others who work in these offices, however, pointed out that most women are in support staff positions and have little decision-making input.

And there are whole sectors of the Vatican that still have no women: the tribunal system, for example.

The Vatican's diplomatic corps also remains all-male and all-clerical. The thinking is that these men are not only diplomats, but personal representatives of the pope to the local church and therefore should be ordained.

Among the top curial depart-

LETTER, PAGE 16

# Jesus warns to reform or face doom



## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### 3rd Sunday of Lent Gospel: Lk 13:1-9

The Book of Exodus is the source of the first reading. It recalls the encounter between God and Moses at the burning bush. Moses is reported as tending his father-in-law's flock. Suddenly an angel appeared and led Moses to a bush. The bush, although on fire, did not burn.

Then God spoke, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. There was no mistake about identity. God, always with the people, knew of their plight. He was neither unfeeling nor removed. He was intervening in the situation to give the people relief.

Moses was to be the instrument of this relief by leading the people out of Egypt.

God, although present, is sublime. He is almighty and above all. Moses cannot stand to look upon God's face. Moses, by removing his footwear, shows respect even for the ground upon which he meets God.

Finally, God speaks the divine name to Moses. It was a supreme revelation. In the Hebrew tradition, names carried the very being of the person. To know a person's name was to be given access to the person's identity.

The First Epistle to the Corinthians provides the second

reading. Corinth's Christian community challenged Paul since the city was a reservoir of excesses and moral outrages, and Christians were vulnerable.

Nevertheless, Christians had to follow the Gospels despite the pressures to do otherwise. Paul warned them, encouraged them, taught them and sought to inspire them. This reading is typical of his effort in these regards.

He gives the history of God's people. Without God's guidance, without the nourishment provided by God, the people will die. What they had from earthly resources will not protect or sustain them. St. Paul tells his readers, the Corinthian Christians, that God alone is the source of true life.

St. Luke's Gospel furnishes the last reading. This reading gives one of the rare glimpses of Pontius Pilate in the Gospels outside the Passion narratives. It is not complimentary to him. The Roman governor who sentenced Jesus to death was ruthless and unmerciful. He also had no regard for the God of Israel, or for the religion of the people who worshipped the God of Israel. (An ancient tradition is that he was recalled to Rome because of his brutality, a brutality too vicious even by accepted standards of Roman imperial governance.)

Jesus said that the victims of Pilate's impetuous cruelty did not deserve what they received. Jesus referred then to an accidental disaster, when 18 people killed by a falling tower in Siloam. He noted that they too were innocent.

However, all those to whom Jesus referred in the end died, innocent or not. They could not control evil decisions or others or mishaps of nature or invented things. He warns the audience to

reform, or else they too will face doom.

Then, Jesus tells the parable of the barren fig tree. The owner wants to destroy the tree, but the vinedresser pleads for another year, for enough time to nourish the tree in the hope that it will bear fruit.

### Reflection

We move through Lent. The church in these readings is very frank. It tells us that abandoning God reaps a whirlwind of calamity, sweeping into its wake even the innocent. Thus were killed the victims of Pilate's outrage, as well as those who accidentally died when the tower fell.

Humans inevitably propel themselves into disaster when they rely upon themselves alone. As the first reading said, God only is the source of truth and genuine wisdom.

So, in the clear words of Christ in the Gospel, the church calls us to repent in Lent. We are like the fig tree. God is patient, but one day will be our last on earth. It is up to us.

### READINGS

**Sunday:** Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15 Ps 103:1-4, 6-8, 11 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12 Lk 13:1-9

**Monday:** 2 Kgs 5:1-15b Pss 42:2-3; 43:3-4 Lk 4:24-30

**Tuesday:** Dn 3:25, 34-43 Ps 25:4bc-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9 Mt 18:21-35

**Wednesday:** Dt 4:1, 5-9 Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20 Mt 5:17-19

**Thursday:** Jer 7:23-28 Ps 95:1-2, 6-9 Lk 11:14-23

**Friday:** Hos 14:2-10 Ps 81:6c-11b, 14, 17 Mk 12:28-34

**Saturday:** Hos 6:1-6 Ps 51:3-4, 18-21b Lk 18:9-14

## CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Campion

The month of March is named after Mars, the god of war. This quiz looks at an unusual group of monks involved in wars — specifically the Crusades. These monks are the Knights Templar.

### 1. What was the full title of this order?

- a. The Knights of the Temple of Jerusalem
- b. The Poor Knights of Christ and of the Temple of Solomon
- c. The Knights Templar of Jerusalem and the Holy Land

### 2. Their headquarters moved a few times as the fortunes of war shifted. Where was the first?

- a. Cyprus
- b. Acre
- c. Jerusalem

### 3. What was the last?

- a. Cyprus
- b. Acre
- c. Jerusalem

### 4. What set these monks apart from other monks?

- a. They did not take vows.
- b. They were able to marry.
- c. They were fighters.

### 5. The order was founded with just nine men; who was the principal leader at that time?

- a. Simon de Montfort
- b. Hugh de Payens
- c. Richard the Lion Heart

### 6. What was their original goal?

- a. to safeguard pilgrims on the roads to Jerusalem
- b. to recapture Jerusalem from the Turks
- c. to establish a Catholic kingdom in the Holy Land

### 7. Their headquarters were linked to their name. How?

- a. They were at first quartered in the Night (watch) Tower.
- b. They were given temporary or "templar" status in the shrine at Bethlehem.
- c. They were quartered in the Temple in Jerusalem.

