



## St. Robert Bellarmine celebrates anniversary

50 years of ministry hailed  
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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

## Pope tells Lourdes pilgrims Mary leads to Christ



CNS PHOTO/PHILIPPE NOISET TE, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Pope Benedict XVI prays at the Grotto of the Apparitions at the Marian sanctuaries of Lourdes, France, Sept. 13. The pope traveled to Lourdes to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Mary's appearances to St. Bernadette Soubirous.

BY JOHN THAVIS

LOURDES, France (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI celebrated Mass for 150,000 international pilgrims at the Marian sanctuaries of Lourdes and told them that humble prayer to Mary was a true path to Christ.

The pope said Mary had appeared at Lourdes to invite everyone who suffers, physically or spiritually, to “raise their eyes toward the cross of Jesus” and recognize a love that is stronger than death or sin.

“The power of love is stronger than the evil that threatens us,” he said Sept. 14.

The pope traveled to Lourdes, a town in the French Pyrenees, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Mary's appearances to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year-old peasant girl.

After days of rain and cool weather, sunshine broke through the clouds over the pilgrims who filled a grassy field near the sanctuaries. They applauded as the pontiff processed to an altar covered with a sail-shaped canopy.

In his sermon, the pope placed himself among the pilgrim population, saying he, too, had come to pray at the feet of Mary, “eager to learn from her alongside little Bernadette.”

Then he made a point he has consistently emphasized when speaking of Marian devotion: that Mary turns one's gaze to Christ.

He noted that Mary's first gesture to St. Bernadette was to make the sign of the cross — an initiation into the mysteries of faith in Christ, he said.

“Mary comes to remind us that prayer which is humble and intense, trusting and persevering, must have a central place in our Christian lives,” the pope said.

“Prayer is indispensable if we are to receive Christ's power,” he said.

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Think Green  
Recycle this paper

## Catechetical Sunday celebrated September 21

### New staffers promote the catechetical ministry

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — This weekend, parishes across the United States celebrate Catechetical Sunday, a day in which directors of religious education and religious education teachers are recognized for their work within their parishes.

“Catechetical Sunday is a special Sunday for all those involved in teaching the faith,” says diocesan director of catechesis Sister Jane Carew. “It is the recognition of the ministry of the catechist. There are so many in the diocese who give so generously of their time and teach the faith to children.”

On Catechetical Sunday, many parishes will ask their religious education teachers to

stand and be recognized at a designated Mass or several Masses and then offer a special blessing. Each year has a special theme, and the theme this year is “The word of God in the life and mission of the church.”

“And they do this on a voluntary basis,” Sister Jane adds. “It is a very special thing to share your faith with others.”

Over the years, workers in the diocesan Office of Catechesis have contributed to the growth of the faith throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. They have strengthened the religious education programs for both children, youths and adults. Joining the Office of Catechesis recently are three new staffers who work from the South Bend and Fort Wayne offices.

Meggan Young works at the South Bend catechetical office. She has moved to the area from Iowa, where she had worked at a large

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## GENEVA MEMENTO



MARK WEBER

Before the final blessing at a 125th Anniversary Mass at St. Mary of the Presentation, Geneva, parishioner Tom Wiseman presented Bishop John M. D'Arcy with a throw illustrating the Irish settlement church.

## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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

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

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

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

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

BUREAU OFFICE: 114 W. Wayne St., South  
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0687. Fax: (574) 232-8483.

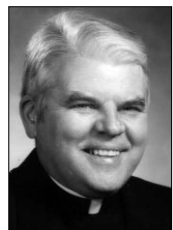
News deadline is the Monday morn-  
ing before publication date.  
Advertising deadline is nine days  
before publication date.

LETTERS POLICY: Today's Catholic wel-  
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Mail letters to: Today's Catholic,  
P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN  
46856-1169; or e-mail:  
[editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org](mailto:editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org)

ISSN 0891-1533  
USPS 403630

# Bishop celebrates 125th anniversary of St. Mary of the Presentation Parish in Geneva



## NEWS & NOTES

### BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

#### St. Mary of the Presentation, Geneva

This parish has always been close to my heart. I went there many times in my early years as bishop for one thing or another. It has not been easy to provide a priest for this parish. They are 26 miles from the nearest parish to the north; namely, St. Mary's, Decatur. Currently, they have 80 families registered. It is a small church, but beautiful, as you approach it after turning left at the flashing light in Geneva — and finding yourself in the midst of beautiful rolling farmland.

Most of all, it has a history. I was there this past Sunday to celebrate the 125th anniversary of this church, which is in an area called Irish Settlement. It was settled by Irish farmers, and so you see names like Moran, Kenney and Finerty on the headstones in the nearby parish cemetery behind the church. Later came farmers from Germany. The church was built by the early settlers who first came in 1860s. Thomas Moran, whose great-granddaughter was with us, came in 1865 from Galway. More on that later.

We were celebrating the 125th anniversary of the building of the church, in 1883, which was considered the founding of the parish. It was a superb day for this: the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

The Basilica of the Holy Cross on the place where Jesus was crucified, was rebuilt after being attacked and burned on two occasions. So also, the humble farmers in Irish Settlement had to twice rebuild their church when it burned.

In 1941, when there were only 19 families, and Archbishop Noll had determined that he could no longer staff this church, the farmers made the long trip to Fort Wayne to appeal this decision, and the parish was continued.

#### Some very special families

Over the years, I have come to know Nancy and Gene Subler. They are in the concrete business, and they have five sons, and now four grandchildren. Nancy has been a catechist for many years, and through the coming and going of many priests, she and her husband, Gene, along with Mary Agnes Muhlenkamp and her husband, Gary, have maintained a strong, quiet, and gentle, and very humble position in the parish. Their heart and soul, and that of other families, brings a service of love to the parishioners.

#### A seminarian from Geneva

From this little parish has come, I think for the first time in its history, a candidate for the priesthood for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. That would be Ben Muhlenkamp, who spent this past summer working at St. Charles Parish, Fort Wayne. Ben gives much credit to this little country parish for nourishing his vocation, along with St. Vincent's, Fort Wayne, and their youth program; and the example of Msgr. Ed Hession, the late beloved pastor of St. Charles, Fort Wayne.

Ben recently drove me back and forth to South Bend for the Annual Bishop's Appeal dinner; telling me along the way about the various kinds of corn and soybeans that were growing in the area. He spent several days this summer repairing the farm equipment for his parents, who are dairy farmers in Geneva.

#### A special link

My beloved parish church in Brighton, Mass., sitting atop of what one priest who served there called "that green Irish hill," is also dedicated to Our Lady of Presentation. In both churches this refers not to the presentation of the child, Jesus, but to the pres-

entation of confirmation. So we have that beautiful sacrament, and the anniversary, and also the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.

#### A visit to the cemetery

During Mass, I thought of the cemetery near the church. So afterwards, helped by our excellent diocesan Master of Ceremonies Jim Fitzpatrick, I went to the cemetery with some of the people to pray for those who had gone before. I saw the large headstone of Tom Moran; his great granddaughter explained to me that he came in 1865, from County Galway. Moran is my mother's name, Margaret Moran, who left Glenamoy in County Mayo in 1922. In Ireland, the accent is on the first syllable. Tom Moran's great granddaughter said she knew that, and she had visited his home in Tuam, County Galway. I believe they still have the land, which he first claimed so long ago.

#### Pope John Paul and the small parish

Pope John Paul, as you know, was a distinguished poet, indeed, a romantic. He once wrote a beautiful poem entitled, I believe, "On Giving Confirmation in a Mountain Parish." I don't have his poetic ability, but this little piece is my tribute to all those who kept this parish going, and to the spirit of the many families in Geneva who make sure that the children learn the faith, that the sick and dying are visited, and is also written to support their wonderful priest, Father Bosco-Perera, in making sure that the work of Christ continues. I also met Ben Muhlenkamp's sisters, and one of them is studying religion and communications at Purdue University. She hopes to work in youth ministry in a parish when she graduates. I told her that we would try and find a place for her in one of our parishes. A splendid day in a parish that is certainly close to Our Lady and her Son, and close also to the lead bishop.

It will be on preaching — helping our priests to preach more effectively. Keep it in your prayers.

#### I am looking forward to a continuing education session with our priests at Pokagon

My beloved Red Sox are one game out of first place, with 13 to play. I think they will win the division; at any rate, they will be in the playoffs in October, which is always a beautiful month anyway. October nights will be strengthened by some good ball games.

See you all next week.

### The Basilica of the Holy Cross on the place

where Jesus was crucified, was rebuilt after being  
attacked and burned on two occasions.

So also, the humble farmers in Irish Settlement had to  
twice rebuild their church when it burned.

entation of Mary in the temple as a young child, brought by her parents, Anne and Joachim. Ben Muhlenkamp was with us, and so was Father Dave Voors, the vicar for the area and pastor of St. Mary's, Decatur, who concelebrated with us, along with Father Paul Wohlwend of the Congregation of The Precious Blood, who helps out on many occasions. I must also salute the pastor, Father Joseph Bosco Perera, OMI. Father Bosco is from Sri Lanka, and has come 10,000 miles to care for this small parish. His presence has been a blessing, and it makes it possible for the people to have the holy Eucharist, especially as our nearest diocesan church is 26 miles away. I think that is the largest separation between two parishes in our diocese. Father Bosco has won the respect of the people of the parish.

There are small parishes a few miles away in Ohio in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, and also to the south in the diocese in Lafayette. But this parish is given to the pastoral responsibility of the bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and it was a special joy to be with them on this anniversary.

Six young teenagers received the sacra-

# LOURDES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

At Lourdes, he said, Mary also revealed herself as the Immaculate Conception, a person conceived without sin. In this way, she is "beauty transfigured, the image of the new humanity," he said.

This special grace inspires people by reminding them that they are "marked by sin but saved in hope," the hope of salvation that allows them to face daily life, he said.

"This is the path which Mary opens up for man. To give oneself fully to God is to find the path of true freedom," he said.

Many came to the papal Mass in wheelchairs or on stretchers, part of a perennial pilgrimage of the sick who travel to Lourdes for spiritual or physical healing.

The assembly was multicultural and multilingual, and the liturgy featured readings, prayers and responses in 10 languages, including Chinese.

Two young Catholic pilgrims from Myanmar said they had traveled halfway around the world to experience the "spirit of Lourdes" that they had heard about for years.

Zen Huai Mang, 23, said she was also seeking a personal turning point.

"I heard that Mary has done some wonderful things for sick people. I'm hoping for something positive in my own life, too," she said. Like many other pilgrims, she bathed in Lourdes water during her stay and said she felt "newborn" afterward.

Mang and her friend waited for five hours in the cold to see Pope Benedict when he arrived in Lourdes Sept. 13 and were back for a prime spot at the Mass the next morning.

She said her impression of Pope Benedict was that of "a very spiritual man" who shared their devotion to Mary. She said the pope may seem a bit remote at times to young people, but added quickly, "I think he's lovely."

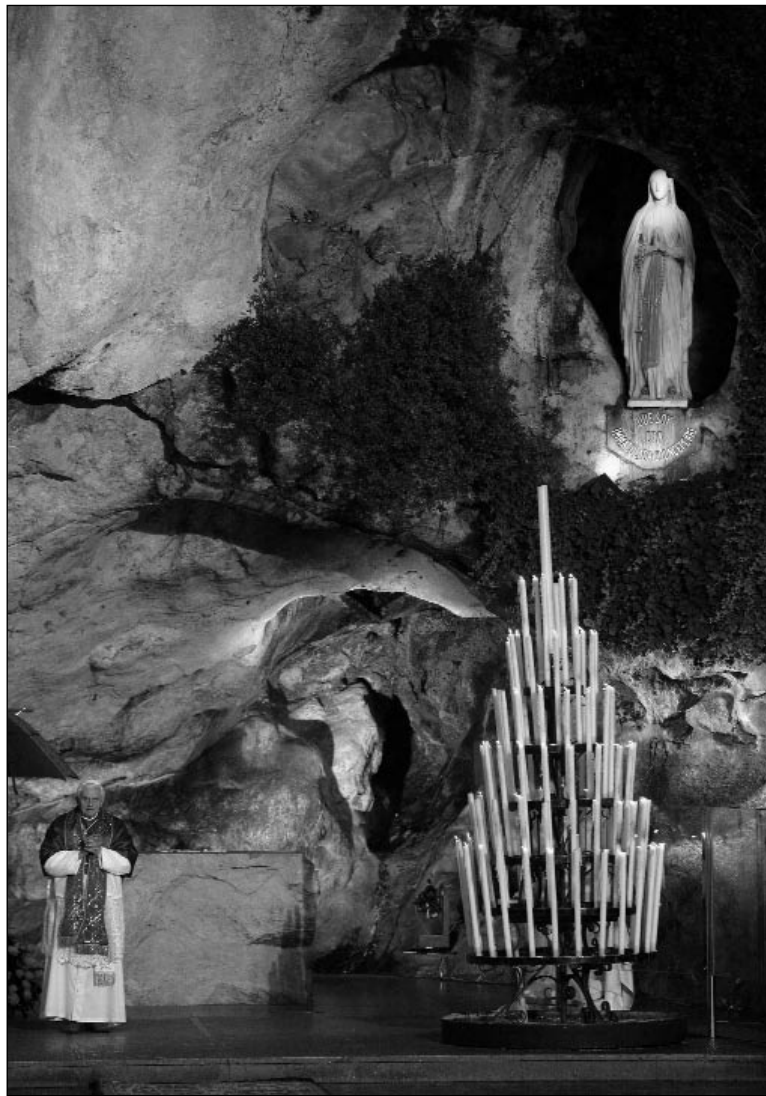
At the Angelus blessing following Mass, the pope spoke about the motives that lead some 6 million people to Lourdes every year. The main reason, he said, is that they feel they can entrust to Mary their most intimate thoughts.

