



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

USCCB, Catholic Charities work closely to assist Burmese refugees

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — "It's not because the refugees are Catholic. It's because we're Catholic."

Those were the words Bishop John M. D'Arcy shared with U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Migration and Refugees Services Associate Director Richard Hogan who was in Fort Wayne last week, along with federal refugee resettlement coordinators, meeting with local agencies handling the influx of Burmese refugees into the area.

At the invitation of U.S. Rep. Mark Souder's office (R-3rd Indiana), representatives from the U.S. Health and Human Services staff from the Office of Refugee Resettlement came to Fort Wayne and met in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center to provide training and technical assistance for local and state agencies.

The USCCB is one of nine U.S.-based voluntary agencies and the state of Iowa, which are contracted by the U.S. Department of State to find resettlement opportunities for refugees from all over the world. In (the financial year) 2008, the president authorized the State Department to admit up to 70,000 refugees to the United States. Approximately 50,000 were admitted in (financial year) 2007. The USCCB is the largest resettlement agency in the U.S., Hogan explained to *Today's Catholic*.

The USCCB resettles 28 percent of all refugees that come to the United States. Over 100 Catholic dioceses, including the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, are actively participating in the resettlement effort, which



TIM JOHNSON

Richard Hogan of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops answers a question at a workshop for local agencies involved in refugee resettlements Feb. 20 at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center. Health and Human Services staff for the Office of Refugee Resettlement provided training for these agencies.

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FLOODED COASTAL CITY IN ECUADOR



CNS PHOTO/REUTERS

A flooded neighborhood is pictured in this aerial view of Babahoyo, Ecuador, Feb. 23. Torrential rains have caused severe flooding in several coastal cities in the country. Pope Benedict XVI appealed for international assistance to Ecuador, where flooding has left 16 dead and forced tens of thousands to evacuate their homes.

Bishop speaks on faith with Lempen Lecture Series

BY MICHELLE DONAGHEY

DONALDSON — "Faith is a gift from God. It's not something one can get out of one's self. Supernatural faith, faith in Jesus Christ, faith in the church, faith in the message of Jesus Christ, this is a gift," said Bishop John M. D'Arcy speaking on "Right Relationship With God," as part of the Lempen Lecture Series at Ancilla College last week.

"Can modern man and woman believe?" asked the bishop, who added that Pope Benedict XVI had a keen sense of the difficulty of modern man and woman to believe in God. "If you read his encyclicals, he has tested the difficulties of people to love and to hope," said Bishop D'Arcy, noting that in the Bible, St. Paul tells us it is possible to find God in the world among us. Bishop D'Arcy pointed out that while faith involves servitude, it also involves darkness.

He spoke of St. Therese of Lisieux, who was born in a small French village and died at age 26. "She had a great sense of God and Jesus Christ being close to her," said the bishop.

After she died, her letters frightened and surprised those who read them. "People never knew it because she kept her strong and beautiful and joyful presence. She was bedeviled by this, but still trusted and believed," said Bishop D'Arcy.

Mother Teresa of Calcutta, a woman of great faith, who became a sort of heroine to the world was "an extraordinary example of Jesus Christ, in prayer and always had a strong sense of God. In this strong experience, she felt that God was calling her to go into the streets of Calcutta and pick up the dying off the streets that no one was attending. She believed it to be God, and she followed it," said the bishop.

But while she did all of these things without complaint, after her death, letters and conversations with her spiritual directors revealed that she had experienced this sense of darkness, of God being very distant from her, yet she kept believing and was a great believer in eucharistic adoration and daily prayer.

Bishop D'Arcy noted that one of the diocesan priests, Father Bob D'Souza, chaplain of Parkview Memorial Hospital

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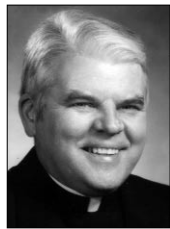
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Bishop anticipates Pope Benedict's visit to America



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

The coming of Pope Benedict

Many years ago, I wrote to Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, whom I came to know through the "ad limina" visits required of the bishop every five years. The purpose of my letter was to accompany and support an invitation that was sent to him from Professor John Cavadini, chair of the theology department of the University of Notre Dame, asking him to speak at Notre Dame. The cardinal wrote a beautiful letter to me indicating that he was very honored and deeply regretted that he could not come. He sent warm greetings to Professor Cavadini but indicated that the work of the church, which had been assigned to him, was constant, and this was his reason for not coming. I treasure his letter and shared it with Professor Cavadini. Well, now he is coming to this country as Pope Benedict XVI, something he certainly never expected or sought, but to which God called him.

He will be in this country from April 15-20, first in Washington, and then in New York. I will go to Washington and be present when he meets with the bishops at the Immaculate Conception Shrine, and I will also have the privilege of concelebrating with him at the new baseball stadium of the Washington Nationals in our nation's capital.

We will have a group of young people going to New York. The number of tickets we received was limited, but I know it will mean a great deal to them. Also, our seminarians will attend the meeting at St. Joseph Seminary in New York. Several dioceses, like New York, Philadelphia and Boston are celebrating their 200th anniversary. All invited the pope to visit their diocese, but that not being possible, they were given extra tickets to attend the Mass on Sunday, April 20, at Yankee Stadium.

Of great significance is the talk that he will give at the United Nations. I remember clearly the talk of Pope Paul VI at the U.N. "No more war. War never again." Also, the first talk by Pope John Paul II at the United Nations in which he called for religious freedom in the nations of the world. Coming from Poland, his words came from a man who understood religious oppression.

Our Sunday Visitor will be sharing some literature on Pope Benedict, and we hope to get it out to our parishes so there can be prayer for the success of the visit of the Holy Father. It will be a blessing.

Ancilla College

We are blessed with many colleges and universities in this diocese, and they are a blessing for the work of the diocese. Our director of the Office of Worship, Brian MacMichael, is a recent graduate of the University of Notre Dame, having received

a masters degree in liturgy there. One thinks also of Fred and Lisa Everett, who have led our Family and Pro-life Office for over 20 years with great distinction. And I refer to the theology department who are training our catechists with a grant from Our Sunday Visitor. Currently, Professor Matt Ashley is presenting a beautiful course on the history of Catholic spirituality. These theologians also play a central part in the training of our recently accepted candidates for the diaconate.

Among the other institutions for higher learning, there is Ancilla College located south of South Bend in Donaldson. It has about 500 students. Only 19 percent are Catholic. So in a sense, it is a missionary school. It was a joy to go there last week and give one of the Lampen Lectures. I was hosted by Dr. Ronald May, the president of the college, and Sister Carleen Wrasmann, PHJC, who is in charge of strengthening Catholic identity. This is an appropriate apostolate and ministry of the Poor Handmaid Sisters, who have always been devoted to the poor and the needy.

It was a joy to be there, speak to them and give them a presentation on the life of faith as part of this lecture series. After the lecture, I met at length with Dr. May and Sister Carleen and was encouraged to see their efforts to strengthen the Catholic identity of this college. Hidden away in Marshall County, this college serves a great purpose and reaches people with faith and

This week I will have my first pastoral visit at our two high schools in the South Bend area. Due to weather and my schedule, we have had some cancellations; but we will get them all in before the end of the year. It is a joy to visit these schools and to see how they have been strengthened in Catholic identity and made more fiscally sound over the years.

We have 17 young men in the seminary, including one who has been accepted for next year, and eight of those 17 are graduates of our Catholic high schools. Of the past three who were ordained, two are graduates of Bishop Luers High School.

A significant moment

It was a joy last week to attend the doctoral defense of Father Michael Heintz, Ph.D., rector of St. Matthew Co-Cathedral, South Bend. Father Mike, who also teaches at Notre Dame and teaches Greek New Testament at Marian High School and doesn't miss many Marian or St. Matthew baseball or basketball games, has completed all his studies and finished what was considered an outstanding doctoral dissertation on Origen, an influential writer and preacher in Caesarea in the third century. Father Mike, in his excellent work, translated homilies on the Psalms and wrote a commentary on them. The room was full, including most of the staff of St. Matthew Parish. Several of his brother priests were there and some young people from his classes at Notre Dame.

I was impressed with the quality of the board. They included five theology professors and one professor from another department to make sure all academic regulations were kept. There were strong questions and observations, but Father Mike had a solid grasp of his topic. The board was made up of Professor John Cavadini, chair of the department; Rev. Brian Daley,

SJ; Professor Daniel Sheerin, a professor of classics; Professor Joseph Wawrkow, an expert on Thomas Aquinas; and Professor Robin Darling Young, an expert on the Fathers of the Church, especially on the age of the martyrs. All commended Father Mike; and Professor Wawrkow, who like Professor Cavadini and Professor Young are parishioners at St. Matthew, commented on the ability of Father Heintz to complete his work while leading a thriving parish at St. Matthew. Congratulations Father Mike.

St. Patrick's Day

Because the 17th of March falls in Holy Week and is the day of our South Bend chrism Mass, we cannot have a liturgical observance of St. Patrick on that day. Parishes under his patronage, or where there has been significant observances in the past, can celebrate the Mass of St. Patrick the previous week. So on March 13, I will have the privilege of offering the Mass in his honor at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at 5:15 p.m.

I hope you are reflecting on the beautiful daily and Sunday Lenten readings, and that all will seek the sacrament of penance in the season of Lent.

See you all next week.

He will be in this country from April 15-20,
first in Washington,
and then in New York.

learning who otherwise might have no opportunity to go to college. It is a two-year course and many of the students go on to receive a full degree in a four-year college. It is important for the bishop to reach out to all the areas of the diocese, and not just those which are more widely known and publicized.

Helping our high schools

Because of the Annual Bishop's Appeal, we have been able to keep the tuition moderate compared to other Catholic high schools even in the state; but it is a major effort, and the bishop has to do his part. So I have been attending fundraisers, first at Saint Joseph's High School, South Bend, and this past week at Bishop Dwenger High School. At the beginning of these two auctions, with two more to come, I lead what we call a tuition auction. We ask people to give funds directly to the high school so we can give assistance to those who otherwise could not attend our high schools. Bishop Dwenger gives \$500,000 a year for this purpose. At Saint Joe High, 181 students, or 20 percent, receive assistance. At Saint Joe, we raised \$57,000 and at Bishop Dwenger, remarkably, pledges reached \$180,000. We never want to become a school of the wealthy or the affluent, and so I am glad to lend my voice and hand to these efforts.

BURMESE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

has been ongoing since the fall of Saigon in 1975.

Last June through September, Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend found themselves in a difficult situation when an unexpected influx of 620 refugees (this does not include secondary Burmese migrants who came on their own from another U.S. community) strained the Fort Wayne office and later local services such as the health department.

"Because the numbers (of Burmese refugees in Fort Wayne) were increasing so quickly, it was difficult to ensure that (Catholic Charities) had the staff here in place, trained and able to do the work," Hogan said. "But with the help of Debbie Schmidt, by and large, a lot of staff were hired, a lot of effort was put into the program, and basically Catholic Charities was fronting the program for a short period of time until this support came from the USCCB."

There were a lot of issues that came up in the first few months. The local department of health was concerned about active tuberculosis (TB) of the new refugees, "which we at USCCB know is not the case and this has been communicated to State Refugee Coordinator, as well as local health providers through Catholic Charities," Hogan said. "Refugees coming from that part of the world nearly all test positive for TB, but it is latent TB. They do not have active TB." Misinformation about this hit the news and concerns from the public health department made its way to the Department of State. Eventually Rep. Souder

became involved. He asked local agencies to start talking, to get together and share information. From that came a series of meetings in Washington at Rep. Souder's office.

"There was a lot of good communication taking place" in Washington, Hogan said. "And now that's translated to the local level in a series of meetings in Indianapolis and also in Fort Wayne."

"The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) is responsible for the process of interviewing refugees and determining their eligibility for U.S. refugee status, which is based on a well-founded fear of persecution," Hogan said.

"In addition to the immigration interview, approved refugees must also undergo a thorough health screening. (Those) found to have a 'Class A' health condition such as active TB are not admitted to the U.S. They are placed on 'medical hold' and given appropriate medical care until their condition is determined to be 'Class-B' (inactive or non-communicable)," Hogan said. "Depending on the condition this can take up to a year or more."

"All refugees above the age of 15 must also undergo a careful security screening to ensure that they are not involved in any terrorist groups or activities," he added.

"Refugees in the camps in Thailand are asked whether they have relatives anywhere in the U.S. Relatives in the Fort Wayne area are noted on case biographical sheets, which are sent to USCCB," Hogan said. "USCCB uses this information to 'place' refugees in Fort Wayne for the purpose of reuniting families, as family reunification is one of the primary principles of the U.S. refugee program."

The biographical sheets are

faxed to Catholic Charities in Fort Wayne or to whichever city they will be resettled. Based on this information, Catholic Charities has the responsibility to set up living quarters and provide resettlement services for an initial period of 90 days. Refugees are also eligible for employment assistance and cash and medical assistance, which is available with federal resources through the state of Indiana, for up to eight months as needed. Self-sufficiency through early employment, however, is the main goal of the program.

This is the step where parishes can step in and assist. Anything to set up housekeeping — furniture, beds, kitchen items, hygiene and cleaning supplies — are needed for the refugees' apartments or homes. Catholic Charities Director Debbie Schmidt has recently acquired space to store such items.

"Most refugees participate in a Cultural Orientation program in the refugee camps before departing for the U.S.," Hogan said. "The orientation emphasizes what life is like in the U.S., as well as the necessity of self-sufficiency through early employment."

"The Burmese generally shouldn't have any problem going to work," Hogan said and most are able to hold a 9 to 5 job.

The health community recently rallied to the Burmese health needs. Today's Catholic has learned that A.S.K. Health Clinic will sponsor a monthly free health clinic specifically for the Burmese. This service will take place the last Tuesday of every month at the clinic located at 2513 S. Calhoun St. It will be supervised by local physician Dr. K. Oo and staffed by Burmese-speaking individuals familiar with clinical procedures. Plans include additional clinics during the month.

Bishop encourages subscriptions to Today's Catholic

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Almost every week of the year, thousands of our Catholic families receive a copy of our award-winning newspaper, *Today's Catholic*. I would like it to be in every Catholic home. It costs about 35¢ a copy.

Why should you subscribe? Here is what will unfold in the next few months.

There will be articles about Pope Benedict XVI. Who is this man, and what does the papal office mean? What is the significance of his visit to this country? What will his message be to our young people and our priests?

What will he say to the bishops? To the United Nations? To Members of other religions?

Other questions will be faced in our newspaper. What is the basis of church opposition to embryonic stem-cell research? What is the meaning of the recent discovery that there are more medical advances from the ethically sound use of adult stem cells?

We have articles on medical moral questions in our newspaper nearly every week.

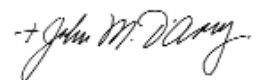
What is the medical and moral hope for women who have been unable to have children? There have been significant talks on this in our diocese. Lisa Everett of our Family Life Office has written a book on it. *Today's Catholic* will direct you to that book.

What is the stance of the church on immigration? There are many people among us who are illegal. Does the church support this? What is the church's position?

There has recently been a document prepared by the bishops of this country concerning elections, and it is titled *Faithful Citizenship*. It does not tell people how to vote, but rather how to form their conscience. This will be explained in *Today's Catholic*, and you will learn how to get a copy so that you may approach the coming general election with knowledge and fidelity to your Catholic faith.

In this newspaper, the great moral issues are discussed. I write a column every week telling people what is going on in the diocese. You belong to a great Catholic family. A history of 150 years of this Catholic family has been completed through our newspaper. You will find out how you can purchase a copy of this history book at a reduced rate. All this and more will be reported in *Today's Catholic*. It should be in your home. Please fill out the form below and send it to us.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,



Most Reverend John M. D'Arcy

Holy Cross theologian from Chile delivers mission lecture

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

NOTRE DAME — The fourth Annual Holy Cross Mission Lecture was held at Moreau Seminary at the University of Notre Dame, Sunday, Feb. 10, with Father Diego Irrrazaval, a Holy Cross priest and scholar of mission speaking on the "Obstacles and Choices in Our Christian Mission."

A group of about 125, primarily Holy Cross seminarians, priests, brothers, sisters and lay colleagues, came to deepen their reflection on the mission dimension of Christian life and service.

In his talk, Father Diego, a pastor, formator and internationally-regarded theologian from Santiago, Chile, stressed that the people of God, and not only those labeled missionaries, give witness and carry out the good news. All of us are called to discipleship and partnership in the paschal mystery and thus carry out the mission of Christ.

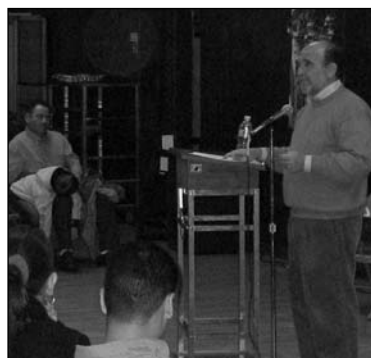
"Being a disciple is usually seen not as what ordinary people do, but mainly what is carried out by thoroughly trained groups and individuals in the church," said Father Diego. "However, a faithful

look at the facts allows us to recognize people walking with Christ and led by him."