### 8. At first they were supported mainly by these:

- a. slaves
- b. the Muslims
- c. alms

### 9. They obtained one of these, thought to have been drawn up by St. Bernard:

- a. a dog license
- b. a rule
- c. a map of the Middle East, the first accurate cartography of the modern era

### 10. There were four ranks in the order. Which of these was not one of them?

- a. Warrant Officers
- b. Serjeants (sergeants)
- c. Chaplains

### 11. Because they developed into a disciplined international order, the Templars accidentally gained this role:

- a. international bankers
- b. sheep shearers
- c. artillerymen

### 12. The Templars were sometimes allies, but also rivals, of this other military order:

- a. The Knights of Columbus
- b. The Orange Order
- c. The Hospitallers

### 13. Despite, or perhaps more accurately, because of their success, the order was destroyed in this century:

- a. The 13th
- b. The 14th
- c. The 15th

### 14. The prime mover against them, most likely motivated by greed, was the King of:

- a. Kings
- b. England
- c. France

### 15. One of the most peculiar charges leveled at them was that some of them worshipped this:

- a. the Trinity
- b. a goat
- c. a human head, possibly that of John the Baptist

### 16. This man, executed for various heretical acts, was the last Grand Master of the Order:

- a. Jean de Molay
- b. John of God
- c. John or Arc

### ANSWERS:

- 1.b, 2.c, 3.a, 4.c, 5.b, 6.a, 7.c, 8.c, 9.b, 10.a, 11.a, 12.c, 13.b, 14.c, 15.c, 16.a

# Heaven is ultimate end, fulfillment of deepest human longings

**The Gospel of Mark says heaven and earth will pass away. Isn't this in conflict with heaven as a place of eternal joy?, M.W., Fort Wayne**

St. Mark speaks of the Second Coming of Christ at the end of the world. He quotes Jesus as saying "the heavens and the earth will pass away, but my words will not pass." We need to ask: what do we mean by "heavens?" The New American Bible says the Hebrews in the ancient world held a prescientific concept of the universe. God resided way above the earth and its superior waters. Below these waters lay the firmament or sky resembling an overturned bowl or dome that was supported by columns. Through openings or floodgates in its vault the superior waters fell down upon the earth in the form of rain or snow. The earth itself was a platform resting on columns and surrounded by waters or seas. Underneath the columns lay the inferior waters. In the depths of the earth was Sheol, namely the home of the dead or the nether world.

Father John McKenzie says the phrase "the heavens and the earth" usually means the visible universe. Thus the Book of Genesis reads: "In the beginning when God creat-

ed the heavens and the earth, the earth was a formless wasteland and darkness covered the abyss (or ocean), while a mighty wind swept over the waters."

Similarly, in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus says "until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter of the law shall be done away with until it all comes true." Webster's dictionary also says "the heavens" is the expanse of space that seems to be over the earth like a dome.

Father McKenzie says that, in the Bible, the end of the world catastrophe includes a collapse of the heavens and the creation of a new heaven and a new earth, namely a new universe. Thus the Book of Revelation reads: "Then I saw new heavens and a new earth. The former heavens and the former earth had passed away and the sea was no longer." Here "the heavens" are a natural phenomenon. In Jewish literature the Hebrew word used for "the heavens" is "samayim," a plural form distinguishing a number of heavens or stages, even as many as 10. Thus St. Paul says "a man was snatched up to the third heaven," or paradise.

The word "heaven" is also used to mean the dwelling place of God and the joyful abode of the saints.

## THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

We see this idea of heaven in the New Testament. Jesus ascends into heaven after his resurrection. At his Second Coming Jesus will return from heaven to earth. Heaven is seen as the place of dwelling and reward for the Christian. Thus St. Paul calls the Christian a citizen of heaven. And St. John speaks of many mansions prepared for the disciples.

Father McKenzie mentions that St. Paul felt the present body of the human person is unfit to enter heaven, so it must experience a transformation giving it the qualities proper to heaven. Our risen body will be like that of the risen Christ: incorruptible, luminous, powerful and spiritual. At the end of the world, our body will rise and be reunited with our soul. It is fitting that we live in heaven with both body and soul, because that is how God created human beings in

the first place.

Heaven is basically union with God, whereas hell is basically the absence of or the loss of God. The new Catechism of the Catholic Church says those who die in God's grace and friendship and are perfectly purified live for ever with Christ. They are like God forever, for they see him as he is, face to face.

The catechism continues that this communion of life and love with the Blessed Trinity, with the Blessed Virgin Mary, the angels and all the saints, is called heaven. Heaven is the ultimate end and fulfillment of the deepest human longings, the state of supreme, definitive happiness. To live in heaven is to be with Christ. The elect live in Christ, but they retain, or rather find, their true identity, their own name. St. Ambrose, the

bishop of Milan in Italy, says: "For life is to be with Christ; where Christ is, there is life, there is the kingdom."

**Father Richard Hire**, pastor of Queen of Peace Parish, Mishawaka, answered this week's question.

**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.

# Angrier, dumber, better selling

About nine months ago, a reporter from the Italian Catholic newspaper *Avvenire* called and asked whether the rash of "atheist books" being published in the U.S. suggested a new trend in American culture. I replied that I didn't think so. Publishing was a bit like hemlines and tie widths, I suggested: there are fashions, and the fashions are often defined (and slavishly followed) by bears of little brain, of which the publishing industry is, alas, replete. (An observation, I note, that was made long before the latest O.J. fiasco.)