"That which many, either because of embarrassment or modesty, do not confide to their nearest and dearest, they confide to her who is all pure, to her Immaculate Heart: with simplicity, without frills, in truth," he said.

"Before Mary, by virtue of her very purity, man does not hesitate to reveal his weakness, to express his questions and his doubts, to formulate his most secret hopes and desires," he said.

Arriving in Lourdes following a two-day stop in Paris, the pope immediately joined in the jubilee pilgrimage established to mark the 150th anniversary of the apparitions.

Cheered by tens of thousands who packed the streets of the mountain town, the pope first stopped at the parish church where St. Bernadette was baptized, then visited the small house — a former prison not much bigger than a cell — where the girl and her family lived in the mid-19th century.



CNS PHOTO/PHILIPPE NOISET TE, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

**Pope Benedict XVI prays at the Grotto of the Apparitions at the Marian sanctuaries of Lourdes, France, Sept. 13. The pope traveled to Lourdes to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Mary's appearances to St. Bernadette Soubirous.**

There, he kissed her rosary and said a prayer.

Next the pope went to the grotto at the base of a rocky cliff, where Bernadette experienced 18 apparitions of Mary from Feb. 11 to July 16, 1858. Like millions of pilgrims each year, he paused to take a drink of water from the spring she discovered there, a spring said to have miraculous powers.

Later that night, the pope closed a torchlight evening procession in Rosary Square. Addressing the overflow crowd of pilgrims, he paid tribute to simple devotion.

At Lourdes, he said, Mary stirred hope and love "by giving pride of place to the sick, the poor and the little ones."

"In this shrine at Lourdes ... we are invited to discover the simplicity of our vocation: It is enough to love," he said.

The traditional nighttime procession stems from St. Bernadette's habit of lighting a candle when Mary would appear to her. Today, the pope said, the light from pilgrims' torches represents a powerful symbol against the darkness of sin.

The procession expresses the mystery of prayer in a form that everyone can grasp, like a luminous path in the dark, he said. It should also remind Christians of those who suffer, he said.

"We think of innocent victims who suffer from violence, war, terrorism and famine; those who bear the consequences of injustices, scourges and disasters, hatred and oppression; of attacks on their human dignity and fundamental rights; on their freedom to act and think," he said.

The pope remembered those experiencing family problems, illness, unemployment or loneliness,

as well as difficulties related to immigration. Those who have suffered or died for Christ must not be forgotten, either, he said.

He described Lourdes pilgrimages as leading to a spiritual place "between heaven and earth." Pilgrims may come secretly hoping to receive some miracle, he said, but more often leave with a different kind of spiritual experience and a changed outlook.

"A small flame called hope, compassion, tenderness now dwells within them. A quiet encounter with Bernadette and the Virgin Mary can change a person's life," he said.

On the plane carrying him to France, the pope told journalists his April 16 birthday fell on the feast of St. Bernadette, and for that reason he felt very close to her.

At Lourdes, he said, people encounter Mary and find that "the mother's love" is what provides true healing for all sickness and suffering.

"I think this is a very important sign for our era," he said.

The pope returned to the Lourdes Mass site in the evening of Sept. 14 to close a eucharistic procession. After kneeling and praying in silent adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, he told pilgrims that the respect Catholics show the Eucharist reflects the awareness that Christ is truly present.

Those who, for some reason, cannot receive Communion may find special meaning in adoration, he said.

"Some of us cannot — or cannot yet — receive him in the sacrament, but we can contemplate him with faith and love and express our desire finally to be united with him. This desire has great value in God's presence," he said.

## In France, Pope Benedict shows the many dimensions of his ministry

BY JOHN THAVIS

LOURDES, France (CNS) — Being pope is not a one-dimensional job, a fact that was clearly evident during Pope Benedict XVI's four-day visit to France.

Arriving in Paris Sept. 12, the pope first engaged in an important political encounter that attempted to build on the new openness shown the church by President Nicolas Sarkozy.

Next, in a brief meeting with Jews, he managed to capsule in 20 graceful lines the church's respect for Judaism and its firm rejection of anti-Semitism.

That evening, the pope slipped into his academic role and delivered a lecture on monasticism's influence on Western civilization to 700 scholars and intellectuals.

He then switched gears and led vespers in Notre Dame Cathedral with priests and religious, emphasizing that while their ranks may be thinning their role in the church has lost none of its value and, indeed, is irreplaceable.

Finally, he stepped outside and energized a waiting crowd of 40,000 young people, drawing roars of approval when he said the church needs them and has confidence in them.

It was a whirlwind beginning and demonstrated a remarkable pastoral versatility on the part of the 81-year-old pontiff.

The next day, after celebrating Mass for a larger-than-expected crowd in Paris, he went to Lourdes and showed another side of his role as universal pastor — a Marian side.

It's no secret that, as a theologian and bishop, Pope Benedict was not always comfortable with Marian devotion and claims of apparitions. But over the years he has widened his views, saying in 2002 that, "the older I am, the more important the mother of God is to me."

So at Lourdes pilgrims heard the scholarly pope preach the value of "humble and intense prayer" like the rosary. He told his listeners that devotion to Mary was not a form of "pious infantilism" but an expression of spiritual maturity.

When he took a drink from the Lourdes spring that many pilgrims believe to be the font of miraculous cures, he was demonstrating that the Christian lives by simple signs and symbols as well as by theological ideas.

The pope's trip to Lourdes was bound to be compared to Pope John Paul II's moving visit to the shrine in 2004. Ailing and unsteady, the late pope had to ask for help on the altar; it was his last foreign trip.

Pope Benedict was not a personal witness to suffering like his predecessor, but he left no doubt that ministry to the sick is a benchmark of Catholicism.



CNS PHOTO/ALBERTO PIZZOLI, REUTERS

**A girl portrays St. Bernadette Soubirous during a Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI in a field at the Marian sanctuaries at Lourdes, France, Sept. 14.**

At his Mass with thousands of sick people Sept. 15, the final day of his visit, he thanked Catholics at Lourdes and all over the world who volunteer their time and effort to help the infirm.

That highlighted a key theme of Pope Benedict's pontificate, one he has underlined in encyclicals but which is sometimes overlooked: that personal charity — love in action — is the ultimate expression of faith in Jesus Christ.

Another difference between Pope Benedict and Pope John Paul surfaced during the visit. The late pope, on his first trip to France in 1980, sternly critiqued the French drift from the faith, asking Catholics, "France, the eldest daughter of the church, are you faithful to the promise of your baptism?"

Pope Benedict took a softer approach, alluding to pastoral problems but keeping the focus on the positive — for example, the enthusiastic crowd of 260,000 people at his Paris liturgy. In his final talk to French Catholics, he praised them for their "firm faith" and said he had been likewise encouraged by the strong turnout of youths at a Paris vigil.

Where he offered more instructional advice was in his talk to French bishops. He touched on a sore point when he urged the bishops to show flexibility toward traditionalists who want to take advantage of his 2007 rule change on the use of the Tridentine rite, the Mass rite used before the Second Vatican Council.

As a whole, though, the pope framed his message in optimistic terms. Whether talking to politicians, pastoral workers, scholars, the sick or the young, he emphasized that the church is at home in France, and its voice — including the voice of prayer — must continue to be heard.

# Residents urged to be patient, kind as all cope with aftermath of Ike

BY CAROL ZIMMERMAN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The retired archbishop of Galveston-Houston told a small congregation gathered for Mass Sept. 14 at Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral in Houston to stay calm in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike and to be friendly to one another, especially as they coped with the challenge of living without electricity.

Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza also told them to be grateful the storm, which made landfall Sept. 13, had not taken as many lives as was feared. The Category 2 storm killed 30 people in its path across eight states.

"This calls us in times of great distress to have patience and kindness with one another, to realize we are going to have a long time of endurance and great inconvenience," the archbishop said, according to a report in the *Houston Chronicle* daily newspaper.

"But with good humor and God's grace and our public officials ... hopefully the time of great endurance won't be too long," he said.

When Hurricane Ike swept across the Texas coast with its 100 mph winds, battering waves and torrential rains, it damaged thousands of homes, submerged huge sections of Galveston and left at least 2 million people without power.

While the height of the surging water did not reach the expected 20 feet, it still caused



A police officer stands next to a resident as he surveys the damage caused by Hurricane Ike in Galveston, Texas Sept. 14. The hurricane hit the Texas and Louisiana coasts Sept. 13, causing extensive damage and flooding.

CNS PHOTO/JESSICA RINALDI, REUTERS

extensive damage, washing away roads and flooding homes.

Houston, without power and with many of its streets covered with glass shards from broken skyscraper windows, was placed under a weeklong curfew.

Galveston Island and other coastal areas took the brunt of the storm that left homes in splinters, downed trees and power lines, and flooded neighborhoods.

Authorities estimate that 140,000 people did not follow the mandatory evacuation orders. The day after the storm officials rescued 2,000 people.

Catholic schools in the

Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston were closed Sept. 15 and were to reopen "according to their readiness and safety," said an announcement on the archdiocesan Web site. Only essential departments at the chancery offices were open Sept. 15.

Catholic schools in the Diocese of Beaumont, Texas, were closed "until further notice" because of a lack of electricity. The pastoral center was similarly closed, according to a message on a temporary Web site set up for the diocese. Catholics in the Beaumont Diocese were not required to fulfill their Sunday Mass obligation during the Sept. 13-14 weekend.

Catholic Charities agencies set up mobile food centers and community resource sites in southern Texas after the storm to provide food, water, ice, hygiene kits, tarps and cleanup supplies. They also provided gas cards and other aid to assist stranded evacuees in their return home as well as crisis counseling and case management.

Kim Burgo, director of disaster response for Catholic Charities USA, noted that it typically costs \$1,000 per family to evacuate their home during a disaster.

"We are always mindful of the poor who do not have the extra resources and support systems to help," she said. "They truly bear the biggest share of the burden."



PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE OF CATECHESIS

The Office of Catechesis has recently welcomed Danielle Abril, Meggan Young and Christina Emilian to the South Bend and Fort Wayne staff.

## SUNDAY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

parish in religious education for several years. Young and her husband moved to South Bend, where her husband is pursuing doctoral studies in economics at the University of Notre Dame.

One of Young's biggest tasks is coordinating the Catechetical Institute Day, which will be held in Syracuse, on Saturday, Nov. 8, with Dr. Gerard Baumbach from the University of Notre Dame as the speaker. The focus will be on the National Catechetical Directory of 2005.

"(Young's) responsibility for the diocese is to be a liaison for parishes," Sister Jane adds. "Meggan has been working this past year with the DREs," Sister Jane said. At first, her involvement was with all parishes, but she will soon share that task with a Fort Wayne staffer.

That staff person in Fort Wayne is Christina Emilian, a Fort Wayne native and recent graduate with a bachelor's in theology from the University of Notre Dame. At Notre Dame, Emilian was very involved in facilitating the Edith Stein Conferences, dedicated to promoting the dignity of women in the modern world.

"She is a very gifted organizer," Sister Jane says.

"Since she came two months ago, she has been involved with heading the new Hispanic program and helping to write the junior high curriculum. And then she will be working with the DREs in the

Fort Wayne area," Sister Jane says.

Sister Jane notes, "one of the major focuses of her coming to the office is that we are beginning a program this year, in Fort Wayne on Hispanic adults catechesis." Next year, it will begin in the South Bend area.

"Together, we are looking for the best way to meet the needs of the Hispanics," Sister Jane says.

The program will be the equivalent of (the diocesan offered) Education for Ministry program. Sister Jane says the program will be offered most likely two Saturday afternoons per month and will begin at St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne.

Father Virgilio Elizondo, from San Antonio, Texas, who works in Hispanic ministry at the University of Notre Dame, will launch the program with a special talk to the Hispanic people at St. Patrick Parish in December. The program will involve study of the new catechism for adults in Spanish.