He emphasized that ordinary people's human and spiritual experiences contribute to Christ's mission. "They do it through their voices, through compassion and solidarity and through fiestas. People's stories directly or indirectly refer to Jesus Christ," he said.

Holy Cross Father Tom Smith, who, along with Holy Cross Father Dave Schlaver, directs the Mission Center for the Congregation of Holy Cross, says of him, "Diego promotes a 'bio-centered' or 'life-centered' mission, in contrast to a mission that only seeks to fill our churches. He does not want these two to be opposed to one another, but wants the emphasis to be on listening to the common people of different cultures and religions and entering into and enhancing what makes for a full life and happiness."

These annual talks were initiated by the Holy Cross Mission Center Advisory Board, whose desire it was to find a way to promote and enhance the reflection on Gospel mission within the Holy Cross family and at Notre Dame. "We thought an annual lecture,



SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

Holy Cross Father Diego Irrrazaval, a scholar of mission spoke about the "Obstacles and Choices in Our Christian Mission" at the fourth Annual Holy Cross Mission Lecture at Moreau Seminary at the University of Notre Dame on Feb. 10.

bringing noted missiologists to this area, ones who can help us think about the challenges and opportunities of mission in today's world, would be one way of doing this," said Father Smith.

Father Diego stayed in the area about a week and accomplished many things, which included talking to the Holy Cross Sisters at Saint Mary's and giving a retreat to the parishioners at St. Adalbert.

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Pope Benedict will find a Big Apple that remains city of immigrants and wide variety of ethnic culture

BY BENEDICTA CIPOLLA

NEW YORK (CNS) — On Super Bowl Sunday, most of Transfiguration Church in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn had an answer for Father Tony Hernandez when he asked them where they'd be for the kickoff.

The New York Giants were playing the New England Patriots in a matter of hours, and Transfiguration's congregants, many of them from Latin America, were not missing their adopted country's big game.

When Pope Benedict XVI arrives in New York in April, he will find the Big Apple unchanged from papal visits past in at least one regard: It remains a city of immigrants. The same is true for other parts of the metropolitan area.

The New York Archdiocese, whose jurisdiction includes the three boroughs of Manhattan, the Bronx and Staten Island, as well as seven counties outside the city, numbers 2.5 million Catholics, an estimated 23 percent of whom are foreign-born. Certain vicariates run higher: 50 percent of Catholics in north Manhattan, for example, are immigrants.

In the Brooklyn Diocese, which encompasses Brooklyn and Queens, 54 percent of the area's 1.3 million Catholics are foreign-born. Overall, 37 percent of New Yorkers were born outside the United States.

The numbers aren't all that different from 1910, when 40 percent of the population was foreign-born, in large part because of immigration from Ireland, Italy, Russia and Austria-Hungary.

According to Fordham University church historian Msgr.



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

Gladys Rodriguez distributes Communion during a Spanish-language Mass at Transfiguration Church in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn, N.Y., Feb. 3. When Pope Benedict XVI arrives in New York in April, he will find the city unchanged from papal visits past in at least one regard: It remains a city of immigrants, as does the surrounding metropolitan area.

Thomas Shelley, the first pastor of New York's first Catholic parish, St. Peter's, reported back in 1785 that fluency in six languages — English, German, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Irish — was necessary for the job.

"When New York's Catholic community was no more than 200 people, it was already ethnically diversified," Msgr. Shelley said in an interview.

Today, New York is even more diverse. The Brooklyn Diocese offers Masses in 24 languages and 24 ethnic apostolates serving 18 different groups. In the New York Archdiocese, Catholics can find Masses in 33 languages on any given weekend.

Like many parishes throughout the city, Transfiguration is predominantly Spanish-speaking (Spanish is spoken at home by 26 percent of

Massgoing Catholics in the Brooklyn Diocese), and its congregation is made up almost entirely of Latino immigrants and their first-generation children. Its history, too, is similar to that of others, reflecting the changes that occur as new waves of immigrants replace older ones.

Built in 1889 by German and Irish beer barons, who also financed the Tiffany windows, the church is now situated in the middle of Brooklyn's Satmar Hasidic community; across Broadway the neighborhood is mostly Hispanic. After World War II, Hasidim and Puerto Ricans moved in, as the Germans and Irish moved out. Joining Puerto Ricans in the past 20 years have been Dominicans, Mexicans and Central Americans.

Each immigrant group is highlighted at an annual national Mass

— Mexicans, for example, on the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

"It's hugely important to be in a place where you understand and can be understood, where your culture is not just acknowledged but celebrated," said Father Hernandez.

Transfiguration offers immigration and asylum assistance, especially with petitions for family reunification, and helps with the transition to life in America.

"We often talk about immigration in a philosophical or legal way, but if you get to know them in a personal way, you see it's much deeper than a political campaign position," said Father Hernandez. "We deal with the anxiety they live under. The church needs to be protective of people who can't protect themselves," he said.

About 18 miles and a 90-minute subway ride to the north lies St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Church, an Eastern-rite parish founded in 1999.

Before then, it was known as St. Valentine, a Polish church that closed a couple of years earlier because of a lack of parishioners.

The stained glass still features donor names such as Piasecka and Jadwiga, but today, the light filters through to illuminate the saries of St. Thomas's Indian congregation.

Between 1990 and 2000 the city's Indian population grew 118 percent, according to data analysis by the Asian American Federation Census Information Center. In the past eight years, St. Thomas's pastor, Father Jos Kandathikudy, has seen registration jump tenfold, from 55 families to 555.

On July 4 the church celebrates not just Independence Day but its patron saint's martyrdom. Although the feast of St. Thomas is July 3, the parish observes it a day later since the Fourth of July is a national holiday.

Father Kandathikudy leads a statue-studded procession through the mostly Jamaican Bronx neighborhood, and after Mass in a mix of English and Malayalam, traditional music and dance take over. November brings the national feast of Onam, which commemorates

the establishment of the Indian state of Kerala, where the Syro-Malabar church is based.

Soumya Zecharias, 26, said she was impressed with the involvement of the parish's young people, crucial to maintaining a sense of identity as immigrants become more Americanized. "The youth Mass has got them participating more, we have CCD classes in Malayalam," she said. "They're really keeping up Indian tradition."

On the edge of Manhattan's Chinatown, around the corner from what remains of Little Italy, the Chapel of San Lorenzo Ruiz is the New York Archdiocese's only church officially designated for Filipinos.

Originally built in 1925 as the Italian Church of the Most Holy Crucifix, San Lorenzo Ruiz opened in its current incarnation in 2005, drawing Filipinos from throughout New York City, Long Island, upstate New York and New Jersey.

"It's a hardship because they could walk to their neighborhood church, but they want fellowship, and we offer liturgy with Filipino songs and devotions," said Father Erno Diaz, director of the archdiocese's Filipino apostolate.

"Recent immigrants find the chapel like a haven to connect with others, especially if they're new in the area," he said. "The church doubles as a hot line — people call and say, 'Father,

could you refer us to this and that?'"

Father Diaz keeps no official registry. About 150,000 Filipinos live in the New York metropolitan area, he said; 90 percent of them are Catholic.

"That is my virtual congregation. Some of them come once a year. Some come almost every Sunday. The idea is that these people have their own parish," said Father Diaz.

Two weeks after the Giants defeated the Patriots to win the Super Bowl, a member of San Lorenzo Ruiz's choir was dressed in a jersey bearing the name of MVP Eli Manning — proving his New York bona fides while singing hymns in Tagalog.

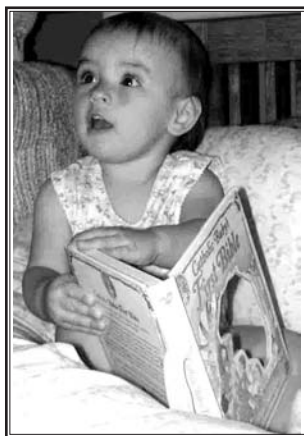
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Vatican official asks Cuban leaders for 'gestures of reconciliation'

HAVANA (CNS) — The Vatican's secretary of state said he had asked Cuban leaders for "gestures of reconciliation" and confirmed he would be the first foreign official to be received by the island-nation's new president, Raul Castro.

Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, who arrived Feb. 20 for an official and pastoral visit, met Feb. 25 with Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque. At a press conference after that meeting, he said he hoped his encounter with Castro would be one of "clarity, sincerity and sharing of ideas." Raul Castro was chosen Feb. 24 to lead the country after his brother, Fidel Castro, resigned.

He also called the U.S. embargo against Cuba "ethically unacceptable" and said the Vatican is trying "to push the United States to eliminate it."

"It is a violation of the independence of the people," the cardinal said. "The Vatican confirms this position."

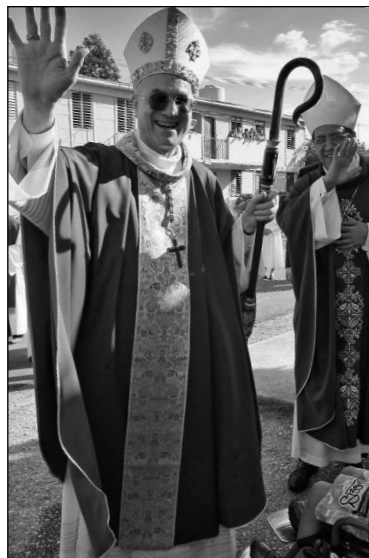
The cardinal also said he personally had asked "the United States government to facilitate the reunification of families" with members in Cuba and in the United States. "It is a humanitarian instrument."

"We will do everything possible in this direction," the cardinal said.

Sources at the Cuban bishops' conference told Catholic News Service that Cardinal Bertone and the new president would meet the afternoon of Feb. 26, just hours before the prelate was to end his visit, which marked the 10th anniversary of Pope John Paul II's trip to Cuba in January 1998.

The cardinal said he had arrived in Cuba "at a special, extraordinary moment" and said he believed that "Raul Castro will continue ... with a vision ... of development" both in Cuba and in Cuba's relations with other countries.

Cardinal Bertone said that "relations with Cuban authorities are excellent" and expressed his thanks for "all the assistance" they provided during his travels around the island. He said he had the chance to "discuss various problems face to face and to share various goals" with Cuban leaders, and he said it was important that he had never before been able to "speak with Cuban authorities as much as during this third visit."



CNS PHOTO/ENRIQUE DE LA OSA, REUTERS

Cuban Foreign Minister Felipe Perez Roque, left, receives the apostolic nuncio to Cuba, Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi, center, and the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, right, at the foreign ministry in Havana Feb. 25. The cardinal said he hoped his visit to the communist island-nation would help advance church-state relations.

The cardinal visited Cuba in 2001 and 2005, before he became secretary of state. He said he hoped that relations between the church and the Cuban government would "continue to mature" and said "there is a visible way forward" in relations.

He also conveyed a "respectful greeting to (retired) President Fidel Castro," recalling that "he has spoken so highly of (Pope) John Paul II, (Blessed) Mother Teresa of Calcutta and (Pope) Benedict XVI."

On Feb. 19, Fidel Castro, who had led Cuba since the 1959 revolution, announced that he was stepping down. He has not appeared in public since a serious illness and surgery in July 2006 forced him to hand over affairs of state to his brother, Raul.

Cardinal Bertone said the recent release of some political prisoners by the Cuban government was a positive gesture and said the church had not asked Cuban officials for amnesty, but for "gestures of reconciliation."

In mid-February Cuban officials freed seven prisoners, including four members of a group of 75 dissidents jailed in 2003. The freed

prisoners traveled to Spain after their release.

"Good gestures, like those it made in the time of John Paul II, like those it made ... with the release of some prisoners, are positive gestures that help reconciliation, that give signs of hope," the cardinal said.

He said the Vatican asks for "gestures of reconciliation among all parties, all forces here in Cuba." He said the church has asked to be allowed to provide spiritual aid to "prisoners of all types," saying that "is not a political problem for us — it is a humanitarian problem, a matter of spiritual assistance."

Earlier, Cardinal Bertone traveled to the Diocese of Santa Clara, in the center of the island, and the eastern Archdiocese of Santiago de Cuba and Guantanamo-Baracoa, Cuba's newest diocese. In Santa Clara, he dedicated and blessed the first monument built in Cuba in honor of Pope John Paul, saying that the message the pope carried to the island in 1998 is still relevant today.

The monument, donated by the Vatican, is located on a thoroughfare popularly known as "Pope Street."

From there the cardinal traveled to Santiago de Cuba, the island's second-largest city, and visited the sanctuary of Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre, the patroness of Cuba, and prayed the rosary with several thousand pilgrims.

Cardinal Bertone urged Catholic youths to "work for the good of all, and for those who need it most: the poor, the marginalized, the excluded, the ill and those of your age, who are often, because of their youth, the most vulnerable."

He offered a message of encouragement and hope, telling Cubans that they can "count on the closeness" of Pope Benedict.

The trip through eastern Cuba, following in Pope John Paul's footsteps, ended in Guantanamo, where the cardinal presided at an outdoor Mass and dedicated and blessed the new diocesan offices.

On Feb. 25, Cardinal Bertone gave a talk at the University of Havana. On Feb. 26, his last day in Cuba, he was scheduled to meet with Salesians and visit the Latin American Medical School before meeting with the country's new president.

St. Patrick's Day falling during Holy Week prompts parade dilemma

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The long-held tradition of St. Patrick's Day parades has experienced a bump in the road this year with the saint's feast day occurring during an unusually early Holy Week.

In cities across the country most of the parades, some more than a 200-year-old tradition, are going on as planned, even though March 17 is the Monday of Holy Week. But the idea of marching bands, Irish dancing and vast displays of green parading during the solemn week before Easter has stirred some comments from U.S. bishops.

The question of how to celebrate the Irish saint is not usually such a dilemma, since the last time his feast day fell during Holy Week was in 1940.

Because St. Patrick's Day falls just days before Easter this year the feast will not be celebrated liturgically in most U.S. dioceses, because of a decision by the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

A newsletter from the U.S. bishops' liturgy secretariat last April announced that the feast day of St. Patrick may be moved to Friday, March 14, in dioceses "where St. Patrick is the principal patron of a particular church" and where "it is customarily commemorated as a solemnity."

Bishop J. Kevin Boland of Savannah, Ga., the city with a huge St. Patrick's Day celebration, made an early note of the feast day's date change. In December 2006, he wrote dozens of letters to all involved in the city's St. Patrick's festivities, including the parade committee, city agencies, the Board of Education and the Chamber of Commerce, informing them the diocese would be celebrating the feast day March 14.

The Irish-born bishop never suggested the city change its festivities, according to Barbara King, spokeswoman for the Diocese of Savannah. She told Catholic News Service Feb. 21 that the bishop was simply "letting everyone know what he would be doing."

Parade organizers decided in December to change the date of

the 2008 parade to coincide with diocesan St. Patrick celebrations. Except for this year, Savannah's parade, unlike those in some other cities, is always held March 17; in many cities the parade is often on the Saturday before the feast day.

John Forbes, the Savannah parade committee chairman, told the *Savannah Morning News* daily newspaper that the date change was fine with him. "We do have something special in St. Patrick's in Savannah," he said. "We're going to stay in line with the Catholic Church. When they celebrate the Mass, we're going to hold St. Patrick's Day (festivities) the same time."

In Ohio, Columbus Bishop Frederick F. Campbell's request to city officials that the parade's date be moved was not heeded.

Since the date was not changed, the Columbus chapter of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, a 200-member group that always participates in the parade, will not do so this year. The Ancient Order of Hibernians describes itself as the oldest lay Catholic organization in the United States.

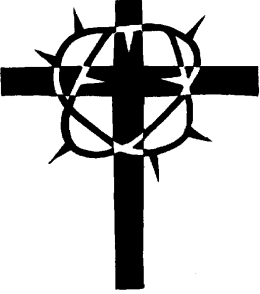
In other cities, the bishops have chosen not to get involved in suggesting a date change for the parades or other celebrations. New York's traditional parade will take place March 17 on Fifth Avenue. Boston's parade will be March 16, which is Palm Sunday and also the first day of Holy Week. Dublin, Ireland, will host its St. Patrick's parade as usual March 17.

Philadelphia and Milwaukee changed their parade dates to avoid conflicts.

The Web site for the St. Patrick's Day parade in Philadelphia notes that the parade is annually held the Sunday prior to St. Patrick's Day unless March 17 falls on Sunday, in which case the parade would be that day.

Milwaukee, seemingly without much fanfare or news coverage, changed its parade date to March 8 this year and one of the special guests will be Milwaukee Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan.

The parade conundrum for the patron saint of Ireland will not be faced again for some time. The next time St. Patrick's Day is expected to fall during Holy Week will be in 2160.



