



October 7, 2007

Serving the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

TODAY'S CATHOLIC



It's a miracle

And that is what we believe

Pages 10-12

Witness to the faith

Fort Wayne faithful celebrate regional confirmation

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — The excitement was palpable as close to 1,200 confirmandi plus sponsors filed into the arena of the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum on Sept. 30 behind the 37 beautifully decorated banners each displaying its own parish name represented there. In all, 7,379 people filled the coliseum at the regional confirmation — an event of the diocesan Sesquicentennial Jubilee.

As the choir and band, which included brass instruments as well as bongo drums offered processional hymns, the Knights of Columbus lined the aisles for the priests dressed in white and golden vestments who led Bishop John M. D'Arcy to the altar for a once-in-a-life-time Mass celebration.

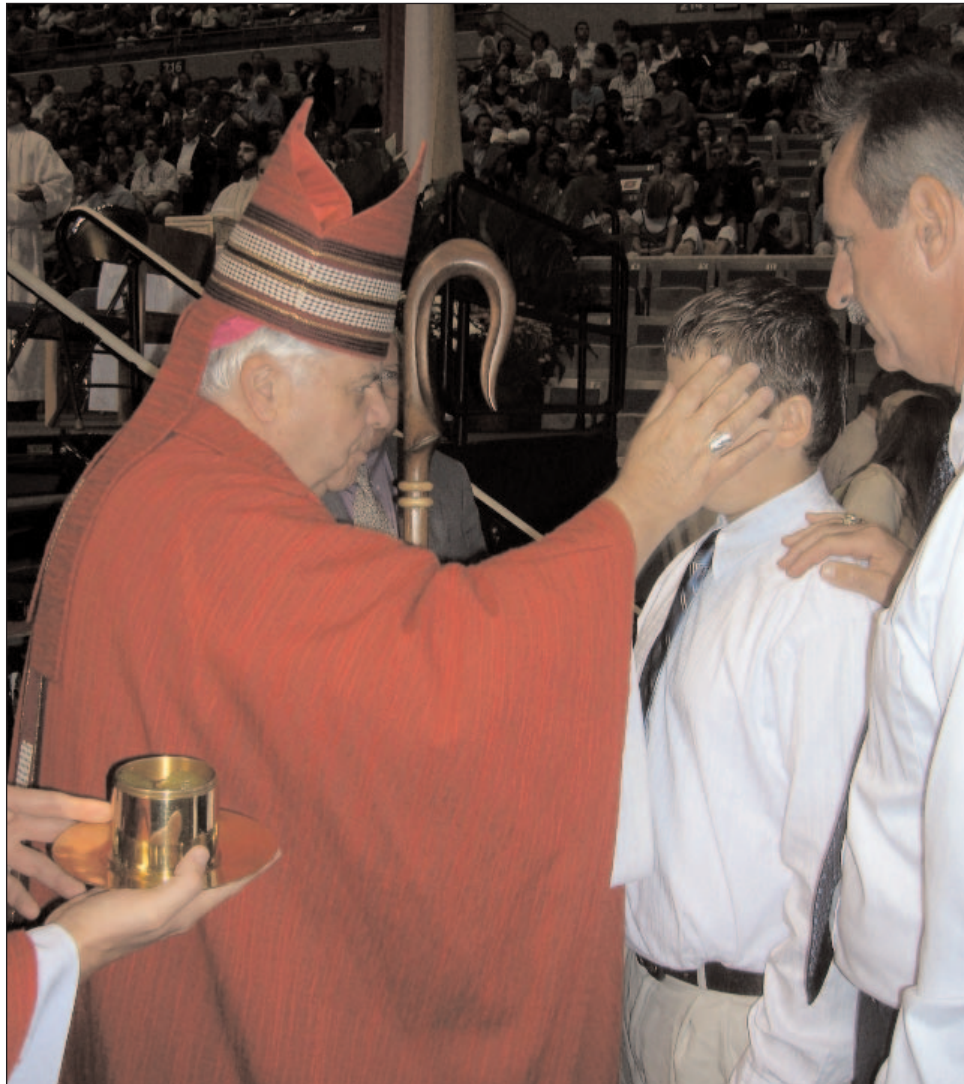
Bishop D'Arcy brought the congregation to task by asking them to open their hearts to the Holy Spirit for the young people present there, and referred to the coliseum, where Komet Hockey and concerts take place, as being transformed into a church, a holy place.

Following the Liturgy of the Word, Father Bob Schulte, vicar general of the diocese and rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne, named each of the parishes represented and asked that the bishop accept the well-prepared confirmandi for conferral of the sacrament of confirmation.

During his homily, the bishop spoke of how special this 2007 confirmation class was who had come together in unity and would have their own pastors anointing them. He went on to discuss signs that youth wear to say "notice me." After listing examples such as a football jersey or earring, he went on to speak of the sign of the cross that would be placed in oil on the forehead of each confirmation student.

"It's the cross of Jesus Christ. In confirmation, an indelible mark is put on your soul. It means you are consecrated to God," said Bishop D'Arcy.

Asking for volunteers, the bishop challenged the attentive students with questions of faith. The



KATHY DENICE

Bishop John M. D'Arcy anoints a confirmand at the regional confirmation held at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum on Sept. 30. Thirty seven parishes were represented in the unified event.

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CELEBRATING 140 YEARS



TIM JOHNSON

Bishop John M. D'Arcy celebrated Mass at St. Joseph Church, Roanoke, as they marked 140 years on Sept. 29. In the photo, Father John Pfister, pastor of St. Mary Church, Huntington, looks over a historical photo with Sister Colleen Bauer, SSND, who grew up in St. Joseph Parish.

Flooded with refugees

Catholic Charities and community react to large numbers of Burmese refugees coming to Fort Wayne

BY ANN CAREY

FORT WAYNE — The country of Myanmar — formerly called Burma — is attracting international attention as the repressive military government there has used violent means to disperse peaceful pro-democracy demonstrators.

Burmese people are in the news in Fort Wayne, too, where about 3,000 Burmese refugees now live. The local Burmese population has attracted attention because of a Sept. 17 meeting of the board of the Fort Wayne-Allen County Department of Health, where Allen County Health Commissioner Dr. Deborah McMahan reported that her department will have to start charging for previously free services because the department must treat an unusually large number of Burmese refugees this year.

Catholic Charities settled about 200

Burmese refugees in Fort Wayne in 2006, according to Debbie Schmidt, executive director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The agency was told to expect another 200 in 2007, and until June of this year had received 35.

After June, however, the numbers increased quickly and dramatically, with an additional 524 refugees arriving by the end of September. Another 130 more are expected before the end of the year, bringing the projected 2007 total to nearly 700. That number is close to the total of 768 Burmese refugees settled here by Catholic Charities in the 15 years between 1991 and 2006. Another 600 to 800 Burmese are expected in 2008.

The large number of people arriving in such a short time also has strained Catholic Charities, which must provide staff support, obtain financial assistance, locate housing

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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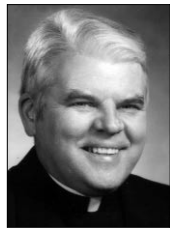
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Regional confirmation is a wonderful thing to behold



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

The jubilee continues

This past Sunday it was a privilege and joy to unite with our priests to confer the sacrament of confirmation to about 1,200 young people at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum in Fort Wayne. This is the second year we have done this. The other time was in the year of the Great Jubilee 2000. What a wonderful thing to behold and probably the last such event, at least for a good while.

What a great joy to see well over 7,000 people on a beautiful sun-splashed September day. Thanks to the hard work of our Office of Worship, it was carried out with great reverence. The music was prayerful and especially the song after Communion taken from the Magnificat of Mary, which everyone sang. I am always especially delighted when the whole congregation is singing since that is beautiful to experience, and it is also what we are asked to do by the church: participation that is full both internal and external.

I delegated the priests to do the anointings. I often do a hundred or more but 1,200 is something else. Next year in the spring I will start again to do the parishes individually and hopefully with help from a few other bishops. For many years there was an auxiliary bishop in this diocese, which made it easier to reach every parish, but we will do the best we can with what we have.

'Ex Corde Ecclesiae'

This is a historic document of Pope John Paul II written in 1992. A cardinal who worked on it with the Holy Father told me that the pope considered it a kind of magna carta for Catholic universities. It is a splendid document — the purpose of which is to retain and strengthen the Catholic identity of the great universities. We are blessed to have five Catholic institutes of higher learning in our diocese.

This week I spoke twice to the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne. The first talk was to the board of trustees and the second, a few days later, was open to all the faculty. I gave the same talk to both groups but a bit expanded the second time. We spoke about the importance of Catholic identity in colleges and universities, and this brought about discussion on two critical things. First was the importance of Catholic theology and the mandatum, or mandate, which Catholic theologians are asked to receive indicating that they teach in communion with the church. I also spoke on the nature of theology and that it is a

true science with parameters and guidelines like any science, and I asked the question as to how any college or university can be a true place of learning when God and what God has revealed is not studied.

We also discussed the request of "Ex Corde Ecclesiae" that a majority of the faculty be Catholic and the theory behind this.

We talked also about academic freedom and about how this is defined in "Ex Corde Ecclesiae" and how Pope John Paul II was clear as to the true definition of academic freedom in a Catholic university. Freedom in the Catholic philosophical and theological tradition is never license or the freedom to do anything or to simply to do this rather than that. That is a very superficial understanding of the beautiful gift of God which is human freedom. Pope John Paul II, as a good teacher, defined this freedom clearly:

"Freedom in research and teaching is recognized and respected according to the principals and methods of each individual discipline, so long as the rights of the individual and of the community are preserved within the confines of the truth in the common good."

It is an ongoing responsibility of the bishop to have close communion with the leaders of the Catholic colleges and universities within his diocese, and I find the leadership in this diocese most welcoming.

Faith and reason

Indeed it can truly be said that at the heart of this document and of a Catholic University is the communion between faith and reason. As Pope John Paul II put it in a poetic but beautiful reflection:

"Faith and reason are like two wings on which the human spirit rises to the contemplation of truth; and God has placed in the human heart a desire to know the truth — in a word, to know himself — so that, by knowing and loving God, men and women may also come to the fullness of truth about themselves."

It is an ongoing responsibility of the bishop to have close communion with the leaders of the Catholic colleges and universities within his diocese, and I find the leadership in this diocese most welcoming.

Mass with other jubilarians

I was privileged to be one of the jubilarians this year at our annual Mass for those that have served as priests in this diocese for 25 or 50 years and to find this beautiful passage from St. Gregory Nazianzus, a bishop and father in the early church, which I used in my homily. As a very young priest he exclaimed:

"We must begin by purifying ourselves before purifying others; we must be instructed to be able to instruct, become light to illuminate, draw close to God to bring him close to others, be sanctified to sanctify, lead by the hand and counsel prudently. I know whose minister we are, where we find ourselves and to where we strive. I know God's greatness and man's weakness, but also his potential. (Who then is the priest? He is) the defender of truth, who stands with angels, gives glory with archangels, causes sacrifices to rise to the altar on high, shares Christ's priesthood, refashions creation, restores it in God's image, recreates it for the world on high and, even greater is divinized and divinizes."

— Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1589

Reaching out to the professions

The church must touch the men and women in professional life, so this Sunday I will preach at the Red Mass in Fort Wayne and then there will be a talk by Judge Kenneth Ripple. Judge Ripple is a good friend of mine, a federal judge, a professor of the Notre Dame Law School and a strong Catholic. He is often at noontime

Mass in our downtown South Bend chapel where I meet him when I celebrate the Mass there, as I do from time to time.

Also, soon we will have an extensive visit from Father Tad Pacholczyk. He will speak on the moral issues related to death and dying for medical people on Sunday, Oct. 28, following the Sunday evening Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. On Monday at noon, he will speak to priests and others at St. Joseph Medical Center, South Bend. That evening Monday, Oct. 29, he

will give a talk open to the public at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center on this very important issue. Everyone is invited.

An end-of-the-season report on the Red Sox

The baseball team that surely would take years of my life has won the division. Why is that important? It is important because that means the Yankees finished second. The ever-advancing Bronx Bombers were held off by two games, but they finished second, and that is the important thing. It in itself is a satisfying season when you beat the Yankees. Now on to October and the playoffs, and this should be exciting. And hats off to Shirley Vorndran and thousands of Cub fans as they too join the October hunt. A Cubs-Red Sox World Series? It could be.

Finally, I thank with all my heart so many priests and people who have prayed for me and have offered Masses for my dear sister Mary, whom I miss so much. See you all next week.

REFUGEE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and gather donated items to help the refugees set up housekeeping.

The number of refugees assigned to a community is controlled by the U.S. Department of State, not Catholic Charities. So Schmidt has written Congressman Mark Souder, asking his assistance in getting the Department of State to slow down the flow of refugees to a more manageable number. Souder spokesman Mark Green told *Today's Catholic* that Souder shares Schmidt's concerns and has written the Departments of State, Homeland Security and Health and Human Services.

The Department of State works with 10 voluntary agencies to settle refugees. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops is one of those agencies, and through its local affiliates like Catholic Charities, the USCCB settles between one-fourth and one-third of all refugees entering this country.

Charles Evans, coordinator for Program Development and Information Resources for the U.S. Bishops' Department of Migration and Refugee Services told *Today's Catholic* his department is aware of the strain on the Fort Wayne community because of the sudden increase in refugees.

Evans said that sometimes the State Department cannot spread out the flow of refugees because a "bulge" of refugees may be released all at once. Indeed, news reports indicate that refugee camps in Thailand hold more than 140,000 Burmese refugees, and severe overcrowding has prompted the United States to start accepting larger numbers of Burmese.

All the Burmese being settled in Fort Wayne this year already have family in the community, Evans said, explaining that when a refugee has family in a community, he has the right to be assigned there.

"It's a tough case because these are family reunifications," Evans said.

Dr. McMahan of the Allen County Health Department told *Today's Catholic* that the community wants to be welcoming, but the large numbers have over-extended the capacity of community resources. She said she does not have the staff or funding to address all the health needs of the local community plus the Burmese refugees, about half of whom have latent tuberculosis that must be treated with antibiotics. Additionally, many arriving refugees don't have any immunizations, which the health department needs to administer.

Taking care of 200 refugees over the course of a year was manageable, she said, but taking care of 180 in three weeks is a very different situation in terms of staff and funding. Refugees are eligible for federal medical assistance funding and for Medicaid for the first eight months they are in the country, but these sources often don't cover all their needs. Plus, federal regulations require providers to bill all patients if they are going to bill Medicaid patients, Dr. McMahan explained.

Thus, Dr. McMahan told the



TIM JOHNSON

Nyein Chan, who was a Burmese refugee, now works with Catholic Charities in resettling refugees. He spoke of the history and the current situation in Burma, now called Myanmar, at a community information meeting on Sept. 24 at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center. From that meeting, working committees were formed from community leaders charged with handling the unexpected additional Burmese refugees in Fort Wayne.

health board that they must start charging everyone, though she worries this may be a disincentive for people to seek treatment, which could be dangerous for the community when infectious diseases are involved. She plans to institute a sliding scale fee based on ability to pay.

The system is flawed, she told *Today's Catholic*, because local communities don't have a choice about how many refugees they can accept at a particular time, the local community does not receive enough funding to cover all the refugees' needs, and there is no communication from the federal level to local health departments or schools.

"It's wonderful that the United States is doing this, but it's not wonderful to the local communities because they're absorbing all the burden. I think we're really highlighting a problem here that needs to be addressed at the federal level," Dr. McMahan said.

Dr. McMahan and Schmidt joined Indiana State Refugee Coordinator Diann Bates of the Indiana Family and Social Services Administration as presenters at a community meeting at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center Sept. 24. They discussed the resettlement of refugees, offered some background on Burma, discussed steps Catholic Charities has taken to pace the arrivals, and identified needs of the Burmese refugees.

Schmidt reported that the State Department and the USCCB expect that the largest number of refugees to resettle in the United States in 2008 will be the Burmese.

"What I've done, I've asked the

State Department, I've asked our congressman's office — I'm talking to everyone in Washington that I can think of — and talking to them about pacing the amount of arrivals so that the community can absorb and find services ... in a more organized fashion," Schmidt said.