In the South Bend catechetical office, Danielle Abril recently joined the team. She and her husband relocated to South Bend. Her husband is a student in the master's in theology program at the University of Notre Dame. From the state of Washington, Abril recently graduated with a master's degree with a concentration in catechetics from the Franciscan University in Stuebenville, Ohio.

"She has a number of responsibilities: one of them is liaison with Catholic elementary schools," Sister Jane says. "She also is helping to write the curriculum."

Since arriving, Abril wrote the grade 6 Old Testament Curriculum revisions and is working now on a segment for junior high. She will also organize the two institute days for Catholic schoolteachers.

"The three of them are very gifted," Sister Jane says. "They represent that love of the church (which Pope John Paul II predicted — a new springtime of the church) with their talent and giftedness. ... They have a focus on the catechetical ministry. They love it. And they just have an incredible devotion to it."

For more information, visit the diocesan Web site at [www.diocese-fwsb.org/OC/](http://www.diocese-fwsb.org/OC/).

### Agencies accept donations for victims of hurricanes

Aid agencies are accepting donations for victims of hurricanes that recently hit the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean.

• **Catholic Charities USA** — by phone: (800) 919-9338; online: [www.catholiccharitiesusa.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesusa.org); or by mailing a check to: Catholic Charities USA, 2008 Hurricanes, P.O. Box 17141, Baltimore, MD 21297.

• **Catholic Relief Services** — by phone: (800) 736-3467; online: [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org); or by mailing a check to: Catholic Relief Services, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21203-7090.

• **Development and Peace** — by phone: (888) 664-3387; online: [www.dev.org](http://www.dev.org); or by mailing a check earmarked "Haiti" to: Development and Peace, 1425 Rene-Levesque O., 3rd Floor, Montreal, Quebec, H3G 1T7, Canada.

• **Food for the Poor** — by phone: (800) 427-9104; online: [www.foodforthe poor.org](http://www.foodforthe poor.org); or by mailing a check to: Food for the Poor, 6401 Lyons Road, Dept. 9662, Coconut Creek, FL 33073.

• **Parish Twinning Program of the Americas** — online: [www.parishprogram.org](http://www.parishprogram.org); or by mailing a check to: Parish Twinning Program, c/o Theresa Patterson, 309 Windemere Woods Dr., Nashville, TN 37215.



## PHOENIX Institute

Phoenix Institute, a small family oriented foster care agency, is looking for people to foster abused and neglected youth. Phoenix Institute is looking for stable and supportive families, single parents, married couples, families of color, empty nesters, people who rent or own. To become a foster parent, you don't need a lot of money, a fancy house, or extensive parenting experience. What you do need is a commitment to learning and working as part of a team, a sense of humor, flexibility, and patience. And you need to want to provide a stable and supportive home to a child. Phoenix Institute has a staff with a rich history of working in foster care. Free training - 24 hour staff support - reimbursement provided.

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## PRECIOUS BLOOD SCHOOL CELEBRATES 110 YEARS



DON CLEMMER

Students at Most Precious Blood School in Fort Wayne stand, ready to release balloons commemorating the school's 110th anniversary on Sept. 12. The Boy Scouts presented the flag and the student body, teachers, alumni and staff enjoyed eating birthday cake.

## Pro-life Advocates in South Bend launch groundbreaking 40 Days for Life campaign

BY TOM UEBBING

SOUTH BEND — "On Sept. 24, South Bend area pro-life advocates will join together with people of faith and conscience from many other communities from coast to coast to kick off the area's own version of the groundbreaking 40 Days for Life campaign," said Mary Akre, spokesperson for the South Bend 40 Days for Life campaign. The campaign will be held at several parishes and parish pro-life groups across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

40 Days for Life is an intensive pro-life initiative that focuses on 40 days of prayer and fasting, 40 days of peaceful vigil at abortion facilities, and 40 days of grassroots educational outreach. The 40-day time frame is drawn from examples throughout Biblical history where God brought about world-changing transformation in 40-day periods.

"As people here in South

Bend join with others from across the country to pray and fast and take courageous action for 40 days to end the tragic violence of abortion, we look forward to seeing what kind of

active in local pro-life efforts. Churches of different denominations worked together to work for an end to abortion in their cities. Many post-abortive women begin programs to heal from the pain caused by previous abortion experiences. With such a strong track record of results, we are excited to see what God has in store for this fall."

"We are expecting great things for our local 40 Days for Life campaign," said Akre. "It is exciting for our city to be a part of something that can have such lifesaving impact, and we can't wait to begin."

**To learn more** about 40 Days for Life campaign, visit: [www.40daysforlife.com](http://www.40daysforlife.com). For information about the South Bend campaign, please contact them at (574) 807-1991, or sign up to participate at [www.40daysforlife.com/south-bend](http://www.40daysforlife.com/south-bend)



transformation God will bring about in our city and throughout America," said Akre.

"40 Days for Life has already generated proven lifesaving results in cities across America," said David Bereit, national campaign director for 40 Days for Life. "During the fall of 2007 and spring of 2008, dozens of communities joined together for nationally coordinated 40 Days for Life campaigns. The efforts of thousands of people of faith helped make a tremendous difference. Numerous cities reported a significant drop in abortions. Some abortion facilities either closed altogether or scaled back their operations during the campaign. New volunteers got

## Catholic Church embraces organ donation

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — You have the power to donate life.

Though often taken for granted, organ and tissue donation is crucial to the modern health care system and embraced by the Catholic Church.

Organ and tissue donation in and of itself is a selfless act encouraged by both religious and civic leaders. The Indiana Organ Procurement Organization (IOPPO) is a statewide initiative aimed at advancing organ, tissue and eye donation in Indiana.

From a civic point of view, Sam Davis, director of professional services and public affairs, offers some insight into the topic.

Davis said that most Christian denominations, including Catholics, support organ and tissue donation, as it promotes the sanctity of life.

"The decision to donate, or at least the concept of organ and tissue donation, is something considered while one is still living ... from a practical point of view, once you've died no additional (bodily) harm can come to you, so donating allows valuable lifesaving resources to be used rather than buried," he said.

"It's important that people talk about their attitudes toward donation and assuming they are in the majority of Americans and Hoosiers that support that donation, they should tell their family members," he said. "When the decision is known, it makes things easier for those left to answer questions."

Lisa Polhamus, a biology teacher at Bishop Dwenger High

School, echoed Davis' comments about the morality of organ and tissue donation. Polhamus said that high school anatomy and physiology class is a "good time to talk about organ donation."

Polhamus stresses that organ or tissue donation is an opportunity to give a part of yourself to someone.

"I stress that (organ and tissue donation) are an altruistic act and very much in line with Jesus' teachings," she said. "Students need to talk to their families about their wishes."

Gwyn and Julio Garcia, parishioners at St. Vincent de Paul in Fort Wayne, are among the 700 organ recipients and 130 organ donors in Indiana. Julio was suffering from acute arthritis and was in dire need of a healthy kidney. Like many facing hard times, Julio turned to his family.

Gwyn seemed like a likely donor, as her blood type was compatible. Gwyn said Julio did not consider his children as potential donors, as the operation can be risky even for those in good health.

The transplant took place Feb. 27 at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne. The Garcias were backed by a strong support network, Gwyn said. From the doctors and nurses, to her children, all were supportive of the decision. In fact, as Gwyn recalls, one nurse commented that she would hope her family would be as supportive as Gwyn was in a similar situation.

Gwyn said her faith helped she and her husband get through tough times.

"Trust in the Lord that he's going to watch over you," she said.



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## Bishop Malooly says sanctity of human life 'crucial' to just society

WILMINGTON, Del. (CNS) — The new bishop of the Diocese of Wilmington said he intends "to build a supportive and trusting friendship" with U.S. Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr. of Delaware and other public officials to help them and all citizens "understand how crucial the sanctity of human life is to a just society." Bishop W. Francis Malooly made the comments in a statement Sept. 10 after leaders of the U.S. bishops' conference had issued their own statement in response to Biden's comments Sept. 7 on "Meet the Press" regarding church teaching on abortion. Addressing the people of his diocese, the bishop said the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' statement explained "the truth of the matter in a clear and concise way. As your bishop, I want you to understand our church teaching, embrace it and promote it." The bishop, who was installed Sept. 8 as the ninth bishop of Wilmington, then included the statement from Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, head of the U.S. bishops' pro-life committee, and Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., head of the doctrine committee, before concluding: "It is my intention to build a supportive and trusting friendship with Sen. Biden and as many public officials as I can."

## Jewish leader says Pope Pius XII has been demonized falsely

ROME (CNS) — Pope Pius XII has been demonized and his legacy of helping Jews during World War II has been poisoned by inaccurate and incomplete historical accounts, said the Jewish founder and president of Pave the Way Foundation. "We have to change history" and tell the world the truth about this wartime pope "who saved so many lives," Gary Krupp, foundation president, told Catholic News Service. He spoke at the start of a Sept. 15-17 symposium that studied the papacy of Pope Pius and unveiled new evidence of the pope's hidden acts and orders aimed at saving Jews from the Nazis. The symposium, sponsored by the U.S.-based foundation, featured Catholic and Jewish speakers and video footage of interviews with people who were saved from the Holocaust through the church's intervention. Krupp said scholars and historians "have failed, they've simply failed" over the last 45 years to retrieve and present firsthand accounts from eyewitnesses, Holocaust survivors, diplomats and archival material.

## Philadelphia pastor ordained as new bishop of St. Thomas

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — The new bishop of the Diocese of St. Thomas in the U.S. Virgin Islands said he has been welcomed by the Catholic community there with "open hearts and open arms." "They certainly are people filled with faith, filled with joy," Bishop

# NEWS BRIEFS

## SCHOOLCHILDREN PROMOTE PEACE IN INDIA



CNS PHOTO/AMIT DAVE, REUTERS

Schoolchildren hold signs promoting peace and the end of terrorism during a ceremony at a school in Ahmedabad, India, Sept. 15. The ceremony was held to pay tribute to those who died in the Sept. 13 bomb blasts in New Delhi.

Herbert A. Bevard told *The Catholic Standard & Times*, Philadelphia's archdiocesan newspaper, in a telephone interview Sept. 8. "They love the church very, very much. I have a beautiful diocese." In July, when he was named the diocese's fifth bishop, then-Msgr. Bevard, 62, had been pastor at St. Athanasius, the largest African-American parish in Philadelphia, for the past 14 years. Dozens of Philadelphia Catholics attended his Sept. 3 episcopal ordination Mass at the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul in Charlotte Amalie. Because St. Thomas is a suffragan diocese of the Archdiocese of Washington, Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington was the principal celebrant and ordaining bishop.

## Bishops seek end to immigration enforcement raids

WASHINGTON (CNS) — If federal immigration officials cannot create more "humane" conditions when making enforcement raids against undocumented immigrants, then "these enforcement raids should be abandoned," said Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration. The raids, conducted by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement division of the Department of Homeland Security, "reveal, sadly, the failure of a seriously flawed immigration system," Bishop Wester said at a Sept. 10 press conference at the bishops' headquarters in Washington. "The humanitarian

costs of these raids are immeasurable and unacceptable in a civilized society," he added. "Our current policies do little to solve the problem of illegal immigration to this country — they simply appear to do so, often at the cost of family integrity and human dignity." Bishop Wester noted that after Congress' failure to pass a comprehensive immigration bill last year, Homeland Security started conducting mass raids, mostly at workplaces.

## Pelosi agrees to meet archbishop; Biden remarks also draw criticism

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — Responding to an invitation to meet with him to discuss church teaching on abortion and other topics, U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said she would "welcome the opportunity" to meet with Archbishop George H. Niederauer of San Francisco "to go beyond our earlier most cordial exchange about immigration and needs of the poor to church teaching on other significant matters." In a letter delivered to Archbishop Niederauer Sept. 5, Pelosi offered to "meet at your earliest convenience" to discuss a statement by the archbishop that said Pelosi's remarks were "in serious conflict with the teachings of the Catholic Church" on abortion, the beginning of human life and the formation of conscience. But the furor that arose after Pelosi said on NBC's "Meet the Press" Aug. 24 that church leaders for centuries had not been able to agree on

when life begins received further fuel Sept. 7 when Sen. Joseph Biden, the Democratic vice-presidential nominee, responded to a similar question on "Meet the Press." Biden, who like Pelosi is a Catholic, said he accepted Catholic teaching that life begins at conception but did not believe that he could impose his beliefs in the public policy arena. Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia and Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., chairmen of the U.S. bishops' pro-life and doctrine committees, respectively, had criticized Pelosi Aug. 25, saying she "misrepresented the history and nature of the authentic teaching of the Catholic Church on abortion." The two chairmen also issued a lengthy critique of Biden's comments Sept. 9.