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Pope's weekend activities highlight his role as bishop of Rome

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Addressing a rally in favor of education and celebrating Mass at a parish, Pope Benedict XVI's Feb. 23-24 weekend highlighted his role as bishop of Rome. More than 40,000 of the city's students and parents, teachers, catechists and priests gathered in St. Peter's Square Feb. 23 in response to the pope's call for a renewed commitment to education in the city. Pope Benedict said the gathering was a sign of "a common concern for the good of new generations, for the growth and future of the children the Lord has given this city." Educating young people has never been easy, he said, but with new technology, constant exposure to the media, increasing family breakdowns and looser ties to the church, it is more difficult than ever. But, the pope said, no one can give up. "The great heritage of faith and culture, which is the truest richness of our beloved city, must not be lost in the passage from one generation to another, but rather must be renewed and strengthened to be a guide and a stimulus for our journey toward the future," he said.

Society should support families caring for terminally ill, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Society and labor laws should give concrete support to family members so they can attend to terminally ill loved ones, Pope Benedict XVI said. While guarantees must be made for all people to receive necessary medical care, special provisions also must be put into place for the patient's family members, he said. The pope made his comments during a Feb. 25 audience with more than 300 participants in a Vatican-sponsored congress on the pastoral needs of and ethical obligations toward the terminally ill. Titled "Close By the Incurable Sick Person and the Dying: Scientific and Ethical Aspects," the Feb. 25-26 congress brought together caregivers, medical specialists and scholars in the fields of theology, law and bioethics. The international congress was organized by the Pontifical Academy for Life and was held to coincide with the Lourdes jubilee year, marking the 150th anniversary of Mary's appearance to St. Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, France.

Vocations thrive in parishes with 'spiritual soil,' pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Parish communities with a real sense of obligation to spread the Gospel are places where vocations to be missionary priests and religious thrive, said Pope Benedict XVI. "Vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life can only flourish in a spiritual soil that is well cultivated," he said in his message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations. The papal message for the day of prayer, which will be observed April 13 in

NEWS BRIEFS

POPE WAVES TO FAITHFUL OUTSIDE ROME CHURCH



CNS PHOTO/DARIO PIGNATELLI, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI waves to the faithful after celebrating Mass at Santa Maria Liberatrice Church in Rome Feb. 24.

most countries, was released Feb. 22 at the Vatican. The 2008 theme is "Vocations at the Service of the Church on Mission." In his message, Pope Benedict insisted that the task of explicitly proclaiming the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus Christ is still at the heart of the vocation of every Christian.

Congregation prays for shooting victims at annual Mass for students

CHICAGO (CNS) — An annual Mass for college students living and studying at campuses in the Chicago Archdiocese and the Joliet Diocese offered a chance to pray for victims of the shooting at Northern Illinois University in DeKalb the day before. About 300 college students, faculty and staff gathered for the Mass Feb. 15 at Madonna della Strada Chapel at Jesuit-run Loyola University Chicago. On their way into the church, worshippers had the chance to sign a memorial book for the victims of the shooting. Five students were killed and 16 were injured before the shooter, Stephen Kazmierczak, took his own life. "There's no time like now for a Mass," said Chris Paolleli, a graduate student in Northwestern University's School of Education. "We've been working with the Catholic campus community to come together and express our condolences." During the Mass, which was celebrated by Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George with Joliet Bishop J. Peter Sartain and priests who act as campus ministry chaplains, the cardinal spoke about the problem of evil.

Christians say conditions in Gaza worsen for them, moderate Muslims

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Living conditions for Christians and moderate Muslims are becoming increasingly difficult in the Gaza Strip, Christians told Catholic News Service. "First there was the murder of (Christian bookstore owner) Rami (Ayyad), now the YMCA (bombing). We can feel it step by step," said one young Christian, who like other Christians interviewed by CNS spoke on the condition of anonymity. No one has been apprehended after the October kidnapping and killing of Ayyad, a member of the Gaza Baptist Church. Only one of more than a dozen gunmen who overpowered the two YMCA guards and destroyed the building's library with a bomb Feb. 15 has been caught, sources in Gaza said Feb. 18. Thousands of books were lost in the explosion but the gunmen failed in their attempt to damage an adjoining wedding hall. The YMCA is open to both Christians and Muslims. In addition to the wedding hall and library, it includes a sports hall and school and runs a summer camp.

Texas cardinal takes possession of titular church in Rome

ROME (CNS) — In the simplest of the rites associated with becoming a "prince of the church," Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston took possession of his titular church in Rome. The cardinal was met at the door of Rome's St.

Eusebius Church Feb. 20 by the pastor carrying a crucifix, an altar girl carrying holy water and a priest from the Vatican's office for liturgical ceremonies. Although the ceremony was simple, it began with a bit of fluttering because the cardinal arrived early. He apologized, explaining that the driver assigned to him was just too good at dealing with Rome's traffic. After kissing the crucifix, Cardinal DiNardo entered the church, sprinkling with holy water the 150 people who completely filled the little 13th-century building. Seminarians from the Pontifical North American College in Rome, students from the Rome campus of the University of Dallas and employees of the U.S. Embassy to the Holy See were in attendance. Bishop Kevin W. Vann of Fort Worth and several U.S. priests working or studying in Rome celebrated the evening Mass with the cardinal.

Catholic official welcomes Kosovo's declaration of independence

OXFORD, England (CNS) — A Catholic official in Kosovo welcomed its declaration of independence, adding that the rights of all people would be guaranteed in the new country. "We are fully behind independence — it's a great joy that it has come so quickly," said Msgr. Shan Zefi, chancellor of Kosovo's Catholic apostolic administration in Prizren. "The Catholic faithful are celebrating throughout Kosovo. We are optimistic about the future, and we expect great things for the Catholic Church," he said Feb. 19, two days after Kosovo unilaterally declared

independence from Serbia. In a telephone interview with Catholic News Service, he said his church counted on the international community to "defend law and security" in the new state, adding that he had celebrated Mass in thanksgiving for the United States backing Kosovo's independence. However, Serbian Orthodox Bishop Artemije of Raska and Prizren urged Christians in the United States and Europe to oppose their countries' "unjustified, immoral and harmful policy" toward Kosovo and called on Serbia to prevent "attempts to complete the practice of violent ethnic cleansing and destruction of remaining monuments of our cultural legacy."

Polish priest: Young priests plagiarize homilies from Internet

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A prominent Polish priest said young priests are using the Internet to plagiarize homilies for Masses. "If a priest takes another person's text and presents it as his own from the pulpit, without pointing out where he got it from, this is unethical and against the law protecting authorship," said Father Wieslaw Przychyna, co-author of the book "To Pinch or Not to Pinch." "Unfortunately, the practice has become common here," he said. Father Przychyna, chairman of the Polish Homiletics Group, told Catholic News Service Feb. 25 that he had been accused of "harassing priests and exposing their weaknesses" by drawing attention to the plagiarism problem. However, he added that more and more Polish Catholics were complaining about priests who read their Sunday homilies, while some Poles had traced the texts on the Internet and even come to Mass with their own copies.

Papal preacher: Listening to readings best way to hear Jesus speak

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The best way to hear Jesus speak to humanity is by listening to the Liturgy of the Word, said the preacher of the papal household. Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, offering a Lenten meditation to Pope Benedict XVI and top Vatican officials Feb. 22, said, "During Mass, the Liturgy of the Word is nothing other than liturgically making present Jesus who preaches." The Liturgy of the Word represents the place and time in which "Jesus speaks most solemnly and surely today," he said. Father Cantalamessa said in light of the October world Synod of Bishops on the Bible, he was dedicating his four weekly Lenten reflections for the pope and Vatican officials to the word of God. "Christ is present in his word since it is he himself who speaks when the holy Scriptures are read in the church," he said, quoting the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy.

Bishop Luers to host 34th Midwest Swing Choir Invitational

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School will host the 34th annual Luers-Midwest Show Choir Invitational on Saturday, March 8. The day competition is slated from 7:50 a.m. to 6 p.m., and the championship sing-off begins at 7:30 p.m.

Cost for an all-day wristband ticket is \$10. It provides in-and-out admission for the day competition and the championship sing-off.

The Bishop Luers' competition is the longest-running show choir invitational in the nation. Choirs from Indiana, Ohio, Michigan and West Virginia are competing by invitation only. The Bishop Luers Minstrels and the KnightStars Women's Choir will perform their 2008 competition shows in a special exhibition performance.

Hypatia Day encourages girls to study math, science

NOTRE DAME — Hypatia Day, held this year on Saturday, Feb. 23, is an event unique to Saint Mary's College that encourages female seventh-grade students to stick with their math and science studies.

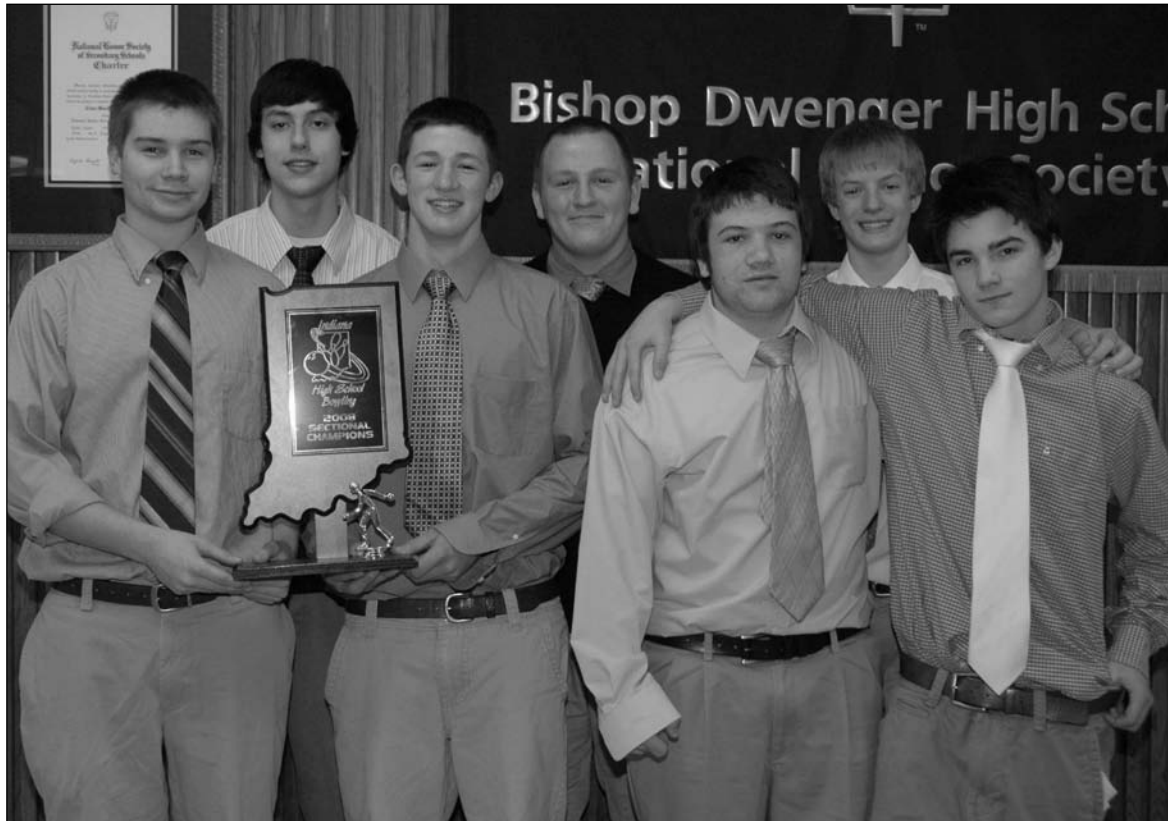
The day is named for the first known female mathematician, Hypatia of Alexandria. Hypatia was born in A.D. 370, the daughter of the mathematician and philosopher Theon. Theon trained his daughter in math at a time when girls did not receive such education. While times have certainly changed, girls today may not always be inclined to continue studying mathematics and science as they make their way through school. As middle-school students, the girls attending Hypatia Day are aware that they are good at math and science and are very open to career possibilities.

"We want to encourage young women to keep taking advanced math and science classes instead of worrying about their GPA and choosing easy classes," says Ewa Misiolok, director of the event and an assistant professor of mathematics at Saint Mary's. "After meeting in our classrooms and labs with our students who have succeeded in math and science, we hope these younger students will feel confident that they can do it too."

Holy Cross Sister Miriam Patrick Cooney, professor emerita of mathematics and a great advocate of promoting women in mathematics and sciences, started Hypatia Day at Saint Mary's in March 1991. On average, 110 seventh-grade girls from throughout Michiana, and an equal number of parents, attend Hypatia Day each year. Middle school mathematics and science faculty from throughout seven counties nominate the girls invited to the event. The students must have demonstrated a great ability and serious interest in mathematics and science to be considered.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

DWENGER BOWLERS CAPTURE SECTIONAL TITLE



LIZ DELANEY

The boys bowling team captured the sectional title Saturday, Feb. 2, qualifying first of 15 teams and defeating Columbia City in the final match. Tony Henry was the top qualifier in individual competition, but placed second due to a "roll off." The boys also became the first Dwenger team to go undefeated in conference play, winning their conference title. In the photo are the following: front row, from left, Eric Fenker, Sam Fenker, Tony Henry and Brandon Smith; and back row, Jeff Eifrid, Tom Leffers and Austin Lundquist.

Last of the Catholicism Revealed series set for March 1

FORT WAYNE — St. Vincent de Paul Parish will continue its Catholicism Revealed presentations on Monday, March 3, at 7 p.m.

Father Jason Freiburger, associate pastor at St. Vincent, will lead the final discussion of the season on ways to draw nearer to the Lord through prayer. Everyone is different, and so there are many ways that have developed over the years of discerning the Lord's Spirit.

The church is located at 1502 E. Wallen Rd., Fort Wayne.

Sister Joris Biner, OP, celebrates jubilee

SINSINAWA, Wis. — Sister Joris Biner, OP, will celebrate her 50th Jubilee in July 2008. A Mass will be held in Queen of the Rosary Chapel at Sinsinawa Mound on Sunday, July 20, for her and 27 other Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters celebrating 50 years.



Sister Joris Biner, OP

In the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Sister Joris ministered as the assistant rector of Lewis Hall, 1982-1984, and rector of Pasquerilla East Hall, 1984-1995, at the University of Notre Dame, and as the co-director of the Hesburgh Sabbatical Program, Center for Continuing Formation in Ministry (CCFM), University of Notre Dame, 1995-1998.

Sister Joris is currently ministering as a pastoral minister at St. Dominic Villa, Sinsinawa.

For those who would like to honor Sister Joris on her jubilee, visit the Web site at www.sinsinawa.org/news/news.html and click on "2008 Jubilarians."

Eighth grade class making blankets for foster children

DECATUR — The St. Joseph eighth-grade religion class had been discussing doing a service project since the beginning of the year. The students brainstormed ideas and then voted to select their project. Making fleece blankets for foster kids was the overwhelming winner. Each student was to bring in two pieces of fleece for blankets.

However, since fleece is expensive, Sharon Braun, the eighth-grade religion teacher, encouraged the students to earn the money to purchase the fleece,

rather than just asking their parents to buy it. Braun suggested doing such work helping around the home, helping their grandparents or babysitting.

Once several pieces of fleece were accumulated, the students began the work spending one religion class per week making the blankets. As of this time, St. Joe students have completed 20 blankets and have fleece to make at least 10 more.

Three employees of the Department of Family and Children's Services, Linda Tannehill, Jeannie Newton and Tina Horn, came to Braun's classroom last week to receive the blankets. They stated there are currently 27 foster children in Adams County and a total of 4,775 foster children in Indiana and that there is an ongoing need of loving families willing to accept foster children into their home. When considering these numbers, the need for more families is very apparent. The ladies also shared information with the students on how and when to call their anonymous tip line with questions or concerns regarding child abuse or neglect. They also brought dry-erase emergency contact information sheets the students can use when they babysit.

Those interested in accepting foster children are encouraged to call Foster Care Services at (800) 582-4453 for more information.

The Jesters of USF celebrate 30 years with original performance

FORT WAYNE — The Jesters, a troupe of child and young adult actors and artists with special needs, will perform an original musical comedy, "The Pirates of Charity Island Resort" on Saturday, March 8, at 3 p.m. and Sunday, March 9, at 6 p.m. in the North Campus Auditorium at the University of Saint Francis.

The ticket price for these performances is \$8 and supports the Jesters program. Doors will open 30 minutes before show time for general seating.

"The Pirates of Charity Island Resort" was written by Allen Etter and composed by Etter and Bill Brune, both employees at the University of Saint Francis. This year is the Jesters' 30th year of music, art and theater.

A short DVD will be shown before the performance chronicling the history of these talented people.

Founded for children and young adults with special needs in 1978, the Jesters program showcases young people's singing and acting abilities on the public stage.

For more information, please call (260) 399-7700 ext. 8001. The School of Creative Arts is an accredited school by the National Association of Schools of Art and Design.

Knights of Columbus host Peace Corps speaker

SOUTH BEND — Dr. John Kennedy, who has served with distinction as a volunteer in the Peace Corps, spoke on his experiences in an address at the joint dinner of the Father Nieuwland Assembly, Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus on Feb. 21 at the Ave Marie Council of the Knights of Columbus on South Ironwood Drive.