Catholic Charities is notified through fax and given a 10-day notice that a refugee will be arriving. In just the week before the community meeting, Catholic Charities received 67 faxes for resettlement. Schmidt expected that number to slow down for just two weeks, but there could possibly be 130 more refugees by the end of the year.

"As for the numbers next year, we don't know what those numbers will be," Schmidt said. "We have been saying that we would agree to 200 refugees like we normally would have in Fort Wayne. Most likely, that number will be much larger. ... And we won't know that number until we start getting faxes. What we want to do in our organization is prepare for a larger number and hope this doesn't happen all next year."

Schmidt has requested that only anchors be used, meaning that refugees must have a sponsor or someone they know in Fort Wayne who could assist them. Others would be diverted to communities such as Indianapolis, Lansing and South Bend. Congressman Souder's office did notify Schmidt that Fort Wayne would no longer receive free cases, just anchor cases.

Schmidt said that once the Burmese refugees are in Fort Wayne, they are eager to get to work, and many employers are eager to hire them. The refugees receive assistance for only eight months, and then they are on their own.

Since many of the refugees are children, and much of the refugee housing is located in the same school boundaries, this has put stress on East Allen County Schools, where 40 additional Burmese children recently were assigned to one elementary school. While the children are immersed into an English as Second Language program, translators are needed, and so are additional classrooms.

Diann Bates of FSSA told *Today's Catholic* that federal school impact grants are being used to help local schools deal with the influx of refugee students. These grants may not cover all the students costs, but can usually place a coordinator in the building to identify resources to help the children, such as reduced-cost lunches, etc.

Bates added that the state is actively trying to find ways to directly fund Allen and Marion counties, both of which are settling large numbers of refugees.

"Fort Wayne has settled a lot of refugees, and there is a lot of expertise there, but the amount this year has really given the community a lot of challenges," Bates said. "But I'm very impressed with the way the county has come together to try to deal with the issues."

Tim Johnson contributed to this story.

STATEMENT FROM BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Concerning the refugee crisis

Pope Benedict XVI has said that welcoming and assisting refugees is a concrete sign of gospel love. Speaking at the United Nations World Refugee Day the Holy Father spoke of the importance of international attention "to those who are forced to flee their countries because of real dangers in their lives." "To welcome and give hospitality to refugees is an obligatory gesture in solidarity," said the pope, and for Christians it is a "concrete way to demonstrate Gospel love."

This is the reason why Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has been, for over 50 years, a key instrument in welcoming refugees to this country. Whether it was the young Cuban boys that came in many years ago after the Cuban revolution and who are now a full part of our community, and of which two became priests and one a bishop, or whether it is the Cambodians or those from Burma, they have been welcomed and taken care of here regardless of their faith or national origin.

Refugees are different from immigrants. They are processed by the United Nations in far away camps and our State Department sends them to this city and to others. They have experienced persecution. Catholic Charities, working with the State Department and The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, cannot determine how many come here. That is determined by the United States government. But in the spirit of the Gospel, we welcome them.

In recent months the number has increased. I have written to our federal legislators, as well as to members of the United States Congress and so has Debbie Schmidt our executive director of Catholic Charities. We have indicated we are still willing to do this Gospel work, but that they must come at a slower pace. After all, we must be good neighbors. We cannot overwhelm our health structure and our schools.

For this reason, our Catholic Charities director recently hosted a meeting of various agencies. We will continue to work with the federal and state representatives and with the members of the United States Congress from Indiana to see if we can slow the pace to a rate that the city of Fort Wayne can handle in a way that is appropriate and respects the dignity of those who are coming and also those who are receiving them.

Let us welcome these refugees as we would welcome Christ. For that is our obligation. Let us also pray for the situation in Burma (Myanmar) that a solution which is fair and just to all may be found.

Community meeting provides information

TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Catholic Charities sponsored an information forum on Sept. 24 to provide background on the refugee resettlement program and information about Burma.

What is a refugee?

Diann Bates, the state refugee coordinator, said that a refugee is a person who has had to flee his or her home country out of well-founded fears of persecution. For the Burmese, whose country is now called Myanmar, the persecution stems from those wanting a democratically elected official to take control of the now-military imposed government.

Bates said the main thing every refugee desires is to return home. The United Nations works with the countries to determine if this is possible. When this does not seem possible, then the nations such as the United States, Canada and Australia, and others as well in Europe begin lengthy screening processes to bring the refugees into the country.

"We are the country that receives the largest numbers of refugees," Bates said when considering the sheer numbers.

The U.S. president sets the number of refugees that will be admitted into the United States.

The Department of State goes into the refugee camps to conduct interviews. The State

Department also works with the Department of Homeland Security and both must accept the refugee.

Where is Burma?

Catholic Charities' Nyein Chan, a former Burmese refugee himself who now works with the Refugee Resettlement Program, explained the crisis that led to the resettlement of many of his people into the country. Burma is located in Southeast Asia. It was a part of the British Empire in the 1800s. It became independent in 1948. In 1962, there was a military coupe. And in 1988, there was a nationwide uprising where many thousands were shot and killed. In 1990, parliamentary elections democratically elected a leader, but she has been held under house arrest and the military still holds power.

Chan showed a refugee camp in Thailand, Mae Hla, which is overcrowded and lacks sanitary conditions.

Chan estimates that 1,350 to 1,400 Burmese have been resettled in Fort Wayne as primary resettlement. But many more, who were settled somewhere else, have relocated to Fort Wayne to be near other family members.

Most of these people, according to Chan, are Buddhist, but there are a number of Christian and Muslim people. The Burmese speak several dialects and one of the difficulties has been to procure translators.

Love others and help God change the world, Archbishop Chaput says

BY MIKE KROKOS

INDIANAPOLIS — We are all a part of God's unfolding plan.

As Catholics, we believe definite things about our role in salvation history.

Our mission on earth must center on the reason why God made each of us: to be holy and "help him in his plan to share his love with the whole world."

That message was shared by Denver Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, one of the keynote speakers at the second annual Indiana Catholic Men's Conference, on Sept. 22 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

"To be Catholic is to be very unique among the world's believers. To be a Catholic means believing that you are a part of a vast historical project. And it's not our project. It's God's," Archbishop Chaput told the more than 1,000 men in attendance.

"Being Catholic means believing that since the beginning of time God has been working out his own hidden purposes in the history of nations and in the biography of every person. He's still unfolding his purposes today, and each of us here has a part to play in his divine plan."

Sponsored by the Marian Center in Indianapolis, the title of the conference was "Lions Breathing Fire: Living the Catholic Faith." Taken from a homily by St. John Chrysostom, a fourth-century saint, it describes what people should be like after receiving Communion.

In his presentation, "Renewing the Church, Converting the World-Reclaiming our Catholic Mission," the archbishop compared the Bible to the sacred books of other world religions.

"What all the sacred texts of other religions have in common is that they're essentially wisdom literature. They're collections of noble teachings aimed at helping believers live ethically and find the right path to peace or happiness or enlightenment," he said.

The Bible also aims to make people wise, Archbishop Chaput said. "But it does much more. It seeks to lead them to salvation, which is much more than enlightenment."

While the Old Testament begins with a step-by-step report of the first day in the history of the world, the New Testament continues that history, Archbishop Chaput said.

The precise historical markers throughout the Bible help us in not only understanding the life of Adam and Eve and their descendants, they assist us in learning about Jesus of Nazareth, and the community he founded, the church, he added.

As Catholics, we believe in the Incarnation and are "the only religion to remember our founder's executioner by name every time we profess our faith (in the Apostles' Creed)," Archbishop Chaput noted.

"Pontius Pilate and Mary are mentioned by name in the creed. Why? The reference to Mary, his mother, guarantees Christ's humanity," he said. "The reference to Pilate, who condemned him to death, guarantees his historicity."

The creed not only tells us about the past. It also speaks to the future, where "we believe Jesus Christ will come again in glory to usher in a kingdom that will have no end," Archbishop Chaput said.

"If the Incarnation represents the past, and the Second Coming represents the future, then the church is always the 'present

tense' of God's plan for history and for each of our lives," he said.

The church exists to "proclaim God's love and the Good News of Jesus Christ to the ends of the earth," Archbishop Chaput continued. "We're here to make disciples of all nations."

That task falls on all of us, the archbishop said, not just members of the clergy.

"The demands of holiness apply to every one of us — and in a special way to husbands and fathers who have the task of leading us," he said. "No excuses. No exceptions."

The church also exists to change sinners into saints, the archbishop noted.

"This is no ordinary human institution," Archbishop Chaput said. "In fact, there's never been anything like the Catholic Church in the history of the world. And there won't ever be again."

For the church to be renewed and revitalized, the renewal must begin inside each of us, the archbishop said.

"As Catholic men, you have an 'ecclesial' being and identity. You're leaders by virtue of your vocation as husbands and fathers, and the church is where you belong," he said. "It's where God called you to be. In the church, you will find God's will for your life."

In our mission to be holy, we must work against the "practical atheism" that has become a world religion, Archbishop Chaput said. The late Pope John Paul II wrote about that challenge in "Memory and Identity," his last book finished just before his death in 2005.

How can we convert the world? Through divine love, which "remains the most revolutionary idea in the world," Archbishop Chaput said.



CNS PHOTO/REUTERS

A man prays at a Buddhist temple occupied by soldiers in Yangon, Myanmar, Oct. 1. At his Sept. 30 blessing, Pope Benedict XVI called for a peaceful resolution to the unrest in Myanmar and urged the entire church to pray for the country.

Pope appeals for peace in Myanmar, asks for prayers

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI appealed for a peaceful resolution to the crisis in Myanmar and urged the entire church to pray for the Asian country.

Speaking at his Sunday blessing Sept. 30, the pope also encouraged dialogue between North and South Korea and asked the world not to forget the suffering caused by poverty and recent flooding in African countries.

The pope's comments on Myanmar came after at least 10 people were reported killed when the country's military junta cracked down on anti-government protests.

"I am following with great trepidation the extremely serious events in Myanmar, and I want to express my spiritual closeness to this dear people as they pass through a moment of difficult trial," the pope said.

"While assuring my sympathetic and intense prayers and inviting the entire church to do likewise, I express the hope that a peaceful solution may be found for the good of the country," he said.

In late September, government soldiers violently dispersed demonstrations led by Buddhist monks in Yangon, Myanmar's capital, firing on crowds, occupying or barricading Buddhist monasteries and arresting many of the monks.

In remarks about North and

South Korea, the pope hailed recent important developments in the dialogue between the two Koreas.

"These give hope that the reconciliation efforts under way can be consolidated, to the advantage of the Korean people and to the benefit of peace and stability in the entire region," he said.

The day the pope spoke, the latest round of six-nation talks on North and South Korea recessed after reaching a draft agreement on North Korean nuclear disarmament. Meanwhile, North and South Korean representatives were preparing to hold a historic three-day summit in early October.

The pope also recalled the 40th anniversary of Pope Paul VI's social encyclical, "Populorum Progressio." He said the encyclical had examined the causes of world hunger and poverty, among them servitude to others and the inability to control nature.

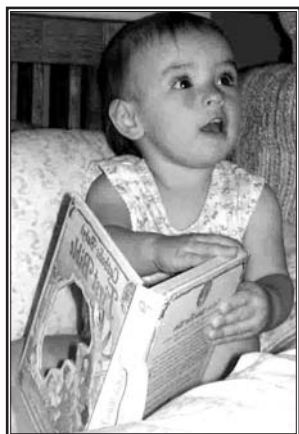
"Unfortunately, some populations suffer from both these factors combined," the pope said. He cited the recent flooding that has ravaged Sudan and more than 20 other African countries.

He said people should not forget the many humanitarian emergencies in today's world, in which the conflicts over political and economic power end up aggravating poor living conditions for local populations.

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St. Charles drive adds Catholic social teaching perspective to youth group

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — For Margaret Digan, the St. Charles Parish, Fort Wayne, director of youth ministry, Catholic social teaching is more about action than text-book theory.

When a nursing instructor from Indiana-Purdue Universities at Fort Wayne (IPFW) approached her about collecting personal toiletry items for an upcoming event, Digan knew it was the perfect project for her youth group. The instructor had a simple request that the youth group collect the much needed items, but Digan wanted to "raise the bar" and include the parish community.

"Why don't we make it a parish (effort)?" she suggested.

A few members of the youth group spoke about the project at the weekend Masses Sept. 15-16, and then the collection was held Sept. 21-22.

Under Digan's direction, the youth group recently collected about 1,000 toiletry items, including shampoo and deodorant, to donate to the "under-served, uninsured and underinsured" population of the area. According to Digan, the items will be handed out in goody bags at the 17th annual Healthy Cities Fair Oct. 26, where those in need can receive health screenings and free personal hygiene items.

But the toiletry drive is just the tip of the iceberg.

"I'm giving (the students) bits and pieces about Catholic social teaching," she said.

Digan said she initiates discussion about relevant social justice issues, such as what is being done to cater to the recent influx of Burmese refugees. "Why are we doing this?" she proposes as a rhetorical question. "My eyes get

opened up even wider. There's an injustice here," she said.

The youth ministry director said she helps the teens "connect the dots" and understand the correlation between what's happening (in Burma) and here.

Digan said she became particularly adamant about social justice, after taking an online course on Catholic social teaching through the University of Notre Dame.

"I wanted to see how I could raise awareness to the youth," Digan said.

Regarding Catholic social teaching, Digan said the initial challenge was educating the teens about the reality of homelessness in Fort Wayne. Many adults are not even aware of the presence of the homeless in our area, Digan said.

Solidarity is a buzzword that comes up time and time again in Catholic social teaching. Digan challenges the students to get out of their comfort zones and "look at the underprivileged and see the face of Christ."

The group will debate relevant social justice issues, but Digan said she also boils it down to one core principle.

"What's the bottom line?" she asks. "To know him ... to love him ... to serve him."

Digan said the youth group has plans to work with Catholic Charities to tutor refugees in mid-October. The "human contact" will be another eye opener for the students. "They're really helping us learn 'Wow, I have so much,'" she said.

But Digan won't stop here. She said she has a hidden agenda to incorporate Catholic social teaching in the students' daily lives.

"I'm taking it one more step further with social justice," she said.

Moral obligation to Iraqi people for U.S. whenever troops leave

BY BETH GRIFFIN

NEW YORK (CNS) — The United States has a moral obligation to the people of Iraq that must be met regardless of when U.S. troops ultimately withdraw from that country.

That was the conclusion of the panelists at "Exit or No Exit? Morality and Withdrawal from Iraq," a New York forum held Sept. 18 and attended by 450 people on the Lincoln Center campus of Jesuit-run Fordham University.

"We must distinguish between the ethics of intervention and the ethics of exit," said Gerard F. Powers, director of policy studies at the Joan B. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame and former director of the U.S. bishops' Office of International Justice and Peace.

"The U.S. intervention may have been an optional, immoral war, but the post-intervention U.S. involvement is not an optional moral commitment," he said.

Quoting the U.S. Catholic bishops, Powers said that the U.S. intervention "has brought with it a new set of moral responsibilities to help Iraqis secure and rebuild their country and to address the consequences of war for the region and the world."

Jean Bethke Elshtain, the Laura Spelman Rockefeller professor of social and political ethics at the University of Chicago Divinity School said: "We cannot separate the morality of exit from the consequences of exit. We have a moral obligation to see it through, so that after the American exit,

there will not be a violent deluge. To abandon these people would be an act of moral dereliction."

Elshtain cautioned, "There is no 'sell-by' date on this issue. Some calls for getting out immediately are irresponsible."

She said, "We're still in Europe 60 years after World War II," but noted that the postwar situation in Iraq is unlike that in Europe. "This is not like fighting fascism. A wholesale change to democracy is not possible," she said.

Michael Walzer, a political philosopher at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, N.J., said that it is not possible to get 160,000 troops, 90,000 contracted workers and 40,000 armored vehicles out of Iraq in one year without repeating the "ignominious end" to the Vietnam War.

Walzer said that the U.S. obligations include securing the Kurds and the Sunnis; guaranteeing the safety of those who have helped the United States or put themselves at risk; and contributing to the cost of resettling Iraqi refugees, while finding a way to continue the struggle against terrorism.

"Strenuous diplomatic effort is needed to get other countries engaged," said Walzer. "Talk won't produce results if we are in retreat."