## Priests for Life returns to roots, drops plan to have own seminarians

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In what the founder of Priests for Life called a return to its roots, the organization has decided not to seek church recognition as a society of apostolic life that would accept and ordain its own seminarians. Instead Priests for Life and the related Missionaries of the Gospel of Life will continue to help priests, seminarians and lay Catholics around the country become "more effectively pro-life" within their own parishes and communities, said Father Frank Pavone in a telephone interview Sept. 9. "We got it right the first time," he told Catholic News Service, noting that he founded

Priests for Life in 1991 as a way to "infuse the existing structures" of the church and society with the pro-life message. Priests for Life and the Missionaries of the Gospel of Life will be one entity, "without the founding of a canonically distinct community," said a joint statement from Priests for Life and the Diocese of Amarillo, Texas. Father Pavone, who was originally ordained as a priest of the New York Archdiocese, was incardinated in the Diocese of Amarillo in March 2005 and became the first member of the new Missionaries of the Gospel of Life the following year. He will remain a priest of the Amarillo Diocese, he said.

## Pope sends e-mail to more than 30,000 World Youth Day participants

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI sent a brief e-mail to more than 30,000 young people who attended World Youth Day in Sydney, Australia, or have expressed interest in knowing more about the experience. In the Sept. 8 message, the pope greeted the young people, offered his prayers for them and asked them to pray for the young people of France as he prepared to visit their country Sept. 12-15. The message was sent through [www.Xt3.com](http://www.Xt3.com), a social networking Web site established to help World Youth Day participants keep in touch, converse with one another online and meet others who were in Sydney. The text of the papal message read: "Fifty days ago we were together for the celebration of Mass. Today I greet you on the birthday of Mary, Mother of the Church. Empowered by the Spirit and courageous like Mary, your pilgrimage of faith fills the church with life! Soon I am to visit France. I ask you all to join me in praying for the young people of France. May we all be rejuvenated in hope!"

## Pope names Australian cardinal to replace Indian as a synod president

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Cardinal George Pell of Sydney, Australia, to be one of three delegate presidents for the world Synod of Bishops on the Bible. The Vatican said Sept. 9 that Cardinal Pell would serve in place of Cardinal Oswald Gracias of Mumbai, India, who is unable to attend the Oct. 5-26 gathering. The Vatican did not elaborate. In June, the pope had named the Indian cardinal as one of three delegate presidents; the other two are U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, and Brazilian Cardinal Odilo Scherer of Sao Paulo. Although the pope himself is president of the synod, the three cardinals will take turns presiding over the gathering's daily sessions.

## St. Jude and Sacred Heart plan joint mission

SOUTH BEND — St. Jude of South Bend and Sacred Heart of Jesus in Lakeville are sharing a mission titled "Companions on The Journey." The mission runs from Sept. 21-24 with morning sessions and evening presentations. A parish mission is an extraordinary preaching event. Each evening is different, yet each will consist of a proclamation of the word, reflections, singing and praying together.

The mission begins on Sunday, Sept. 21, with a parish picnic. Members of both parishes are invited to share food and fellowship at the Knights of Columbus on South Ironwood Road. The picnic starts at 1 p.m. with a presentation, Our Church: The Family of God, by Tom Padberg, leader of the RCIA program at Sacred Heart. There will also be children's games, children's mission and lots of family fun.

The next three evening presentations are at St. Jude and begin at 7 p.m. Active Catholics, those new to the faith, or those who have been absent from the church for a while are welcome.

"This is a great opportunity to recharge your spiritual batteries and find your place in the faith," says Father John Delaney, pastor of both St. Jude and Sacred Heart. Each night will have childcare, a coordinated children's mission, refreshments and transportation is available.

On Monday, Sept. 22, Father William Schooler will give a presentation titled God is Present in the Unknown. He is the pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Granger.

Tuesday's presentation, Hope in the Light, is being given by Father Bob Lengerich. A native of Elkhart, he was ordained to the priesthood in October of 2007. Father Lengerich currently serves as the associate pastor of St. Pius X Parish in Granger. There will also be the sacrament of reconciliation after the presentation.

Father Michael A. Driscoll ends the mission on Wednesday with his presentation, We Are One Body. Father Driscoll, a priest of the Diocese of Helena in Montana, is a professor in the Department of Theology at the University of Notre Dame. He has served as an advisor to the United States Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy. Wednesday evening will have a closing Mass.

Morning faith-sharing sessions will be held on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday at Sacred Heart. The sessions start with a Mass at 8 a.m. and followed by a reflection and sharing time. These sessions are moderated by Ginny Kohrman, director of the Office of Spiritual Development for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and Jennifer Kohrman who is the associate director.

St. Jude Catholic Church is located one half mile south of the U.S. 20 bypass and one block east of U.S. 31 South on Johnson Road. Sacred Heart of Jesus is located on U.S. 31 about three miles south of South Bend. For more information, call the St. Jude Parish office at (574) 291-0570.

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## CHRIST THE KING NAMED AS BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL



DIANE FREEBY

South Bend's Christ the King School learned last week that it was named a Blue Ribbon School. Christ the King Principal Steve Hoffman will join other representatives from the 2008 Blue Ribbon Schools for an awards ceremony in Washington, D.C. There, Hoffman will receive a plaque and a flag signifying Christ the King's status as an award-winning school. The students enjoy the blue-frosted cookies the entire student body received in celebration after winning the prestigious Blue Ribbon Award.

## Symposia offers scholarships to students

FORT WAYNE — The School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Saint Francis is hosting a symposium for high school sophomores, juniors and seniors on Friday, Oct. 17.

The event will give students the opportunity to do scientific research and humanities studies at the college level and earn a USF scholarship.

The science symposium has three topics for students:

- Forensic Chemistry: students will examine and analyze criminal evidence with a professional forensic investigator.

- Marine Biology: students will explore the undersea and participate in a research project on a Coral Reef.

- Math Puzzles and Games: students will apply mathematical strategies to solve puzzles like Sudoku.

The humanities symposium will offer two topics:

- Mudslinging 101: Politics, Propaganda and Parody: students will examine political ads and create their own parody of one.

- Catholics and Politics: From Emperor Constantine to Pope Benedict XVI: participants will discuss the mixture of religion and politics.

Student application materials are available online at [www.sf.edu/sciencesymposium](http://www.sf.edu/sciencesymposium). To find out more on the science symposium, contact Carolyn Exner at 260-399-8067.

For further information on the humanities symposium, contact Angie Springer at (260) 399-8066. The application deadline is Oct. 6.

## Series on St. Paul offered on South Bend

FORT WAYNE — The diocesan Office of Catechesis is sponsoring a five-week session on St. Paul presented by Greg Doyle. Meetings will be held on Thursday evenings from 7-9 p.m. at Saint Joseph's High School, South Bend, Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30.

The sessions will include insight into Paul, his letters, his world and the church. Participants will spend some time seeing how Paul's writings pertain to today's world and to each person's spiritual development.

Registration is required. Interested participants can register online at [www.diocesefwsb.org/OC](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/OC) under Adult Faith Formation, or telephone Janice Martin at (260) 399-1411 or e-mail at [jmartin@fw.diocesefwsb.org](mailto:jmartin@fw.diocesefwsb.org).

Part of each evening will have participants sharing in small group discussions using the book, "St. Paul: A Bible Study Guide for Catholics." Participants must purchase the book to complete readings prior to each session; however, no one will be turned away from the session if they are unable to purchase the book. The book is available with a discount at the Cathedral Bookstore. Call (260) 422-1411 ext.3356 or e-mail [kslocum@fw.diocesefwsb.org](mailto:kslocum@fw.diocesefwsb.org) to

purchase "St. Paul, A Bible Study Guide for Catholics."

## Columbia City parish offers financial series

COLUMBIA CITY — St. Paul of the Cross Parish will offer a six-week series on how to plan, protect and provide for your family in a fundamentals financial course offered at the parish. The series begins Sept. 24 and runs through Oct. 29.

Each week offers a different guest speaker exploring practical steps to help families and individuals stay on target with their financial goals regardless of their current financial situation. Sessions are 60 minutes each Wednesday evening immediately following the evening Mass. The sessions begin at 7 p.m. and refreshments will be served.

Sign up for the sessions in the church narthex or call the church office at (260) 244-5723 for information.

## Walk for hunger slated Sept. 27

FORT WAYNE — Hunger Walk VI will be held Saturday, Sept. 27, beginning with registration at 9 a.m. The 2.2-mile walk to raise funds for local hunger will take place at Lawton Park in downtown Fort Wayne. The walk will begin with devotions at 9:45 a.m. and the presentation of the Father Tom O'Connor Awards. The walk itself will begin at 10 a.m. and will be along the River Greenway.

Hunger Walk VI is held each year to benefit four faith-based agencies that work hard each year to feed the hungry. It is the goal of the planning committee to have 500 walkers raise a total of \$100,000. The Lutheran Foundation will match each gift up to a total of \$40,000.

The four faith-based groups are the Associated Churches of Fort Wayne and Allen County, The Franciscan Center, Miss Virginia's Mission House and the Salvation Army. Each month the four groups feed a total of 10,500 low income Fort Wayne residents who are in need of food for their families.

The total number of individuals served in 2008 will be over 100,000 individuals. The funds raised will go to purchase food at wholesale prices and to give balanced meals to those who are unemployed, the working poor and the historic poor.

Hunger Walk V was extremely successful and a total of 400 walkers raised a total of \$93,450 (with the Lutheran Foundation Match). It was the most successful Hunger Walk. This year, there is an all-time high for the number of low income families served.

For more information, please check out the Associated Churches Web site at [www.associatedchurches.org](http://www.associatedchurches.org).

## The Quest Project fall lecture series includes centers on interaction of faith and reason

NOTRE DAME — The Quest Project, operated by the Saint Mary's College Center for Spirituality (CFS), presents its fall lecture series, which is free and open to the public. World-renowned scholars will come to Saint Mary's to share their wisdom on contemporary religious issues, and to address broader issues of how faith and reason interact.

- The Practice of Spirituality and the Practice of Medicine: Worlds Apart or Overlapping? — Harold Koenig, M.D., M.H.Sc., professor, psychiatry and behavioral sciences and associate professor, medicine at Duke University Medical Center and founding co-director of the Center for Spirituality, Theology and Health, Duke University Medical Center will be the speaker on Tuesday, Sept. 30, at 4 p.m. in the Little Theatre, Moreau Center for the Arts.

- The Quest for the Living God — Elizabeth Johnson, CSJ, distinguished professor, theology at Fordham University will be the speaker on Thursday, Oct. 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the Little Theatre, Moreau Center for the Arts.

- Theories of Emerging Complexities: A Theological Approach to the QUESTION — Rev. Dr. Antje Jackelén, past director of the Zygon Center for the Study of Science and Religion and current bishop of Lund, Sweden, is the speaker. She is the first woman bishop in the Church of Sweden. The talk will be Thursday, Oct. 30, 7:30 p.m. at the Little Theatre, Moreau Center for the Arts.

For more information on the lectures, please contact Kathy Guthrie, (574) 285-4636, or e-mail: [kguthrie@saintmarys.edu](mailto:kguthrie@saintmarys.edu).

# Witness the power of diversity

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — A new and innovative project has recently come to life at St. Henry Parish on the southeast side of Fort Wayne. The St. Henry Community Center opened for business less than two months ago and is already picking up momentum.

The nonprofit community center is the brainchild of Director Elaine Bakle, who grew up in the area as parishioner and student of St. Hyacinth. After researching the demographics, Bakle found a clear sampling of the diverse array of ethnic communities within the area and met with St. Henry pastor Father Dan Durkin and the parish council to “pitch the idea” of a community center. Within months she found herself being handed the keys to the former Benoit Academy building to begin her endeavor.

“Father Dan supported the idea and helped me get started. Now I have to make it work,” says the determined director.

Due to the number of youth centers already in the area, Bakle has chosen to offer a wide variety of services for all ages and cultures. Many programs and activities that she hopes will eventually be offered will be in partnership

with other agencies.

Currently the community center is partnering with the Eagle's Nest Youth Center in hosting a basketball league utilizing the school building gymnasium. The Literacy Alliance offers English classes to the Burmese community at the center two mornings a week as well.

Another beneficial program that will be offered Oct. 1 is the volunteer run “After School Special,” where children will attend three one-hour structured sessions from 3-6 p.m., including homework, arts and movement and physical activity. Parents have the option of paying the standard monthly fee or volunteering seven hours each month to cover the cost of their child's participation.

Bakle hopes to develop future programs with the assistance of area agencies and organizations, such as the Fort Wayne Ballet Company that would host dance classes at the center, East Allen County Schools for English-as-a-second-language classes for adults and area higher education institutions for art, sewing, music, computer and home décor classes for all ages. Sports instruction, counseling and conflict resolution training will also be offered on site as well as emergency food and clothing subsistence.