The Peace Corps has provided an excellent opportunity for volunteers to serve overseas and there have been several volunteers from the South Bend area, including Kennedy. — EJD

Lindenwood holds Lenten day of reflection

DONALDSON — Registrations are now being accepted for the quiet day of reflection program "Lenten Conversations."

Using chapters 3, 4 and 11 from the Gospel of John, participants will see how these conversations lead them to a deeper understanding of Jesus as the Christ and Messiah.

Father Jerry Schweitzer is pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Wanatah, St. Mary, Otis, and St. Martin in LaCrosse, Ind. and will facilitate the program. He is a teacher and lecturer on Scripture.

The program will be held on March 17 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The fee is \$25 and includes the noon mail meal.

Sign up early. Registration deadline is Monday, March 10. For more information or to register, contact Lindenwood at (574) 935-1780 weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., e-mail lw@lindenwood.org or visit www.lindenwood.org.

Bill to regulate pornography passes House, heads for Senate

INDIANAPOLIS — While delivering property tax relief to Hoosiers remains the dominant issue at the state capital, one lawmaker is working to address another problem facing Indiana communities — the sale of pornographic materials in Indiana.

State Rep. Terry Goodin (D-Crothersville) author of HB 1042, which passed the Indiana House with an 88-5 vote, said, "This bill is in response to a situation in my district where a store gave residents the impression it would be selling books, movies and snacks. Instead, the store opened selling sexually-graphic materials," Goodin said. "Had the residents been notified, they could have petitioned to keep the retailer out."

Goodin said he also has noticed an increase in the number of stores that sell pornography in rural areas, particularly on interstates, which span several counties. "The problem is the state of Indiana has a hodgepodge of zoning laws." While many counties have ordinances to regulate this type of retailer, this legislation is geared toward those areas without county protection.

HB 1042 would require that a person or business intending to sell sexually explicit materials, products or services register and file a statement with the Secretary of State. "This registering requirement triggers a mechanism to give the local municipalities the heads-up that this kind of business is getting ready to open up in their area." The zoning board would be in a better position to take action to stop the business from opening.

"This is a problem that has been fought across the United States," said Goodin. "Once a business that sells pornography is open in a community, it is very difficult to near impossible to get it closed."

Goodin said the Senate

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE



BRIGID CURTIS AYER

amended the bill to improve the definition of sexually explicit and made some technical corrections to strengthen the bill to stand up in court if it is challenged.

Goodin is not aware of any other state that has enacted legislation similar to his proposal, but said the concept for his bill was based on a summation of ideas given to him by constituents. Goodin said he was excited about passage of the bill by the Senate committee and is hopeful the full Senate will pass the bill when it gets to the floor.

Sen. Brent Steele (R-Bedford), Senate sponsor of the legislation, said the bill will help counties that don't have any county zoning. "What these shops do is, they will find counties that don't have any county zoning with an

interstate running through it," said Steele. "Then they set up shop there. Or if there is any zoning, it is very loosely written zoning so when the shop registers it will just file as a 'retail establishment.'

"What we say in the bill is, if you're going to sell this stuff, which we can't stop them from doing under the first amendment, they have to register with the Secretary of State's office." The filing fee is \$250. "There will be an actual declaration of the business' intent to sell sexually-explicit materials," said Steele. "Then zoning boards and county commissioners will be able to keep apprised of these kinds of businesses.

"Right now there is no way of knowing that these kinds of shops are starting up, until after they are already open for business," said Steele. "Hopefully this bill will slow these people down or stop them entirely."

HB 1042 provides that selling sexually-explicit material such as pornography without proper registration could result in a Class-B misdemeanor charge. A Class-B misdemeanor charge can result in

up to 180 days in jail or a \$1,000 fine. The bill will apply to businesses established after June 30, 2008 or any existing business that moves to a new location. It is not retroactive to existing businesses that remain in the same location.

According to Top Ten Reviews, an Internet research company, the revenue generated from pornography in United States in 2006 was \$13.33 billion. The revenue generated by of sale of pornography in the United States by category includes video sales and rentals at \$3.62 billion; Internet at \$2.84 billion; cable, PPV (pay-per-view), in-room,

mobile/phone sex at \$2.19 billion; exotic dance clubs at \$2 billion; novelties at \$1.73 billion; and magazines at \$.95 billion.

HB 1042, which the Indiana Catholic Conference supports, was approved by the Senate Committee on Corrections, Criminal and Civil Matters, Feb. 20 by a 6-0 vote. The bill now moves to the full Senate for second and third reading. If the bill passes the Senate by the Feb. 26 second house deadline, it will go back to the House for a concurrence on the Senate amendments to the bill.

STUDENT NAMED 2008 NATIONAL MERIT FINALIST



PROVIDED BY BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL

Bishop Dwenger High School, Fort Wayne, senior Madeline Goheen is shown with Principal Fred Tone after been named a 2008 National Merit Finalist. She was initially selected by scoring in the top 1 percent of all students nationwide on the PSAT test taken in October of 2006. Based on her outstanding academic performance in high school and her subsequent SAT scores, Goheen is being recognized for her high potential for future academic accomplishment at the college level, and is now being considered for college-sponsored scholarship opportunities.

Update on ICC priority bills:

- Same Sex Marriage Ban (SJR 2) passed Senate, died House — failed to get a hearing.
- Pharmacist Conscience Clause (SB 3) passed Senate, died House — failed to get a hearing.
- Informed Consent (SB 146) passed Senate, died House — failed to get a hearing.
- Fetal Curriculum (SB 187) passed Senate, died House, amended into cultural competency bill (HB 1107), eligible conference committee negotiations.
- Immigration Enforcement (SB 335) passed Senate, passed House committee, headed to full House for second reading.

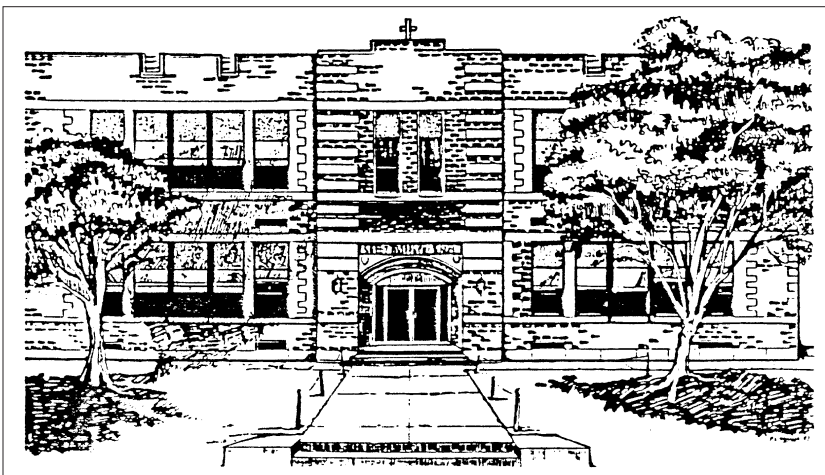
The Indiana Catholic Conference publishes a weekly legislative news brief called the I-CAN Update which summarizes legislation of concern to the church.

To get a full explanation on the status of the ICC priority bills visit to the ICC Web page at www.indianacc.org

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Saint Joseph's High School dominates art regionals



KIM COLEMAN

With 28 awards in all, the winners of the Scholastic Art Contest from Saint Joseph's High School include Kristopher Kaizer, Justin Herman, Francisco Gonzalez, Tess Godfrey, Gabrielle Stroik, James Bagiackas, Maggie Kendzicky, Michelle Nowak, Sam Jones, Elaina Jo Polovick, John Schafer, Cameron Steininger, Colin Crowel and Giselle Reinke.

SOUTH BEND — Every high school art student who enters the Scholastic Art Contest hopes to have his or her work accepted for exhibition and mention. The equivalent of a "juried" show, Scholastics provide the young artists a place for work to be recognized and evaluated.

The next hope for the artists is to win a coveted gold or silver "key"; such awards are presented to thousands of students throughout the country every year and represent what the judges consider to be excellent artistic achievement. From these winners are selected the highest awards for a show: the regional winners and the American Vision awards.

This year Saint Joseph's High School in South Bend not only won nine Gold Keys, five Silver Keys and 11 honorable mentions, but was the only art department in the area to win four regional awards and one American Vision Award — the equivalent to a best-in-show.

Francisco Gonzalez won a Regional Award in printmaking, Justin Herman a Regional Award in drawing, Tess Godfrey a Regional Award in Video/Film and Gabrielle Stroik's portfolio was awarded the Regional winner of all portfolios submitted. In addition, Kristopher Kaizer won the American Vision Award in ceramics.

Bishop Dwenger students awarded honors in Scholastic Art and Writing contest



GWEN SCHMUCKER

Nick Klein, Christine Ludwiski, and Jenny Leszyznski "jump for joy" after receiving Gold Keys for the Scholastic Art Awards. Their art will be sent to New York City for national judging.

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School art students have recently competed in a national art contest called Scholastic Art and Writing Awards. They competed against high schools in the northern half of Indiana and northern Ohio.

Bishop Dwenger had four winners of which three were Gold Keys, the highest award. Gold Key winners receive a \$1,000 scholarship to the University of Saint Francis and have their art exhibited at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art through April. The works will

then be exhibited and judged nationally in New York City.

Winners were the following:

- Eric Wunderlin, drawing, certificate of merit
- Nick Klein, digital imagery, two Gold Keys and one Silver Key
- Jenny Leszyznski, painting, Gold Key
- Christine Ludwiski, painting, Gold Key. Ludwiski's painting was also chosen by United Art and Education out of 1,000 entries and was individually recognized to receive the Art Achievement Certificate.

Columnist finds church gave her a 'hand up' to better things

SOUTH BEND — May Lee Johnson, 47, has traveled far on her life journey.

Mother of Annie, 11, *South Bend Tribune* and *Today's Catholic* columnist, talk show host on 89.6 FM Radio, author of the book, "Coming Up on the Rough Side: A Black Catholic Story," representative of the diocese to the National Black Catholic Congress last year in Buffalo, N.Y., May Lee says that if it weren't for others, especially other Catholics who were concerned for her, she wouldn't be where she is at today. Her journey

has always included someone from the church who gave her a "hand up" to better things.

May Lee has demonstrated through her own life how conversion and connection with other Catholic and religious people, the Lord and the Holy Spirit can make a difference in the outcome of any situation.

"I think there is always an ultimate point in your life when you have to make some kind of decision," May Lee said. "Each time that I made the decision, it's been a good decision because I grew a little more."

She said her faith journey has been "incredible. It's because I have been all the way to the bottom, and I know what the bottom tells me. It tells me that I don't have to stay there. It's easy to sit there and say 'God doesn't like me. God's not sending me any blessings.'"

May Lee grew up on the west side of South Bend in the early 1960s and had a rough lifestyle for years. This included time spent at the Indiana School for Girls.

For May Lee, blessings through people and the Holy Spirit have come when she most needed them. One came in the form of St. Peter Claver House just off Washington Street in South Bend, which was her refuge after attending girls' school.

"There was warmth in the house," she said. "I felt peace was there. It was a place I learned about Jesus and the saints of the church."

May Lee enjoyed the company of students from Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College, the seminarians, priests and sisters who were all willing to talk and help.

As a teen who felt she never fit in — "I was before my time" — Father Dan Peil helped her to go to Saint Joseph's High School as a student.

At 24, May Lee found herself the single mother of two boys — Jason and Jaron, now grown. She was barely able to survive.

Later when she could have chosen to stay at a bottom point — where she couldn't pull herself up as a single mother working as a

BLACK FAITHFUL

MICHELLE DONAGHEY

nurse's aid — she learned to look for the good in the situation through her faith and the spirituals that she would reflect upon and sing.

"There was warmth in the house. I felt peace was there. It was a place I learned about Jesus and the saints of the church."

MAY LEE JOHNSON

Story." It was given great reviews from the director of Black Catholics in Washington, D.C., and by the former president of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice.

While working in the circulation department for the *South Bend Tribune*, managing editor Tim Harmon tracked May Lee down. Harmon didn't know May Lee, but someone at the newspaper saw him reading her book and told him she worked for the newspaper in the basement of the building.

Harmon offered her a job with the *Tribune*, first part-time, which led to the position she now holds as a columnist, "Tales from the West Side," and as a general assignments reporter.

May Lee has won several awards for her work including the first in the nation for a series she wrote last year.

And she found herself as a radio talk show host, reaching people she feels she could not through her newspaper work as "many can't afford the newspaper."

May Lee, who cannot seem to stop helping when she has a spare moment, now leads a girls club out of her home. The club includes her daughter, Annie, and the meetings include arts and crafts and discussions such as "how to better get along" with others. The group is getting so large that May Lee hopes to soon move it into another location, possibly to the old St. Patrick School.

"There were roaches and rats running all over everywhere, but we tried to make the best of every situation and take care of each other," May Lee said. "They were growing into pretty good kids. The most important thing to remember is that we were a family."

Taking a step, one day at a time, May Lee received a general studies degree as well as certification to teach religious education, which she taught at St. Adalbert in South Bend and St. Bavo in Mishawaka; at Holy Trinity and De LaSalle Institute in Chicago; and at St. Francis Xavier in Miami.

May Lee also helped out at St. Augustine Church and ran an outreach center at St. Hedwig Parish. There, she assisted school-age mothers and the poor.

In 1986, she decided to write the book "Coming Up on the Rough Side: A Black Catholic

For information about "Coming Up on the Rough Side: A Black Catholic Story" by May Lee Johnson with Anne Barsanti, contact May Lee at (574) 807-2883 or e-mail mjohnson52@sbcglobal.net. (\$5.95 plus shipping or arrange pick up with May Lee.)

Notice of ANNUAL CLEANUP at Catholic Cemetery

Because of the early date for Easter this year, the Catholic Cemetery of Fort Wayne will do their annual cleanup of decorations from March 17 thru March 19. Please do not place any decorations during this time.

If you wish to save your decoration, please have it removed **BEFORE** March 17 or call the Catholic Cemetery Office, 426-2044, by March 14 and we will hold it for you no more than 30 days. Decorations may be placed **AFTER** March 19.

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Stewardship — an opportunity for transcendence

BY HARRY VERHILEY

When addressing stewardship, many people refer to the three “t’s”: time, talent and treasure. Often, people will just draw attention to one of those “t’s”: treasure, because they think this is the most important “t.” Treasure is not the most important part of stewardship.

The most important aspect of stewardship is not simply time, talent or treasure. Certainly, they are means by which we express our love for God. But the most important aspect of stewardship is our love for God.

Consider what love is. Love tends to direct the self towards ecstasy in the sense that it takes a person out of the self and into a life of the person whom the other loves. In other words, one becomes that which is loved.

The stewardship way of life is an expression of our love for God.

A Christian steward often expresses love for God by means of those three little “t’s”: time, talent and treasure. These three words have become the image of a Christian steward.

It is important for us to have images, because images convey understanding. Think about the images that you are exposed to and how you form understanding. Do you know that by the age of 50 the average American spends nine years watching television? One year of those nine is commercials. Marketers know that an image forms attitude and attitude begets behavior. Think about that, image begets attitude. Attitude begets behavior.

Consider all of the images we are exposed to on television and other media sources such as the Internet. You have to admit that most of these images play on our attitude of selfishness and self-centeredness.

There is another stewardship

image in the form of a “t.” This “t” is counter to many of the images we are exposed to in our society. This “t” stands for transcendence. To transcend means to pass beyond our own limitation, to go beyond what we are capable of; but to go beyond our abilities suggests that we must align ourselves with God to do what we cannot do on our own. But for us to align ourselves with God, Christ shows us that there is an element of sacrifice required.

We can look upon the image of a “t,” but not the image of transcendence. We can look at the image of a crucifix to gain an understanding of transcendence.

The crucifix is an expression of selflessness. Our Christian images should form our attitude, and our attitude should influence our behavior. Certainly we may not be asked to express our following Christ to the extreme of martyrdom (as the crucifixion depicts), perhaps not yet, perhaps maybe never, but it should be clear to most of us that some type of sacrifice is required.

Whatever you abandon will not be so much something that you give, as it will be something that you will receive from God. This is

because God is the ultimate giver, expressed through creation and, most profoundly, in the crucifixion.

Whatever you abandon, your abandonment will become your gift from God, not to God. How can this be? Because if we make an effort to be more generous and selfless, we become more like God because God expresses his generosity and selflessness through creation and the gift of the Incarnation — especially through his suffering, death and resurrection. When we are generous and selfless we are more God-like. This is our transcendence through stewardship.

This image of transcendence is obvious when we consider the calling of the two sets of brothers: Andrew and Peter, James and John. Jesus is walking along the sea shore encouraging people to repent and have faith. He comes across these two sets of brothers and he gives them the call to follow, along with the promise that he will make them fishers of men.

Notice that their responses are different. Andrew and Peter were casting their nets and they abandoned those nets. James and John abandoned even more — they

were repairing ripped nets which they abandoned — but they also abandoned their father and business partner — Zebedee, as well as their boat.

Whatever these four men gave up to follow Christ, they received something of far greater value. Their surrender resulted in their experience of transcendence. These ordinary men became extraordinary friends of God. Later, as we find in John’s Gospel, Jesus told them, “you are my friends. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you.”