Sohail Hashmi, associate professor of international relations at Mount Holyoke College, said that the U.S. should withdraw from Iraq as soon as possible, leaving a small contingent of forces to train Iraqis and work as part of a multilateral effort.

Hashmi said, "If we leave Iraq soon, the civil war may escalate,

but the shock of the American departure may provide the catalyst for Iraq to solve its own problems and the catalyst for regional powers to help.

"It is the obligation of the Muslims to keep their house in order. Iraq was a mess before the U.S. intervention. The responsibility lies with the Arab states and their leaders, who made it all possible and necessary by turning a blind eye (to Iraq's aggression against Iran)," Hashmi said.

Powers said attention must be given "to an ethic of responsibility. As a temporary, substitute political authority, what the U.S. owes Iraqis is akin to what the U.S. owes its own citizens ... and not all that different, morally, than our duties to help the people of New Orleans recover from Hurricane Katrina."

"The U.S. is deeply implicated in the turmoil in Iraq," Powers said. "The U.S. role in Iraq might not be 'ancient,' but it is very much a part of any hatreds there. The United States can no more walk away with a clear conscience than a father can abandon the mother of his illegitimate child."

Walzer said that the U.S. has an obligation to try to stop ethnic cleansing in Iraq. "No human being is off the hook when mass murder is going on — and certainly not the most powerful state in the world." Walzer also said that the U.S. government has a responsibility to keep track of civilian casualties. At the very least, he said, "proportionality calculations require it."

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Bishops mark 100th anniversary of first Byzantine bishop in U.S.

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — Ukrainian and Latin-rite Catholic bishops from around the world celebrated the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the first Byzantine bishop in the United States, an event coinciding with the first worldwide Eastern Catholic synod in the United States. When Bishop Stephen Soter Ortynsky arrived in America to lead those “who had come to the shores of the United States (from Eastern Europe) looking for freedom and for a better life,” his task was twofold, said Cardinal Lubomyr Husar of Kiev-Halych, Ukraine. First, Bishop Ortynsky had to establish and organize ecclesial life to help the immigrants spiritually, the cardinal said during his Sept. 30 homily at the Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Philadelphia. Then “he had to explain to his brother bishops of the Latin rite ... who were these immigrants,” the cardinal said. The Eastern Catholics had a different culture and liturgical tradition and were “so different that it seemed impossible to integrate them into the American life,” said Cardinal Husar.

Pope ordains bishops, asks them to serve as ‘guardian angels’

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Ordaining new bishops for the first time in his pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI called six men to be “guardian angels” of the people entrusted to their care. Celebrating the ordinations in St. Peter’s Basilica Sept. 29, the feast of Sts. Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, archangels, Pope Benedict told the new bishops that, like angels, their entire beings must be oriented toward God, and their mission is to be messengers of God. Pope Benedict first laid his hands on the head of Coadjutor Archbishop Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki of the Latin-rite Archdiocese of Lviv, Ukraine; he had been the assistant personal secretary of Pope John Paul II and served as Pope Benedict’s assistant secretary for the past two years. The others ordained were: Archbishops Francesco Brugnaro of Camerino-San Severino Marche, Italy; Gianfranco Ravasi, president of the Pontifical Council for Culture; Tommaso Caputo, nuncio to Malta and to Libya; and Bishops Sergio Pagano, prefect of the Vatican Secret Archives, and Vincenzo di Mauro, secretary of the Prefecture for the Economic Affairs of the Holy See.

Diocese of Rome says sale of relics is sacrilegious

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Diocese of Rome has underlined that the sale of relics is sacrilegious, following media reports that bits of garments worn by Pope John Paul II were being sold online. The Rome diocesan office charged with promoting Pope John Paul’s sainthood cause has been distributing prayer cards and relics, tiny pieces

CHIEF JUSTICE SPEAKS WITH WASHINGTON ARCHBISHOP



CNS PHOTO/JASON REED, REUTERS

Chief Justice John G. Roberts and Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington walk into the sunlight after the Red Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington Sept. 30. The annual Mass is celebrated traditionally the Sunday before the new Supreme Court session begins.

of one of the white cassocks worn by the late pope. The cards and relics are offered free of charge to those requesting them, but the office has sometimes encouraged donations for postage. More recently, its Web site ran a more general invitation to make a “free-will offering for the cause.” That apparently caused enough confusion to spur press reports of the sale of relics. In late September, the diocesan Web site posted interviews with church officials emphasizing that the relics were not for sale and never have been. “Relics absolutely cannot be bought or sold because they are sacred objects, they have no price. The problem of the sale of relics is widespread on the Internet, and let me say that this is a sacrilege,” Msgr. Marco Frisina, who heads the liturgy office in the Diocese of Rome, said in one of the interviews.

In message to Muslims, cardinal touches on violence, terrorism

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a message to the Muslim world, a leading Vatican official denounced terrorism and all violence committed in the name of religion. The message also took aim at religious discrimination, saying the rights of all believers must be protected during the “troubled times we are passing through.” The text, released by the Vatican Sept. 28, marked the end of Ramadan, the Islamic month of prayer and fasting that concludes in mid-October. It was written by Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, who took over as head of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue earlier this year. Christians and Muslims, the cardinal said, need to intensify their dialogue so that younger generations “do not become cultural or religious blocs opposed to each other.” Cardinal

Tauran began and ended his message by expressing the church’s “warmest greetings” to the Islamic world. But the text touched on a number of sensitive issues, especially those of religious liberty, violence and terrorism.

Pope names Italian church historian to head Vatican newspaper

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has chosen an Italian church historian, Giovanni Maria Vian, as the new director of the Vatican newspaper, *L’Osservatore Romano*. Vian, 55, has taught patristic philology at the Rome university La Sapienza and has been a longtime contributor to the Italian Catholic newspaper *Avvenire*. He has specialized in studies on early Christianity and Judaism and on the contemporary papacy. He replaces Mario Agnes, who directed the newspaper for 23 years. The Vatican announced the appointment Sept. 29. Vian is the author of more than 80 specialist publications and academic commentaries. His book, “The Donation of Constantine,” published in 2004, examines the relationship between the papacy and politics. The Vatican also announced the appointment of the newspaper’s new vice director, Carlo Di Cicco. Di Cicco, 63, has been director of the Italian Catholic news agency ASCA. Accredited as a journalist at the Vatican since 1973, he is considered one of the most knowledgeable reporters on the Vatican beat.

Crookston, Minn., bishop retires; priest named successor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the res-

ignation of Bishop Victor H. Balke of Crookston, Minn., and appointed as his successor Msgr. Michael J. Hoepfner, vicar general of the Diocese of Winona, Minn. Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, announced the changes in Washington Sept. 28. The announcement came one day shy of Bishop Balke’s 76th birthday. He submitted his resignation when he turned 75 last September. Canon law requires all bishops to submit their resignation to the pope when they turn 75. Bishop-designate Hoepfner, 58, will be ordained and installed as the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Crookston Nov. 30. Winona Bishop Bernard J. Harrington applauded the appointment, describing Bishop-designate Hoepfner as “well prepared and well qualified.” “I know the people and the clergy of the Diocese of Crookston will welcome him with open arms and work with him to build up the church of Crookston,” he said.

Spokane Diocese moves toward bankruptcy end with \$5 million payment

SPOKANE, Wash. (CNS) — In what Bishop William S. Skylstad called “just one small step toward healing for the victims,” the Diocese of Spokane was to wire \$5 million Oct. 1 to a trust account set up to pay the claims of those sexually abused by clergy in the diocese. The payment to the Plan Trustee Trust Account, as stipulated by the bankruptcy reorganization plan approved in April, brings the diocese “one step closer to fulfilling the requirements of the plan and concluding the Chapter 11 reorganization,” Bishop Skylstad said in a Sept. 27 statement. A payment of

\$1 million remains and must be made by Oct. 1, 2009, he said. Bishop Skylstad said the diocese “has incurred approximately \$3.4 million in debt to date, which includes payment for trade creditors by January 2008.” He said he would “continue fundraising to reduce the level of debt, so that ministry support in eastern Washington can continue.” Under the terms of the settlement plan, the 176 childhood victims of abuse by priests or other church personnel in the diocese will receive compensation ranging from \$15,000 to \$1.5 million, depending on several factors, including the severity of the abuse and whether or not the statute of limitations had run out before the claim was made.

Copper theft at Colorado Springs cathedral part of nationwide trend

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (CNS) — This summer when sections of copper drain pipes on the outside of St. Mary’s Cathedral in downtown Colorado Springs were stolen, the church became the victim of a crime that has become a nationwide trend. Around the country, thieves have been stealing copper to sell to scrap metal recyclers, sometimes fetching hundreds of dollars for each section they sell. Prices have soared on the commodities market recently, with copper going for more than \$3 per pound. A church custodian noticed missing sections of the drain pipes on the outside of St. Mary’s Cathedral in June. Thieves tore out what was easiest to reach and grabbed about a half-dozen sections of the pipes along the west and south sides of the church, netting 7-foot sections at a time. The inside plaza that is locked at night was unaffected. The church’s loss, which was reported to police and the diocesan insurer, is estimated at \$1,800, and the chances of tracing the stolen copper were slim.

Pope sends greetings to new Romanian Orthodox patriarch

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI sent warm greetings and words of ecumenical encouragement to the newly elected head of the Romanian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Daniel. After expressing his joy at the inauguration of the patriarch’s ministry, the pope said Catholic-Orthodox relations should be strengthened “in order to respond to the present needs of Europe and the world on the religious and social levels.” He said, “The common witness of Christians is increasingly necessary to respond to our common vocation and the urgent needs of our time.” The pope’s message was read aloud after an enthronement liturgy for the new patriarch Sept. 30 in Bucharest, Romania. A Vatican delegation headed by Cardinal Walter Kasper, the Vatican’s chief ecumenist, attended. Patriarch Daniel, 56, who was elected by the Romanian Orthodox synod Sept. 12, is regarded as a modernizer within his church and open to ecumenism. He replaced Patriarch Teoctist, who died in July at age 92.

St. Aloysius to sponsor parish mission

YODER — St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Yoder is sponsoring a parish mission in mid-October. There will be five consecutive evenings of prayer, singing and reflections in response to the preaching of Father Robert Halter, CSSR, a Redemptorist priest from Chicago. The Redemptorists have a long history of preaching parish missions in the United States.

The parish mission is an extraordinary preaching event. God's word is proclaimed through the Bible and through the life, learning and personal experience of the preacher. The St. Aloysius Parish mission begins Sunday, Oct. 14, at 7 p.m. and continues each of the next four evenings, concluding on Thursday evening with the celebration of a Mass.

The mission theme is "Behold the Face of Christ: His Steadfast Love Endures Forever" in conjunction with the Sesquicentennial Jubilee Year theme of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The themes, symbols, topics and goals of the preaching, reflections and renewal are different each evening:

- Oct. 14, 7 p.m. — The symbol is the Bible, representing God's communications to all people. The topic is salvation, God's dream for our happiness ... and our response. The goal is to deepen acceptance of God's tremendous love for all.

- Oct. 15, 7 p.m. — The symbol is the crucifix, representing Jesus' way of life through death. The topic is Jesus as savior: Who is Jesus? The goal is to renew personal faith in Jesus.

- Oct. 16, 7 p.m. — The symbol this night is the Easter candle, representing the risen Jesus, the Lord of light and healing. The topic is sin, reconciliation and healing, living the life of conversion. The goal is to be freed of the burden of sinfulness, and of past grudges and pains.

- Oct. 17, 7 p.m. — The symbol this night is bread, representing Jesus, the bread of life. The topic is the Eucharist, nourishment for strength in the journey through life. The goal is appreciation of the Eucharist and how this grace strengthens the witness of faith to others.

- Oct. 18, 7 p.m. — The symbol this night is the altar, representing Jesus pouring himself out for all. The topic is the mission, the calling to go out and share in the work of Jesus Christ and the church. The goal is to become more aware of how all need to go forth and proclaim the good news.

Catholics and non-Catholics from the surrounding area are invited to attend the mission. There will be refreshments and socializing each evening after the service (only one-hour-and-15 minutes long). Also, there will be childcare provided for families with children age 6 and under. Please contact Karen Freiburger at (260) 639-6927 for prior childcare arrangements.

Transportation will be available within the community. For further general info regarding the mission visit the parish Web site at www.santalloysiuscatholicchurch.org.

St. Aloysius is located south of exit 6, Interstate 469, on State Road 1, Yoder.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

JOHN LEHNER ELECTED 43RD FAITHFUL NAVIGATOR



PROVIDED BY ELMER J. DANCH

Passing the traditional gavel to a new regime of officers is Stephen Elek, Jr., past faithful navigator of the Father Nieuwland Assembly 242, Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus, center, to John J. Lehner, newly elected 43rd faithful navigator of the 10-council assembly located in South Bend. At the right is Elmer J. Danch, first navigator of the assembly, which was organized in 1943 and named in honor of Father Julius A. Nieuwland, professor of organic chemistry at the University of Notre Dame and a founder of synthetic rubber.

Confirmation Rally information sent for Nov. 3 youth event

NORTH MANCHESTER — The diocesan Office of Catechesis and the Office of Youth Ministry and Spiritual Formation will host the 2007 confirmation rally on Saturday, Nov. 3, at Manchester College in North Manchester. The theme of the rally is Spiritus Sanctus: The Original Transformer.

Information packets have been mailed to all parish directors of religious education, school principals and youth ministers in the diocese. With a Friday, Oct. 19, deadline approaching, registration is offered on a first come-first serve basis.

The cost is \$25 per participant. This fee covers relevant catechetical sessions, music, a keynote speaker, lunch and a confirmation rally t-shirt.

The day includes an opening session, three round-robin sessions, a concert featuring Catholic-Christian group Popple, a keynote address and the closing Mass celebrated by Bishop John M. D'Arcy. The closing liturgy is a lively, but reverent experience of the body of Christ at work in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The youth are challenged not only to seriously prepare for confirmation, but also to live their Catholic faith daily and realize

that confirmation is the beginning of a lifelong journey with the Holy Spirit. Besides catechesis and music, the youth have prayerful sacramental times.

The sacrament of reconciliation is an important part of the retreat and many priests assist at the rally to offer Christ's forgiveness to the hundreds of youth who attend. Confessions are planned so that priests are able to choose a time that is convenient for them to get back in time for parish responsibilities.

"With God's grace and all our efforts Spiritus Sanctus: The Original Transformer will be a memorable, Spirit-filled day in the lives of our youth of our diocese preparing for the sacrament of confirmation," wrote Sister Jane Carew, diocesan director of catechesis, and Cindy Black, diocesan director of youth ministry in the rally information letter.

USF celebrates feast of St. Francis of Assisi

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis announces four special events to celebrate the patron saint of the university, St. Francis of Assisi. Sponsored by the Center for Franciscan Spirit and Life and the University of Saint Francis Campus Ministry, all events are open to the public at no charge.

Mass is Thursday, Oct. 4, at 5:15 p.m. in the St. Francis Chapel, Trinity Hall. Blessing of

Pets will follow Mass at 6:15 p.m. at the main (north) entrance of Trinity Hall. All pets and their owners are invited to receive a special blessing from university chaplain Father John Stecher.

As a service project, Campus Ministry will offer the opportunity to make greeting cards for the retired Sisters at St. Francis Woods in Frankfort, Ill., and the residents of Provena Sacred Heart Home in Avilla. This will also be Oct. 4 from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the Campus Ministry building.

Lindenwood hold 'Caregiver Day Away'

DONALDSON — Registrations are now being taken for the program, "Caregiver's Day Away," a day for caregivers to let God's love and grace replenish, affirm and energize them. A break from constant giving, this is to be a day of receiving, sharing and encouragement.

The facilitator is Poor Handmaid of Jesus Christ Sister Jeanne Koehler, a former teacher and professor. She is currently spiritual counselor and partner with individuals on their spiritual journeys.

The program will be Monday, Oct. 22, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The program fee is \$35, which includes the main noon meal and the book, "God Knows Caregiving Can Pull You Apart."

For more information or to register, contact Lindenwood at (574)

935-1780 weekdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. or e-mail: lw@lindenwood.org. Register early. Seating is limited.