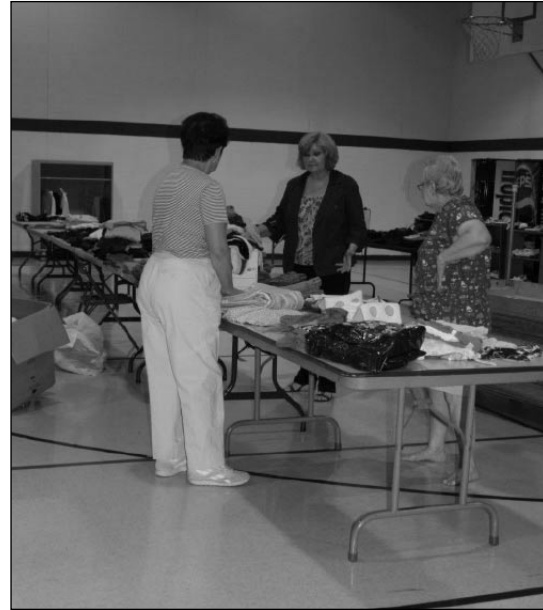
“By offering these things to people in general, they may find part of themselves they have lost,” says Bakle hopefully, adding, “And by sharing themselves with others, they complete themselves.”

Bakle's dream for the center is to provide “social capital,” for the various cultures within the area, which she describes as “getting to know each other and building on relationships.” Strength in the community will allow its members to be more willing and able to assist with meeting each other's needs: a networking within cultures.

“The thing I noticed is the need in this area hits every single ethnic group. They all have needs but are not recognizing each other's culture.”

Bakle hopes to acquire other health and social service organizations and ministries that will rent space in the building to help offset the center's costs. Facility opportunities include classroom and meeting space, gym, playground and an overnight stay facility for retreats and trainings. Private and corporate donations, grant money and fundraisers will also assist in securing the life of the center.

Fund-raising activities that are in the works to subsidize this worthy program have truly been a community effort and began this



KAY COZAD

Elaine Bakle, director of the newly opened St. Henry's Community Center on the southeast side of Fort Wayne, stands between two of the volunteers, Jan Gillig, left and Gloria Gilbert, who assisted with the setup of items for the Sept. 12-13 rummage sale. Proceeds from the sale will help subsidize the center.

month with a rummage sale and barbecue on the grounds of the community center.

“So many donations have come in for the rummage sale, including from Catholic Charities,” says Bakle, adding that the Eagle's Nest Youth Center secured the catering service for the barbecue as well.

During the month of October, Bakle is planning “A Blend of Music” fundraiser, which will offer a variety of culturally diverse live-band music groups along with foods and beverages corresponding to each culture. The Bishop Luers High School Key Club will be serving at the event. And the center hopes to organize a craft sale with cookie walk in November, with December dedicated to the volunteers.

“I hope to have a nice Christmas party for the wonderful volunteers,” says Bakle, as she

sings the praises of the volunteers who have devoted their time and talent to getting the center up and running. According to Bakle, the center's volunteer base first stemmed from St. Henry Parish, but soon volunteers from all over the city began offering their services, “all by word of mouth,” she says. More volunteers are always needed.

Bakle encourages volunteer teachers, coaches and others to share their skills and talents with the center saying, “If you have something to give — not just money — but a special part of yourself, come talk to me and we'll design a program for you.”

For more information about volunteering at or donating to the center, located at 3029 Paulding Rd. contact Elaine Bakle at (260) 447-5121, ext. 124.

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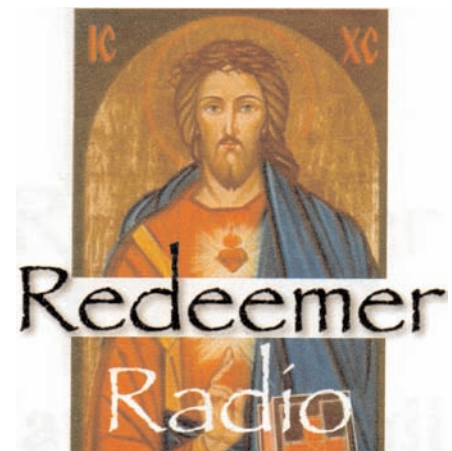
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# Backwards and forwards

BY LINDA FURGE

## Opening prayer

Dear God, in this moment draw me to yourself. Enfold me in your love and infuse me with quiet. Open my mind to your words that I may learn to reflect with wisdom and gratitude and to hope with optimism and joy. Gather me to be with you, confident that you are always close to me, now and forever. Amen.

Scripture: Eph 2: 17-19

## Commentary

Last time in Ginny Kohrman's article, "Counting our summer blessings," she wrote about the events of her summer months. It immediately brought to mind how often, in the first week of school, teachers had us write something about "How I Spent My Summer Vacation." Ah ha! I wondered (as the proverbial light bulb lit up over my head!) if they did this on purpose to help us reluctant students leave our fun-filled summer days behind and focus on the important task of learning for another school year.

## Backwards

My mental train then moved on to another of summer's rituals

— class reunions, both high school and college — and how some who attend seem to have never gotten beyond those long ago years. They seem to be "lost in time," nostalgically wishing, even decades later, that they could return to their "glory days." It's almost like the past holds more for them than the present or future. They constantly relive the past to feel happiness, almost as if the present or the future cannot possibly offer the same — or comparable — joy.

But looking backwards can be a very good thing. As the old saying goes, history that's forgotten is bound to repeat itself. There is much wisdom in that sentence. If we neglect to consider the past and the lessons it offers, we can make the same mistakes again and again. The past offers a unique perspective to judge the effectiveness of our decisions and actions. Serious and honest reflection can be an invaluable guide in making good decisions that positively impact the future. We actually need to look backwards even as we look forward.

## Forwards

Human nature instinctively anticipates the future. We expect that tomorrow, next week, next Christmas will come. And, as Christians, we look beyond our human existence to an eternal life



## Sharing Faith

More Shared Faith literature can be found at [www.diocesefwsb.org/OSD](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/OSD)

with the One who created us. This instinctive anticipation is, for me, one of the most compelling arguments for the existence of God. Looking backwards, reflecting, we see evidence all around us that the things of this life cannot bring complete satisfaction and happiness. We are always anticipating, looking forward to — or for — something more. We believe that the Something that will finally satisfy the "to" is eternity and that which will completely satisfy the "for" is God. "Our hearts are restless until they rest in you, O God," said St. Augustine a very long time ago. His words ring just as true today as they did in the Middle Ages.

In Pope Benedict's latest encyclical, "Spe Salvi," he eloquently writes about our human hopes within the context of this great hope:

"Let us say once again: we need the greater and lesser hopes that keep us going day by day. But these are not enough without the great hope, which must surpass everything else. This great

hope can only be God, who encompasses the whole of reality and who can bestow upon us what we, by ourselves, cannot attain. The fact that it comes to us as a gift is actually part of hope. God is the foundation of hope: not any god, but the God who has a human face and who has loved us to the end, each one of us and humanity in its entirety. His kingdom is not an imaginary hereafter, situated in a future that will never arrive; his kingdom is present wherever he is loved and wherever his love reaches us. His love alone gives us the possibility of soberly persevering day by day, without ceasing to be spurred on by hope, in a world which by its very nature is imperfect. His love is at the same time our guarantee of the existence of what we only vaguely sense and which nevertheless, in our deepest self, we await: a life that is "truly" life. — Spe Salvi #31.

Living in the chaotic world of the 21st century, we should take Pope Benedict's words to heart. We should make an effort to look both backwards and forwards, learning from the past and hoping for the future. We should let these two complementary attitudes, reflection and anticipation, draw us ever closer to the great hope that is Jesus Christ.

## Closing Prayer

May the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, grant you a spirit of wisdom and insight to know him clearly. May he enlighten your innermost vision that you may know the great hope to which he has called you, the wealth of his glorious heritage to be distributed among the members of the church, and the immeasurable scope of his power in us who believe. — Eph 2:17-19.

## BISHOP D'ARCY CONFIRMS YOUNG PEOPLE AT JUBILEE



MARK WEBER

Celebrating the 125th year of its founding, St. Mary of the Presentation, an isolated but vibrant parish in rural Geneva, combined a jubilee Mass with confirmation, a reunion of old friends, parishioners and a full house luncheon. On the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Bishop John M. D'Arcy urged the confirmandi to love, serve and follow Jesus Christ, who gave us the Eucharist from the cross. Those confirmed are, from left, front, Hanna Muhlenkamp, Jennifer Miller and Tiffany Deitsch; second row, Joel Hawbaker, Erik Subler, and Tyler Deitsch. Father Joseph Bosco Perera, OMI, pastor, is shown with Bishop D'Arcy.

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# St. Robert Parish celebrates 50 years

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

NORTH MANCHESTER — St. Robert's Bellarmine Parish in North Manchester has grown from a humble shop building to a strikingly modern church.

But the outward appearance is not necessarily indicative of the faithfulness of the flock.

*Today's Catholic* archives indicate that as far back as 1880s, Mass was celebrated in North Manchester by Father John Bathe in the home of John Ennis.

The parish was founded on Aug. 3, 1958 as a mission of St. Patrick Church, Lagro. Father Raymond Balzer was the pastor. The first site for St. Robert Church was a storefront in downtown North Manchester.

According to a 1965 writeup in *Our Sunday Visitor*, when St. Robert's was established, it was a mission of St. Bernard Parish, Wabash, and the new parish was organized by Father Robert J. Zahn, the Wabash pastor at the time.

At its dedication, April 25, 1965, of the present church, located on the east side of North Manchester on State Road 114, Bishop Leo Pursley said, addressing the parishioners, he had "no better wish for you than to hope that this new church becomes completely inadequate."

Bishop Pursley proceeded to acknowledge North Manchester Catholics for making "so much progress in comparatively little time." Likewise, North Manchester is fitting for a church, Bishop Pursley said, "as it's a center of intellectual and cultural life."

It's no coincidence that St. Robert was chosen as the church's patron saint. He said one of the reasons he was chosen as patron of the new parish in 1958 was that the saint was a prominent scholar and church doctor. The saint is also revered for his "devotion to the church, to the faith and to the Holy See."

Bishop Pursley then preached at a dedication Mass of the new church.

He told the congregation that their new church represents the "presence of God among you," and called it a "dispensation of his grace" and as described in the Mass of Dedication, it is a "a Gate of Heaven."

A dinner followed, attended by parishioners, friends of the parish and local prelates and priest.

## Today and beyond

Today, the parish has grown from a group of eager farmers to a 150-family parish.

St. Robert Church has an active parish council, finance committee,

religious education program, Bible discussion, choir and music opportunities, a youth group for high school students and a bereavement ministry that helps plan funeral dinners. Twice a month, Mass is celebrated at the Peabody Retirement Community.

Father Ronald Ramenaden, pastor, has led the parish since 1997 and "knows everyone by name and face," in his words. The parish,

which has grown slightly over the years, is comprised of teachers and farmers, he said.

The priest said his goal is to "build up good relationships with everyone." In particular he wants to focus on the loyal base of about 30 to 35 Manchester College students. Always focusing on outreach, he said he tries to go out and talk to (the students).

Father Ramenaden said it's a challenge to remain strong in a "non-Catholic environment," as North Manchester's population comes from a Protestant background. Despite the challenges, he said he strives to make the parish more united and welcoming.

"I encourage them to put Christ first," he said.

## Celebration plans

A 10:30 a.m. Mass followed by a luncheon by invitation will be held Sunday, Sept. 21, celebrating the 50th anniversary of the parish.

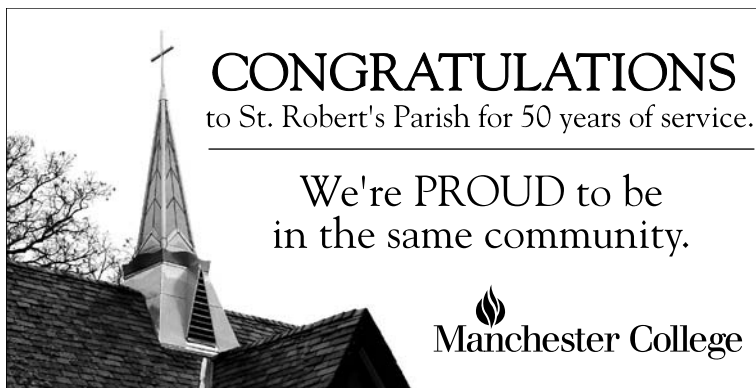


TODAY'S CATHOLIC ARCHIVES

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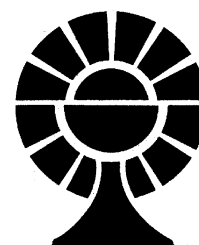
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**TOM AND MARIE HARDY**  
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# THE CHURCH & DISABILITIES

## South Bend schools make strides in helping students with disabilities thrive

BY DIANE FREEBY

**SOUTH BEND** — Despite a climate of belt-tightening, Catholic schools aren't cutting corners when it concerns the needs of special education. Remaining true to the Gospel, some area Catholic schools simply see a need and meet it.