Today, ordinary people are still chosen by Christ to follow him. And those ordinary people are called to do his work in our generation. Each of us is called to follow, called to be friends of God.

Our Christian-calling is what we have in common, but each one of us is called to sacrifice in different ways. How do we know the proper sacrificial response to Christ’s call?

This Lent, gaze upon the image of our Lord crucified. Give a sincere effort to ponder the meaning of that image and to form your attitude about your relationship with God. Consider what type of friend you are to God. Then determine what your behavior will be in the expression of that friendship with God. Ask: what does God want to accomplish through me? Then, express that behavior through your parish stewardship effort, as well as other opportunities in your life.

Harry Verhiley is the director of the Development Office for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.




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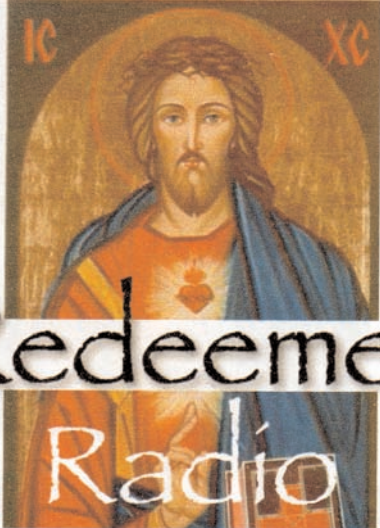


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Stewardship by the book

Goshen parishioner believes stewardship is a way of life, not a project.

BY DENISE FEDOROW

GOSHEN — St. John the Evangelist parishioner Dave Elchert and his wife Donna have practiced stewardship over the years, but Elchert says he really didn't have a good grasp of the subject until he attended a diocesan workshop and became involved in a stewardship committee.

Elchert explains that Auxiliary Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, along with the Office of Development held workshops in South Bend and Fort Wayne in 2000-2001. The pastor of St. John the Evangelist in Goshen at the time, Father John Delaney, invited Elchert and a few others including Jim Krider and Bill Malone to attend. At the workshop they listened to speakers on the subject of stewardship and each parish was given a manual on the subject.

"Father John (Delaney) handed it to me, and at that point, I didn't know a whole lot about stewardship. So I read it, and sometimes when you don't know a lot about a subject you have to read it two to three times," Elchert explains.

"The manual suggests putting a stewardship committee together and Father John recommended a few parishioners who he believed were already living a stewardship way of life and we put together a committee."

Following the manual, the committee conducted a parish survey. The committee met for six to seven months to develop the survey. The surveys were passed out during a homily and parishioners were encouraged to submit the survey.

"We tabulated the results and determined what parishioners wanted to see in ways of additional ministries," he says.

Before the survey, St. John's had 25 ministries. And 14 more, which included a Bible study group and parish library, were added as a result of the first survey.

Then came the task to recruit parishioners to chair the ministries.

"The first year we had 14 new ministries. Over the course of 2001-2006 those original 25 ministries grew to 55 or 56," Elchert explains, and that was just on the Anglo side.

The stewardship committee made intention cards and created a ministry guide, which had a brief description of each ministry, and planned a ministry fair. Elchert says the renewal process takes place over four weekends, and the priest prepares homilies accordingly.

The first week is concentrated on the stewardship of prayer. The second week is the stewardship of time and talent, which is the week the ministry fair is held. The third week is focused on the stewardship of treasure and a lay person is usually asked to share how stewardship works in their lives. The fourth week is Intention Sunday.

"What we've learned and have refined over the years is if a ministry fair is an extension of the liturgy, it goes better," Elchert says.

He says holding a ministry fair is important because it allows individual parishioners to speak directly with representatives of that ministry, allowing them to get more information to decide whether they



DENISE FEDOROW

St. John the Evangelist, Goshen, parishioner Dave Elchert poses with the diocesan manual on stewardship he used to develop a stewardship program at St. John's, as well as personally.

want to participate or whether the ministry might be a something to help them. "Personal contact is important. Each parish needs someone who'll wrap their arms around the program and who will chair ministries," he says.

Elchert feels sending a mail-out to each parishioner with a cover letter from the priest, a brochure, intention card and a ministry guide prior to the ministry fair is the best approach.

Anyone who checks a box on the intention card indicating interest in a particular ministry their information is sent to the ministry chair.

Intention cards are tabulated and matched against parish registration lists and those not responding are contacted and encouraged to return the card, even if they have no interests.

"The philosophy is we want parishioners to take ownership in the parish. Stewardship is not a project; it's a way of life. Stewardship is not just throwing in a couple of extra bucks in the collection now and then, it's a commitment," he says.

Before the stewardship committee was formed, St. John the Evangelist had 683 parishioners involved in 25 ministries. At the end of 2006, 1,289 parishioners were involved in the 55 to 56 ministries among the Anglo parishioners. Among the Hispanic parishioners at St. John's, Hispanic ministries grew as well from 112 parishioners taking part to 243 at the end of 2006.

"The program works but it takes dedication to the process to make it work. We continue to do renewals each year and hold a ministry fair every other year and conduct a survey every five years as the demographics of the parish changes. It's also a way to keep parishioners informed," Elchert says.

During this process St. John's Parish was able to reduce the parish debt to the diocese from \$500,000 to nothing. While that's great, Elchert insisted it wasn't really the object of the stewardship program.

"Stewardship is not about money, it's about giving back to God. It's about the time, talent and treasure he bestowed upon us. Anytime we help one another, even if it's a neighbor, that's all stewardship, and it's about the need to show appreciation and give thanks to God."

Elchert says the increase in stewardship at St. John's is not due to any one thing but rather a combination of many things.

Another change made over the years is mailing out monthly collection envelopes rather than handing out a box of envelopes at the end of the year. Doing so increased the number of envelopes returned each week. Also publishing a weekly blurb in the bulletin pertaining to the collections helped.

Personal stewardship

Elchert says he and his wife Donna have always been stewardship-minded people before they knew what it was. But somewhere in the 1990s Elchert "got more serious about doing more than just earning a living."

He joined the Knights of Columbus in the early 1990s and said around 1999 he became more seriously involved in the parish. He was always interested in the value of men's retreats and asked how to go about attending one.

"Before I knew it, they had me

in charge of putting information together for retreats," he says.

Then "someone asked" him to be an usher, and "someone asked" him to be a eucharistic minister — one thing led to another.

"The more you do, the closer you feel to God's presence the happier we are. It's not as much of a burden as it is a joy and a privilege."

He says Donna was always a choir member and a religious education teacher throughout their years together. Elchert says they come from a religious background. He has two uncles who are permanent deacons, an aunt who is a Franciscan sister and another family member who is a Holy Cross brother. Elchert's parents owned a chain of religious articles stores and his father said, "If you have to work you might as well work for God!" Elchert was an altar boy for three years serving at a Franciscan community.

"You can't be that close to the Eucharist that amount of time without it having an effect on you," he says.

He also believes that some of the greatest achievements came about by a comment from someone who spurred someone else to take action. He says it took him a long time to feel worthy enough

to be a eucharistic minister.

"I just didn't feel worthy," Elchert says. "I grew up in a time when only the priest touched the Eucharist."

He says he then realized if it weren't for lay ministers of the Eucharist, Mass would go on forever if one priest had to distribute Communion alone. He also realized that many would not receive the holy Eucharist on a regular basis if not for ministers of care.

"At St. John's, the ministers of care grew from two to 22. Now 40 people in hospitals, nursing homes or who are homebound receive holy Communion from a minister of care each week."

Elchert just started training to become a deacon and has three and a half years to go. He and Donna attend a weekend of training each month in Donaldson. Since beginning his training, he's turned over the stewardship committee to Louis Bonacorsi.

He says the diocesan manual of stewardship has everything one needs to know and it was put together after years of research across the country. The intention card return at St. John's is about 54 percent, higher than the national average of 34 percent.

"More parishioners are willing to be involved than we sometimes give credit, they sometimes just don't know how to go about it," and Elchert says that's why the personal reaching out is so critical, as well as "making available to parishioners ministries they can be involved in."

"Stewardship is not about money, it's about giving back to God."

DAVE ELCHERT

Stewardship



Live It

Leap of faith

St. Jude Parish stewardship continues to thrive

BY DON CLEMMER

FORT WAYNE — In the early 1990s, when Kevin Hartman was head of the athletic program at St. Jude Parish, then-pastor Father Bill Schooler approached him with an idea Hartman remembers as a little scary, to give up all of his fundraising.

"It was very tough to do," recalls Hartman. At the time, the St. Jude athletic program relied on fundraising for over \$10,000 a year. In fact, the parish held numerous fundraisers throughout the year to support various ministries and programs.

Hartman recalls, "And here's Father Bill saying, 'I'm asking you to give up all this fundraising and rely on the parish to give you what you need to support these activities for the students.'"

This, Hartman notes, required a real leap of faith, to put his trust in God and go along with Father Schooler's idea.

The idea was the stewardship program at St. Jude, which has been serving the parish well for the better part of two decades. At its inception, the program represented a paradigm shift from, as Hartman puts it, "nickel and dim-

ing" the parish to asking parishioners to take ownership in their own church and support the parish through sacrificial giving of, as the stewardship slogan goes, "time, talent and treasure."

"It's just the basic notion that everything we have comes from God, and we need to be generous in sharing whatever God's given us," Father Tom Shoemaker, pastor of St. Jude since 2001, explains.

And the parish seems more inclined to give freely with the distraction and pull of fundraisers gone. Even the parish festival, Father Shoemaker explains, is simply "a chance for people to come together and have fun. We try not to ask for money."

Asking for money is relegated to only two week-

ends a year, one when Father Shoemaker addresses stewardship in his homily and one in which a lay witness, usually a parishioner, gives a talk on how stewardship has impacted his or her life.

Along with this, the parish sends out mailings, listing the numerous opportunities for service in the parish, an expansive list including choir, RCIA, coaching, funeral meal preparation and many others.

Every other year, St. Jude holds a ministry fest, at which different parish organizations are invited to set up booths and give presentations on what they do. The event comes complete with music, food and games for kids.

"It's a good chance for people who might be interested in volunteering or helping someplace to find out more," explains

Father Shoemaker.

All of these aspects of the stewardship program at St. Jude are managed by the stewardship committee, the head of which is none other than Kevin Hartman.

Hartman notes that, over the years, stewardship has become "a way of life for a number of people at St. Jude's. We're not scared of the word."

Hartman adds, "No matter how small you think your talent might be or your treasure, it's all very important to the well being of the parish in general." He cites his own children helping in music ministry and answering phones in the parish office as two examples of people giving what they can. On the other end of the spectrum, giving at St. Jude has generated a partial scholarship to either Bishop Luers or Bishop Dwenger High School for St. Jude students who demonstrate dedication to stewardship in their lives.

Also foremost on the agenda of the committee is reaching out, welcoming new parishioners and informing them about how the stewardship program works and the many

ways in which they might become involved in giving back to their parish.

"We try to keep the education process up," says Hartman, noting that involvement by new parishioners is part of the ongoing success of the program. "That's really key to keeping the stewardship growth."

And the growth has been significant for the parish since the inception of the program, for all involved, a real sign of the power of putting trust in God and sharing one's gifts in the hopes that the community will be able to provide for itself and others.

The parishioners of St. Jude have seen their generosity beget more generosity as the parish is not only able to meet its own needs through the stewardship program but also give charitably, to a diocese in India and to teacher salaries at another Fort Wayne Catholic school, among other causes.

To learn more about the stewardship program at St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, watch the video at www.stjudefw.org.



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A dream of stewardship past

"I had a terrible dream. I dreamed that the Lord took my Sunday offering, multiplied it by 10, and this became my weekly income.

In no time, I had to give up my car, my house payments, my little luxuries and even my necessities. What can a man do on \$20 a week?"

If the Lord took your offering, multiplied it by 10 (a reverse tithe) and made it your weekly income ... where would that leave you?

—from a parish bulletin

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Vices and Virtues



Opening prayer

Heavenly God, treasury of good and giver of life, you call us together as the one God who alone purifies our hearts. Come, dwell in us and cleanse our hearts from every stain. Save our souls and open to us the door of your kingdom. All this we ask through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Reading: Gen. 1:29-31

Commentary

Yes, indeed, I doubt there are few people alive whose eyes and ears don't perk up when these two vices are mentioned. Not only are we titillated by the words themselves and all their implications, but all of society is saturated with innumerable examples of greed and lust. Both of these sins come from intensely wanting what we do not have. Greed or avarice is an excessive desire for worldly or material goods. Lust is an excessive desire for sinful pleasures of the body.

In the creation story, humanity received God's command to care for the earth and its creatures and to continue the human family. Our instincts for self-preservation and for procreation are deeply ingrained in our human nature. Sin, however, also entered the world, and it doesn't take much searching to discover just how we have distorted God's gifts of creation and God's intentions.

Both greed and lust are fostered by society's desires for instant gratification and personal pleasure. These desires, if left unchecked, can distort — and even destroy — not only what we have been called to do in life but also sometimes our very lives and the fabric of our society. We can become alienated from God and one another.

"... unto dust you shall return."

Through the sin of greed, a person wants wealth or other material things at any and all

costs without caring about his or her spiritual life or the well-being of others. Always wanting more begets attitudes and behaviors of unkindness, dishonesty, deceit and a lack of charity. A greedy person can never be completely satisfied. When others have more, they work even harder. We all know people for whom money or material objects have become far more important than people or relationships. We would do well to remember that we take nothing with us when we die, and no one has ever seen a U-haul hitched to a hearse.

Remember Luke's story of the rich man who built more and bigger barns in which to store his successful harvest? The man said to his soul, "My soul, you have plenty of good things laid up for many years to come; take things easy, eat, drink and have a good time." But God said to him, "Fool! This very night the demand will be made for your soul; and this hoard of yours, whose shall it be then?"

In another passage Jesus says, "What good is it if you gain the whole world and suffer the loss of your own soul."

Hoarding things for the sake of simply having them is a vice very much at home in contemporary society. The antidote to greed is gratitude for what we have and assistance to others in need.

Instead of accumulating more goods and building up stores of wealth beyond what we truly require, the virtues of generosity, detachment and justice allow us to see that we need only a certain number of things to live — and

even live well. Concern for others and for our environment should limit what we accumulate.

The temptation to accumulate is often the death of love and charity in our lives. Justice demands that we detach ourselves from mere wants in order that others might have what they truly need. These virtues teach us that individual worth is not determined by how much we have, but rather by who we are and how we live.

David and Bathsheba — even today!

Lust, like greed, is another disproportionate attachment, this time to sexual activity and the pleasure that is derived from it without equivalent commitment or responsibility. It is an attempt to satisfy one's needs through sexual exploitation. Lust treats others as objects to be used or abused for personal satisfaction, denying that each person is a son or daughter of God and, as such, deserving of dignity, respect and love.

The story of David and Bathsheba in the Old Testament is a classic example of how lust leads to other sins. David's lust for the beautiful Bathsheba — wife of Uriah, one of David's generals — led David to an adulterous relationship with Bathsheba. When she is found to be with child, David finds his "out" in arranging for the death of Uriah. David has Uriah put in the front lines so that he would be killed in battle. After Uriah's

death, David takes Bathsheba as his wife. It is the words of Nathan, the prophet, that bring David to a realization of his sin. "Thou hast killed Uriah, the Hittite, with the sword, and hast taken his wife to be thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon."

The fruits of lust and lustful relationships are many — we see them all around us. The list includes divorce, abortion, adultery, rape and sexual abuse of all kinds. Especially disturbing are the many incidents of child pornography, child molestation or rape and sexual abuse of children.

Living on the edge

The values of chastity, modesty and purity of heart can easily be lost when sex is glamorized and the dignity of the human person is lost. Often we are not courageous enough to speak out against these abuses for fear of losing friends or of looking old-fashioned or prudish. Slowly we are being anesthetized by ever more graphic depictions of sex in the media and technology. Fashion in general, and even Halloween costumes for young children, is not immune from our sex-crazed culture.

God has instilled within us the desire to care for ourselves, to love one another and to continue the procreation of the human race. However, the potential for sin, as well as the potential for virtue, live side by side deep within us. We constantly live on the edge — the edge of good and evil. At times we are tempted to greed, to take and keep all for self... and at other times we find ourselves being detached and generous. We are tempted to join the world in a lack of respect for

the individual person ... but at other times we clearly see one another as one of God's sons and daughters.

We experience our flawed human nature each time we give in to temptation and sin. But, more powerfully, we also experience God's great gift of grace each time we seek reconciliation with God and one another. When Jesus talks about leaving our gifts at the altar to reconcile ourselves with another, he insists that we do not put it off. We need to honestly confront ourselves during this Lenten season, and we must do it now, uncomfortable though it may be.

Reflection and discussion

- In what ways have we bought into society's desires for instant gratification and personal pleasure?
- What are some ways in which we can simplify our lives and still live well?
- "Living on the edge of good and evil" — what does this mean for you?