Write a Will Campaign visits Catholic sites

FORT WAYNE — In October, 21 nonprofit organizations will offer free sample wills to individuals who agree to leave a bequest in their will to a charitable organization. Called Leave a Legacy's Write a Will Campaign, this annual event helps to make individuals aware that simply leaving a donation to a charity of their choice can make a difference for years to come.

Of the 21 nonprofits involved with the Write a Will Day events, the following Catholic institutions are involved:

- St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Church, 1720 E. Wallen Rd., Fort Wayne, Oct. 15-19 at various times. Contact Kyle Davis for an appointment at (260) 489-3537 ext. 247 or e-mail: Kdavis@saintv.org.

- University of Saint Francis, Bass Mansion, 2701 Spring St., Fort Wayne, Oct. 17, 3:30-6:30 p.m. Call Jane Gerardot for an appointment at (260) 486-6016.

St. Vincent de Paul Parish to present Catholicism Revealed series

FORT WAYNE — The popular series Catholicism Revealed at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Wayne will return this month as the parish explores "the who, what, when, where and why's of Catholicism."

The sessions are held at 7 p.m. on Mondays in the St. Vincent de Paul Church. The rosary is prayed at 6:30 p.m., and those attending the sessions are also welcome to arrive early to participate.

The following speakers are scheduled:

- Monday, Oct. 15 — Father Dan Scheidt will be speaking on the topic "Behold the Lamb of God," which will deal with issues surrounding the Eucharist in today's life. What does the real presence mean? Why do priests alone consecrate bread and wine during our Mass? These questions and more will be answered during Father Scheidt's presentation.

- Monday, Oct. 22 — Theresa Thomas, contributor to *Today's Catholic*, will present the topic "When Mother Mary Comes Visiting: The Role of the Blessed Mother in a Modern Catholic's Life"

- Monday, Oct. 29 — Marilyn Fech, theology teacher at Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne, will discuss "In The Beginning," the early history, persecutions and events that conspired to work against the early church, which, despite all odds, grew through the work of the Holy Spirit.

- Monday, Nov. 5 — Vilus Lapas, an attorney with a bachelor's degree in theology, will speak about "Where Have All the Miracles Gone?" and discuss the corporal works of mercy and five classes of miracles.

Understanding Revelation

Father John Pfister to present series at Archbishop Noll Center

BY DON CLEMMER

FORT WAYNE — Four horsemen, the last days, the rapture, 144 thousand marked, a great battle of the Apocalypse, a beast with a stake on the number 666 — the popular associations of the Book of Revelation have permeated the popular consciousness and the Christian imagination for centuries.

These popular perceptions — and misconceptions — of Revelation will come under scruti-

ny by Father John Pfister, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Huntington, during a series of three presentations on Wednesday, Oct. 17, Tuesday, Oct. 23, and Wednesday, Oct. 24, from 7-9 p.m. at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, 915 South Clinton St., Fort Wayne.

In his presentations, Father Pfister will delve into what he calls one of the most misunderstood books of the Bible and provide the Catholic understanding of it, something that he notes is different from that of televangelists and other places in popular culture.

Father Pfister himself hadn't explored Revelation at great length until the early 1990s, when televangelists and other media references to the book made him curious.

"It was sounding very ghastly," he notes, and it all prompted him to think, "I wonder what this book is really saying."

So in the fall of 1996, Father Pfister received the bishop's permission to take a sabbatical, and from there he went to Florida to study the Book of Revelation. In the course of his studies, he encountered Father Patrick Sena, CPPS, who had written extensively on the topic and provided Father Pfister with books, tapes and other resources.

In his studies, Father Pfister came to understand the Book of Revelation in its historical context as a message of hope, not fear, for the early Christian communities. He also learned to interpret it as a

work of apocalyptic literature, an ancient style of writing that draws heavily on a code of numbers and symbols.

Upon his return to the diocese, Father Pfister told Bishop John M. D'Arcy that he would be willing to give some talks on what he had learned.

"He was very happy about that. He said, 'It was a good use of your sabbatical,'" Father Pfister recalls.

Father Pfister went on to give his talk a couple times a year throughout the diocese in towns including Warsaw, Pierceton and South Bend and at various locations in Fort Wayne, primarily Queen of Angels Parish, where he served at the time. Most recently, he presented a condensed form of

the presentation at the Aug. 18 Eucharistic Congress at the University of Notre Dame.

Interest generated by the Notre Dame presentation is responsible in part for Father Pfister's talks at the Archbishop Noll Center.

Father Pfister says he has received generally positive feedback on his presentation over the years, with people saying how great it is to understand something that was for so long a puzzle in its imagery, symbolism and meaning.

Father Pfister is glad that his presentation has been this helpful, but quickly and humbly notes, "I was very happy to learn about the book and share what I learned."

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The AT&T Pioneers presented over 40 dictionaries to the third and fourth grade students at St. Jude Catholic School in South Bend on Sept. 25. Student Madison Smith is shown in this photo at the distribution. The Pioneers are a group of communications company employees and retirees who assist charitable organizations, especially with respect to education. According to Elva Gable, a Pioneers group member and St. Jude parishioner, other organizations have distributed the same dictionaries to the South Bend Community Schools and Mishawaka. The



Pioneers wanted to give them to schools that have not had the opportunity. St. Jude is the first parochial school recipient.

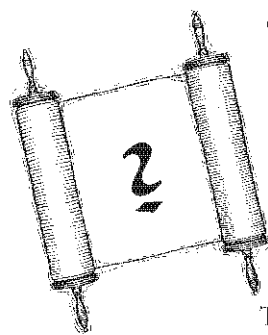
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Living today



THE CUTTING EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

It has been my experience that there are two kinds of people in the world, those who tend to live in the past and others who always seem to be planning their next steps. When we are young we often think about what we want to do when we grow up. When we have accumulated more than a few years, we find ourselves looking back at the way life “used to be.” It is difficult to give our undivided attention to the “now” of life. Even so, no matter where we fit into this scheme of thought, the reality is that all we really have is now. We can think about the past or the future as much as we want, but all real living takes place in the present moment.

When I was a young sister in formation, one of the members of my congregation, the Sisters of the Holy Cross, always talked about living in the present moment. At the time I really didn't get the full impact of what she was trying to say. Now that I have

lived a few more years, I have come to realize the wisdom of her words.

Many of us would have to admit that we often do not take the time to fully experience each moment of our days. Often we find ourselves either thinking about what happened to us yesterday or planning our next class or appointment. In doing so, we miss a good part of our lives. It reminds me of something written by columnist Erma Bombeck who talked about all the things she would do differently if she had her life to live over. She would stop and smell more flowers. She would spend more time with her loved ones. She would have more fun and work less, etc.

In this hectic world it is not always easy to live in the present moment. It is a discipline most of us have to acquire. Much of the time I fight to stay centered. Like right now I am trying to block out all the other stuff on my “to do list” and concentrate on this article. It is indeed a challenge to concentrate on what we are doing.

By now, some might be asking themselves, “So what if I think about yesterday or about what tomorrow will bring? What is so wrong with that?” Well, it is not a matter of right or wrong. It is just that when we do that most of the time we tend to miss a lot of life.

One very important part of life that we can fail to recognize is God's faithful and

constant presence. We can read about the actions of God in the past or plan when we want to go to Mass over the weekend, but the way we connect with God is in the here and now. To be sure, God is always with us whether we acknowledge that fact or not, but we can miss many opportunities to communicate with and encounter God if we do not call to mind God's abiding presence.

An example I often use about God's presence is the analogy of a radio or television. Sound waves are always in the atmosphere, but the appliance must be turned on for us to hear them. The same holds true for e-mail messages. Our messages are somewhere out there in cyberspace, but we cannot read them unless we have a computer, Blackberry, or another electronic device to read them. (Don't you hate people who rarely empty their mailboxes? We can do that with God's messages too.)

So, to get the most out of life, we must learn the discipline of cherishing and living fully each moment God gives us. I think Jesus was getting at that when he told his disciples, in the Gospel of Matthew, “Enough then, of worrying about tomorrow. Let tomorrow take care of itself. Today has enough troubles of its own.” — Mt. 6:34.

I might add that, besides troubles, each day is also filled with wonderful things that we can easily miss.

Often people diagnosed with a terminal



YOUNG ADULT PERSPECTIVES

disease say that they try to live each of their remaining days to the fullest or as if it were their last. Well, whether we are on the verge of death or not, each one of our days is numbered. Today will never be repeated. Let's open our eyes and see what is happening in our lives and try to get the most out of this precious gift of life God has given to us.

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

‘Never forget’ this spiritual tip

“I could never do that,” my grandma said while admiring her neighbor's newly installed cupboards.

Her neighbor's 4-year-old, Olivia, who visits grandma often, responded matter-of-factly. “That's because you're old,” she said.

“But you know how to play,” she added, “and you'll never forget that.”

In her youthful candor, Olivia delivered a profound compliment. To know how to play is to know how to be fully human, which is as physical as it is spiritual. Preserving that muscle memory in contemporary culture is a rare and sacred feat.

The value of our lives — professional and personal — is measured by productivity. Do you have a stuffed inbox? A long to-do list? A packed schedule? The goal is to answer in the affirmative.

If you run into someone who asks how you've been, the proper answer is, “Busy!” It excuses the lack of contact while conveying an important degree of activity.

Somewhere along the assembly line of pagers and smartphones, being busy became vogue. It's the idea that you should always be in motion, having just completed one duty, heading to another. It's the concept that life should be a continuous string of tasks, lined up with no breathing room in between.

But there's a difference between constant motion and meaningful productivity — a dis-

inction that's often lost today — and setting aside playtime actually boosts the kind of productivity that is satisfying and valuable.

Just ask Dr. Stuart Brown, the founder and president of the National Institute for Play. A recovered workaholic, Dr. Brown has become an advocate of “pleasurable, apparently purposeless activity.”

That notion, the late author Brenda Ueland once wrote, “makes us busy, efficient” Americans “with our accomplishment-mania feel uneasy and guilty.”

But your guilt will dissolve

Somewhere along

the assembly line of pagers and smartphones,

being busy became vogue.

once you hear Dr. Brown's wide-ranging list of the benefits of play. An actively playful life develops a sense of self, energizes the body, accelerates learning, prevents violence, upholds trust, reduces stress and improves problem solving.

And get this, young adults: play directs us to carve lives in accord with our intrinsic talents. (So cancel that appointment with the career counselor and go shoot hoops!)

Of course, Dr. Brown wasn't the first advocate of play. More than seven centuries ago, St. Thomas Aquinas preached that play is medicine for the soul. “It is requisite for the relaxation of



TWENTY SOMETHING

BY CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

the mind,” he wrote, “that we make use of playful deeds and jokes.”

A dozen centuries before that Jesus proclaimed, “Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.”

To be childlike, Jesus suggested, is to leapfrog many barriers to a free-flowing well of faith.

As young adults, we are instructed to depart from youth immediately, entirely. We must assume firm handshakes and long hours.

It's fine to demonstrate professionalism with a blazer and briefcase, but if those props lead to taking yourself too seriously, your spirit will suffer.

This October, as companies turn their focus to fourth-quarter earnings, make time for play. Jump in a pile of leaves. Experiment on a pumpkin's face. Step into a zany Halloween costume.

“Apparently purposeless activity” serves a holy purpose.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. E-mail her at christinacap@gmail.com.

At Great Barrier Reef, an open-air chapel for World Youth Day cross

BY DAN McALOON

CAIRNS, Australia (CNS) — The navy patrol boat HMAS Broome took a break from security operations along Australia's northern border to transport the World Youth Day cross, icon and aboriginal message stick to the aqua blue waters of the Great Barrier Reef.

The trip fulfilled another milestone in the epic journey that is taking the symbols around the Australian continent for a year before World Youth Day, July 15-20, in Sydney.

Anchored off Fitzroy Island, nearly 14 miles east of Cairns in the Coral Sea, the HMAS Broome became a rocking open-air chapel for a prayer service Sept. 22. Deacon Matt Ransom, officiating for the Cairns Diocese, began the service quoting the Book of Genesis about God creating the waters teeming with swarms of living creatures.

Deacon Ransom said the Book of Genesis could be describing the abundance of life forms on the Great Barrier Reef and in its surrounding waters.

“People who spend even a few hours exploring the reef become conservationists for life,” he said, noting that warming sea temperatures and climate change posed the greatest threat to the reef's biodiversity.

Deacon Ransom told the gathered pilgrims that since the World Youth Day cross had been brought to Cairns, he had witnessed “the depths of God's forgiving love” and its effects on the local people.

“I have seen people touching the cross and afterward they are glowing, their pain is gone. As humans, if we do not turn to the cross to take our pain, then we

take it out on our environment,” he said.

He led the group in a prayer for “an ecological conversion which grows and spreads to every corner of the earth.”

At the service, army Lt. Ivan Yau offered a prayer for God's blessing on men and women serving in the armed forces.

“By your powerful spirit shield them from all harm. Uphold them in good times and bad ... and hasten the day when the human family will rejoice in lasting peace,” he said.

Representing Australia's indigenous people at the service was 16-year-old Kim Reys, a member of the Yidinji clan, whose members traditionally have lived in the area from the southern plateaus outside Cairns to the reefs of the Coral Sea.

Reys held in her hands the message stick made by Sydney's Aboriginal Catholic Ministry. A message stick is a traditional form of greeting used by one indigenous people when entering another people's country. The World Youth Day stick, decorated in totems of the whale, eagle and footprints, extends an invitation for all indigenous Catholics to come to World Youth Day in Sydney.

The message sticks were to remind the church of the unfinished justice work in reconciling white and black Australians with a brutal past in which the indigenous people were dispossessed of their traditional lands and removed to institutions under a policy of assimilation.

Reys said she will be going to World Youth Day with other pilgrims from the Cairns Diocese because “as an indigenous young person I want to feel the spirit and meet up with other indigenous people. It's something I'm really looking forward to.”

'It looks like we have a miracle here!'

Fox family certain their little miracle happened as a result of the tremendous outpouring of faith and prayer

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — "Do you realize this will be a lifelong problem, and there is no cure?"

The perinatologists' words stung as Rob and Debbie Fox digested the laundry list given to them of all the things that were wrong with their developing baby: Two, instead of a three-vessel umbilical chord; water on the brain; spots on the heart; dilated kidneys.

Individually, none of the problems were life-threatening, but together they indicated, at best case, a child born with Down's Syndrome. The specialist was less than encouraging.

"You can do something about this now," she said, "instead of living with this problem."

"This problem" was the Fox's sixth child, and there was no way they would consider abortion. But the early diagnosis rapidly went from bad to worse.

A few months earlier, appropriately enough on Labor Day weekend, Debbie learned she was pregnant. With a 9-month-old and four other children under the age of 10, their house was full of life. Despite a difficult delivery with their last child, the Foxes welcomed another baby. But that joy was challenged after an ultrasound was performed to determine the due date.

"The technician looked

alarmed, but didn't say anything right away," recalled Debbie. "The doctor was called in, and they finally determined the spots on my uterus indicated either a molar pregnancy or fibroid tumors. But they couldn't be sure."

A molar pregnancy means the baby stops developing and eventually dies. This can also cause fatal cancer in the mother. Debbie's obstetrician, Dr. Thomas Gruszynski, referred her to the perinatologist for the first time. That specialist said she was "most likely certain" it was a molar pregnancy, and sent Debbie to have an MRI.

As Debbie sat in the lobby, she wondered what further damage an MRI would cause, especially if this wasn't a molar pregnancy. The MRI technician agreed.

"I can't aim a hi-powered magnet on your baby," the technician told Debbie. "That would kill it. This isn't safe."

Still without any real answers, Debbie breathed a small sigh of relief. "I realized God was working through that MRI doctor."

Worried about the health of both his baby and his wife, Rob called on a family friend, Father Mark Manion, an Opus Dei priest. When presented with a surgical option that would save Debbie's life but kill the baby, Father Mark recommended both prayer and a second medical opinion.

"We were praying all the time," said Rob, who took many of his prayers before the Blessed Sacrament in the adoration chapel at Corpus Christi Church.