In any event, I wish I'd given a more thoughtful answer. For, on further reflection, Richard Dawkins's "The God Delusion," Daniel Dennett's "Breaking the Spell," and Sam Harris's "Letter to a Christian Nation" do embody an interesting trend: not about American culture as a whole, but about its atheist mini-minority. Reading these books, one gets the distinct impression that contemporary atheism is getting angrier and dumber, even as it becomes more profitable for publishers and authors alike.

One root of the new atheist campaign is, of course, political: "Bush Derangement Syndrome" has persuaded at least some atheists that the cowboy-evangelical apocalypse is just around the corner. The usual snobberies are also involved: the new atheism reflects the disdain of the academic guilds and chattering classes for those they imagine to be their social inferiors. In the 19th century, it was thought that an atheist couldn't be a gentleman; today, the atheists argue that religious conviction is for slobs and morons.

But as Sam Schulman recently

pointed out in a perceptive *Wall Street Journal* essay, what's really striking about the new atheism is its tone. In a word, it's angry; or, as Schulman writes, "Belief, in their eyes, is not just misguided but contemptible ... Today's atheists are particularly disgusted by the religious training of young people — which Dr. Dawkins calls 'a form of child abuse.'" This is, in part, the aforementioned snobbery; as Schulman nicely puts it, the new atheists imagine that "believing in God is a form of stupidity, which sets off their own intelligence." But the anger is such that it warps whatever cleverness might be at work in the likes of Dawkins, Dennett and Harris. The agnostic H.L. Mencken (a vociferous critic of what he regarded as the absurdities of popular religiosity during the roaring 1920s) was one of the few commentators who could do brilliant social satire while writing "at the top of his voice," as one biographer put it. The angers of Dawkins, Dennett and Harris render their writing merely shrill.

And dumb. Read the atheist trinity, and you'll be amazed at their self-regard — which is based, in part, on a Captain Reynaud-like wonder ("I'm shocked, shocked ...") at discovering the obvious: that the Bible is neither geology text nor critical biography; that, over the centuries, Christian hagiographers have embellished the stories they tell about saintly people; that some uncritically examined beliefs are, in fact, superstitious. Oh, really?

Moreover, as Schulman writes, "The faith that the new atheists describe is a simple-minded parody. It is impossible to see within it what might have preoccupied great artists and thinkers like Homer, Milton, Michelangelo, Newton and



GEORGE WEIGEL

## THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

Spinoza — let alone Aquinas, Dr. Johnson, Kierkegaard, Goya, Cardinal Newman, Reinhold Niebuhr or, for that matter, Albert Einstein. But to pass over this deeper faith — the kind that engaged the great minds of Western history — is to diminish the loss of faith, too. The new atheists are separated from the old by their shallowness."

Which is to say, again, they're dumber as well as angrier. Indeed, were I back teaching and a graduate student handed me an ill-informed screed like Harris's "Letter to a Christian Nation," I'd gently inform the aspiring scholar that there were two options available: an "F," or a return to the drawing board for some serious thought — the kind of thought that begins with empathetic curiosity and an open mind, not with contempt and intellectual rigidity.

Contemporary believers deserve a better class of critics than this. As Sam Schulman laments, where are Matthew Arnold and George Eliot when you need them?

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

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for March 11, 2007

Luke 13:1-9

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle C: a different approach to sin, divine patience and justice. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

GALILEANS	BLOOD	PILATE
MINGLED	SACRIFICES	DO YOU THINK
REPENT	PERISH	EIGHTEEN
TOWER	SILOAM	FELL
I TELL YOU	HE TOLD	PARABLE
FIG TREE	PLANTED	HE CAME
THREE YEARS	NONE	CUT IT DOWN

### SEEKING FRUIT

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

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## LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

ments, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments is the only one with no women employees.

The agency with the most significant female presence is the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers, where women make up about half the staff and fill some of the most important positions.

"It's an unusual situation. Probably it was not done by design, but we're happy with the outcome," said Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, secretary of

the migrants council.

One of the first women to become a "capo d'ufficio" or section chief at a major Vatican agency was U.S. Sister Sharon Holland, a member of the Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary who works at the congregation for religious.

"I have seen an increase in the number of women, and I think it would be safe to say there's an increase in the level of work they're doing," Sister Holland said. Women officials are more directly involved in laying the groundwork for decisions by higher-ups, she said.

"None of us make the decisions finally, but the better they're prepared, the more likely they are to move forward," she said.



# Sports

**BISHOP LUERS KNIGHTS WINS SECTIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AT BELLMONT** Two diocesan high school sports rivals hit the basketball court for a title at Decatur's Belmont Sectional on March 3, but Bishop Luers came out the winner edging Bishop Dwenger, 72-70. DeShaun Thomas scored 26 points for Bishop Luers. Lawrence Barnett and Tory Amos each scored 19 points. Bishop Dwenger's Kevin Fogler scored 17 points. In South Bend Class 3-A sectional action, the Saint Joseph's Indians and Marian Knights were also eliminated by the same team, Plymouth High School.

## Corpus Christi takes post season tournament

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — Corpus Christi's basketball Cougars staged a determined point-getting attack to win the post season tournament of the Inter-City Catholic League by nipping previously unbeaten St. Joseph, Mishawaka, 45-34. The tournament wound up the 61st season of the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL), one of the most successful seasons in its history.

The Cougars, who had lost only one game in the John Bosco Division, jumped off to an early five-point lead and managed to hold it to the finish by leading at the end of all quarters.