South Bend's Corpus Christi School is one of many schools linked to Saint Joseph's High School, named a Blue Ribbon School just a few years ago. With its high academic standards, Saint Joseph's can appear out of reach to students struggling to get through grade school. But teachers at both Corpus Christi and Saint Joseph's work hard to ensure everyone who wants a Catholic education can receive one.

Preschool teacher Peggy Foldenauer knows it's important for special needs students to feel good about themselves and have a "can-do" attitude.

"Our classroom is part of a family," she explained. "If I have a child who grasps things quickly, I might pair that child up with another child who has special needs. Children often learn better from each other, and at this age they don't notice the differences yet. All they know is we are part of a family."

According to Assistant to the Principal Maggie Mackowiak, Corpus Christi accepts anyone they feel they can help. To her knowledge, nobody has ever been turned away.

"It's our job to find the way the child learns best," said Mackowiak. "If one method doesn't work then we try another. After the teacher tries everything available, we might call in Chris Samuels."

Chris Samuels-Wade has been the resource teacher at Corpus Christi for 20 years. She just returned to her position as a representative on the Council of Teachers. The council conveys educational needs and concerns directly to Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

Samuels is the mother of three grown children who all attended Corpus Christi. In the Challenge Program, she uses creative ways to keep exceptional students motivated, putting together programs like Pioneer Days for the entire school to enjoy. Perhaps most importantly to families of children with special needs, Samuels advocates for children who might not otherwise succeed in school.

"I was in special ed for

speech," explains Samuels, recalling what inspired her to become a special education teacher. "The nuns I had told mom I'd never be able to learn, and she should put me in an institution. Mom put me into a speech class and eventually I caught up. I never forgot what it was like to need special ed, to have kids make fun of the way I talk and nuns who couldn't understand me."

Samuels brings that drive and

seeing anything else."

Nolan is now in Rome, finishing up her studies at the prestigious Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas. Commonly known as the "Angelicum," the university is noted especially for its faculties of canon law, sacred theology and philosophy.

David Parisi suffered from muscular dystrophy. He and his family worked hard to graduate from Saint Joseph's High School



At Corpus Christi School in South Bend, Chris Samuels-Wade has been the resource teacher for 20 years. She just returned to her position as a representative on the Council of Teachers, which conveys educational needs and concerns directly to Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

compassion to the classroom every day. She was one of the first special education teachers hired in the diocese. Within the last five years, she says, most diocesan schools have hired resource teachers.

Samuels helps students with Individual Education Plans (IEP's) reach their potential. Some solutions include reading a test to a student quietly or clarifying the classroom teacher's instructions. Samuels says her goal is to help students become more independent, giving them the tools they need.

Many of "Mrs. Samuels' kids" are success stories. Twenty-three-year-old Mary Nolan says she was bored in grade school and just "bounced around a lot." She met with Samuels a few times a week, and was later diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder. Samuels watched her student make a smooth transition to Saint Joseph's.

"Mrs. Samuels was great," smiles Nolan. "She seemed to understand something that other people didn't. She seemed to approach me as though she were seeing my gifts before she was

and the University of Notre Dame, before the disease sadly claimed his life in 2007.

One Corpus Christi graduate not only overcame the difficulties of cerebral palsy, but was recently hired to help resource teacher Kevin Downey in the special education department at Saint Joseph's. Becky Kinnucan says her grade-school experience motivated her to help others with special needs.

"My second-grade teacher, Mrs. Manley, inspired me to be a teacher," said Kinnucan, who endured grueling physical therapy during her grade school years just to make it through the day. "Now I'm in a high school, and I love it."



Mary Nolan, once taught by Samuels, transitioned into Saint Joseph's High School and is now a student at the prestigious Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas in Rome.



Saint Joseph's High School teachers Kevin Downey and Becky Kinnucan work with students who have special needs.

PHOTOS BY DIANE FREEBY

Downey, who is also Saint Joseph's head football coach, sees progress in the five years he has worked as a resource teacher.

"We try to look at the individual first, not at their disability," he said. "This year we have two students with Asperger's. We never had a student with Asperger's before, so we met with the grade school teachers and their

parents to get a better grasp of how we could help."

Downey works with students battling a wide range of disabilities. All require individual attention, including everything from academic guidance to tailored education plans.

Linda Skwarcan's daughter,

Dorian, is a freshman at Saint Joseph's. Cerebral palsy makes it difficult for Dorian to move as quickly as other students, but thanks to Downey and his support staff, her mom says Dorian is having a great year.

"Mr. Downey has been wonderful," said Linda Skwarcan. "Dorian was able to do a walk-through of the school before orientation. She e-mails him questions and he gets back to her. Dorian is able to have a locker on each floor, and two sets of books so she can keep one set at home and other at school. She is happy and that's what's important."

Skwarcan started at Corpus Christi with Samuels, whose bulletin board sums up the philosophy of many Catholic school special needs teachers. It reads: "first God ... then family."

Samuels stresses the importance of a Catholic education. "Sometimes God's the only one who can make kids feel better. I try to remind them to pray. Ask God to take away all your worries and help you get through the day. Give it up to God!"

# Catechetical resources for persons with disabilities

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Office of Catechesis has a renewed interest in welcoming and assimilating those with disabilities into its faith community and has initiated the Catechetical and Informational Resources for Persons with Disabilities library. The lending library is an assembly of resources for priests, DREs, catechists, teachers and parents who are interested in assisting or learning more about various disabilities.

Areas of interest are Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Anxiety, Asperger Syndrome, Autism, Bipolar Disorder, Depression, Downs Syndrome, Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder, and Sensory Integration Disorder. Resource books on sign language, life and social skill building are also available as the library continues to expand.

The initiative is based on the National Directory for Catechesis and the bishop's statement on disabilities and hopes to empower parishes to include members with disabilities into the faith community. Resources may be checked out for three weeks at a time.

Additionally, the Logan Center in South Bend is partnering with the diocese to answer any questions on disabilities that are posed.

For information in Fort Wayne, contact Janice Martin at (260) 399-1411 or e-mail [jmartin@fw.diocesefwsb.org](mailto:jmartin@fw.diocesefwsb.org). In South Bend contact Meggan Young at (574) 259-9994 or e-mail [myoung@fw.diocesefwsb.org](mailto:myoung@fw.diocesefwsb.org), or visit the diocesan Web site at [www.diocesefwsb.org/OC](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/OC).

Resources available are:

## • Religious education

The Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Program to Improve Catholic Religious Education for Children and Adults with Intellectual Disabilities developed by the Diocese of Pittsburgh, Department for Persons with Disabilities funded by a grant from the Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation offers a comprehensive curriculum with lesson plans for special needs children and adults. For use in a parish, family, institution or group home setting and is available in English and Spanish.

## • ADD/ADHD

"The ADD & ADHD Answer Book," by Susan Ashley, PhD

Offers practical answers to questions that parents of children with ADD or ADHD have, including checklists and questionnaires to assist with doctor appointments and evaluations.

"ADHD: A Complete and Authoritative Guide," by Michael I. Reiff, M.D., FAAP, editor-in-chief with Sherill Tippins

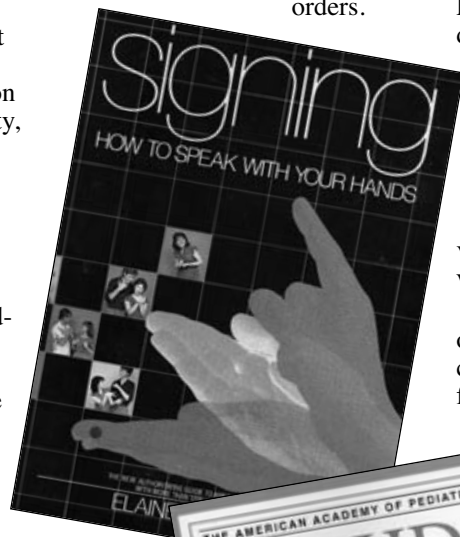
An authoritative guide for parents offered by the American Academy of Pediatrics that answers most often asked questions on children's mental health care.

"Problem Solver Guide for Students with ADHD," by Harvey C. Parker, PhD.

A "quick reference" for parents and teachers seeking insights into guiding children with ADD.

"Teaching Young Children with ADHD," by Richard A. Lougy, Silvia L. DeRuvo and David Rosenthal, M.D.

Provides general educators with an understanding of ADHD that includes clarifying inclusive classroom strategies to work with children with attention disorders.



"The ADHD

Handbook for Schools: Effective Strategies for Identifying and Teaching Students with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder," by Harvey C. Parker, PhD.

An "everything at your fingertips" resource for teacher or parent assisting a child with ADHD.

"ADHD in the young child: A Guide for Parents and Teachers of Young Children with ADHD," by Cathy Reimers, PhD. and Bruce A. Brunger

A practical solutions guide to common problems associated with ADHD. The appendix offers reproducible black line masters to use in a variety of situations.

"The ADHD Workbook for Parents: A Guide for Parents of Children Ages 2-12 with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder," by Harvey C. Parker, PhD.

A guide to assist parents in understanding the "at home" struggles faced when raising a child with ADHD, while also being their child's advocate for medical treatments and at school.

"Teenagers with ADD and ADHD: A Guide for Parents and Professionals," by Chris A. Zeigler Dendy, M.S.

A resource for parents in understanding diagnosis and treatment options for teens with ADD or ADHD.

"How to Reach and Teach Children with ADD/ADHD: Practical Techniques, Strategies, and Interventions," by Sandra F. Rief

A resource for parents and teachers offering practical strate-

gies and suggestions to improve behavior, social performance and academic performance in children with ADD/ADHD.

"The ADHD Book of Lists: A Practical Guide for Helping Children and Teens with Attention Deficit Disorders," by Sandra F. Rief

Offers supports, interventions and strategies to guide children and teens with ADD/ADHD. Reproducible checklists, calendars and forms included.

## • Anxiety

"Helping Your Anxious Child: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents," by Ronald M. Rapee, PhD., Susan H. Spence, PhD., Vanessa Cobham, PhD., and Ann Wignall, M. Psych.

A practical guide for parents on how to teach their anxious child to cope with anxiety and fears.

## Asperger syndrome

"Asperger Syndrome & Your Child: Unlocking Your Child's Potential," by Michael D. Powers, PsyD., with Janet Poland

Offers comprehensive answers to the most common questions parents have about Asperger syndrome and includes stories of children who speak on their own condition.



## • Autism

"1001 Great Ideas for Teaching and Raising Children with Autism Spectrum Disorders," by Ellen Notbohm and Veronica Zysk

A solution book for communication, social, sensory, behavioral and self-care issues within the autism spectrum.

"Ten Things Every Child With Autism Wishes You Knew," by Ellen Notbohm

Defines the "Top Ten" characteristics of the hearts and minds of children with autism.

"Autism and Your Church: Nurturing the Spiritual Growth of People with Autism Spectrum Disorders," by Barbara J. Newman

Practical guide for welcoming and including parishioners with ASD into the full life of the parish, including action plans and reproducible resources.

## • Bipolar disorder

"New Hope for Children and Teens with Bipolar Disorder," by Boris Birmaher, M.D.

Offers the latest information on causes of bipolar disorder and ways to assist children and teens live full lives.

## • Depression

"Helping Your Depressed Child: A Step-by-Step Guide for Parents," by Martha Underwood Barnard, PhD.

A practical guide for understanding and seeking treatment for a depressed child.

## • Down syndrome

"My Friend Isabelle," by Eliza Woloson, illustrated by Bryan Gough

A resource for introducing and encouraging young children to talk about differences in people and includes a teacher's guide for classroom activities that foster acceptance of differences.

"We'll Paint the Octopus Red," by Stephanie Stuve-Bodeen, illustrated by Pam DeVito

A reassuring story for both parents and young children on what Down syndrome means for their relationship with their child or sibling.

"Teaching Reading to Children with Down Syndrome: A Guide for Parents and Teachers," by Patricia Logan Oelwein

A guide for parents and teachers to teach reading to their children with Down syndrome. The appendix offers reproducible pictures, flashcards, games, charts and word lists.

"Teaching Math to People with Down Syndrome and Other Hands-On Learners: Book 1 - Basic Survival Skills," by DeAnna Horstmeier, PhD.

Applies practical strategies for basic, introductory math skills, with an appendix offering reproducible worksheets.

"Classroom Language Skills for Children with Down Syndrome: A Guide for Parents and Teachers," by Libby Kumin, PhD., CCC-SPL

A resource of specific strategies for adapting the language demands of schoolwork, with an appendix offering samples of reproducible worksheets, checklists, graphic organizers, visual prompts and an IEP planner.