Their ordeal was far from over, however. Results from a specialist in Chicago determined the spots seen on the ultrasound were actu-



DIANE FREEBY

Rob and Debbie Fox are Catholic home-schoolers of six beautiful children. They are Lauren, 5, Samantha, 9, Natalie, 4 months, Ryan, 8, Kaelyn, 11, and Rachel, 22 months.

ally fibroid tumors. They counted seven, some the size of oranges, and this posed another threat for their baby.

"The tumors were growing as quickly as the baby," recalled Debbie. "Our doctor worried the tumors would grow into the baby and suffocate her."

Premature birth became another concern, and the Foxes hoped Debbie could make it to the 35-week mark. A Cesarean section delivery seemed to be a foregone conclusion, and the doctor had concerns about how he would maneuver around all the tumors to safely remove the baby and keep Debbie from bleeding to death at the same time.

Despite the seemingly never-ending barrage of difficult news,

both Rob and Debbie leaned more than ever on their faith.

Emotionally spent, Debbie recalled a phone call with her mother.

"God is the author of life," she somehow found the words. "He gives life and he takes it away. I'm not going to fret about God's decision, and I just held it up in prayer that way."

Debbie and Rob asked for prayers from their family and friends. Thanks to the Internet and a circle of prayerful friends, more people than they may ever know prayed for the little baby who was facing big problems just trying to enter this world.

Debbie was getting bigger all the time, measuring about eight weeks larger than normal. Then, as only a loving husband can put it, "Debbie finally stopped expanding." That's when Rob got the impression that somehow, things were normal again.

At the next visit, Dr. Gruszynski also seemed more relaxed. Debbie was only measuring four-weeks too big. Wanting to check on the baby's heart, he sent

Debbie back to the perinatologist.

The same specialist who gave the Foxes the dire prediction and an offer to "fix the problem," made all her measurements, then was quiet. She said nothing and flipped on the lights.

Debbie had to know. "What's the scoop?"

The specialist simply said, "Everything looks fine. You have no reason to see me again."

Debbie and Rob were stunned. They asked about everything, and everything on that original laundry list was gone — no water on the brain, no spots on the heart — their baby was perfectly fine.

Back at Dr. Gruszynski's office, the focus turned from the baby to the tumors that surrounded her. The technician performed another ultrasound to determine the exact position of the tumors so the doctor could map out his plan for a C-section. As she repeatedly scanned Debbie's uterus from every angle, the technician was flabbergasted.

"It looks like we have a miracle here!" she said, as she rushed to get the doctor. Debbie overheard his comments to the technician.

"These fibroid tumors don't just disappear," he said in disbelief. "They usually have to be surgically removed."

Natalie Catherine Fox was born perfectly healthy May 10, 2007. According to Debbie, it was the easiest delivery and recovery she has ever had.

"God's hand was clearly in this," said Debbie. She and Rob are certain their little miracle happened as a result of the tremendous outpouring of faith and prayer. Rob remembers saying many rosaries throughout the entire ordeal.

"I attribute this miracle to the Blessed Mother," explained Rob.

"I just know prayer changes things," continued Debbie. "I never thought God couldn't heal the baby and me. It was God's will be done. I walk with the hand of the Almighty. How can I be afraid?"

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Birthday Ministries candles are 'lights for life'

BY KAY COZAD

DECATUR — Drive down U.S. 33 in Decatur and you'll see a curious sight; a billboard posing the startling statistic, "80 percent of Down's Syndrome Babies are aborted." Add the disarming picture of Andy Faurote, a young man who lives with Down's Syndrome, shown saying "Thanks Mom, for choosing life!" and this eye-catching advertisement speaks volumes of the continuum of issues involved with respecting life in all its forms.

Though respecting life generally emphasizes choosing life and natural death, quality of life for the disabled is near and dear to one Decatur resident's heart. Missy Burkhalter, Andy's sister, has become a champion for the area disabled population.

Burkhalter, with husband Kevin and three children are lifelong parishioners of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish. She is one of five siblings who share love and admiration for their youngest brother, Andy.

"He was a prayed for baby," says Burkhalter, recalling that her parents were 42 and 37 years old at the time of her brother's birth. Her mother, she says, sensed "something wasn't right" with the pregnancy, but was exuberant with the prospect of another baby.

Following Andy's birth the doctor reassured the family all was well. Two months later, Down's Syndrome was confirmed.

With the love and support of his family Andy has grown into a "healthy and precious" young man who will celebrate his 27th birthday soon. He works three days a week at the local, hospital and also enjoys his involvement as Belmont High School wrestling manager. Andy is grateful for his eight close friends and his independence.

Andy's sister says of him, "He lights up everybody's life. There is a little bit of Jesus when Andy's present with you. Everyone knows him and loves him." She and her family enjoy his company during his weekend visits to their home.

Andy has assisted his sister with a candle-making venture for several years after she and grandpa Dutch Baker researched the process for a year before they formed Dutchez Candle Company. Her creative efforts had them fashioning candles resembling birthday cakes and soon hired three others, including Andy, to produce the celebration gifts, which were sold wholesale and at the local Giftmart store.

Even as Burkhalter lost money on the venture, she continued to feel a divine call to produce the candles, but wondered how to "do it differently." In 2004 she opened a small retail store where she displayed the candles, and within two years she was offering the candles at local craft shows and fundraisers.

The difference now was Andy and his eight friends were involved. The group of nine young people with varying disabilities wore matching T-shirts at each event as they labeled and arranged the candles.

Seeing their joy and dedicated involvement "made me realize that I was on the right track," says

Burkhalter.

Missy Burkhalter first became a pro-life advocate when she and her husband were blessed with the adoption of two of the children after years of infertility. "My own life has been so touched by my adopted kids and going through infertility. I thank God those birth mothers chose life." During her time of struggle, she yearned to make a difference in the hearts of those contemplating abortion. Inspiration at Mass one day had her realizing she could donate the profits of her candle sales to organizations that support life, such as Life Choice Pregnancy Centers, adoption agencies, and Down's Syndrome groups.

After much prayer she was inspired, again at Mass, to create Birthday Ministries in an effort to support life in all its forms, including her brother and his friends, who would have a place in the ministry.

As she followed God's leading, a friend suggested a grant proposal for the billboard. Burkhalter jumped at the chance and was awarded the grant, which would pay for her brother's message to be displayed for one month.

"It went up June 18. It's now September and it's still up. That's God," says the faithful advocate.

Birthday Ministries recently offered a display table at the Eucharistic Congress at the University of Notre Dame in August. And currently Burkhalter is working with the local high school volleyball team in developing a fundraiser for them using the birthday candles, where Andy and his friends have partnered with St. Mary's youth group to present the candles at practice parties.

She notes humbly that Birthday Ministries is not her job. She makes her living as a real estate broker and hopes others will understand she just wants to help.

"My number one goal is to make a difference and give back to other organizations that support the gift of life," she says.

The goal of this ministry that celebrates every life, she adds, is



PROVIDED BY MISSY BURKHOLDER

Birthday Ministries workers rejoice at the kickoff celebration of the venture. Handmade, birthday cake-shaped candles are sold in Decatur to raise money that is then donated to organizations that support life. Pictured are back row, left: Tiffany, Candy, Kendra, Lindsey and Jordan; front, from left, are Andy, Amy, Jessica and Ronnie.

to "set up a nonprofit organization ... so the kids get a system to give the disabled jobs."

But her heart's desire is, as her brother gets older, to provide a village of sorts that would offer him and others an independent living space where they could work, recreate and live together. With faith and a prayer, this enthusiastic life advocate says, "I don't know how it's going to come out." But for now, life in Decatur is thriving in all its forms.

For more information or to support the Birthday Ministries efforts call (260) 728-GIFT (4438).

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IN SUPPORT OF LIFE!

Catholic Guide to Health Care Directives valuable resource

BY ANN CAREY

Should you have a so-called "living will" that details what kind of care you want to receive if you become incapacitated? What should you tell loved ones about the kind of health care you want? What does the Catholic Church teach about health care for disabled people who cannot make their own decisions or for those who are in their last days of life?

Indiana Catholics now have a very valuable resource for answering these difficult questions and for assisting us in making decisions about health care for ourselves and for our loved ones. "A Catholic Guide to Health Care Directives," which includes an "Indiana Catholic Health Care Directive" form, was recently approved by the bishops of Indiana and printed in a booklet by the Indiana Catholic

Conference.

The document clearly states Catholic ethical principles based on the key teaching that human life is a precious gift from God and never becomes something to be disposed of. The document explains that each person has the right to accurate information about his or her treatment and has the responsibility to make an informed decision about that treatment, based on possible benefits and burdens.

But what happens if a person is too incapacitated to make that informed decision?

That question has been raised with greater frequency since the tragic case of Terri Schiavo, a young Florida woman diagnosed as being in a persistent vegetative state. Her parents wanted to continue providing her with the food and water that were sustaining her life. However, her husband claimed that she would not want to continue living in that condi-

tion if she were able to speak for herself. After years of contention, he ultimately was successful in having her nutrition withheld, leading to her death in 2005.

The Schiavo case caused a great deal of interest in living wills, said Fred Everett, co-director with his wife, Lisa, of the Office of Family Life for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. But, said Everett, living wills are not recommended as a good way to plan for future health care decisions because it is impossible to anticipate future conditions, which can be complex and unpredictable.

"A blanket statement isn't a good course of action," said Everett, who also is an attorney and an adjunct professor of medical ethics at the University of Saint Francis and provided his input for the bishops' document.

Rather, the document recommends that each person discuss his or her wishes about medical

treatment with their loved ones and their doctor and make an advance directive that includes the appointment of a health care representative. A living will is only one kind of advance directive. The advance directive recommended by the bishops is different from a living will because it does not deal with specifics, but rather it includes the person's general wishes for treatment. And in case the person cannot communicate, the directive gives an appointed health care representative the authority to make specific decisions for the person's treatment.

The document explains: "Written instructions alone are only as good as your ability to accurately predict your every possible future medical condition and every future medical treatment option. In addition, without a health care representative, the person interpreting those instructions might be someone who does not truly know what you wanted. By appointing a health care representative, you can make sure that someone who cares about you will apply your wishes and personal beliefs to the health care choices at hand — just as you would do."

Everett said that since living wills are open to interpretation, "You might as well have a health care representative who knows your values."

In Indiana, the law authorizes people to make decisions for patients who have not appointed their own representative. This

decision-maker may be a spouse, parent, adult child, sibling or a court-appointed guardian.

When relatives have to make decisions for you, they are greatly assisted by an advance directive, Everett said. The naming of a health care representative can also alleviate disagreements among family members as to the proper course of treatment.

Indiana law does not require a specific form for appointing a health care representative, but the Indiana bishops' guide has a model "Indiana Catholic Health Care Directive" form. The form has space for designating a health care representative and includes a "Statement of Faith" and a summary of the moral teachings of the Catholic Church that should govern one's treatment. Space is provided for the person to add other treatment directives, if desired. The form can serve as a legal health care directive if properly filled in by the person and witnessed by someone who knows that the person is of sound mind.

A copy of "A Catholic Guide to Health Care Directives" may be obtained from your parish office or downloaded from the Indiana Catholic Conference Web site at: <http://indiana.nasccd.org>.

Thank You

I would like to personally thank all of those who have dedicated their lives-through prayer and/or through action - to help support life. I would like to offer thanks and continued support to those that fight for the right for the unborn child to live! Thank you to our priests and religious. Thank you to members of the Knights of Columbus and their family members who have supported the right to life causes. Thank you to everyone who has fought the battle - both in the hearts and on the streets - to defend life, to help protect life, and to send the message that the unborn child...is life! Amen

--Kevin M. Large, Grand Knight, Santa Maria Council #553



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EDITORIAL

Respect life issues promote a culture of life

The mission of respect life is to promote the teachings of the church to transform society into a culture of life, converting hearts and minds to view all life as sacred and where every human being is valued and protected from the moment of conception until natural death. In discussion, the issue often arises that life is only one of the rights which pro-lifers should be addressing.

Other important issues include poverty, homelessness, discrimination, war, immigration, and so on. No argument can be made that these are not important issues and most certainly should be addressed. But are any, or even all of these together, as important as a right to life?

Probably the best argument for the priority of the right to life over all other rights was made by Pope John Paul II in "Christifideles Laici" ("Christ's Faithful Lay People"). He stated, "Above all, the common outcry which is justly made on behalf of human rights — for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture — is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with the maximum determination."

Thus the concept of respect life includes the topics of abortion and post-abortion healing, natural family planning and chastity education, artificial contraception, embryonic stem-cell research, human cloning, vaccines developed from the tissue of aborted babies, euthanasia and capital punishment.

In embracing a consistent ethic of life, we are attentive to the Gospel's all-encompassing vision of respect for life, even as we deliberately devote our efforts and attention to a more focused agenda. In the Book of Leviticus, the Lord warns Moses about the serious crime of offering children to Molech, referring to the Canaanite custom of child sacrifice, in which the victims were first slain and then immolated by fire. (Lev. 20:1-5, 18:21). Today, millions of unborn children are killed every year around the world and the procedures are all too familiar. Children are killed and then cremated, just as those once offered to Molech. Despite what many people would like to believe, abortion is not okay with God.

Addressing social justices in society

While the topic of respect life chiefly addresses the issues of abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment, there are broader social justice issues that need to be addressed as well, as the recent federal dogfighting conspiracy case against suspended NFL Quarterback Michael Vick illustrates. For many thousands of years, humans and animals have worked together and depended on each other for protection, livelihood, nourishment, comfort and company. Today their association has expanded from the farm, field and hearth into the laboratory. There, because of their striking parallels to human systems and structures, animals serve as scientifically valid surrogates, or substitutes, for people in research, development and testing. These animals have made possible antibiotics, vaccines against diseases ranging from polio to Lyme disease, blood thinners and other cardiovascular therapies, painkillers and many surgical procedures.

The laboratory rodent used in testing protects all our families from dangerous chemicals (by helping scientists identify them). Animals themselves often benefit from the surgeries, drugs and vaccines developed. Similarly, the research of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences benefits animals because NIEHS research contributes to protecting the environment for all the life that shares the earth — companion animals, farm animals, wildlife, marine life — and plant life as well. All share an existence requiring freedom from pollutants in the air, soil and water.

But no matter how potentially beneficial the research may seem, before laboratory studies are begun, there are checks to assure the work is really needed and doesn't duplicate other studies so as few animals as necessary are used, their treatment is kind, their surroundings and food are healthy and nutritious, and veterinary care is at hand.

We applaud the NIEHS and the National Toxicology Program (which is headquartered at NIEHS) and other federal agencies that have joined together to search out alternative test methods, and approve any that are reliable and provide the accurate answers needed but with fewer animals or none at all.

"We commend all who proclaim and serve the Gospel of life. By their peaceful activism, education and prayer, they witness to God's truth and embody our Lord's command to love one another as he loved us." — "Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics," U.S. Catholic Bishops, No. 31.

Today's Catholic editorial board consists of Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Ann Carey, Don Clemmer, Father Mark Gurtner, Father Michael Heintz, Tim Johnson and Vince LaBarbera.

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

The 90th year

BY FATHER WILLIAM PEIL

"Superstition and fraud!" he had called it on Oct. 13, 1917, when he had published in his newspaper an article about the reported appearances of Mary, the Mother of Jesus, to three children over the previous five months.

Yet, when he, Avelina d'Almeida, arrived in the Cova da Iria, two miles west of Fatima in Portugal, that very afternoon, he was a witness to what he later described as "a spectacle unique and incredible."

"The sun trembled and made abrupt movements," he wrote in the following Monday's edition of *O Saeculo*, the Lisbon daily newspaper of which he was the editor. "Only one thing remains to be done," he concluded, "namely, for the scientists to explain from the height of their learning the fantastic dance of the sun."

"Dance of the Sun." That is exactly what appeared to happen on that cloudy Saturday afternoon of Oct. 13, 1917, near Fatima, Portugal.

When Lucy, the oldest of the three children, cried out "Look at the sun!" — she said later she didn't even know she said it — the estimated 70,000 people who were gathered at the Cova da Iria looked up at the cloud-filled sky. Suddenly the rain stopped, and the clouds broke apart. The sun was shining clearly and brightly, and a great silence fell over the crowd.