The Cougars had the benefit of a spectacular 24 point performance of Tate Bellagante, who was nearly unstoppable despite tough defense on part of the Mishawakans.

His counterpart, Tim Wilson of St. Joseph, was almost as effective on offense as he drained the nets for 18 points.

To reach the final round, Corpus Christi had a close call

from Holy Family before taking a 40-31 decision.

St. Joseph staged a terrific comeback to defeat Christ the King, 56-54, in the other semifinal.

In this overtime struggle, both Tim Wilson and Coley Schultheis each blazed the nets for 21 points with Schultheis collecting the winning points in the overtime.

Corpus Christi, St. Joseph, Mishawaka and Christ the King will represent the ICCL in the CYO-ICCL diocesan playoffs in Fort Wayne on Saturday, March 10.

In the Colors Division, St. Jude Green defeated Holy Family Columbia Blue, 41-30. The champions were paced by Michael Henry who poured in 20 points and Thomas Deranek who caged 12 points.

In the semifinals, St. Jude Green defeated Christ the King Gold, 45-30. Thomas Deranek tossed in 12 points of the winners and Michael Henry 10. Holy Family Columbia Blue defeated St. Thomas Gold, 28-19. Zach Fozo paced Holy Family with 14 points.

## Fifth and sixth grade tourney names winners

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND — The 2007 ICCL boys fifth and sixth grade basketball tourney was held at St. Monica on Feb. 17. In all, 38 teams battled for the two titles. In the A League, regular season champions St. Joseph, Mishawaka, and St. Michael, Plymouth, who both finished with perfect 10-0 regular season records played for the tourney title. In the B League, Our Lady of Hungary put their 10-0 regular season record on the line against 9-1 Christ the King B2 who finished tied with their Christ the King B1 counterpart in the regular season.

St. Joe Mishawaka defeated St. Michael, Plymouth 40-32 in the championship game of the A League. As with most of the season, Michael Whitfield led the way with 19 points and Joe Walter powered inside for 10 points. Ian Kastner scored 14 points and Joe Knapp 10 points for St. Michael.

St. Joe Mishawaka completed their second straight undefeated season with a 16-0 record. Their record over the two-year period is 32-0 and they won back to back titles after winning the B league title last year. In the consolation game Holy Family defeated Queen of Peace 39-35 as Patrick

Catanzarite dropped in four key three throws in the final 20 seconds and finished with 13 points while Dylan Hensley was a force with 19 points for Holy Family. Nick Johnson had 15 points and Adam Janowiak 12 points to lead Queen of Peace.

In the B League championship game Our Lady of Hungary from South Bend capped a remarkable turn around going from a 0-10 record the previous year to a 10-0 regular season. In a fantastic finish Christ the King B2 came from 17 points down in the second half to tie the game late in the fourth quar-

ter. However, Our Lady had enough left to pull out the win. Jalen Holland was strong inside all day for Our Lady and finished with 21 points while Terrance Malone scored 15 points for the Bull Dogs. Mathew Monserez scored 17 points, Patrick O'Conner 15 points and Ryan Jamison 10 points to lead the big comeback for the Kings. In the consolation game St. Michael from Plymouth defeated Christ the King B1 28-22 as Nate Kolter, Jacob Franz, Zack Stone and Tom Felke combined for 25 of the 18 points. Ryan Wobbe led the Kings with 10 points.

## Cardinals' teams finish runner up in CYO Gold League

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Both the St. Charles Borromeo boys and girls Cardinal teams finished in the runner-up spot for the Catholic Youth League Organization (CYO) Gold League this season.

After ending with a 9-10 record, Coach Jeff Polhamus was pleased to make it to the championship game against powerhouse, St. Vincent. Polhamus was very pleased with his boys' overall performance with a tough schedule this season. Their losses included two each to St. Vincent and Memorial Park, both very talented teams.

St. Charles, the No. 3 seed in the gold bracket, did not have an easy road in the tournament. It took an overtime to beat St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth the first round. Then the Cardinals upset the No. 2 seed, St. Jude, in the semifinals. Finally, they lost to St. Vincent, 36-52, on Saturday, Feb. 24, in the title game.

"We were definitely outsized by St. Vincent, but were able to

make a nice run in the third quarter," said a satisfied Polhamus. St. Charles also played every player in the championship game. "We had nice contributions from everyone throughout the year," concluded Polhamus.

Adam Book chalked up 44 points to lead the Cardinals in scoring during the tournament.

This year's roster included eighth graders Book, Nick Bushnell-Taylor, Michael Etter, Connor Hale, Chris Hamilton, Colin Jasper, Andrew Jehl, Pete Kosiarek, Andrew Magsam, Anthony Offerle, George Schenkel and Adam Willis. The assistant coaches for the Cardinals were Joe Gabet and Dave Kosiarek.

The 20-5 Cardinal girls had beaten their championship game opponent (St. Joseph, Decatur) just weeks before during regular season play. Their only Gold League loss during the season came at the hands of St. Jude, which created the co-championship for the season with St. Joseph, Decatur.


However, the Cardinals' hopes of a repeat performance of 2006 were dashed by the St. Joseph,

Decatur, Lady Commodores. The Cardinals lost 32-46 in the final game of the tournament. St. Joseph led 12-10 after the first quarter and opened it up to 21-12 at the half. St. Charles outscored the Lady Commodores 9-8 in the third before St. Joseph sealed the deal with a 17-11 margin in the final stanza.