Closing prayer

Lord, grant me your peace. Instill in me the courage to face my love of things over you, my obsession with comfort over justice and my readiness to use others for my own gain. Give me the hope of your grace to become more loving, more just and more open to your Holy Spirit and to live a life that is grateful, chaste and pure of heart. Amen.

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EDITORIAL

Finding a vision for life

Later this week, Catholic author Matthew Kelly's new book, "Building Better Families: A Practical Guide to Raising Amazing Children," will be released. One of the author's concerns expressed in this book is that America has no grand vision for its future. He writes America is driven by advertising and consumption. Kelly challenges readers to really examine the motives of the culture in which we live as we strive to build "amazing" families. He also notes, rather than developing character in children, our culture is sending a message that children are raised to be consumed by the market.

This was evident in the recent President's Day holiday. What is the purpose of this holiday — to honor George Washington and Abraham Lincoln? Judging by the advertisements that bombarded the media, the holiday was for big sales.

That's where stewardship steps in. It puts perspective, vision and character back into, not only our church, but our domestic church — the family. Living as a good steward today is counter-cultural to society's self-consumed message.

As Harry Verhiley, the director of development for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, writes in his column in our stewardship section: "The most important aspect of stewardship is not simply time, talent or treasure. Certainly, they are means by which we express our love for God. But the most important aspect of stewardship is our love for God.

"Consider what love is," he writes. "Love tends to direct the self towards ecstasy in the sense that it takes a person out of the self and into a life of the person whom the other loves."

Stewardship is essential in the domestic church. Love for our spouses and children is best expressed when we are selfless and pour out ourselves for their good. Stewardship allows us to discern the difference between our true needs and desires or wants.

Our stewardship extends to the church and our community. We take care of our stake of the world at this point and time and use it to nurture our present situation and future generations.

During this Lenten season, we encourage our readers to reflect upon the gifts God has given each of us and to then use our time, talent and treasure in a way that builds the kingdom of God, to lead others and ourselves to holiness.

We are at a crossroads in this world: We can continue on the path that leads nowhere and lacks vision — consumerism; or we can choose a path that flows from love, builds character and offers a grand vision for the future. That path is stewardship.

A great day for who?

If you go back far enough, St. Patrick is revered for converting pagans and introducing the Creator's beautiful toss-off, the shamrock, to describe the Trinity. Today we see the shamrock on bass drums, beer bottles and banners of groups promoting ideals and behavior far removed from Christian teaching just to be in a parade.

The St. Patrick's Day parade, a tradition in many cities, is a bit out of step this year because St. Patrick's Day falls on Monday of Holy Week.

Because of this conflict, the feast will not be celebrated liturgically in most U.S. dioceses, due to a decision by the Vatican's Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

In Savannah, Ga., Columbus, Ohio, Boston, New York, Milwaukee and Philadelphia, to name a few, suggestions from bishops on transferring observation and parade dates have met with some cooperation and some dismissive lack of attention.

It seems that good advice to be given anywhere would be that in consideration of Holy Week, forget about the loud noise and go to a quiet place, a church might be nice, and think of how and why St. Patrick used that shamrock.

A cheater never wins

It's so sad that every sport whether it's amateur or professional has cheaters. Every facet of life has cheaters, people cheat on their taxes and their spouses. When cheaters get caught they should be held accountable for their actions. That goes for steroids, recruiting, shaving points or anything else. Life is difficult enough, who needs to deal with cheats?

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

Romans does not refute Immaculate Conception, but confirms it

December 8 marks the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception for Catholics. This beautiful teaching of the church has been around for many centuries, though it was not proclaimed official church dogma until 1854 in a statement of papal infallibility by Pope Pius IX. As if in confirmation of this decree, Our Lady appeared to the young St. Bernadette Soubirous in 1858 and declared, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

When discussing this subject with Protestants, however, it is almost a guarantee that Romans 3:23 will be quoted: "For there is no distinction; all have sinned and are deprived of the glory of God."

Many, if not most Catholics have a difficult time responding to this challenge. If one looks at it from a different perspective, though, Romans seems to confirm Mary's sinlessness.

When Christ was condemned to death, the main argument used against him was that he claimed to be the Son of God. This was considered blasphemy by the high priests and punishable by death,

which is indeed what happened.

Mary probably knew this only too well, and if she knew that she was sinless, probably felt that it was not the right time to reveal it. Besides, if Mary had been condemned to death along with Jesus, he would not have been able to entrust the church to her care through St. John. She would also not be there to strengthen and comfort the apostles.

There is another aspect to this. At the time of St. Paul, the world was only just beginning to accept the truth that Jesus was God and that he came to save us. If the truth of Mary's Immaculate Conception were preached along with that, it would've been very overwhelming for a society already persecuted for the truth of Jesus. Not only that, in a male-dominated world, the fact that a woman was the most blessed of all God's creatures would not have been accepted. Thus, it is by the grace and wisdom of God that this truth did not come to light until later on.

The Bible does, however, allude to the Immaculate Conception in Luke's Gospel: "Hail, full of grace!" (Lk 1:28).

While it is not obvious, let's consider a simple scenario. Let's say you're holding an aluminum pop can in your hand. If it is empty, you can easily crush it. However, if it is full, it is nearly impossible to

even put a dent in it. Thus it is for the soul that is full of grace. It is obvious that we are not completely filled with grace; we fall countless times. Mary, however, was full of grace, filled to the brim. Therefore, any demon trying to attack her would've found it impossible to do so. It probably felt like hitting a brick wall. Mary was, indeed, filled with grace by God in preparation for the coming of his Son through her, thus preserving her from all sin.

Daniel Davis
Tri-State University student
Angola

Pontifical Mission Societies offers gratitude

Through the kindness of Rev. Robert Schulte we have received a check in the amount of \$49,809.59 for the general fund of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith for World Mission Sunday 2007 from the people of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Asking God to continue to bless you in your mission endeavors, I remain

Fraternally in the Lord,
Rev. Msgr. John E. Kozar
National Director
Pontifical Mission Societies in the
United States, New York

Sites of Jesus' boyhood preserved

What are the religious sites dedicated to the boyhood of Jesus?

Jesus was born in Bethlehem. Here the Church of the Nativity was built over a cave where Jesus was said to have been born. A silver star set in the pavement surrounded by many lamps marks the birthplace of Jesus. To the left is the altar of the manger. Nearby stands the altar of the three kings. To the north is the Church of St. Catherine of Alexandria in Egypt and the prediction of her martyrdom c. A.D. 310 St. Catherine is buried on Mount Sinai.

K. Prag says in more of the cave complex beneath the Church of the Nativity, we see the Chapel of the Holy Innocents said to be the tomb of the infants slain by King Herod the Great in an attempt to kill the baby Jesus. There is a chapel dedicated to St. Joseph, the husband of Mary. To the right is the double cave of St. Jerome, the first containing his tomb and the second with a chapel marking the site where he translated the Bible into Latin.

South of the Church of the Nativity is the Chapel of the Milk Grotto. Steps descend into a cave church where legend says the Holy Family was sheltered on their flight into Egypt. Here a drop of Mary's milk fell on the cave floor as she fed the infant Jesus. A superstition has arisen that the rock itself, ground into

dust and eaten, will increase the milk of women suckling infants. This rock is soft, white and chalky and common in the Bethlehem region.

When the Holy Family reached Egypt, tradition says they went to Old Cairo. Baedeker says the Coptic Church of St. Sergius, found in the 4th century, was built over the place where the Holy Family found refuge for a month. In the crypt is a small vaulted chapel with ancient marble columns separating the nave from the aisles. At the end of the nave is an altar in the form of an early Christian tomb recess said to mark the spot where Mary rested with the infant Jesus. Mass is said here on June 1 every year.

Also in this area, says S. Jenkins, is the Coptic Church of St. Barbara who was beaten to death by her father for trying to convert him to Christianity. Her relics are said to rest in a small chapel here. Then there is the Hanging Church dedicated to the Virgin Mary founded in the 9th century. Also here is the Coptic Church of St. George founded in the 7th century. He was a Palestinian conscript in the Roman army executed in A.D. 303 for tearing up a copy of Emperor Diocletian's decree that forbade the practice of Christianity. Finally there is the Ben Ezra Synagogue, formerly a



FATHER RICHARD HIRE

HIRE
HISTORY

4th-century Christian Church. Here there is a spring that is supposed to mark the place where the pharaoh's daughter found Moses in the reeds and where Mary drew water to wash Jesus.

Eventually the Holy Family left Egypt and returned to Nazareth. The priest from the Monastery at Mount Carmel near Haifa in Israel says the Holy Family may have stopped there during their journey. At Nazareth you can visit the Synagogue Church where the boy Jesus is said to have studied.

The anonymous Piacenza pilgrim c. A.D. 570 wrote: "In the synagogue there is kept the book in which Jesus wrote his ABCs, and the bench on which he sat with other children. Christians can lift the bench and move it about, but the Jews are unable to move it."

Father Richard Hire is pastor of St. Martin dePorres Parish, Syracuse.

Intellect, will subordinate sexual urge

We've seen that Father Wojtyla seeks to combat a mentality of using people prevalent in our culture by discussing love as attraction, desire, goodwill and betrothed love. A second part of the late pope's analysis of love is a discussion of the sexual urge.

"Every human being is by nature a sexual being." Men and women are most naturally attracted to physical and psychological values in each other, which is the basis for the sexual urge. The sexual urge has the capacity to develop into true love, not warm and fuzzy feelings, but a deliberate choice to value another as an inherently dignified person, with a mind, a heart and a soul. However, the sexual urge cannot develop into true love through some "biological" or "psychological" process. Love as attraction cannot automatically develop into betrothed love.

Unlike other animals, humans have rational powers: the ability to think, choose and act according to decisions made. Traditional philosophy, the basis for "Love and Responsibility," calls the powers in the human soul the intellect and the will. It is obvious that other

animals do not share these powers with us.

A dog will not wonder what it feels like eating when it's hungry, and it won't stop to remember that it's Friday, so refrain from eating meat; it gobbles down whatever is put in front of it whatever the time or day. When a cat is in heat, it won't pause to consider whether the first tomcat that comes her way will make a sensitive and responsible mate and father of her kittens.

Clearly, humans are different when it comes to confronting situations and making decisions.

Therefore, Father Wojtyla can argue, "The sexual urge is ... dependent on the person. It is in the control of the person, and the person can use it. Nobody is forced to act out their sexual urges. ... Rather, humans need to exercise responsibility in their use of their attraction and their sexual urge towards other persons ... including their spouse."

Because we possess intellect and will, we can and must subordinate our sexual urge to these powers. Because animals do not possess intellect and will, they have no choice but to act upon their sexual instincts. And so, the fundamental choice we have is: What



AUTHENTIC LOVE

JOHN AND MONICA SIKORSKI

will I do with my initial feelings of attraction toward the qualities I find in another person?

Feelings themselves are not evil; in fact, true love should incorporate those feelings, which often enliven the choice of authentic love into a joyful and glorious thing. Yet many people run into problems when they build their lives together upon a love based only on feelings; for feelings are blind and often misleading, and often not concerned with the truth about the other person, but about idealization.

Before the Fall of Adam and Eve, the human person was perfectly ordered: the intellect, or mind's job was to discern truth; the will then chose the correct course of action based on the truth

LOVE, PAGE 16

Rejoice! We are nearer the Lord



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Fourth Sunday of Lent Jn 9:1-41

The First Book of Samuel is the source of this weekend's first reading. The two books of Samuel once were a single volume. During the long history of compiling, and translating, the Bible, the one volume was divided. Little is known about the origins of the Books of Samuel. The title does not imply authorship, but rather the central figure in these volumes. It is not known, at least not with certainty, when these books were written.

The history of God's Chosen People unfolds in the books of Samuel. In this reading, a major development occurs. It is the selection of David to be king. God's prophet makes this selection. David's selection by a prophet is important. David became the king of Israel not because of personal cunning or good luck. God chose him. God chose David for the chief purpose of bringing the people closer to God, and God closer to them.

Symbolizing the choice is the outward gesture of anointing. Thus, millennia before Jesus, anointing was an important religious symbolic act.

The church uses this ancient act in its liturgy. Candidates for baptism are anointed, as are priests

and bishops during the rites of holy orders. Anointing is an integral part of confirmation.

None of the modern Catholic monarchs was crowned. However, in the past, the church anointed kings and queens when they were crowned.

For its second reading, the church presents a passage from the Epistle to the Ephesians. The epistle presents Jesus as the light of the world. Without the Lord, all is in darkness. It is a complete and total darkness. Nothing is visible. People are utterly lost and helpless.

St. John's Gospel supplies the last reading. When the Gospels were written, the Christian community was facing considerable hostility. The prevailing culture certainly was against Christianity. The legal system of the Roman Empire had turned against Christians. It was a very dangerous time to be a follower of Jesus.

Followers therefore must have the story in this weekend's reading both instructive and inspiring. The blind man had to cope with criticisms of Jesus. The blind man had to cope with prejudice.

Several themes emerge. The first is blindness itself. Even today, in a society much more generous to persons physically challenged, and when medicine can heal or treat blindness, loss of vision is not to be lightly dismissed.

Another theme is the ancient Jewish notion that blindness somehow resulted from personal sin.

Yet another theme is that Jesus is Lord, merciful and almighty. By faith, the blind man receives from God, through Jesus, his vision.

Reflection

On this weekend, the church celebrates Laetare Sunday, the name drawn from the first word in

Latin of the Entrance Antiphons, "Laetare!," "Rejoice!" The approaching end of Lent, with its fasting and somberness, is not the reason for rejoicing. Rather, we rejoice because, if we have been sincere in using Lent to our spiritual advantage, we personally are nearer the Lord. Certainly, the candidates for baptism at the Easter Vigil are nearer to their goal.

However, while the church rejoices, and the rose color of the priest's vestments symbolize that the dawn of Easter is not far away, we still have weeks of Lent ahead of us. We cannot relent in purifying ourselves and in focusing ourselves.

To encourage us as we pass into Lent's remaining weeks, the church reminds us that God always has come to rescue the faithful. He came for this purpose in selecting David to be king.

He came for this purpose in Jesus. We live in darkness. We are limited. We can be quite blind. Sin weakens us and clouds our vision. Jesus is God. He restores our sight, if we are sincere and humble. He is the light.

READINGS

Sunday: 1 Sm 16:1b,6-7,10-13a Ps 23:1-6 Eph 5:8-14 Jn 9:1-41

Monday: Is 65:17-21 Ps 30:2,4-6,11-12a,13ab Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9,12 Ps 46:2-3,5-6,8-9 Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15 Ps 145:8-9,13c-14,17-18 Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex 32:7-14 Ps 106:19-23 Jn 5:31-47

Friday: Wis 2:1a,12-22 Ps 34:17-21,23 Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20 Ps 7:2-3,9b-12 Jn 7:40-53

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

News stories about recent tragic events in Pakistan referred to the Muslim state. Yet while that is the legal status of Pakistan, it is a surprise to some that the country has a Christian minority. This quiz looks at Christianity in Pakistan, India and Bangladesh, all formerly part of the same nation.

- In the subcontinent, many Christians believe the Catholic faith was brought by**
a. The pope b. St. Thomas c. Augustine of Hippo
- Traces or early references to Christianity in the area may date, by most accounts, to this century:**
a. the 4th b. the 12th c. the 16th
- In the 6th century, Cosmas Indicopleustes confirmed the existence of Christians in the subcontinent. His name means**
a. The Indian Navigator
b. The Evangelist to the Indies
c. He who carries favor
- The indigenous churches were impacted negatively by the arrival of these European Catholics in the late 1400s:**
a. the Irish b. the Portuguese c. the French
- One of the leaders of these explorations from Europe was this famous voyager:**
a. Christopher Columbus
b. Erik the Unready
c. Vasco Da Gama
- These explorers were headquartered in this area, which still reflects their cultural and religious legacy:**
a. Katmandu b. Goa c. Rwanda
- As a result, many of the indigenous Christians came under the jurisdiction of**
a. the Great Khan
b. the Patriarch of Constantinople
c. the pope
- This religious order was amongst the first to attempt to spread conversions beyond coastal enclaves:**
a. The Merry Monks of Madras
b. The Anglican Communion
c. The Jesuits
- Some of these efforts were led by this famous saint:**
a. Chaucer
b. St. Francis Xavier
c. Clement of Pakistan
- This kingdom was nominally in charge of all bishops and missionaries in the Indian subcontinent:**
a. Italy b. Sri Lanka (Ceylon) c. Portugal
- However this proved impractical and in the 17th century one of the members of this caste was made Vicar Apostolic for the non-Portuguese by Rome:**
a. brahmins b. llamas c. deacons
- In 1886 Pope Leo authorized bishops for the section of the Thoma church, which was in union with Rome. Like other eastern Catholic churches this group was often described as:**
a. schismatic
b. Uniat
c. Greek-Catholic
- While the British hold on India increased, Catholicism continued to spread. How?**
a. The British Raj was more or less neutral on missionary activity seeing it all as a useful tool in colonization and control.
b. The officials of the Raj tended to be mostly Irish and so Catholic.
c. The British thought that making the Indians Catholics would prevent them gaining equality with the English.
- The first Roman Catholic Indian-born bishop was consecrated in**
a. 1765 b. 1845 c. 1923
- In Pakistan the Roman Catholic Church (hierarchy established 1950) survived the shift to an Islamic Republic in 1956, but due to a lack of conversions and missionary activity, the Catholic population is estimated to have remained at around**
a. 1.5 percent
b. 5 percent
c. 23 percent

ANSWERS:

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

Marriage, by its definition, includes permanence in its intention

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

What is the church's view of prenuptial agreements? Anonymous

It depends what it says. If a prenuptial agreement is based on a condition of divorce, then there is a strong likelihood that, going into the marriage, the parties are excluding permanence from their marriage. This is called, in canonical terms, partial simulation. One or both of the parties are saying with their intentions that they are entering a marriage that is not necessarily permanent. Well, you cannot enter marriage this way because marriage, by its definition, includes permanence. So if one excludes permanence from their intention, one is really not entering marriage at all. In other words, the marriage is invalid. Again, the existence of a prenuptial agreement demonstrates a

strong likelihood of this invalidating intention.