The sun then appeared to fade and glow, sending shafts of light in all directions, tinting the people, the trees, and the ground with one color after another. Then the sun seemed to tremble and make abrupt movements, "never seen before and outside all cosmic laws," as Avelina d'Almeida was to put it in his Oct. 15 article.

Many in the crowd described it later as "dancing." Finally, it stopped and turned blood red, then began to spin with every-increasing speed, until it seemed to wrench itself from its place in the sky and plunge towards the earth.

People were seized with terror at what looked like death for them all. Many fell on their knees and cried out prayers of "Jesus, have mercy!" and "Mother of Jesus, save us!" Many simply pressed crucifixes from their rosaries tightly to their lips, waiting in agonized suspense.

Suddenly, the sun stopped its apparent fall to the earth, and retraced its path into the sky, blazing forth until the people could no longer gaze at it. Then the great cry arose: "Miracle! Miracle!"

What Mary, the mother of Jesus, had promised two months previously on July 13 had come



CNS PHOTO COURTESY OF SHRINE OF FATIMA

Carmelite Sister Lucia dos Santos is seen in this May 16, 2000, file photo. Sister Lucia, the eldest of three Portuguese children to receive apparitions of the Virgin Mary in 1917 in Fatima, Portugal, died Feb. 13, 2005 at the age of 97.

true: "In October, I shall perform a miracle to prove that I have come here and have spoken to you."

Ninety years ago.

And in between, on Jan 25, 1938, there arrived a spectacular flaming Aurora Borealis, rarely seen in southern and western Europe "spreading fear in parts of Portugal and lower Austria while thousands of Britons were brought running into the streets in wonderment." (*Fort Wayne Journal Gazette*, Jan. 26, 1938)

Was this the "night illumined by an unknown light" Mary had told the children on that same July 13, 1917, that was to be a "great sign given you by God that he was about to punish the world for its crimes by means of war, famine and persecution of the church and of the Holy Father"?

Lucy thought so and always regarded it as the God-given sign which had been promised on July 13, 1917.

"The war (World War I)," she had told them, "is going to end, but if people do not stop offending God, another and worse one will break out during the reign of Pius XI."

Pope Pius XI died in 1938, but not before Hitler had attacked, seized and annexed Austria, the beginning of World War II, as the wording of the Munich Pact clearly showed. In September 1939, Germany invaded Poland, and World II exploded in full fury.

Ninety years.

What was the main request of the children of Fatima? May 13, 1917 again: "Pray the rosary every

day in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of wars."

Why the rosary, and not daily Mass and Communion, or the praying of the psalms?

Lucy, in her book "Calls," completed in 1997 (she died in 2005) tried to answer that question often asked of her. "Our Lady did not explain," she wrote, "and it never occurred to me to ask her, but I think God as Father adapts himself to the needs of his people. If God, through Our Lady, had asked us to go to Mass and receive holy Communion every day, or pray the Liturgy of the Hours (the Psalms), I don't think such things would be accessible to all. But, on the other hand, to pray the rosary, is something everybody can do, rich and poor, wise or ignorant, great or small. It can be recited either in community or privately, in church or at home, with the rest of the family or alone, while traveling or while walking quietly.

"The rosary, in view of the origin and sublime nature of the prayers used in it, and of the mysteries of the redemption, which we recall and on which we meditate during each decade, is the most pleasing prayer we can offer to God, and one most advantageous to our souls.

"If such were not the case, Our Lady would not have asked for it so insistently."

Father William Peil is a retired priest of the Diocese of Gary residing in Fort Wayne.

Has German pope re-Italianized the Roman Curia?

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Is Pope Benedict XVI re-Italianizing the Roman Curia?

The question has percolated around Rome in recent months as a string of Vatican appointments left Italian prelates in high places.

The pontifical councils that deal with social communications, canon law and cultural issues — until recently headed by an American, a Spaniard and a Frenchman — are now in the hands of Italian bishops.

So are the Vatican Library and Secret Archives. The Vatican City governor's office, which had been headed by U.S. Cardinal Edmund C. Szoka, reverted to an Italian for the first time in 26 years.

An Italian Jesuit now directs the Vatican Press Office, taking over from a Spaniard.

A number of important middle-management posts at the Vatican, particularly in diplomatic and financial areas, also have gone to Italians.

Some suspect the Italian resurgence may reflect the influence of Italian Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone,

the Vatican's energetic secretary of state, who took office a year ago.

In a recent interview with the Italian Catholic newspaper *Avvenire*, Cardinal Bertone was asked bluntly: "Is the era of the internationalization of the Roman Curia really over?"

The cardinal responded by pointing out that Italians were still outnumbered by non-Italians as heads of curial offices. He said internationalization was still the way to go, but that geographic identity should never be the determining factor in such appointments.

To illustrate that non-Italians were also being chosen, he cited the recent appointments of a Nigerian protocol chief and a Spanish head of the Vatican's almsgiving office — not exactly top-level positions.

When the Polish Pope John Paul II was elected in 1978, he was the first non-Italian to sit on the throne of St. Peter in more than 450 years. Many Italians considered this an aberration and fully expected one of their own to succeed him.

When Pope Benedict, a

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

German, was elected instead — in a conclave that by all accounts did not field a strong Italian candidate — it ended any lingering illusion that the papacy belonged to Italy.

But perhaps because he had worked at the Vatican for 24 years, Pope Benedict was familiar with the Italian members of the Roman Curia, appreciated their management skills and began turning to them when it came time to put his own team into place.

So far, he has put nine Italians in charge of key Vatican offices, compared to five people from the rest of the world. When one

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We need God, or peril awaits



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Sunday, 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Lk 17:5-10

The first reading for this weekend comes from the Book of Habakkuk. Little is known about this prophet. It is known that the author was regarded as a prophet.

Scholars believe that it was written between 626 B.C. and 612 B.C. when outside forces threatened the Assyrian empire.

However, it is clear the Habakkuk was composed after God's people already had suffered great problems from foreign invasions and brutal occupations. The book laments these past terrible experiences.

This weekend's reading well conveys the sense of how awful had been these circumstances through which the Hebrews had lived, and it also clearly presents the anguish and even despondency of the people as they looked at the effects of all that they had endured.

To these cries of desperation and great anxiety, God, speaking through the prophet, reassures the people, telling them that relief and security will come. They will not wait forever or in vain. God is their savior.

For its second reading on this weekend, the church gives us a

passage from the Second Epistle to Timothy. This epistle in a sense is from a new generation of Christians, the first generation being composed of the apostles and those actually close to Jesus.

Timothy is from another time. He certainly was in touch with Paul. Indeed, Paul converted Timothy, and Paul mentored Timothy. However, Timothy was not from the circle of followers that literally walked with the Lord along the roads and byways of Galilee and along the streets of Capernaum and Jerusalem.

The reading refers to one of the most ancient of the Christian liturgical gestures, namely the laying on of hands. Apostolic hands were laid on the head of Timothy, and Timothy became a bishop. Still today, this gesture is essentially and absolutely a part of the ceremonies in which bishops, priests and deacons are ordained.

The epistle urges Timothy to be strong and never to relent in preaching the Gospel. This is his vocation. This was the responsibility conferred upon him when hands were laid on him ordaining him a bishop.

St. Luke's Gospel provides the last reading. Some trees, such as the sycamore, had deep and extended root system. Uprooting them from the soil would not have been easy, or even possible. Mustard seeds were very small. Consider how much larger would have been other seeds, pits of fruit, and so on.

The culture at the time of Jesus did not look upon the tasks undertaken by a servant, or a slave, as voluntary for the person performing the task. Rather, the task was a duty and an obligation. Also, slaves, or servants, were never invited to dine with a master. Dining together represented equality and the close relationship of peers.

The message here is not that slaves, or servants, are inferior. We must not allow our modern concepts of slavery or even employment to color our perception of this reading. The lesson here is that we are God's servants. He is supreme; we are not. Serving God is not our option. Rather, it is our duty.

Reflection

The second and third readings confront us with a reality we perhaps rarely admit. Serving God by obeying God's law is not open to our decision whether to conform or not. Instead, in fact, we have no choice.

God is the creator. He is the master. We are subjects. Despite all that we may possess, or all that human ingenuity has created, we are not almighty.

So, Timothy has to fulfill his obligation. The servants in the Gospel had to fulfill our obligations. We must fulfill our own obligations.

The wonder is that God protects and strengthens us. We need God, as Habakkuk tells us. Peril awaits us otherwise.

READINGS

Sunday: Hb 1:2-3; 2:2-4 Ps 95:1-2, 6-9 2Tm 1:6-8, 13-14 Lk 17:5-10

Monday: Jon 1:1-2:2, 11 (Ps) Jon 2:2-5, 8 Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday: Jon 3:1-10 Ps 130:1-4ab, 7-8 Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday: Jon 4:1-11 Ps 86:3-6, 9-10 Lk 11:1-4

Thursday: Mal 3:13-20b Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 11:5-13

Friday: Jl 1:13-15; 2:1-2 Ps 9:2-3, 6, 8-9, 16 Lk 11:15-26

Saturday: Jl 4:12-21 Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 11-12 Lk 11:27-28

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

In October we remember St. Francis. He's associated with the stigmata, the subject of this quiz.

1. How is St. Francis associated with the stigmata?

- a) He invented the liturgy of the stigmata.
- b) He was the first to report the stigmata.
- c) He founded the stigmatian brothers.

2. What are the stigmata?

- a) liturgical exercises
- b) books of Runic poems
- c) reappearance of the wounds of Christ

3. When were they first reported?

- a) 30 B.C.
- b) A.D. 1000
- c) in and after the 13th century

4. Stigmatization is associated with Christianity, but what about Judaism?

- a) It is not a phenomenon associated with Judaism.
- b) Only Hassidim experience the stigmata.
- c) Jews can have stigmata, but only rabbis.

5. The stigmata usually include wounds on the hands and feet, the head, and:

- a) left knee
- b) the side of the torso
- c) the pinky

6. Stigmata may be invisible. How, then, are these manifested?

- a) They are felt as pain in those areas (question 5 above).
- b) They can be seen by other Catholics.
- c) They can be seen with holy sonar.

7. Often people who experience stigmata exhibit other peculiarities. One is levitation, which is:

- a) dressing up as a Levi
- b) ability to move up off the ground
- c) having a great sense of humor

8. Another ability often claimed is:

- a) bilocation
- b) the ability to kill with a single blow
- c) X-ray vision

9. Negative accompaniments may include lameness or other affliction without:

- a) any difficulties
- b) any apparent organic cause
- c) any religious faith in the person

10. Generally the wounds of the stigmata, though they may bleed, do not:

- a) appear as visible wounds
- b) seem associated with the religious faith
- c) become infected

11. Stigmatization is never:

- a) sufficient cause for canonization
- b) experienced by women
- c) apparent on an ordained person's body

12. Which of these did not report experiencing this phenomenon:

- a) St. Catherine of Siena
- b) St. Catherine of Genoa
- c) St. Patrick of Ireland

13. Often stigmatics experience more manifestations on:

- a) airplanes
- b) TV, but not, surprisingly, radio
- c) Fridays or days in Lent

14. Stigmatic wounds which have been examined generally:

- a) can be explained by the poor hygiene of mystics.
- b) have no apparent physical cause.
- c) rapidly vanish when soap is applied.

15. Medical treatment has:

- a) cured all stigmatics.
- b) usually been refused because mystics refuse blood transfusion.
- c) no apparent effect on these wounds.

ANSWERS

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

Good doctors refuse to perform vasectomies

Why is the church against vasectomies? What are the risks?
Anonymous

Very few men understand the stakes involved in a vasectomy. That vasectomy is an act of hostility, whether conscious or unconscious, is not my own idea but the idea of the famous psychologist Milton Erickson, who said precisely the same thing. He added that the "rational sounding" reasons such as prudent avoidance of childbearing, helping one's wife to avoid the risks of sterilization, or rationalizations simply camouflage the real and ugly reality. I have confirmed this through the years in clinical practice.

One man confided to me, in a written testimony entitled "Can Manhood Be Lost?" that it was only when I brought up the long-term sequelae of vasectomy in front of his wife that for the first time years of resentment could escape to the surface, and he could express his anger at having been humiliated as a man through the experience of a vasectomy.

And lest anyone think that this is an odd or idiosyncratic reaction peculiar to one individual only, be assured that it is not. This particular man was only lucky enough to be in a position to be consciously able — because in the setting of a

real conversion — to admit the anger, shame and self-loathing that the sin of vasectomy had engendered in him. It was the beginning of a real healing between him and his wife, something that usually is not possible in our society because the sin, fault or injury is most often not consciously admitted.

Vasectomized men experience unhappiness, because unless they can admit the existential, spiritual and bodily injury, they have to live in a life where they have rejected part of their own identity. Depression, sexual dysfunction, all kinds of hyper-masculine and hyper-macho acting out often takes place, and very many of these men cannot avoid expressing their anger.

Still, they most often do not know the source of this anger unless they are fortunate enough, as my patient was, to learn the source and be able to repair (not "reverse") the damage. It remains true that many men undergo repair (again not "reversal"), not so much to achieve a pregnancy as to repair their manhood and restore their sense of themselves as men.

If this cannot be done, then one can only expect an increased chance of infidelity, as his masculinity is propped up through the illusory acceptance of the act of adultery. There is an increased

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

chance of divorce, as the man after a time cannot stand to be with the woman who required the loss of his manhood as a condition of their continued marriage relationship.

For the same reasons, vasectomy often influences in an adverse way a man's relationship with his existing children. When the very source of a man's procreative powers is attacked or assaulted as it is with vasectomy — no man should believe that vasectomies are anything less than this kind of self-violence — then he comes to loathe not only that source but the life that was generated from that source.

This makes sense because the vasectomy has forced an illegitimate equation whereby either he is worthy or his procreative powers are, but not both. He will often resolve this difficulty by rejecting and loathing the idea of more children, which spills over to a rejection, at least in part, of his existing

children as well.

I have had personal experience with this in my practice, in a situation where two daughters born before their father's vasectomy learned that they were not valued and were rejected, and suffered all kinds of damaging mental and psychological anguish in their lives. They falsely concluded that they were in competition for their father's love.

Finally, vasectomy has numerous health consequences at the purely physical level. Many men have chronic pain after the operation, which only is resolved with the repair. The occlusion of the tube causes spermatic "blowouts" or granulomas, and the abnormal immunologic reaction to spermatozoa suddenly and abnormally appearing in the bloodstream is an autoimmune reaction that can cause arthritis and autoimmune disease. Likewise, prostate cancer, probably chronic prostatitis and heart disease (despite what you may read, this tendency towards heart complications has never been disproved) are all increased in fre-

quency.

After vasectomy wives suffer health complications too. The literature suggests increased rates of hysterectomies, abnormal menstrual bleeding and even allergic reactions among women whose husbands have had vasectomies.

But perhaps the saddest thing is the closing off of a man's horizons to life, and to the joys that come with that. All of the complications in a marriage cannot compare with the joy of a new child, one's own child.

Father Matthew Habiger, OSB, answered this week's question. He may be contacted at Mhabiger@kansasmonks.org.

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.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for October 7, 2007

Luke 17:5-10

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 27th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: a lesson about faith and obedience. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

APOSTLES	INCREASE	OUR FAITH
THE LORD	SIZE	MUSTARD SEED
MULBERRY TREE	UPROOTED	PLANTED
THE SEA	AMONG YOU	TENDING
SHEEP	FIELD	TABLE
PREPARE	APRON	EAT
DRINK	COMMANDED	DONE ALL

FAITHFUL OBEDIENCE

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

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Poland after John Paul II

When you add it all up, I've spent more than a year and a half of my life in Poland.

My Polish adventures began 16 years ago, when I went to Warsaw, Cracow and Gdansk in June 1991 to learn how the church and John Paul II had helped accelerate the demise of European communism. (That first trip taught me an important lesson, occurring as it did during a papal pilgrimage to Poland: Polish cities are dry when the pope is in town. My pleas to a bartender — "Look, the pope is my friend; he wants me to have a beer!" — fell on deaf ears. Live and learn.) Still, those three weeks in 1991 got me (culturally and historically) intoxicated by Poland and the Poles. So over the next few years, in what turned out to be a useful preparation for writing John Paul's biography, I immersed myself in Polish history and literature even as I continued to return to the country for conferences and lectures. In the mid-1990s, I also made a concentrated (and largely fruitless) effort to learn Polish, one result of which was my informing the Polish pontiff that "the Polish genitive case is a circle of hell of which Dante was evidently unaware."