Ashley Burkhardt led the Cardinals in scoring with 12 while Madison Schultz had a career high 20 points and Alex Fuelling added 15 to pace the Commodores. The Cardinals had victories over St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, and St. Jude in earlier tournament play. They also won the Christmas holiday eight-team tournament at the University of Saint Francis this season.

Sally Allgeier, Rebecca Beier, Ashley Burkhardt, Sarah Killion, Natalie Kocks, Caitlyn Meyers, Rachelle Reinking, Leah Ronner, Emma Satterthwaite and Kennedy Wissel were the play makers for the Lady Cardinals this season. Kurt Patterson was the head coach while Dan Sordelet and Bernie Ray served as assistant coaches.

Save On a



4 Step Lawn Program

<p><b>Merit Season Long Grub Control</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">5,000 sq. ft. <b>Reg. \$66<sup>80</sup></b></td> <td style="padding: 2px;">10,000 sq. ft. <b>Reg. \$109<sup>80</sup></b></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding: 2px;">15,000 sq. ft. <b>Reg. \$176<sup>60</sup></b></td> <td style="padding: 2px;">20,000 sq. ft. <b>Reg. \$219<sup>60</sup></b></td> </tr> </table>	5,000 sq. ft. <b>Reg. \$66<sup>80</sup></b>	10,000 sq. ft. <b>Reg. \$109<sup>80</sup></b>	15,000 sq. ft. <b>Reg. \$176<sup>60</sup></b>	20,000 sq. ft. <b>Reg. \$219<sup>60</sup></b>	<p>Get a <b>\$10<sup>00</sup></b> in store GIFT CARD</p> <p>Get a <b>\$15<sup>00</sup></b> in store GIFT CARD</p> <p>Get a <b>\$25<sup>00</sup></b> in store GIFT CARD</p> <p>Get a <b>\$30<sup>00</sup></b> in store GIFT CARD</p>			
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## 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](mailto:PrincipalSearchCommittee@preciousbloodchurch.org)

# How is your ability to receive love?



## THE CUTTING EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

Most of us know the great commandment Jesus gave us by heart. Some refer to it as the "golden rule." In fact we might even be sick of hearing about it. Love! Love! Love! Now it is Lent, and we will certainly hear about it again. Sometimes it seems we talk more about love than really do it.

"Love God and your neighbor as yourself." I, too, have written much about these words, but now I want to take a slightly different slant of what it means to fully obey this commandment.

We all know, thank God, people who are genuinely loving and caring. They are kind, compassionate, generous and non-judgmental, etc. They are role models for us of how Christians should live; however, most of them weren't just born that way. For most of us, to become a truly loving

person takes hard work. We try to find ways to love God, others and ourselves better. We slip and we fall but we get up and continue to work at it.

Well, this article is not about how to be a more loving person. On the contrary, I want to focus on another, maybe more difficult, but just as important, part of loving. I want to reflect on our ability or openness to receive love, to be loved. Sometimes we are so busy doing good deeds for God and others that we rarely think of the other side of the equation. We emphasize the giving part of our relationships but often fail to examine how well we receive love from God, others and even from ourselves!

To become a whole or holy person one must learn to graciously accept the gift of love as well as give it. No close relationship, familial or otherwise, is healthy if it is one sided. All genuine love includes giving and receiving. If a person constantly gives but has trouble accepting love from others, that person never really learns that true love is reciprocal. He or she, consciously or unconsciously, calls all the shots and remains in control.

To experience real love we must allow ourselves to be vulnerable. We must graciously receive the love offered to us by others and by God. All wholesome rela-

tionships require some degree of mutuality. If we are constantly giving but never allow others to do anything for us, we do not really love in the true sense of the word.

Unless we accept another's love, we fail to experience the fullness of love. Even with God, we can structure our faith and prayer life so much that we often leave little time to just be still and allow God to love us. God always loves us, no matter what, but like all the important relationships in our lives, we must also accept God's love. It can be like being given a beautifully wrapped present. It does us very little good unless we open and accept it.

The Christian life calls for interdependence. True Christian community not only requires us to love, but to be loved. How good are you at accepting the love of God and others? Do you always have to be the one giving and doing things for people or can you graciously receive what others have to offer you? Do you allow others to help you or do you pride yourself on being independent? Do you have the attitude that you don't need anybody? Can you allow others the pleasure of giving to and loving you? Harder still, are you willing to become vulnerable and share yourself with others? Are you willing to ask others for what you need?

Graciously accepting the gratitude of

# YA!

## YOUNG ADULT PERSPECTIVES

people not necessarily close to us, like the people we may have served in a soup kitchen or residents in a retirement home we visited, is also a part of receiving love.

Maybe each of us, especially those who find asking and receiving difficult, can practice these behaviors during the rest of Lent and, hopefully, the rest of our lives.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, a former campus minister and vocation director, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department. [mlavonis@cscsisters.org](mailto:mlavonis@cscsisters.org).

## There's no predicting the Master's plan

March Madness thrills sports nuts and statisticians alike.

There are 65,000 possible combinations of teams that could make the Final Four, statisticians calculate — which means we can expect our 64,999th guess. Consequently, we lose our temper, our \$10 and our bragging rights at work.

Last March, little-known, 12th-seeded George Mason University made the Final Four. The black-and-white tale of David vs. Goliath was played out in vivid color on high-definition TVs across the country.

March Madness delivers what it promises: the reality that anything can happen and the knowledge that the biggest surprises often occur in the final seconds.