"Gross Motor Skills in Children with Down Syndrome: A Guide for Parents and Professionals," by Patricia A. Winders, P.T.

A resource on gross motor development, including activities with milestone checklist that encourage gross motor activities to be used with infants and children through age 6.

"Fine Motor Skills for Children with Down Syndrome: A Guide for Parents and Professionals," by Maryanne Bruni, BScOT (Reg)

A resource on fine motor development including activities for learning new skills.

## • Obsessive-compulsive disorder

"Talking Back to OCD," by John S. March, M.D. with Christine M. Benton

Offers children and youth a way in which they can begin working toward a life that is not controlled by their obsessive-compulsive disorder.

## Sensory integration disorder

"The Out-of-Sync Child:

Recognizing and Coping with Sensory Processing Disorder," by Carol Stock Kranowitz, M.A.

Offers insights into a common, but frequently misdiagnosed, problem in which the central nervous system misinterprets messages sent from the senses.

"Raising a Sensory Smart Child," by Lindsey Biel, M.A., OTR/L and Nancy Peske

A resource offering parents suggestions, resources and checklists for observing and analyzing a child's behavior.

"The Everything Parent's Guide to Sensory Integration Disorder," by Terri Mauro

A "one-stop" guide for parents to assist their child in life.

"The Out-of-Sync Child has Fun" by Carol Stock Kranowitz, M.A.

Offers 100 plus ideas for playful activities for children with sensory integration disorder.

## • Sign language

"Signing: How to Speak with Your Hands," by Elaine Costello

Offers 1,200 American Sign Language signs and their descriptions.

## • Disabilities resources

"Helping Kids Include Kids with Disabilities," by Barbara J. Newman

Offers assistance on teaching children to reach out to their peers with disabilities, as well as how to help welcome the child with disabilities into a classroom.

"Complete Learning Disabilities Handbook," by Joan M. Harwell

A resource for those involved in special education.

"Life Skills Activities for Secondary Students with Special Needs," by Darlene Mannix

A resource with practical lessons including reproducible worksheets to help guide the disabled child into the context of real-life situations.

"Social Skills Activities for Secondary Students with Special Needs," by Darlene Mannix

Offers social skills building ideas for those working with special needs grades 6-12.

"It's So Much Work to Be Your Friend: Helping the Child with Learning Disabilities Find Social Success," by Richard Lavoie

For caregivers of children ages 6-17, to guide them through almost any social situation.

"You will Dream New Dreams: Inspiring Personal Stories by Parents of Children with Disabilities," by Stanley D. Klein, PhD., and Kim Schive

An inspiring collection of writings from parents of children with disabilities.

"Treating Youth with DSM-IV Disorders: The Role of Social Skill Instruction," by Michael Sterna, M.H.D. and Tom Dowd, M.A.

An evaluation tool to assist caregivers, doctors and teachers understand the various disorders commonly diagnosed in youth.

# Two men with post-polio syndrome; two different paths of ministry

BY DEB WAGNER

FORT WAYNE — According to the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, Post-polio syndrome (PPS) is a condition that affects people who survived polio years after recovery from an initial acute attack of the poliomyelitis virus. PPS is mainly characterized by new weakening in muscles that were previously affected by the polio infection and in muscles that seemingly were unaffected. Symptoms include progressive muscle weakness, joint stiffness, lack of stamina and perhaps muscle atrophy.

## Gary Johnson

Fatigue does not slow Gary Johnson, who has worked for Wabash Technologies, Inc. in Huntington for 15 years and is now manager of advanced development. He is also the manager over the engineering laboratories where he is responsible for developing new technologies that can be incorporated into products, manages the intellectual property assets and holds 11 of those



DEB WAGNER

Fran and Gary Johnson from Ss. Peter and Paul Parish in Huntington have helped with various activities associated with the annual church festival.

Paul Parish in Huntington for the past five or six years. They plan to continue this service as long as they continue to receive the phone call asking for their help.

## Bob O'Dell

Bob O'Dell, a retired GTE network planner became a volunteer at Redeemer Radio a few months ago where he edits tapes. A once fallen-away Catholic, O'Dell says, "My life has been when times are tough, I went to church; but when it's not, I don't."

While hoping his relationship with the Catholic Church lasts longer than in previous years, he admits that he is involved with the church now because he is alone and lonely after his divorce several years ago.

To deal with these feelings, O'Dell has also joined the charismatic men's group Rekindle the Fire, begun the process of becoming a member of the Knights of Columbus chapter at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne, and wants to attend the next Christ Renews His Parish weekend there.

patents himself, as well as being responsible for the engineering laboratory, which builds prototype parts and performs all product qualification testing.

Brady, a 5-year-old black Labrador Retriever, often accompanies him to work and lies in his cubicle until asked to pick up something or assist in the movement of his manual wheelchair. Brady is very much accepted by the employees.

Johnson said, "The one day I did not take him to work because he was sick, everybody asked about him."

"Parishioners have been very supportive (of Brady). Brady's been no problem whatsoever. She was blessed at the feast of St. Blaise and she is often blessed at Communion time."

Gary Johnson and his wife, Fran, have been helping with the annual fall festival at Ss. Peter and

## Serving the church

Gary and Fran have been parishioners at Ss. Peter and Paul Parish for nearly 15 years. Their two oldest children went to school there through eighth grade and their youngest child through the fourth grade.

The invitation to volunteer at the fall festival began when Fran worked at the public elementary school when they first moved to Huntington and a paraprofessional at the school asked for their assistance.

Since that time, Fran and Gary have helped with various activities associated with the festival. "One year they had wine tasting (for the adults) and I poured the wine," says Gary. Cooking the 30 pans of lasagna for the dinners is the Johnsons' all-time favorite.

Both Gary Johnson and Bob O'Dell give credit to their parents for molding them to chase their dreams and try new things in order to expand their horizons.

# Accommodation allows Deb Wagner to be active in ministry

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Deb Wagner has never been one unwilling to accept a challenge. Born with cerebral palsy and using a wheelchair or crutches at the time, Wagner attended Sacred Heart, St. Henry schools and Bishop Luers High School. And she has a great love for her Catholic faith.

"I had a good support system," Wagner says of her childhood, "parents that practiced their Catholic faith and showed me, through example, how to be involved in a parish community." Both her mother and father were among the first lay eucharistic ministers in their parish. Her mother proclaimed, and her parents were involved in Holy Name and Rosary Sodality.

And Wagner also feels that need to be involved in ministry in many ways with the church. At Bishop Luers, at the age of 16, she became a eucharistic minister. That ministry continued through college at Ball State University and even today.

Participation in a ministry, "depends on the pastor or the people in charge of a particular (ministry) as to what things I am able to do, or permitted to do, and what things I have to forego," Wagner

says. "Sometimes I choose a parish community based on the willingness of a pastor and the staff at that time to allow me to do things."

Today, she is a eucharistic minister at Most Precious Blood Church in Fort Wayne, where she can distribute both body and blood of Christ and also ministers as a proclaimer there.

One may also see Wagner taking assignments as a freelance writer and photographer for *Today's Catholic*.

"I think the church in different areas is growing with acceptance of people with disabilities," Wagner says. It depends on the parish and the people who make up a particular parish.

In general, "... I think (the church is) grow-

ing at rate much slower than society in their acceptance of people with disabilities and their acknowledgment of what they are capable of doing," Wagner says. "So I would say (the church is) probably a decade or two behind society's understanding of what a person with a certain disability can do."

Based on her own experiences, "usually I have to beg and plead to be a lector or be a eucharistic minister," she says. And once she convinces a pastor that she can do it, it will often take a few months to get scheduled.

The changes may be a simple

**"I think the church in different areas is growing with acceptance of people with disabilities."**

DEB WAGNER



TIM JOHNSON

Deb Wagner, who is a contributing freelance writer for *Today's Catholic*, a eucharistic minister and proclaimer at Most Precious Blood Church in Fort Wayne, is shown with her working service dog Scarlet at a recent visit to the newspaper office.

accommodation: "when I lector, most of the ambos are a few steps from the main level. I lector from the floor," Wagner says.

At another parish, Wagner was recognized by the children as "the voice from church" because

they could hear her, but they couldn't see her. "And they had to pay attention more because they had to listen and not just look," Wagner was often told by parents.

"So there are some benefits of

changes that have to be made for me to be a minister of anything," she says.

"I think there is a reluctance to change, and I think that it is fear," Wagner says. A lot of the ordained, "just haven't had the exposure that lay people have had with people with disabilities. They are used to caring for them more than seeing them as an equal capable of giving."

"But I do think that we are improving because, as the younger people — who have been exposed to people with disabilities through school — see what we are capable of doing, they are a lot more willing to allow us to try new things."

With assistance from a working service dog named Scarlet, Wagner is greatly assisted with mobility difficulties. Service dogs such as Scarlet "help people with physical disabilities accomplish things that either they cannot do on their own or, by having an assistance dog do the task for you, you are conserving your energy so you use that for another task," Wagner says.

She is working with Scarlet to become certified as a therapy dog that could visit nursing facilities and hospitals. "So she will be giving back to the community that way," Wagner adds.

Scarlet was trained as a service dog by prisoners in the Toledo Correctional Institute. Wagner and Scarlet recently visited prisoners at the Westfield correctional facility in northwest Indiana. They were part of the Catholic contingency of the Christmas Behind Bars team that visits prisoners and provides cookies, candy, etc., to inmates.

Read the prison story in next week's issue.

## EDITORIAL

## Room for all at his table

As Catholics we all are called to worship and serve at Christ's table. In his offering of self at the altar we find not only salvation but community as well. Jesus calls the rich and destitute, the young and the old, the healthy and the disabled — all are welcome there.

However in our fast-paced, over-scheduled culture, taking time to get to know others within our church community, especially those with differences, is sometimes complicated. Many times those with disabilities are completely overlooked. But with the integration initiative in our country, we, as moral Christians, are called to reach out to those who by the very nature of their disability may feel isolated or unloved.

We can take our initiative from Jesus, who is the ultimate model for integration. He lovingly broke bread with sinners, mingled with the lepers and welcomed the little children.

Typically, those with disabilities who wish to participate and serve within the church have been met with extraordinary challenges. Structural limitations hamper those in need of wheelchair access while those with special intellectual needs get lost in the shuffle. In this diocese there are efforts quietly being undertaken to assist these Catholics in meeting their faith development and service needs.

One group at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, called Room at the Table, invites all those who are disabled or support those challenged with disabilities to gather each month to discuss and initiate positive ways the church can meet a standard of integration for this special population.

As loving acceptance of all persons is the goal of integration it is imperative, but many times difficult, to offer appropriate activities and opportunities for groups of varied levels of ability. One dynamic religious education program for students with disabilities called The Amazing Apostles offered at Our Lady of Good Hope Parish, Fort Wayne, is addressing the catechetical needs of some special students there, including meeting with the regular religious education classes periodically to add the all important element of community to their education. The inspiring class exists only by the extraordinary efforts of some devoted moms.

## Time to retreat

Another opportunity for special catechesis is a bi-annual retreat for the disabled, offered by the diocesan Office of Catechesis, where young adult and adult disabled Catholics come together for a day of fellowship and worship.

There is even a newly forming support group for moms of special needs children in the St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, and St. Pius X, Granger, area.

These are just a few of the initiatives Catholics in the diocese are implementing to gather all people to his table. But so much has yet to be done.

As Christians, we believe that we were created in God's image and for a special purpose. As in the stories featured in this issue of *Today's Catholic*, it is evident there is a place for each one of us in the Catholic community. Men, woman and children with physical limitations as well as intellectual challenges are serving as volunteers at festivals, at the altar as acolytes, in choirs, as well as participating in Bible studies, retreats and organizations like Knights of Columbus. Their deep faith and steadfast service enriches our faith communities.

The need for integration is ageless and the desire to belong and participate constant. There should be no limit to opportunities for all levels of ability to participate fully in worship, fellowship and service within our church. But it takes caring hearts, creative minds, time and hard work to initiate and advocate for those less fortunate. We must take up the challenge to accept and welcome all levels of ability into our faith community.

If we, as Catholic community, can take on the heart and mind of Jesus there will truly always be room for all at his table.

**Today's Catholic editorial board** consists of Ann Carey, Don Clemmer, Fred and Lisa Everett, 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

## Article lends air of legitimacy

The editorial page of the Sept. 7 issue of *Today's Catholic* contains the following: "... (Sen. Joe Biden's) voting record does not reflect consistency with the church's teachings on abortion, in that he supports keeping it legal and its federal funding.

As Sen. Biden and his bishop continue their dialogue on this issue, ..."

At Mass this weekend (Sept. 7), the first reading is Ez 33: 7-9. The Gospel reading is Mt 18:15-20.

They both have to do with admonishing people who need correcting. In all charity and love and humility, I dare to suggest the following thought.