In any event, my affection for Poland and the Poles has not flagged, and I now find myself spending the better part of a month there every year. The transformation since the communist crackup has been very impressive in many ways: Poland has the fastest rate of economic growth in Europe; the dull grayness of life under communism has been replaced by a vibrancy much more in keeping with the national character;

Catholic practice remains strong; higher education is booming. But on more than one occasion, Poland since 1989 has demonstrated that Winston Churchill wasn't being churlish when he wrote this lament about the Poles in the first volume of his history of World War II: "It is a mystery and tragedy of European history that a people capable of every heroic virtue, gifted, valiant, charming as individuals, should repeatedly show such inveterate faults in almost every aspect of their governmental life."

My Polish students in the "Tertio Millennio Seminar on the Free Society," which meets every summer in Cracow, would not have contested Churchill's point this past July.

These young people never knew "real existing communism." Unlike their older brothers and sisters who exhibited a kind of democratic euphoria in the mid-1990s, which was then replaced by a certain (not altogether unwelcome) critical distance from politics in the early years of this decade, my students this year seemed embarrassed by Polish politics: embarrassed by the antics of the ruling Kaczynski twins (one the president, the other the prime minister); embarrassed by a governmental coalition that included xenophobes and anti-Semites; embarrassed that, as the European Union turned up the pressure on Poland to adopt the canons of lifestyle libertinism, the wrong Poles were taking the right stands against the relativists in Brussels and Strasbourg; embarrassed at the raucousness of parliament and its inability to get anything serious done.

That sense of embarrassment



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

may or may not ease after Poland's elections on Oct. 21. But three years from now, when the Polish presidential election cycle turns again, it is not unreasonable to think that the kind of Poland for which John Paul II worked, hoped, and prayed — a Poland that is faithfully Catholic, vibrantly democratic, capable of calling Europe back to the Christian sources of its contemporary commitments to human rights, democracy and the rule of law — could begin to take hold.

A new generation of Polish political leaders, formed in the social doctrine of John Paul II, is rising. These men and women know, now, what doesn't work; they have learned the arts of democratic persuasion; they have figured out how to get things done through extensive experience in local government, business, education and public service; and they seem determined not to be embarrassed any longer.

Those who love Poland, and those who revere the memory of John Paul the Great, must hope that the future is theirs.

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

LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

includes the No. 2 and No. 3 positions in curial offices, the appointments total 18 Italians and seven from other countries.

The Italian presence is most visible in the Secretariat of State,

where the top seven officials are now Italian, and in two important offices that control the Vatican's budget and investment affairs, where all the top people are Italian.

Of the Vatican's nine congregations, traditionally the most important of Vatican offices, eight are headed by non-Italians. The lone Italian is Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops.

Sports

SJHS GIRLS GOLFERS COMPETE IN STATE TOURNAMENT Anne Ormson, Saint Joseph's High School's premier golfer, wound up in a three-way tie for ninth place in the Indiana state high school girls individual tournament held in Franklin. Ormson carded a 151 on rounds of 75 and 76, five strokes off the lead. The team wound up with a total of 340 for 12th place. Ormson led the team with a score of 75, despite a triple bogey on the first hole. Her teammates' scores: Kim Lipinski, 77; Colleen Hughes, 88; Rebecca Jones, 95; and Victoria Jaques, 100. The score of 340 was the best in school history.

—EJD

CYO volleyball in full swing, football continues

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) volleyball is now in full swing. Matches started on Saturday, Sept. 8. Games were held at four locations for the seventh-and-eighth grade girls in three different leagues — the white (large school), blue (small school) and green (seventh grade). The gym sites each weekend include St. Vincent, St. Charles, St. Joseph, Hessen Cassel and St. Aloysius.

The defending Blue League regular season and tournament champs, the Lady Crusaders from St. Therese, are off to a great start with a 2-1 record. Considering they never won a game as seventh graders, Coach Lisa Palmer said, "I am very pleased with the progress my eighth graders are making so far this season."

The roster is made up of just eight players this year. The starters for St. Therese are Teresa Lovejoy, Katie Reed, Marianne Oxley, Audrie Luegring, Madie Eash and Tammy Petit.

Coach Palmer adds, "Molly Goodwin is doing an excellent job for us in the libero position and Shanna Maloney is improving

each week." Maloney joined the team for the first time this season.

Goals this season for the Crusaders include winning a few games, working hard and having that hard work pay off. Early in the season, Coach Palmer feels the team's main strengths are "working together and playing well as a team." She added, "Our passing has improved immensely since last year." Coach Palmer is hoping her girls will improve on their serving and win a few more games this season.

The Crusaders struggled in their first game with serving and lost their first match 17-25, 21-25 to Queen of Angels. Next they faced St. Mary's-St. Joseph and won 25-13, 25-9. Eash led St. Therese in serving. Reed and Luegring each had three assists and Petit had three kills.

In the match-up against Benoit, the Crusaders were again victorious by scores of 25-10, 25-17. Petit led in serving this time. Luegring had five assists and two kills. Oxley also pounded two kills in the win. Lovejoy played consistently well in both games.

In her 24th year coaching volleyball, Coach Palmer is assisted by Jamie Uecker, Andrea Allphin

and Sam Eash, all former players. She also coaches the seventh-grade team at St. Therese who are currently 1-2.

In White League play, the girls from St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth have started out 2-0 with wins over St. Joseph, Decatur, and St. John, New Haven. A mother of six, all daughters, Coach Susan Lee has been coaching volleyball for eight seasons now. She is coaching both the sixth grade and eighth-grade teams for the Lady Panthers.

Coach Lee said, "We have had to overcome adversity with a few injuries so far this season, but the girls have done a great job learning new positions." She lists her eighth-grade roster as nine deep including the following: Zoe Derloshon, Macy Johnson, outside hitters; Anna Denning, Nikki Keller, middle hitters; Julia Hellinger, setter; Kathlyn Lee, opposite hitter; and Jackie Mullins, Emily Hoch, defensive specialists. Morgan Eckert is currently out with knee surgery and Karen Hellinger is the assistant coach for the Panthers.

Other volleyball scores

St. Therese over St. Aloysius 25-18, 24-25, 25-21

Grades 5-6 football

In the younger version of the "Battle of the St. Johns" last week, New Haven claimed the double header winning both the fifth and sixth grade match ups. In the sixth grade game, Jake Castleman found Colton Painter twice marking the first victory of the season for the Raiders. They held off the Eagles, 14-12. On Saturday morning, Sept. 29, Castleman threw three touchdown passes to Adam Oberley at Havenhurst to seal the 18-7 win over the Eagles.

Week 6 football scores and highlights

Precious Blood/Queen of Angels, 13; St. John, Fort Wayne/Benoit/Hessen Cassel, 30.

St. Vincent, 39; St. John, New Haven, 6. Evan Feichter of St. Vincent scored four touchdowns for game highlights.

Audrie Luegring, of St. Therese, highlighted his game with six kills and seven assists.

Saints stay unbeaten in ICCL football

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — Mishawaka Catholic's unbeaten Saints unleashed their offensive power to maintain their torrid pace in the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) with a convincing 37-14 verdict over the Holy Family Trojans.

Paced by Michael Whitfield's two-touchdown performance of a 55-yard saunter and a 45-yard touchdown on an intercepted pass, the Saints led from start to finish.

Coley Schultheis added a brilliant 39-yard scamper for a touchdown and added three extra point conversions.

Another spectacular score came on the 54-yard touchdown pass to Eric Plude. Another exciting touchdown score came on an 85-yard dash by Daniel DeBoni.

ICCL, PAGE 17

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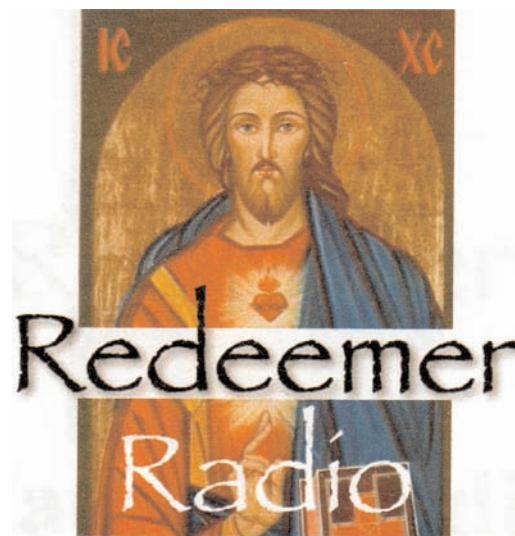


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ICCL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

Blake Palicki and Zach Fozo scored for the Trojans.

The St. Anthony/St. Joe Panthers rolled over the St. Matthew Blazers, 30-0. Robert Mischler paced the Panthers with three touchdown runs of six and two plus a punt return of 30 yards.

In the junior varsity division, Mishawaka Catholic upended Corpus Christi, 13-0, with Mike Rice and Dominic Ravatto checking in with points.

The Holy Family Trojans had a tough tussle before defeating the Granger Titans, 21-6, as Brian Jankowski paced the victors with three scoring runs of 33, 3 and 24.

Luke Darr picked up the Titans' score on a 49-yard dash.

The St. Anthony Panthers easily won over the St. Matthew Blazers, 30-12, as Brian Mischler racked up a brilliant four-touchdown performance on runs of 11, 4 and 54 yards.

Tyran Ottbaridge tallied twice for the Blazers on a 59-yard pass and a 26-yard run.

ICCL soccer doubles up with make-up games

SOUTH BEND — With two weeks of regular play, this weekend, Oct. 6-7, Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) soccer teams will double the pleasure to make up for the games that were rescheduled from Sept. 15. Consult the Web site, www.icclsports.org, for times.

For games played Sept. 30, the following reports have been announced.

In boys varsity, St. Thomas of Elkhart defeated St. Joseph, South Bend, 7, 7-0. Bobby Norrell had four goals for the St. Thomas. Ben Mauser, Kyle Bollero and Elliot Miller each had one goal. Noah Strati and Joe Santerre each had assists for the winners.

St. Matthew defeated St. Joseph, South Bend, 8, 4-2. St. Joseph goals were scored by Paul Hickner and Nick Barlow with an assist from Paul Hickner.

In boys B-team scores, St. Joseph, South Bend, beat Mishawaka Catholic, 7-1. St. Joseph's goals were scored by Michael Farkas, Gavin Regnery, Matthew Brewster and Nick Matt.

St. Jude defeated St. Thomas, 7-4. St. Jude goals were scored by Jacob Burnham, Joey Kaucic and Scott Warner with two each, and

Brady Lesh with one goal. St. Thomas' Joe Kavanagh and Alex Pittman scored two goals each.

In girls varsity, Christ the King beat St. Matthew, 5-0.

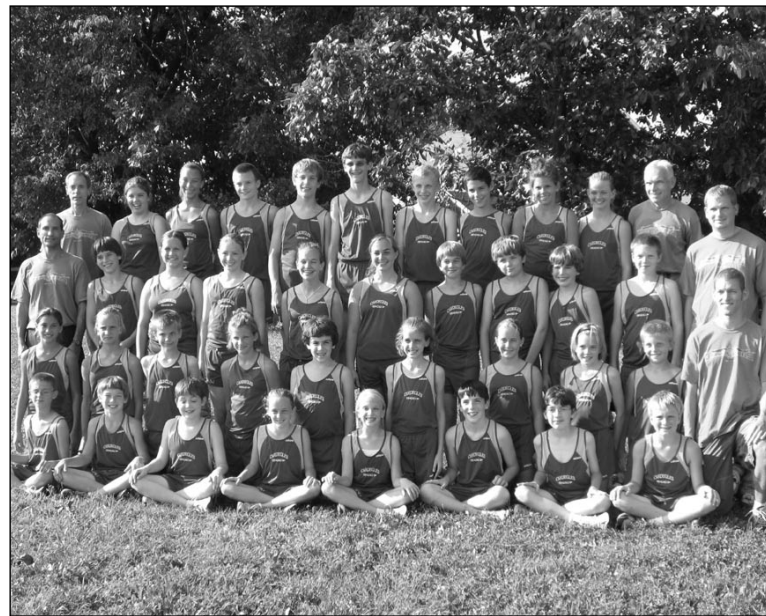
In girls B-team action, St. Jude defeated St. Joseph, South Bend, Blue, 5-1. The St. Jude Falcons were lead by Cassie and Jamie Young who had two goals each. Alyssa Hasler and Karlie Teumac made great saves in the goal.

Christ the King 6 defeated Christ the King 5, 9-2. The sixth-grade team was led with hat tricks by Amanda Hastings and Beth Solkey. Goals were added by Gabriella Loebach, Emily Han and Erin Kearney. Michaela Lewis scored the goal for the fifth grade team.

St. Anthony beat St. Joseph, Mishawaka/Queen of Peace, 1-0. Johanna Gallagher had the lone goal in this hard-played barn burner.

St. Joseph, South Bend, Gold defeated St. Thomas, 7-1

And St. Joseph, South Bend, Blue defeated St. Bavo, 3-2. Jo Guentert scored two goals and Caitlin Rosswurm scored a single for St. Joseph.



PROVIDED BY BRIAN KAUFMAN

The Cardegles are a CYO cross country team comprised of fifth through eighth graders from St. Charles and St. Jude Parishes. To date, the boys' team is 28-8 overall and the girls are 24-9. The Cardegles will host their own invitational Oct. 11 at Shoaff Park.

CYO Cardegles boys and girls cross country teams show impressive results

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — At the mid-point of the 2007 season, the Cardegle Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) cross country team have five meets left. The Cardegles are made up of boys and girls from St. Charles and St. Jude in grades 5-8. They are coached by Dan Kaufman, Scott Reiling, Dan Leffers, Chris Kaufman, Brian Kaufman and Tim O'Connell.

To date, the boys' team is 28-8 overall and the girls are 24-9. At an Indian Springs Middle School invitational, both boys and girls turned in an impressive seventh place finish out of 24 area teams.

On Sept. 15, both the boys and girls varsity and reserve groups won the Huntington Catholic Invitational. The Cardegles were paced by a stellar performance from Andrew

Eckrich with a personal best of 9:58. This also broke the former Cardegle record which Eckrich held. For the females, Kate Kinley set a Cardegle record and course record winning the meet with a time clocked at 11:25 in Huntington.

At the New Haven Classic, a 4K race, the boys finished in second place while the girls grabbed third. Eckrich won the boys' division in an outstanding time of 13:54. The Cardegles had five runners in the top 25 including: Eckrich, Luke Offerle, Luke Miller, Jacob Malmstrom and Sean McManus. On the girls' side, Kate Kinley tied for runner-up with a 16:07 performance. Joining her in the top 25 were Danielle Colone, Karen Eckrich and Melinda Earnest.

On Oct. 11, the Cardegles will host their own meet — the fourth annual Cardegle Invitational at Shoaff Park in Fort Wayne.



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Mark your calendar. On October 13, your future begins at the University of Saint Francis.