Yet for the sake of tradition and amusement and folly, we brazenly cast predictions. We apply theory to the inexplicable.

We watch ESPN's experts, we listen to radio reviews, we read online guides, we swap notes with friends and we synthesize all the data.

At last, we fill out that bracket in our neatest handwriting, the signature of tightly-wound hope and strategy. Then we watch the tournament unfold, that amorphous mix of skill and drive and momentum and magic.

More than other tournaments, this three-week contest resonates with viewers because it is like life: packed with madness, short on method. In the big dance of life, there are buzzer beaters and bracket busters. Trying to accurately predict an outcome in life is as futile as predicting the vic-

tor of March Madness.

And yet we try. We can't help it. It is a human impulse: We want a plan, we want to prepare, we want to know where the heck we are headed.

Young adults feel this most acutely. The blankness of the future and the vastness of possibility frighten because they allow for many missteps.

When I interview people, I'm always intrigued to hear the arc of their lives. The career that leapt from economics to pottery. The address that jumped from New York to Iowa.

Cindy found romance in a Minnesota blizzard. Her car quit and she sought refuge in the nearest house, the home of her future husband.

Rich landed his dream job when he sat next to a company president during a train ride. He

**Rich landed his dream job when he sat next to a company president during a train ride. He usually took the 8:10 a.m., but he had been running late that morning.**

usually took the 8:10 a.m., but he had been running late that morning.

Chuck daydreamed about an early retirement somewhere sunny. Then his teenage son became a father, and the new grandpa stayed put and beheld an undesirable accident become his greatest blessing.

Life never goes according to human plan. Our call as Catholics is to relinquish the comfort of control and to place our trust in God.

St. Francis de Sales, a 16th



## TWENTY SOMETHING

BY CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

century sage, spent considerable ink making this point. "God's reasons and judgments are impenetrable," he wrote, "yet ever sweet, ever gentle, ever useful."

When life takes unexpected turns, St. Francis wrote, we must focus on our creator: "Everything may be topsy turvy, not only around us, but within us. But whether we are sad or happy, delighted or disgusted, scorched by the sun or refreshed by the dew, the fine point of our heart, our spirit, which is our compass, must ever tend toward the love of God."

I love that phrase "topsy turvy." It makes me picture a basketball rolling around the rim, evoking breathless suspense. Will it go in? Will I land the job? Will I meet my mate? Will I find a home? Will I beat the buzzer?

It's okay to be an underdog if you're a person of faith. It's okay to be sweaty and tired. Because God has crafted a wise and loving master plan — and it always ends in victory.

Christina Capecchi is a graduate student at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. E-mail her at [christinacap@gmail.com](mailto:christinacap@gmail.com).

## IUSB Newman Catholic Student Association welcomes traveling Jubilee Pilgrim Cross

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

SOUTH BEND — The official cross for the sesquicentennial jubilee celebration of Catholic presence in northern Indiana made its way to Indiana University in South Bend on Feb. 28. Despite the wind and chilly weather, the traveling Jubilee Pilgrim Cross was carried across campus to the Peace Pole near the university's library. There, a group of dedicated, brave souls took part in an ecumenical prayer service.

Since the beginning of this special year, the cross has gone from parish to parish throughout the diocese and made stops at high schools, colleges and universities.

"The cross," says diocesan campus minister, Maria Pirrie, "is a reminder of the great love Jesus has for all of us that he emptied himself; gave himself completely so that we could have life in abundance."

Jubilee years are traditionally

years of the Lord's favor and times of reconciliation and the forgiveness of sins and the punishment due them.

During this year of jubilee, Bishop John M. D'Arcy encourages the people of the diocese to challenge the "status quo," and to acknowledge their need to forgive and be forgiven. It is also a call, as Jesus says in Luke's Gospel, quoting the prophet Isaiah, "to bring good news to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free..."

After the prayer service, the cross was brought to Wiekamp Hall and remained there until after the weekly noon Mass, celebrated by Holy Cross Father Charles Lavelly. A card was signed for Bishop D'Arcy on the occasion of his 50 years as a priest. At the conclusion of Mass, all who were able enjoyed a pizza luncheon and a special cake in honor of the bishop's anniversary.



SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

Andrew Filmer, Katie Monhaut, John Wagner and David Ogden carry the Jubilee Pilgrim Cross across the Indiana University-South Bend campus.

# 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

### Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, March 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$7, children (5-12) \$3. Chicken strips for \$7 and shrimp for \$8 will be available.

### Fish fry at St. Catharine

Columbia City — St. Catharine Parish will have a fish fry on Saturday, March 17, from 4 to 7 p.m. at the church located 10 miles south of Columbia City on State Road 9. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults, \$4.50 for children 6-8 and children 5 and under are fee. Carry-out available.

### Fish fry

Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Parish will have a fish fry on Friday, March 16, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Adults \$7, children 6-12 \$4 and children 5 and under \$1. Carry-out available.

### Lenten fish fry

Lakeville — Sacred Heart of Jesus Parish will have a fish fry

on Friday, March 16, from 4 to 7 p.m. Adults and carry-out \$7.50, children \$3 and children under 5 free.

### Fish Fry

New Haven — The St. John the Baptist Holy Name Society will have a fish fry on Friday, March 9, from 4 to 7 p.m. Adults \$6.50 children 5 to 12 \$3.50 and children under 5 free.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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

### Freshman registration

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will have make-up registration on Saturday, March 24, from 10 to 11 a.m. in the school library for eighth grade students interesting in registering for the 2007-2008 school year. Call the school office at (260) 456-1261 for information.