Personally, if I, as a priest, were preparing to witness the marriage of a couple, and it was discovered that this type of prenuptial agreement existed, I would refuse to witness the marriage as long as this agreement existed.

If, however, the prenuptial agreement was based on a condition of death, this type of agreement would not demonstrate any problem.

If we have infertility issues, what does the church say about in vitro fertilization?

Office of Family Life: The church teaches the sexual union of spouses is the only setting worthy of the conception of a new human person. This is because the dignity of a child demands that he or she be given life through a personal act that expresses the total self-giving of his or her parents. While medical interventions, which assist marital intercourse to achieve conception are morally good, reproductive technologies, which replace or substitute for marital relations, are morally wrong. Since

in vitro fertilization (IVF) achieves conception by having technicians join sperm and ova in a laboratory petri dish, rather than through the loving sexual embrace of husband and wife, this widely used procedure is seriously wrong. In addition, the practice of IVF commonly involves the creation of "spare" embryos which are then destroyed, donated or frozen for future use. NaPro Technology is a new approach to diagnosing and treating infertility that is completely ethical and much more effective than IVF. Contact the diocesan Office of Family Life, (574) 234-0687 for a list of health care professionals in our diocese who have been trained to provide NaPro Technology.

What does the church say about girl Mass servers? Is it optional for the parish? Anonymous

A response from the Holy See a number of years ago stated that it is allowed to have female servers at Mass. However, individual priests who celebrate Mass have the prerogative of having only male servers. Thus, if a certain pastor determines that he wishes to use only male servers,

this is well within his prerogative to do so. If the neighboring pastor determines that he will allow both male and female servers, he also is acting completely within what is allowed by the church.

Father Mark Gurtner, pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope, and **Lisa Everett** from the Office of Family Life answered this week's questions.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for March 2, 2008

John 9:1-41

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Lent, Cycle A: the story of the man born blind, who becomes a believer. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

A MAN BLIND	BIRTH	HE SPAT
GROUND	EYES	WASH
POOL OF SILOAM	NEIGHBORS	BEG
I WASHED	I CAN SEE	FROM GOD
PROPHET	TEACH	FOUND HIM
ANSWERED	WHO IS HE	SEEN
SPEAKING	LORD	WORSHIPED

I DO BELIEVE

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

Last month, the 35th General Congregation of the Society of Jesus elected Father Adolfo Nicolas, a Spaniard, as general of the order. A few days later, Father Nicolas gently chided Roman journalists for running some "not so helpful" stories about alleged problems between the Jesuits and Pope Benedict XVI; any notion of a rift with the Vatican, he said, was "an artificial tension" created by outsiders unaware that "the Society of Jesus from the very beginning has always been in communion with the Holy Father. ..." The Jesuits "want to collaborate with the Holy See and to obey the Holy Father," Father Nicolas averred. "That has not changed and it will not change."

About which, some questions:

What will Father Nicolas do about Jesuits who are manifestly not obedient to the pope or to the teaching authority of the church? Take, for example, the case of Father James Keenan, SJ, of Boston College. Several years ago, Father Keenan testified before the Massachusetts Legislature, arguing that the principles of Catholic social doctrine did not merely tolerate "gay marriage," they demanded it. That position is manifestly not "in communion" with the teaching of popes past and present on the nature of marriage; now what?

Father Nicolas cannot be unaware of Jesuit colleges and universities whose Catholicism — measured by curriculum, faculty and mode-of-life on campus — is vestigial at best. Does he think it appropriate for Jesuit institutions to honor Jesuits who taught the precise opposite of what the popes have taught about abortion and distorted the meaning of

papal teaching in counseling others? Georgetown University's Law School has an endowed chair in international human rights law named after the late Father Robert Drinan, SJ, who did more than anyone else to convince Catholic legislators that the settled teaching of the church on the grave immorality of abortion had no bearing on their legislative work. Father Drinan gave Catholic legislators a pass on the great civil rights issue of our time, yet a Jesuit university hosts a human rights chair named for him; how does this square with the society's commitment to social justice and with the obedient fidelity St. Ignatius bade his followers to observe in their relationship to the church's magisterium and to the Bishop of Rome?

Then there is the third-rail issue in religious orders today: homosexuality. In a letter to the general congregation, Pope Benedict suggested that there were serious problems with how some Jesuits undertook the pastoral care of persons with homosexual desires. He could have gone farther and addressed this problem within the Society of Jesus itself; it was not that long ago, after all, that the Web site of the Jesuits' California Province featured photos of "Pretty Boy" and "Jabba the Slut" in gay drag at a novices' party. Will Father Nicolas demand that Jesuits observe their vows of chastity, whatever their sexual preferences? Will there be consequences for those who violate those vows, or cover for those who do? Will Jesuit vocations offices and novitiates obey the 2005 Vatican instruction, which states that "those who practice homosexuality, present deep-seat-



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

ed homosexual tendencies, or support the so-called 'gay culture'" must not be admitted to seminaries or to holy orders?

A fourth point: the tendency among some Jesuit theologians to minimize the unique salvific role of Christ. That problem is most apparent in Asia, where Father Nicolas has lived for decades; the Holy See has addressed it in recent disciplinary actions against Jesuit theologians. Does Ignatian communion with the pope still require Jesuits to affirm the Nicene Creed, the Council of Chalcedon's teaching on the hypostatic union and the teaching of Dominus Iesus on Christ as unique savior of the world?

The Long Lent of 2002, which revealed the disastrous consequences of sexual corruption and malfasant leadership in the church, should have hammered home to every Catholic the dangers of euphemism and of winking-and-nodding. When the future of a great religious congregation is at stake, there is no room for anything but the unvarnished truth. I pray that Father Nicolas provides it.

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

LOVE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

of a given situation; and the passions and emotions were left free to pursue and appreciate truth, goodness and beauty.

What happened? Our intellects perceive truth dimly or not at all, depending on our maturity, education, or, most importantly, our holiness. Our wills might see the best course of action, but very often we choose the lesser good or the evil route, when we sin against God, our neighbor or ourselves. Our passions and emotions have risen in rebellion against our intellects and wills, sending us often on an "emotional roller coaster," prompting us to act in thoughtless, selfish or dangerous ways.

And this is where our modern culture tells us to discern the truth about love and about other persons. But from the beginning of our creation, it has not been the job of the passions and emotions to figure out what is true — they were only to acquiesce and take delight in the realization of the intellect and the corresponding decision of the will.

Sadly, today we are encouraged by the media and popular culture

to place the entire burden of love and truth on the passions and emotions, leading to untold grief and disappointment in relationships.

Of such situations, Father Wojtyla says, "Here, the ideal is more powerful than the real, living human being, and the latter often becomes merely the occasion for an eruption in the subject's emotional consciousness of the values, which he or she longs with all his heart to find in another person."

Why do we idealize? Because we long for perfection, and we long to find it in another person. Our idealization thus turns into a double-edged sword. By idealizing, we harm ourselves by refusing to acknowledge the truth about another. By this refusal, the other is harmed because we use him or her, since we subject him or her to our false notion in order to satisfy ourselves for a longer time. This is an example of immature, inauthentic love. Mature love will therefore consist in the acceptance of the totality of the true person, not an imaginary and perfect person who will fulfill all one's wishes and desires.

John and Monica Sikorski work with the Office of Family Life, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Sports

KNIGHTS SPONSOR FREE THROW CONTEST IN YODER Knight Tim Sorg coordinated the Knights of Columbus District Free Throw Shooting Contest at St. Aloysius on Sunday, Feb. 10. Those awarded a blue medal made the most baskets out of 25 chances in their age group. Winners will advance to the regional competition to be held at St. Vincent. Sorg's district is one of the largest for the Knights of Columbus in the state of Indiana with six councils. This is just one of the functions the Knights sponsor.

Diocesan playoffs scheduled for Sunday

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — The schoolboy friendly basketball rivalry between the Inter-City Catholic League and the Catholic Youth Organization of Fort Wayne will be resumed Sunday afternoon at Saint Joseph's High School where the champions in each division will be paired.

The ICCL officially wound up its 63rd season two weeks ago and then enjoyed a short time off before playing host the the Fort Wayne group.

"It has been a friendly rivalry in these diocesan playoffs," said William Sorukas, treasurer of the ICCL who has been an officer for more than 40 years. Joe Kozinski is the director of seventh- and eighth-grade boys basketball.

The CYO/ICCL Invitational has been a continuous match up

for a decade. Before that time, the ICCL played the Gary Diocese champions.

The four ICCL representatives are division champions. Heading the list will be St. Anthony, champions of the John Bosco East and the only team to finish its season undefeated in both regular and post season play.

Corpus Christi was runner up in the playoffs. St. Joseph of Mishawaka finished on top in the Martin De Porres East and St. Jude was the winner of the Martin De Porres West.

The Fort Wayne CYO teams competing in the small school league will be runner-up Benoit Academy and league winner St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel. And in the large school league, runner-up St. Charles and league winner St. Vincent will play.



ELMER J. DANCH

St. Anthony School boys basketball team finish the season with a perfect league record and also win the ICCL post season tournament. In the photo are, front row, from left, Harold Reinke, assistant coach; Mike Carmola, assistant coach; Brian Florin, Brad Largent, Jacob Annable, Steven Wagner and head coach Earl Keith; back row, Robert Mischler, Mike Taelman, Justin Reinke, Collin Hickey, Nick Carmola and Trey Keith.

Lady Eagles nest atop CYO

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — One more title. One more memory. One more celebration. Catholic Youth League (CYO) girls' basketball has been dominated by the blue and gold from St. Jude for many years now. This year's group of eighth graders completed an unheralded task of winning the tournament each year of their CYO careers. They have not only claimed four titles in four years, they have gone unbeaten this year, 18-0, on a tough road schedule to compile the remarkable overall record.

Girls basketball

In the 72nd annual running of the CYO tournament, Jane Wolff's St. Jude Eagles defeated the St. Vincent Panthers, 34-27. Like they have been doing all season, the Eagles relied on a huge team effort to pull off the victory.

"This team had a very special group of girls," assistant Eagle coach Larry Mayers summarized. The 2008 CYO champions include Anna Bobay, Kristina Dammeyer, Gabrielle Greer, Amy Johnson, Adrienne Korson, Claire Laisure, Katie Leeuw, Maddie Mayers, Libby Momper, Katherine Rutledge, Aubrey Schrader, Molly Werling, Lindsey Wolff and Miracle Woods. The girls were coached by Wolff, Mayers, Jeff Mickelini and Craig Bobay.

After finishing in the third place spot during the regular season, a determined Huntington Catholic Lady Rams team raised above all their opponents and took the 2008 Blue League title downing the favored Lady Gators from St. Aloysius. The team included

Kelsey Godfroy, Taylor Hiers, Kayleigh Hutson, Peyton Pike, Emily Scheiber, Madelyn Scheiber, Ava Schultz, Ashley Snyder, Este Stoffel and Kaitlyn Teusch. Mike Stoffel, Bethany Stoffel and Megan Skelly served as coaches for the champs.

Boys basketball

In an exciting finale, St. Vincent beat St. Charles for the Gold League championship by a score of 38-24. The Cardinals had beaten the Panthers during the regular season by a 37-33 score earning them a first place finish in the league.

Evan Feichter led all scorers with 23 points and Josh Blevins added eight for the green and white who are 13-13 overall.

On the road to the championship, St. Vincent downed St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, 53-28, then squeaked by St. Joseph, Decatur, in an overtime victory, 28-26.

Josh Blevins lifted the Panthers past the Commodores tipping in the winning basket with .6 left on the clock and was leading scorer for his team in the semifinals with 9 points. The Cardinals were led

by Chandler McLellan with 8.

The Squires from St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel closed the record books on a final goal of their season: a CYO championship. After losing to Benoit a year ago in the tournament clincher at St. Charles, the Squires worked all season to assure Coach Jim Knapke things would be different this year. The brackets produced the same two teams heading to the final game, but this year, the Squires dominated the Phoenix and easily took home the blue medals beating them 50-38. The wolf-like defense of the Squire starters held the Phoenix to just 16 points in the first three quarters.

Benoit's Darius Ellison led all scorers with 27 points while eighth graders James Knapke and Mitch Castleman combined for 31 to pace Hessen Cassel.

Double trophies were presented to the respective schools as winning traditions continued at the seventh grade levels. Like their eighth-grade counterparts, the St. Jude Eagles took the girls' White League title and the St. Vincent Panthers won it all for the boys with a four point victory over St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth.

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Screenwriter, archbishop pen 'Space Vulture'

Escape from reality but grounded in morality

BY YORK YOUNG

Remember those days of yesteryear, when pulp fiction and B movies were all the rage? Yes, we're talking 40, 50, even 60 years ago, but many of today's artists, authors and moviemakers were raised and thereby creatively influenced during those times.

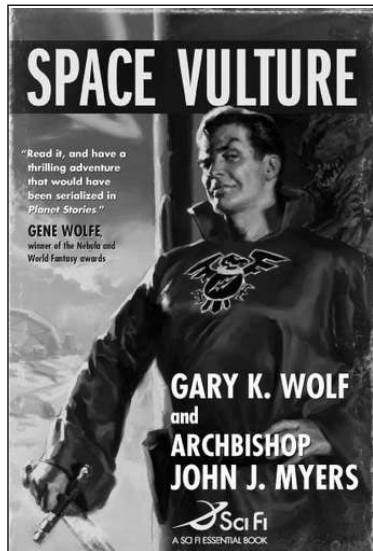
Back before the book industry was conglomerated into a handful of mega-companies that became particularly picky about what they print — instant moneymaking potential is the No. 1 criteria — there were many small presses that published midrate, yet exciting and entertaining, mystery, crime and science fiction stories.

Harkening back to the days when adventurous sci fi such as Buck Rogers and Flash Gordon graced the paperback covers of anthologies and short-story collections, a present Catholic duo has pulled on their love of the daring and bold characters that rescued the damsels in distress, saved the planet and had high morals to create a new chapter in fun reading.

Gary K. Wolf, a science fiction writer and screenwriter best-known for creating the character Roger Rabbit, and John J. Myers, the archbishop of Newark, N.J., have teamed up to take us on a ride to follow the exploits of Captain Corsaire, who is chasing down the evil title character, "Space Vulture" (Tor Books, \$24.95).

In the preface, Wolf and Archbishop Myers, who grew up together in Earlville, Ill., reminisce about their love for space adventure and the 1951 novel "Space Hawk," written by Anthony Gilmore.

Refreshingly, our hero, Corsaire, makes his decisions based on strong moral principles. In this tale, as opposed to the vast moral relativism that peppers motives in most present-day novels, nearly every character in "Space Vulture" stakes out their territory of good or evil early



in the book. The one character who is still trying to figure it all out — the redemptive linchpin — clearly has a connection to another main character in the book. Though revealed late in the proceedings, avid readers will pick up on it quickly, but that doesn't diminish the tale.

Wolf and Archbishop Myers do a great job of keeping the action going and the pages turning as any good pulp-fiction story should.

Though some might expect squeaky clean from a duo that includes an archbishop of the Catholic Church, there's plenty of ickyness, including flesh-eating monsters, zombies and some harsh violence, though never for exploitative effect. Uncharacteristically, there are no sex scenes, which Wolf admitted he might have included if he was the sole author, and a woman in peril prays for assistance.

The science seems over the top at times, but that generally is what science fiction often entails — suspending some belief and enjoying the ride. Part of the science involves genetic manipulation, and the story reveals how that technology can be used wrongly.

"Space Vulture" provides the right amount of thrills for an escape from reality, while being grounded in morality that sets the right example.



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

"The Spiderwick Chronicles" (Paramount/Nickelodeon)

Gothic fantasy adventure tale set on an isolated Victorian estate once occupied by an eccentric student of the paranormal (David Strathairn) and now home to his great-niece (Mary-Louise Parker), her twin sons (both played by Freddie Highmore) and daughter (Sarah Bolger), all of whom find themselves caught up in a struggle among normally invisible creatures, some good, others evil, for possession of a book detailing their ancestor's discoveries. Director Mark Waters' lavish film, showcasing first-class special effects, some fine performances, unobjectionable dialogue and estimable lessons about family life, is appropriate for all but the youngest viewers, who might find it too intense. Some fantasy violence and a couple of mild oaths. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.