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'Bella' lights a candle for the culture of life

BY LISA EVERETT

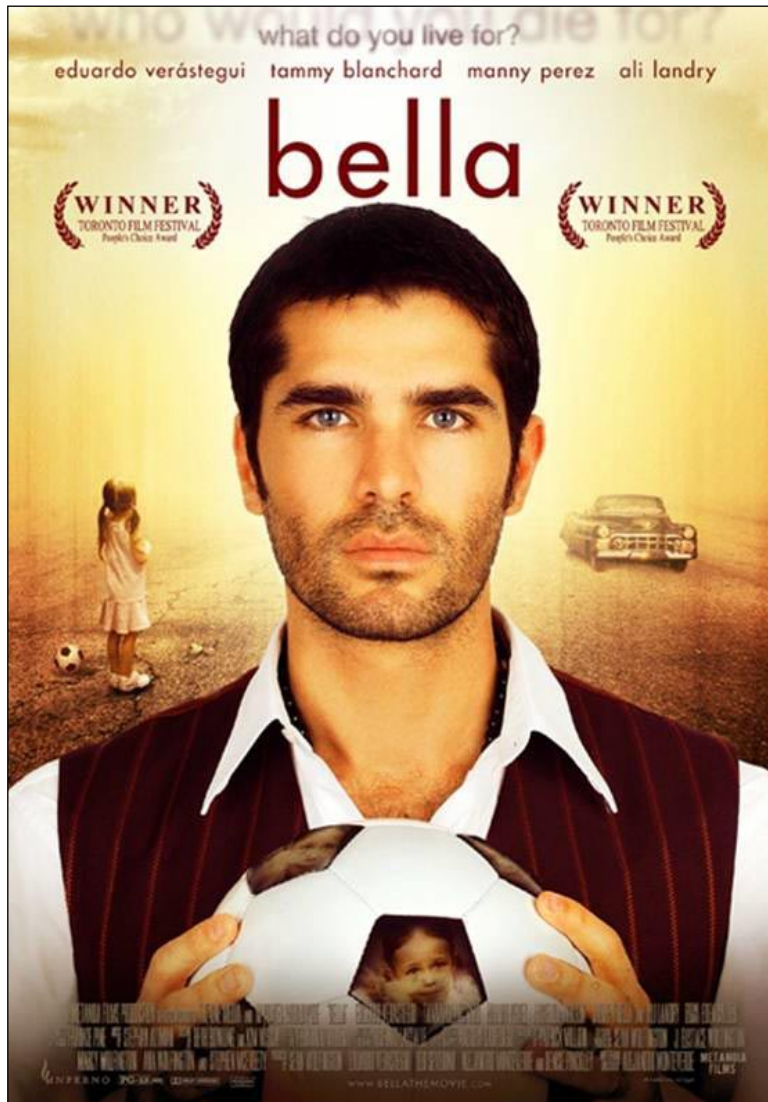
SOUTH BEND — Someone once said that redemptive love does not erase the past — it restores the future. This is the central message of "Bella," a beautiful pro-life, pro-family film, which is scheduled to open in select theaters throughout the country on Oct. 26.

Not only has this film been embraced by pro-life and pro-family groups across the country, it has also won prestigious awards from within the industry, including the People's Choice Award at the Toronto Film Festival, a distinction shared by previous films like "Chariots of Fire," "Life is Beautiful" and "Hotel Rwanda." "Bella" has also been honored by the White House, the Department of Immigration and the Smithsonian, to name a few. A promotional screening of "Bella" was recently held in South Bend for diocesan, parish and pro-life community leaders (another for Fort Wayne has also been scheduled). The film was very well received.

"Bella" is the first movie produced by Metanoia Films, a company founded a few years ago by writer-director Alejandro Monteverde, producer Leo Severino and actor Eduardo Verástegui. These Latino men, who are known as the "three amigos," not only want to make a living — they want to make a difference.

Each followed his own path from participation in an industry that often caters to the basest human instincts, to the decision to use his professional talents to uphold human dignity and inspire the human heart. "Metanoia," in fact, is the Greek word for "conversion."

When the three amigos pitched the idea for "Bella" to Notre Dame alum Sean Wolfington, he gave Metanoia Films the financial backing they needed to make the movie.



Alejandro Monteverde put his foot on the path that led to the making of "Bella" when he decided he could no longer direct films he did not believe in.

Alejandro said, "I would ask my friends, 'Do you believe in this?' And they would answer, 'Well, no.' And I would say, 'But you are making films that are supporting this!' And they'd respond, 'Well, yeah, but it's art.' And I'd say, 'Well, your art is supporting something that you yourself don't believe in.' And I started realizing that I didn't want to do that. To me,

people are like elevators — either you get in with them and they take you up or you get in with them and they take you down. So I needed to be with people who took me up."

Leo Severino was working for 20th Century Fox and getting tired of projects that he did not agree with philosophically and morally: "I wanted to produce films that made a difference, that were positive, that uplifted human dignity. I wanted to do something where we could show humanity as hopeful and as beautiful and uplifting, not as dark but as light. That's why we

started Metanoia Films, to be a light in the darkness."

But perhaps the most moving metanoia was the one that occurred for Eduardo Verástegui, the actor-singer who has been dubbed "the Mexican Brad Pitt." For over a decade he starred in several Latino soap operas, launched a singing career and descended into a decadent lifestyle. Then he experienced a profound conversion, fostered in large part by the witness of a young American woman who began teaching him English.

"I realized that instead of using my talents to serve, and to contribute to making this world a better place, I was poisoning our society by the projects I was involved with," Eduardo said. "Mother Teresa said that we are not called to be successful, we are called to be faithful to God — that is our success."

"I knew that I was born to be a holy person, just like everyone else is, and that fame, being a movie star, were just means. I was born to know, love and serve Jesus Christ."

Eduardo's spiritual life deepened during a pilgrimage to Medjugorje at the encouragement of Dennis Nolan of South Bend, a Catholic evangelist and founder of MaryTV. Eduardo brought the script of "Bella" with him and consecrated it to our Lady, as the three days he had planned to spend there stretched into three weeks — he simply could not bring himself to leave.

The making of "Bella" has contributed to the culture of life not only on the screen, but also in real life. Two weeks before filming began, Eduardo, who plays the main character in "Bella," went to an abortion clinic to get into the mindset of the pregnant woman he befriends in the movie.

When he arrived, he forgot about the film. He was shocked to see 15-, 16-, 17-year-old girls going into the clinic with sad, sometimes tearstained faces. After noticing a

small group of sidewalk counselors, he approached them with an offer to help in whatever way he could.

One member of the group asked if he would speak with a couple there who didn't understand English. They were from Mexico and very poor, and recognized Eduardo from the soap operas he used to star in. For the next 45 minutes, Eduardo spoke with them about life, faith, Mexico, their jobs, their dreams. When he gave them a little teddy bear and a stroller, the woman started crying, and they left the clinic.

Eduardo then went to New York for the filming, and when he returned to Los Angeles, he received a phone call months later from the man he had met at the abortion clinic. He was calling to let Eduardo know that their baby boy had been born the previous day and to ask his permission to name the child after him.

"I put the phone down. I couldn't even talk. It changed my life. It was beautiful. It was the most noble thing I've ever done in my life, that by the grace of God I was able to save this baby," Eduardo said.

In spite of numerous awards and rave reviews, Roadside Attractions has decided upon a limited distribution of "Bella." This means that the only way that a smaller community like Fort Wayne or South Bend can guarantee that "Bella" will be shown locally on opening weekend is to pre-sell 4,000 tickets. To purchase tickets or even "adopt" a theater, please visit their Web site at www.bellathemovie.com (parents, please note that the movie is rated PG-13). While the ticket prices listed are higher than the typical price of a movie in this part of the country, perhaps you can consider the extra cost involved to bring "Bella" to our local communities as your personal contribution to the culture of life during Respect Life month this year.

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FUNDRAISERS

Fish fry
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 11276 will have a Ed Fox fish and chicken fry Friday, Oct. 5, from 5-8 p.m. in the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish hall, 10700 Aboite Center Rd. Adults \$8, children (ages 6-8) \$5 and children five or under eat free. Carry-out available only at adult or children prices.

Family Fall Fest
New Haven — The St. Louis Academy HASA will sponsor a family fall fest on Sunday, Oct. 7, from 3-7 p.m. at the parish hall. Spirit of St. Louis stroll, potluck meal (hotdogs provided), car show, pie judging contest, kids games, bike raffle and more. Bring your lawn chairs. Rain date Oct. 14. Call (260) 749-4525 for information.

Youth Mass and pizza
New Haven — St. John the Baptist Church will have a youth Mass, Sunday, Oct. 7, at 5 p.m. Following Mass will be LIFE night for the high school teens in the community center. Free pizza will be served. The topic is "The True Presence" with interactive games and time for discussion. Prizes given to newcomers.

Spaghetti dinner supports life
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council #5570, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a spaghetti dinner Thursday, Oct. 11, from 4-6 p.m. Adults \$7, children ages 5 to 12 \$2.50. Proceeds will benefit the St. Joseph County Right to Life.

Fish Fry
New Haven — The Holy Name Society of St. John the Baptist Parish will have a fish fry, Friday, Oct. 5, from 4-7 p.m. Adults \$6.50, children 5-12 \$3.50 and children under 5 free.

Knights plan fish fry
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, Oct. 5, from 5-7:30 p.m. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under. Fish, two sides and beverage are included.

St. Therese to sponsor fish fry
Fort Wayne — St. Therese School will have a fish and tenderloin dinner on Friday, Oct. 12, from 4:30-7 p.m. in the school. Adults \$7.50, children 6 to 12 \$4.50 and children 5 and under free.

Fish and tenderloin fry
Bluffton — St. Joseph Church will have a fish and tenderloin dinner on Friday, Oct. 12, from 4-7 p.m. Tickets will be \$8 for adults, \$5.50 for children (6-12), and children under 5 free. Eat in or carry out.

Behold the Face of Christ exhibit at two local parishes
South Bend — Photos of parish churches and religious communities in the diocese will be displayed Monday through Friday, Oct. 6-12, at St. Patrick parish center, 308 S. Scott St., from 1-3:30 p.m. and Oct. 13-19 at Little Flower parish center, 54191 N. Ironwood from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The book of religious art and meditations, "Behold, the Face of Christ..." will be available for sale.

Mass to honor St. Francis held
Notre Dame — The Orestes Brownson Council at the University of Notre Dame will sponsor a Mass for the feast of St. Francis Thursday, Oct. 4, at 5:15 p.m. in the Alumni Hall Chapel. The Gregorian chant propers for the feast will be sung by the Notre Dame Gregorian Schola.

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Elkhart Antonio Cataldo, 85, St. Vincent de Paul	Marjorie J. Plonski, 74, St. Bavo	Richard C. Diltz, 86, St. Matthew Cathedral
Fort Wayne Joshua David Amstutz, 22, St. Vincent de Paul	Vera Rabasa, 80, St. Joseph	Lucy Kuminecz, 87, Christ the King
Ruth Ann Gutman, 85, St. Jude	Sophia Blume, 91, St. Monica	Mary E. Doyle, 52, St. Matthew Cathedral
Norman E. Walker, 81, Queen of Angels	Rome City Laverne K. Stroder, 63, St. Gaspar del Bufalo	Frank D. Bogunia Sr., 85, Our Lady of Hungary
Elizabeth R. Rotter, 82, St. John the Baptist	South Bend Phyllis Jean Dalke, 84, St. Jude	Waterloo John Francis Miller, 64, St. Michael the Archangel
Nicholas J. Frato, 65, Our Lady of Good Hope	Joseph F. DeBuysser, 81, Holy Family	Yoder Thomas H. Sorg, 87, St. Aloysius
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CONFIRM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

young men and women were quick to answer questions involving the three initiation sacraments and what Jesus' death accomplished. He stumped many students with the question, "What does confirmation make you?" The elusive answer was "a witness."

And with that insight the bishop added that the students were making a promise to Jesus Christ in the presence of the bishop and pastors as well as their families that "I'm going to do your will."

The bishop went on to remind the students and those present that the Holy Spirit gives courage and wisdom to accomplish that for all those who receive him. "How blessed to be young and have God in your soul," he offered, adding that some adults in the congregation would see this confirmation and perhaps turn back to their faith. "Today," he said, "the most Holy Trinity is present in our midst."

Each priest confirmed their own parish confirmandi in a moving ceremony of anointing with holy oil. Following the anointings, the faithful there moved en masse to areas within the arena to receive the holy Eucharist as one body. A beautiful hymn of thanksgiving was then shouted to the rafters as the students took in the meaning of this ancient rite.

Following Communion the bishop called the religious education leaders forward who held baskets of rosaries to be blessed for the confirmation students and spoke of the ancient prayer, hoping aloud that the students there would pray the rosary in their daily lives.

During the post-Communion prayer, Bishop D'Arcy spoke of

his gratitude for all who organized and participated in this united event, but only when he thanked the diocesan priests was the crowd on their feet in a standing ovation.

Closing this monumental event was the plenary indulgence offered to the contrite and prayerful masses, and following the apostolic blessing the bishop remained in the arena to pose for pictures with students who were now filled with the Holy Spirit.

Derick Bean, a confirmation student from St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, said of the event, "I definitely could feel God's presence there. When we were saying 'I believe in God...' all together, I felt God there."

Bean, who received Communion from the bishop, said that was one of the highlights for him on that special day, but added "I think the priests were one of the biggest parts there. Their presence made it special. I felt God and the Holy Spirit going over everyone making the coliseum holy."

His parents, Fred and Tara Bean, spoke highly of the organization that went into making this event so spiritual. "It was awesome to see the thousands going to receive the Eucharist together," said Fred.

Tara was leary about attending confirmation at the coliseum, but during the Mass realized the significance of the event for her son. "Derick's experience with more kids in Fort Wayne makes it a community thing. We look at St. Elizabeth as our 'community' and to see Fort Wayne as our Catholic community with so many kids was awesome."

Of the experience of being anointed with the cross of Jesus Christ, Derick remarked joyfully, "I felt like I went from a little kid to a man." He is one among many who are new witnesses to our faith.



KATHY DENICE

During his homily at the regional confirmation in Fort Wayne, Bishop John M. D'Arcy challenged the confirmation students to be witnesses to Christ.

Below Father Jim Shafer, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, anoints a confirmand from his parish.



KAY COZAD

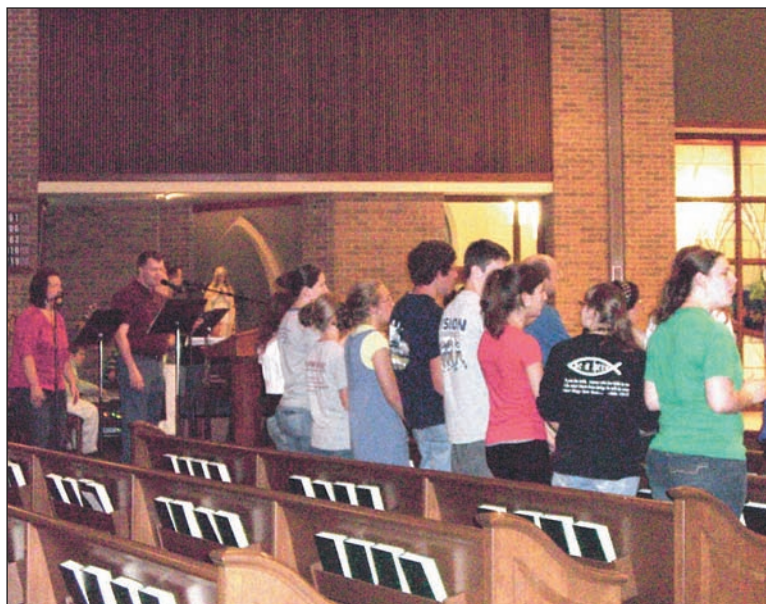
ANGEL WITH A MISSING MATCH DISPLAYED



MARK WEBER

This angel held holy water for many years in the St. Mary's convent in Fort Wayne. In the 1960s before the convent was torn down, this angel in blue and a matching angel in pink were sold with other furnishings. The pair, circa 1800s are cast iron and 50 inches high. The buyers wanted both but could afford only one, and after joining St. Peter Parish in Fort Wayne, donated this statue to the Cathedral Museum in 2004. Where is the pink angel?

XLT ATTRACTS YOUNG PEOPLE AT ST. THERESE PARISH



JENNIFER MURRAY

Frankie and the Holy Rollers, from the St. Vincent de Paul Parish LifeTeen program, led the youth in praise and worship music on Sept. 25 at St. Therese, Fort Wayne. XLT is an initiative of the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry and Spiritual Formation to help young people worship God. The format combined praise music, Scripture, a short homily, and silence as those in attendance knelt before the Blessed Sacrament in adoration.

SOUTH BEND KNIGHTS ATTEND GIBAULT SCHOOL CONFERENCE



ELMER J. DANCH

At the 22nd annual Gibault School Envoy Conference in Terre Haute, the South Bend delegation from Santa Maria Council 553 received a warm reception from Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, OSB. From left, Rose and Warren Braunsdorf, official envoy from Santa Maria Council are shown with Doris and David Towner, Archbishop Buechlein, and Lillian and Jerry Smith. The conference was designed to provide a first-hand look at Gibault's mission to provide life changing opportunities to children, families and communities.