### Corpus Christi School takes registrations

South Bend — Registration will take place Thursday, March 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and from 5 to 8 p.m. at the school. Call (574) 272-9868 for information.

### Kindergarten registration announced

New Haven — St. Louis Academy at St. Louis Besancon Church will offer three full-day kindergarten programs. Registration for all grades will be held Monday, March 19, from 5-7 p.m. and Saturday, March 24, from 1-2:30 p.m. Call (260) 749-5815 for more information.

### The Little Mermaid to be performed

Fort Wayne — St. Vincent School HASA will have the Missoula Children's Theatre and more than 60 students present "The Little Mermaid" Saturday, March 10, in the St. Vincent Parish Hall at 2 and 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 and children grade school age and under are free.

## REST IN PEACE

### Auburn

Charles Grover Vinson, 68, Immaculate Conception

### Decatur

Dan J. Rauch, 54, St. Mary of the Assumption

### Fort Wayne

Allie B. Snyder, 88, St. Patrick

Ron Chronister, 60, St. Jude

Maurice F. Vonder Haar, 88, St. Charles Borromeo

Arthur N. Wyss, 89, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

Victoria A. LaBrosse, 73, St. Vincent de Paul

Joan M. Lill, 77, St. Vincent de Paul

Myrle Ogden, 78, St. Joseph

### New Haven

Robert W. Miller, 79, St. John the Baptist

### Notre Dame

Naomi M. Meara, 70, Sacred Heart Basilica

### South Bend

Frank Szynski, 91, St. Adalbert

Donald R. Sobieralski, 74, Holy Family

Robert J. Pinkowski, 87, Little Flower

Shirley J. Forsberg, 69, St. Anthony de Padua

Kathryn A. Rohen, 79, St. Matthew Cathedral

Violet G. Hurley, 86, St. Stanislaus

Robert C. Niezgodski, 78, St. Stanislaus

Marsha L. Snyder, 70, Corpus Christi

Renatta M. Krempec, 91, St. John the Baptist

### Wabash

Jaquelynn A. Mendoza, 27, St. Bernard

Martha Rish, 90, St. Bernard

### Trivia night fund raiser planned

South Bend — Our Lady of Hungary School, 735 W. Calvert St., will have a trivia night on Saturday, March 24. Bar opens at 5 p.m., trivia begins at 6 p.m. Tickets are \$10 per person. Tables are required to have 6-8 people and participants can bring their own snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. Beer and wine will be available for purchase in the social room. Prizes will be awarded to the top three winning tables. A 50/50 raffle is also planned.

### Elkhart Deanery plan meeting

Kendallville — The National Council of Catholic Women will meet Thursday, March 15, at Immaculate Conception Church. Rosary will begin at 10:40 a.m. followed by Mass. Lunch will follow in the church hall with a short meeting to conclude. RSVP to (260) 347-4014.

### Day of reflection offered by Daughters of Isabella

Mishawaka — The Daughters of Isabella, Notre Dame Circle #572 will have a Lenten day of reflection on Tuesday, March 20,

from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at St. Francis Convent, on Dragoon Trail (across from Marian High School). The cost is \$15 and includes lunch. Members and guests are asked to bring their Bibles. Call (574) 272-2044 for reservations by March 14.

### National Catholic Singles Conference

Chicago — A National Catholic Singles Conference will be held April 27-29, in Chicago, Ill. with over 500 singles attending social events and dynamic international speakers on the single life. Register at nationalcatholicsingles.com or call (815) 828-5094. Sponsored by the Theology of the Body International Alliance (TOBIA), CatholicMatch.com, Ave Maria Singles, CatholicSingles.com, and TheologyoftheBody.net.

### GAP to meet in Fort Wayne

Fort Wayne — Singles: The GAP, a social group for single Catholics in the 40-60ish age range, will meet Friday, March 16, at 7 p.m. at the Aboite Fire Station Community Room for cards. Please bring a snack to share. For information call (260) 432-7346 or e-mail gap4565@msn.com.

### Day of Reflection

Mishawaka — A Day of Reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent (across from Marian High School) on Wednesday, March 28, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The theme is "Our Lenten Journey." Please bring your bible. The cost of the day is \$15 and includes lunch. Register by Friday, March 23, to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

### St. Patrick's Day celebration

South Bend — A St. Patrick's Day celebration will be held Saturday, March 17, beginning with a 9 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick Church with Bishop John M. D'Arcy. A parade down Jefferson Blvd. will be at 11 a.m. East Race greening, Celtic music and dance and a corned beef dinner will be held at the St. Patrick Social Center from noon to 4 p.m.



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**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.

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# Concrete pouring at SJRMC's new hospital site

SOUTH BEND — The first loads roared in before 9 a.m., and the last rolled out around sunset. After the 95th concrete truck of the day began to make its way back home, the mat foundation for Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center's new facility was in place, making Feb. 28 a very significant day in SJRMC's new hospital project.

"This truly is an exciting day," said Nancy Hellyer, SJRMC's president and chief executive officer, donning the hardhat, safety glasses and high visibility vest safety requires at the job site. "Obviously, we began this whole process many, many months ago but for the community this is probably the real beginning. From here on out until the doors open in just over two years, the community will get to enjoy step-by-step progress, simply by just driving by. And when those doors open, the community will enjoy what they see and what they will

experience."