"Be Kind Rewind" (New Line/Partizan)

Zany, warmhearted comedy about a New Jersey video store worker (Mos Def) who comes up with a scheme to create amateur video versions of classic films when his bungling friend (Jack Black) accidentally erases all the tapes after the manager (Danny Glover) leaves town to investigate saving the building from demolition. Despite its intentionally rough-hewn, indie ambience, a wildly improbable plotline, and too much low-comedy shtick, writer-director Michel Gondry's valentine to filmmaking ultimately delivers a touching story of

friendship, with a strong affirmation of community and good fellowship, as the townspeople rally to the aid of the threatened business. Some vulgar humor, brief sexual references and mild comic violence. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

"Vantage Point" (Columbia)

Propulsive thriller about an attempted assassination of the U.S. president (William Hurt) as he delivers an anti-terrorist speech in Spain, as seen from eight different perspectives including his Secret Service men (Dennis Quaid and Matthew Fox), an American tourist (Forest Whitaker), an American TV producer (Sigourney Weaver), a Spanish security officer (Eduardo Noriega), and myriad other characters on the scene during the shooting and the deadly bombings that immediately follow. Director Pete Travis demonstrates a great affinity for this kind of material, while the cast delivers committed performances. Plot improbabilities aside, the script is clever, while culminating in a heart-pounding car chase. Much action violence which, though intense, is not gruesome, frequent uses of the sword uttered under duress and some mild profanity. Acceptable for older teens. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

"Definitely, Maybe" (Universal)

Carefully wrought romantic comedy, albeit with some problematic material, in which an advertiser (Ryan Reynolds) on the verge of divorce recounts to his inquiring daughter (Abigail Breslin) how he chose her mother from among the three women (Elizabeth Banks, Rachel Weisz and Isla Fisher) he had once been dating. Writer-director Adam Brooks' generally well-written, often touching film is most suitable for mature viewers. Implied nonmarital sexual activity and cohabitation, some profanity, frank sexual talk and crass lan-

guage, divorce theme, lesbian reference and political pro-choice allusion. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

"Jumper" (Fox/Regency)

Chaotic science fiction thriller about a young man (Hayden Christensen) who learns he has the ability to transport himself instantly to any location around the globe, and how he teams with another Jumper (Jamie Bell) to fight an agent (Samuel Jackson) of the evil Paladin forces bent on their extermination. The premise is promising and there are some decent effects, but director Doug Liman, so adept in the action genre, can do little with a risible, underwritten script, dull plot and generally indifferent performances. Intense action violence, an instance of the f-word, crude language and profanity, implied nonmarital sexual relationship, murder and mayhem. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

"Step Up 2 the Streets" (Touchstone)

Lighthearted, enjoyable dance sequel about an orphaned teen (Briana Evigan) who enrolls at a prestigious arts academy and, with the encouragement of a popular fellow student (Robert Hoffman), forms a hip-hop dance crew made up of likable eccentrics (Adam G. Sevani, Mari Koda and Luis Rosado, among others) from the school to rival the street crew to which she formerly belonged. Despite many derivative elements, occasionally clunky dialogue and some subpar acting, director Jon M. Chu's first feature manages to be both funny and charmingly romantic in between its well-staged, high-energy dance sequences. One scene of violence, moderately suggestive dancing and some crass language. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

FISH FRIES

Fish fry offers healthy fare

South Bend — Knights of Columbus #553 will have fish fries featuring grilled, baked or fried fish Fridays Feb. 29 and March 7 and 14 at 553 E. Washington St. from 5-7 p.m. Meal includes potatoes baked or fried, cole slaw, bread, coffee or lemonade. Adults \$6, children 13-17 \$3 and children 12 and under free.

Jonah fish fry and salad bar

South Bend — Corpus Christi Parish will have a Jonah fish fry and salad bar Friday, Feb. 29, from 4-7:30 p.m. Adults \$8, children 6-12 \$3 and children 5 and under free. Carry-out includes four pieces of fish, coleslaw, bread, chips and dessert. Tickets available at the rectory or at the door.

Fish fry at St. Joseph

Bluffton — St. Joseph Catholic Church will have a fish dinner on Friday, Feb. 29, from 4-7 p.m. Tickets will be \$8 for adults, \$5.50 for children 6-12 and children under 5 are free. Carry-out available.

Fish fry

Yoder — St. Aloysius Parish will have a fish fry Friday, March 7, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the activity center, 14607 Bluffton Rd. Adults \$7.50, children 6-11 \$6.50 and children 5 and under free.

Arts and enrichment sponsor fish fry

Fort Wayne — St. John the Baptist will host a fish fry Friday, March 14, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the Pursley Center, 4500 Fairfield Ave. Adults \$7.50, children 6-12 \$4.50 and children 1-5 \$1. Drive-through service available behind the school.

Fish fry family style

Fort Wayne — Queen of Angels Parish will have a fish fry on Friday, March 7, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Adults \$7, children 6-10 \$3 and children 5 and under free. Drive through and carry-out available.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on each Friday of Lent, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$7.50, children (5-12) \$3. Chicken strips for \$7.50 and shrimp for \$8.50 will be available.

Fish fry information is available at www.diocesefwsb.org/TODAY

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Mental illness educational classes and support group

South Bend — The local chapter of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) is offering a free 12-week course beginning Thursday, March 13, for family members or friends of persons with mental illness as well as a nine-week course for individuals with mental illness starting March 17. Classes are free but registration is required. For information call Kris at (574) 256-0725 (Family-to-Family Class) or Ann at (574) 259-3564 (Peer-to-Peer Class). Support group meetings are held twice a month for family members with separate meetings for persons with mental illness.

Legion of Mary ACIES

South Bend — The Legion of Mary will have the ACIES ceremony on Sunday, March 30, at 2 p.m. at St. Anthony de Padua Church. For information call Elsie at (574) 259-6215 or Connie at (260) 486-1001.

Driver's education offered at Luers

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will have driver's education classes this spring and summer. The spring session begins March 3 and runs through May 23. The summer session begins June 9 through Aug. 9. The class includes 30 hours of classroom work and six hours of driving instruction. Cost of the class is \$350 for Luers students and \$365 for non-Luers' students. For information, contact the school at (260) 456-1261.

Alumni committee seeks help

Mishawaka — The St. Monica School alumni committee is asking for favorite memories of time at St. Monica, favorite teachers, information and photos for the alumni newsletter. Anyone interested in receiving the newsletter should contact St. Monica School, 223 W. Grove St., Mishawaka, IN 46545 or contact Joanne Eichhorn at (574) 340-1502 or visit the Web site at www.stmonicamish.org.

Open house

South Bend — St. Matthew Cathedral School, 1015 E. Dayton St., will have an open house Sunday, March 9, from noon until 2 p.m.

Holy Cross Village to host documentary

Notre Dame — Holy Cross Village will present the documentary film "Injury Slight ... Please Advise" in honor of resident Col. Charles Peter O'Sullivan who was forced to make an emergency landing in remote New Guinea during WWII. The film will be show Friday, March 7, at 2 p.m. in the Andre Great Room. Call (574) 245-7800 for information.

Red Cross blood drive

Roanoke — St. Joseph Church will host a blood drive Wednesday, March 12, in the church basement from 2-7 p.m.

Corporate Communion planned

South Bend — The Daughters of Isabella, Notre Dame Circle 572 will celebrate a Corporate Communion on Sunday, March

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Bernadette Heathman, 101, St. Patrick

Rebecca Christine Waters, 19, St. Henry

Charles W. Haft, 78, Most Precious Blood

Robert J. Ort, 81, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Monabelle R. Vosmeier, St. Jude

Stephen A. Forte, 41, St. Charles Borromeo

Granger
Jane Sue Grochowski, 70, St. Pius X

Mary S. Hacker, 83, St. Pius X

Huntington
H. Frederick, Pegan, 93, St. Mary

Sister William Ann Maloney, O.L.V.M., 94, Victory Noll Chapel

Mishawaka
Marie V. Bokon, 90, St. Bavo

Monroeville
Parnell L. Brames, 72, St. Rose of Lima

New Carlisle
Henry J. Cooreman, 88, St. Stanislaus Kotska

Jerome Walker, 62, St. Stanislaus Kotska

Notre Dame
John F. Taylor, 81, Sacred Heart Basilica

South Bend

Rosemary Talbot-Majeski, 77, St. Anthony de Padua

Rose I. Garson, 92, Holy Cross

Mary J. Stanley, 88, St. Adalbert

Claire J. Kujawski, 88, St. Anthony de Padua

Evelyn Jarze, 89, St. Casimir

Magdalena S. Melkey, 93, St. Anthony de Padua

Matthew F. Krizman, 100, Corpus Christi

Wabash

Martha Brown, 90, St. Bernard

9, at the 9 a.m. Mass at Holy Family Church. Breakfast will follow at the Bendix Family Restaurant on Western Ave.

St. Patrick dinner served

South Bend — The 14th annual corned beef and cabbage dinner will be Saturday, March 15, from noon to 4 p.m. at St. Patrick School on S. Scott St. Live Irish music and dancers along with traditional corned beef with trimmings for dinner. Admission of \$5 good towards food and beverage. For more information call the rectory at (574) 232 5839.

Rummage and bake sale

South Bend — The St. John Altar and Rosary Society will have a rummage and bake sale Saturday, March 15, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday, March 16, from 8 a.m. to noon at 3616 St. John's Way. Bake sale both days and dollar bag sale on Sunday.

St. Joseph HASA fundraiser

Monroeville — A casino night and hog roast will be Saturday March 1, at the park pavillion, 421 Monroe St. Texas Hold'em tournament and other casino games. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and tournament starts at 7 p.m.

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Rev. Mr. James Keating, Ph.D.
Julie Hanlon Rubio, Ph.D.
Fr. Robert Barron, S.T.D.

Breakout Sessions

Kathy Hasty, M.A. • Fr. Rick Hilgartner, S.T.L.
Vicki Klima, M.A. • Graziano Marcheschi, M.A., D.Min.
Catherine Maresca, M.A. • Mary Martin
H. Richard McCord, Ph.D. • Fr. William Schooler, M.A., M.Div.
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LEMPEN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and assistant at St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, was helped by her.

The bishop said, "She helped him and saved him in his priesthood. She was an extraordinary apostle especially to priests in cherishing and loving the vocation of the priesthood. Yet all the time she was going through this great sense of darkness even while calling the world to notice the poor. She did the practical thing God put into her life.

"In faith, certain truths are presented to your mind that are very attractive and beautiful. God loves us and sent us his Son, who became man, who died for our salvation, who waits for us at the end, who is also present in the holy Eucharist," said the bishop.

He added that while "these are beautiful truths and they are attractive, they don't compel the mind to say 'yes.' That is a choice."

To prove his point the bishop gave the example that while everyone at the lecture could be eventually counted and "we would have evidence" of the number. "In faith, there is no evidence," he said.

Karl Barth, an evangelical theologian, took all things on faith with one truth — the newspaper. "He said that was original sin," said the bishop, who noted it was there that Barth read about rapes, killings and thefts. "That, he didn't have to take on faith. The oth-

ers he took on faith.

"With the power of grace, I say 'yes,' and everyone is invited to it. But the choice is always accompanied by certain quietude. It is not evidence, it is not vision, in heaven it will be vision."

The bishop spoke of the Virgin Mary, who was asked to do something she did not expect nor did she understand. "In Scripture, God said through the angel, 'Do not be afraid. Mary do not be troubled.' Her heart was troubled and yet she believed it to be the voice of God and she said 'yes' to him."

"Faith is either growing or receding. There is nothing so hazardous to faith as a lazy inactivity in the spiritual life."

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

The darkness, he noted, is the way for all, though not all great saints and not all have the kind of painful trial some saints endured for long periods.

"But we all have something," said the bishop, adding that the saints are "sent to us by God for the realization that everyone is supposed to be a saint. A saint

doesn't mean you're perfect, but that Jesus Christ is your center. That you live your life for him."

Faith grows by praying, said Bishop D'Arcy, sharing the story of the man in the Gospel with the withered hand. "What did the man say? 'Help my unbelief, help my weak faith.' Do you ever pray for faith?" challenged the bishop.

"A believer makes a conscious act of faith, a sincere act of faith every time he or she prays. The believer has the most to give to the world, because the believer gives wisdom, courage and a sense of God," he said.

"Faith is either growing or receding. There is nothing so hazardous to faith as a lazy inactivity in the spiritual life," said Bishop D'Arcy noting words from a Catholic biblical theologian.

Lent is an appropriate time to speak on faith as it is a time that all are called to conversion — away from sin, from self-centeredness, and away from egotism towards God — by three means: "faith, fasting and putting God ahead of things of the world with almsgiving, giving of things to the poor.

"A question for you and me this Lent is where is my faith? Because in asking that question, I am saying to myself, where is my relationship with God? How does it grow? It grows through prayer, especially prayer when no one knows I am praying," suggested Bishop D'Arcy to all adding, "we are all called to have a faith from God that grows, becomes stronger."



MICHELLE DONAGHEY

Bishop John M. D'Arcy spoke on Feb. 19 at Ancilla College as part of the Lampen Lecture Series on "Right Relationship With God." The bishop noted that faith is a gift from God, which involves servitude and darkness.

Today's Catholic

BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB

This month's featured selection:

Ronald D. Witherup's "St. Paul — Called to Conversion"

As our Lenten journey unfolds and Pope Benedict XVI declares 2008 the year of St. Paul, marking the 2000th anniversary of his birth, *Today's Catholic* offers "St. Paul — Called to Conversion" as this month's book club selection.

The author Ronald Witherup has chosen a seven-day retreat theme highlighting St. Paul for this book's 124 pages, saying, "A retreat is like an oasis in the desert. It provides an opportunity for refreshment and renewal ..." What better way to continue deepening our Lenten faith journey than on a retreat?

The tome begins with a descriptive introduction to St. Paul that presents a glimpse into the real man living in Biblical times taking the reader from his birth through his conversion and ministry of evangelization using his scriptural letters as well as the chapter of Acts as its source.

Day one of the retreat introduces St. Paul as the retreat director with New Testament and other readings establishing the rich spiritual tradition to be found in this apostle's journey to Christ. Each subsequent day leads the reader on a journey of his own as the author investigates themes that include being saved by grace, embracing the cross, living in the Holy Spirit, praying without ceasing, leading a virtuous life and rejoicing in the victory of God.

Each of the nine chapters is rich with Scripture and

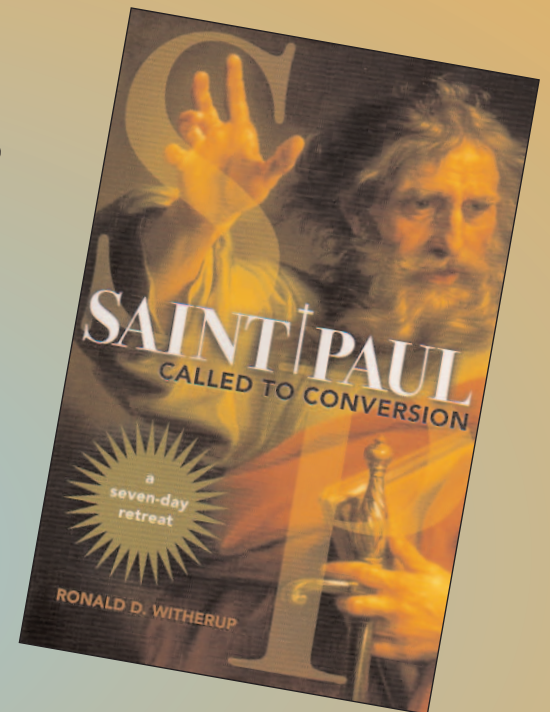
quotes from this "Apostle of the Gentiles" as well as other authors and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. Notes with references to the passages that might inspire additional reading are accessed at the end of each chapter. Book and media references for further reading on St. Paul are found at the end of the book on page 127.

Poignant opening and closing prayer bookend the chapters that are assigned each of seven days for the retreat. Scripture for reflection sets the stage for the thematic lesson followed by personal reflection questions and suggested readings. Bible use is necessary to experience this book to the fullest.

Though this book is a bit cerebral, the message of conversion and grace is clear as the reader is immersed in Scripture that translates to daily living. Witherup suggests that the spiritual life is a "fragile treasure" to be "lived in the here and now ... experienced in flesh and blood." To relate the lessons of faith in this book to everyday life, *Today's Catholic* suggests using the questions imbedded in each chapter. These meditations will

Questions for meditation and discussion

Questions for meditation and discussion can be found on pages 30,45-46, 59-60, 74, 87-88, 104 and 120.



assist readers in investigating their own faith values and understanding of St. Paul's scriptural evangelization.

About the author

Ronald D. Witherup, SS, is provincial superior of the U.S. Province of the Society of St. Sulpice and has also served as professor of sacred Scripture as well as academic dean at St. Patrick Seminary in California. He is author of two additional books.

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