What they will see and experience is a world-class, state-of-the-art facility combined with the tradition of the Sisters of the Holy Cross in their dedication to healing the body, mind and spirit of those who need SJRMC's unique healthcare services. And with the pouring of the mat foundation, the opening of SJRMC's new hospital doesn't seem too far away — and construction is right on schedule.

The mat foundation consists of 37 tons of 7/8-inch-diameter rebar, 1-inch diameter rebar and 1 1/8-inch-diameter rebar. After the concrete was placed, the weight of the mat foundation is approximately 4.1 million pounds; however, it is only about 4 percent of the total concrete being placed on the entire new hospital project. Eventually, the mat foundation will serve as the base of the new hospital's center core, housing the main elevator shafts between

The new hospital's foundation mat consists of 37 tons of rebar. After the concrete was poured, the mat foundation weighed over 4.1 million pounds; however, it is only about 4 percent of the total concrete being placed for the entire new hospital project.

the two patient towers.

Foundation work will continue through the spring in preparation for the beginning of the placement of steel in June. The new hospital's steel structure is scheduled for completion in mid-October 2007. SJRMC's new hospital will open in the fall 2009.



MIKE STACK

## Construction continues on St. Elizabeth Ann Seton project

FORT WAYNE — Despite cold temperatures, blowing snow and freezing rain, the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton construction project is progressing. "Our committed construction workers onsite, as well as our dedicated subcontractors, have allowed the project to continue towards completion, even though we encountered some unseasonable amount of rain through the fall as well as the recent cold weather in late January and February," says Aaron Lybarger, project manager with Weigand Construction.

St. Elizabeth is undergoing a 55,000-square-foot expansion and renovation project. The project primarily consists of new educational classrooms, a cafeteria and kitchen, administration areas and a new gymnasium. Construction began around the first of October after a groundbreaking ceremony held on Aug. 12, 2006, and led by Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

To date, the basement construction has progressed as such:

- Exterior and interior walls, as well as the underslab plumbing,

are complete.

- Pouring of the basement slab is complete.

- HVAC, plumbing, and electrical rough-ins are approximately 50 percent complete.

Additionally, the first and second floor highlights include:

- The first-floor steel is complete, while the first-floor exterior load-bearing walls are 75 percent complete.

- All of the first-floor elevated slab-on-deck is poured.

Second-floor steel erection will commence in early March followed by second-floor load-bearing masonry. The final roof steel is to be topped-out in early May, which will allow roofing and brick veneer to start in early May.

"Jerry Mays and Jim Kitchens with St. Elizabeth have been wonderful to work with. Their open communication and leadership have played a major role in the success of this project thus far," says Larry Weigand, president and chief executive officer of Weigand Construction.



PROVIDED BY WEIGAND CONSTRUCTION

Despite difficulties with the weather, progress is being made in the expansion and renovation of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne.

## Medjugorje 2007 National Conference

University of Notre Dame

May 25, 26 and 27



### Speakers include



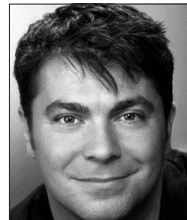
**Father Petar Ljubicic, OFM**, is the priest chosen by visionary Mirjana Soldo to reveal the secrets that Our Lady has given to her relating to world events. At the appropriate time, Father will reveal the contents of the secrets. These will confirm the urgency and authenticity of the Medjugorje messages.

**Immaculée Ilibagiza** is the author of *Left to Tell*, a gripping story of survival of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. She has appeared on Public Television and major network programs. Dr. Wayne Dyer, a renowned speaker, says "she not only talks about unconditional love and forgiveness, she radiates it wherever she goes." Her testimony will touch you deeply.



**Al Barbarino** is a popular, charismatic singer, speaker, and master of ceremonies at conferences and parishes throughout the U.S. and Canada. He has recorded seven inspirational Catholic music albums with proceeds going to the poor. Al's ministry was inspired by his first pilgrimage to Medjugorje in 1985. He is a lay member of Father Groeschel's Franciscan Friars.

**Matthew Kelly** is an internationally acclaimed Catholic lay evangelist. His talks and retreats have entertained and inspired Catholics at conferences and retreats throughout the country. Matthew is the author of ten books, some of which were New York Times best sellers. Originally from Australia, he now resides in Cincinnati, Ohio.



**Father Giordano Belanich** (Father Gio) is the founder of Croatian Relief Services, an outreach that feeds and clothes the poorest of the poor in many different countries of the world. He is also well known for his evangelization and healing ministry work throughout the United States and Canada. Father is a priest in the archdiocese of Newark, New Jersey.

**Moira Noonan** was raised as a Catholic, but for a period of time became deeply immersed in New Age practices and ideas. After a series of powerful conversion experiences, she returned to the Church and is now a popular speaker telling her story via religious cable and radio stations throughout the world. Her most recent book is titled *Ransomed from Darkness*.



### Conference Schedule

#### Friday, May 25

5:00 pm... Doors open  
7:00 pm... Conference begins  
Guest speaker  
Candlelight rosary procession to the Lourdes Grotto

#### Saturday, May 26

7:15 am... Doors open  
8:00 am... Morning session  
Holy Mass  
Guest speakers (all sessions)  
1:30 pm... Afternoon session  
6:30 pm... Evening session  
Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction

#### Sunday, May 27

7:15 am... Doors open  
8:30 am... Morning session  
Guest speakers  
1:00 pm... Holy Mass  
Procession and Consecration  
3:00 pm... Conference ends

Sponsored by: Queen of Peace Ministries, Box 761, Notre Dame, IN 46556

Phone: (574) 288-8777

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