When confronting serious digressions from the teachings of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, would the first bishops, St. Matthew, St. Mark, St. Luke, St. John, etc., have chosen to "dialogue" with the person in need?

As long as pro-abortion Catholics perceive no serious threat to their souls, they will simply choose the status quo and will continue the "dialogue" indefinitely. Meanwhile, what about all the scandal and serious spiritual damage to

the souls of countless members of the flock?

Then, on page 4 of the same issue of *Today's Catholic*, there's a lengthy article about Barack Obama — "Obama invokes American spirit, echoes 'Faithful Citizenship' themes" — complete with wonderful family photo. I would expect a puff piece like this in any of our many liberal, politically correct newspapers, but I was deeply dismayed to see it in our *Today's Catholic*. What a waste of valuable space, lending an air of legitimacy to somebody who is so deeply, publicly, and profoundly anti-life.

**Anthony J. Stein**  
South Bend

## Politics and abortion: What's the choice?

*Responding to editors' requests for a regular sampling of current commentary from around the Catholic press, here is an editorial titled "Politics and abortion: What's the choice?" It appeared in the Sept. 4 issue of The Catholic Messenger, newspaper of the Diocese of Davenport, Iowa. It was written by Frank Wessling, the paper's retired news editor.*

Very smart politicians have their weaknesses, just like the rest of us. They tend to be vulnerable where they've been compromised by the need for money and for 51 percent approval in the electorate. How do we recognize such weakness? We wonder about certain things.

For example, we don't necessarily know how Barack Obama and John McCain would answer a question about abortion if they were in a secure room with one other person and a guarantee that what they said would never become public. All we know is what they say and do in their public personas as political officeholders — and now as candidates for the presidency.

When asked in a recent public forum about abortion, both men, both smart and experienced men, performed predictably. Both also left unanswered questions when that issue was brought up by the Rev. Rick Warren during his Aug. 17 televised joint interview. Why did Obama sound as if he was not prepared? Why was McCain not called on his inconsistency?

Obama did not seem ready for Warren's question on when human rights begin. He replied with evasions about "whether you're looking at it from a theological perspective or a scientific perspective," and pleaded ignorance because the answer would be "above my pay grade."

It's more than odd that Obama punted that question so badly. He certainly has had to think about it

and cope with it more than once. As someone looking for success in the Democratic Party, he surely knows how tender and sensitive the issue of abortion is for many people when they consider voting for Democrats. The party hooked its fortunes to the abortion "choice" position decades ago. Every Democrat since has had to walk the minefield between an activist pro-choice wing in the party — along with its money — and the wavering Catholic vote that once favored Democrats for their social consciousness but now feels homeless.

Perhaps Obama was groping for a fresh way to avoid a direct answer on the question of when human life begins. It's a hard one to answer honestly when you have a militant constituency on your back insisting on a pregnant woman's "choice" to kill a "fetus." If you say, yes, human life is surely present when human sperm and ovum are joined, and that life should be considered in the orbit of human rights, then it's very hard to explain why that life does not deserve full protection in our law. The easier way is to fudge and fuzz and declare the answer unknowable.

McCain spoke up with an orthodox "at the moment of conception." But while he talks the right talk on the issue, he falls off the walk when it comes to action. McCain is on record as favoring embryonic stem-cell research, which requires the sacrifice of lives far beyond the "moment of conception."

The reality is that politics and the law cannot resolve our society's ambivalence over abortion. Politics and law operate with the language of individual rights and opportunity, with emphasis on the individual. The unborn person simply does not have enough presence to command a hearing on those terms. This becomes apparent when considering how the libertar-

ian wing of the Republican Party views abortion: Government and laws are not the answer to anything. They believe in maximum liberty for the individual — the born individual, that is; the one with the power.

Obama has at least arranged — or allowed, as these things are done — a party platform plank on abortion that also supports more assistance for pregnant women through prenatal and postnatal care, income support programs for those who need the help, and access to adoption services.

But neither of our major political parties is centered on a fundamental pro-life stance. One is compromised by an individualistic philosophy that neglects distributive justice. The other takes an absolutist, extreme position for "choice" that makes unborn life invisible. Conscientious voters won't feel comfortable in either camp, although many individual candidates offer better value than the standard for either party.

The politics of this country will not allow an end to abortion, or even significant limitation.

Wishing so will not change that well-documented reality. The Republican Party has had years of opportunity to actually move in that direction with nothing to show for it. The Democratic Party wears blinders. Even if the unlikely occurred, and *Roe v. Wade* were overturned by a future Supreme Court, legalized abortion would still be demanded by a majority of Americans. Political battling would spread among the states while few, if any, lives would be saved.

Neither party deserves our trust as a true pro-life carrier of values. Our judgment about voting comes down to whether we prefer tolerating the status quo on abortion in favor of more attention to distributive justice, or risk a decline in equality across this society for the chance of change on abortion.

# St. Paul alive: Scholars tell how his Christian teaching applies now

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — By proclaiming a year dedicated to St. Paul, Pope Benedict XVI has brought attention to a figure who often has been off the church's radar.

One noted U.S. Scripture scholar said most priests think preaching the Gospel means focusing on Jesus' biography as recounted by Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

This has meant St. Paul's letters usually got "lip service" by most preachers and scholars, Father Raymond F. Collins told Catholic News Service.

Compounding the problem was that Martin Luther, the 16th-century leader of the Protestant Reformation, drew heavily upon St. Paul's letters to the Romans and Galatians. This led many Catholics to feel Scripture was "Protestant" and St. Paul's letters were "dangerous," said Father Collins.

As a result, the apostle's teachings "didn't really enter into our Catholic thinking," although in recent years the apostle's letters have been getting more attention from Catholic scholars and theo-

logians, he said.

Father Collins, a New Testament scholar retired from The Catholic University of America in Washington, was one of 30 international experts who attended a weeklong Pauline symposium at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in early September.

The St. Paul's Colloquium is an ecumenical initiative sponsored by the basilica's Benedictine community. Participants have been meeting every two years since 1968.

U.S. Lutheran and New Testament scholar Karl Donfried, a symposium participant, told CNS that the saint's life and teachings are timely examples of dealing with a secularized world and healing a divided Christianity.

He said there is "a remarkable parallel" between the multicultural, secularized societies of today and the complex, pagan world of St. Paul.

Despite enormous challenges, St. Paul was "always proclaiming the Gospel — the good news of what God has done for us in Jesus Christ — in a very specific situation that is always complex, con-

## THE VATICAN LETTER

CAROL GLATZ

troverted and difficult," said the retired professor of religion at Smith College in Northampton, Mass.

Father Collins said St. Paul was "a pathfinder," showing today's disciples that they need to find new ways to translate the Gospel message into different cultures and generational divides.

The Pauline year also is meant to focus on the saint's call for Christian unity, and Father Collins and Donfried said St. Paul plays a significant role in fostering ecumenism.

Christian unity was a problem

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# The unlimited mercy of God



## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt 20:20:1-16a

The last section of the Book of Isaiah provides this weekend with its first reading. Virtually none of the prophets of ancient Israel wrote when times were good, or at least when the prophets perceived the times to be good.

Certainly, the author of the section of the Book of Isaiah from which this weekend's reading comes hardly regarded the times to be good.

There was an added dimension to the story of the unhappy plight then being endured by God's people. They had returned from Babylon, where they and their ancestors had been in exile for four generations. They had greeted the news that their exile was over with great rejoicing, convinced that God had provided for them and had rescued them. Eagerly, and with great expectation, they had returned to their homeland.

When they returned, they found only want and despair. It is easy to imagine their anger. They were furious with God, and this prophet had to call them back to trusting God.

In this reading, Third Isaiah warns the people not to put their trust in scoundrels. Instead, the prophet tells the people to call

upon God. In God alone is true strength, regardless of fleeting appearances to the contrary.

For this weekend's second reading, the church offers us a passage from the Epistle to the Philippians.

The Apostle Paul, in this Epistle's soaring language, proclaims the divinity of Christ, the savior, the son of God. Paul continues to explain the intimate, inseparable link between the Lord and true disciples.

Come what may on earth, a disciple will never die, if the disciple is constant in loving God and following Christ in obedience to God.

St. Matthew's Gospel provides the last reading, a parable. This parable is set within the context of everyday life in Palestine at the time of Jesus. Agriculture was the pursuit of most. Life was hard. Many did not know where to find their next meal. Gainful employment was at a premium. A dinarius was a typical day's wage.

Men looking for work, and income, came to village centers each morning, making themselves available for work. Persons with projects came to these places and hired the men.

It was a buyer's market. No labor statutes or requirements for any minimum wage restrained employers in their pursuit of profit. Still, at least for Jews, certain expectations of fairness prevailed.

Jesus used the term "vineyard." It immediately brought to mind Old Testament references to Israel as God's vineyard. So, the story from the beginning had a theological and ethnic quality. God owned and cared for the vineyard. He set the rules. But, God hires the men. He therefore provides them with survival itself.

Two powerful lessons emerge. The first is that God is enormously generous. The second is that God's

ways are not necessarily our ways.

## Reflection

For some weeks, the church, through these weekend readings, has been calling us to follow Christ. Wisely, in this process, the church recognizes that some of us hesitate not because we do not want to be with the Lord, but because we bear the burden of guilt or doubt. We think that our self-created distance from God is too great to bridge.

Emphatically, in these readings, the church reassures us of the unlimited mercy of God. God is the source of life. He lavishly offers it to us.

Whatever our sin, if we repent, even at a late hour, God's loving forgiveness awaits us.

However, we must choose to be with God, to be disciples. No one is dragged, kicking and screaming, into heaven. Discipleship requires faith. Paul's words call us to faith with the reminder that without God all is folly, all is impermanent, and all is death. God alone offers life.

## READINGS

**Sunday:** Is 55:6-9 Ps 145:2-3,8-9,17-18 Phil 1:20c-24,27a Mt 20:1-16a

**Monday:** Prv 3:27-34 Ps 152-4b,5 Lk 8:16-18

**Tuesday:** Prv 21:1-6, 10-13 Ps 119:1, 27, 30, 34-35, 44 Lk 8:19-21

**Wednesday:** Prv 30:5-9 Ps 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163 Lk 9:1-6

**Thursday:** Eccl 1:2-11 Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17bc Lk 9:7-9

**Friday:** Eccl 3:1-11 Ps 144:1b,2abc,3-4 Lk 9:18-22

**Saturday:** Eccl 11:9-12:8 Ps 90:3-6, 12-14, 17 Lk 9:43b-45

## CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplison

September is the only month to start with S. This quiz assesses the letter S in Scripture and sacraments and other church related terms.

### 1. Scruples refer to

- a. worries that one has sinned when one has not.
- b. a small piece of cloth worn by some Catholics.
- c. small pancakes, usually maple, served to welcome new parishioners.

### 2. Secularism is

- a. the type of religion one gets when one parts from the Catholic Church.
- b. the notion of historical cycles (seculorum).
- c. a view that religion should be excluded from society.

### 3. The Scala Sancta, the steps Jesus ascended for trial, were in Jerusalem but are now in

- a. Palestinian controlled territory.
- b. Rome.
- c. London, in the British Museum with other purloined items.

### 4. This type of work is forbidden on Sundays, except as necessary for family or society:

- a. servile work
- b. service at a church
- c. selling or buying

### 5. This object is thought by many to have covered the body of Jesus:

- a. sacramental cloth
- b. the Shroud of Turin
- c. the Sewn Garment

### 6. Shrove Tuesday (Mardi Gras) derives its name from "shrive" meaning

- a. to give absolution.
- b. to condemn for sin.
- c. to cook up pancakes.

### 7. The term sanctuary refers to a part of a church, but also this concept:

- a. the special privilege the clergy get in Catholic countries
- b. the inviolability of churches when used as refuge
- c. the area in Notre Dame where the bells are rung

### 8. The Great Schism divides these churches:

- a. The Catholic and the Protestant.
- b. The Roman Catholic and the Eastern Catholic.
- c. The Catholic and the Orthodox churches.

### 9. Sabbatarianism was a 17th and 18th century movement based on enforcing Old Testament laws concerning Sunday observance. Its logical flaw was

- a. it could only apply to areas under the influence of Calvinism.
- b. it was not able to determine which day was which.
- c. the Old Testament rules applied to Saturday, the Jewish Sabbath.

### 10. Simony is the forbidden practice of buying or selling spiritual things. Its name is derived from

- a. Simon Templar, the first Templar Knight who bought the stables in the Holy Sepulcher.
- b. Simon Magus, a magician who attempted to buy spiritual power from the apostles.
- c. Simon Peter, who paid Jesus 30 pieces of silver for leadership in the church.

### 11. A spoon is used in this liturgy:

- a. The Byzantine liturgy (for dispensing the Eucharist)
- b. The rite of leavening bread used in Celtic countries
- c. The Tridentine version of benediction

### 12. Eastern rites make use of a Stephanos, for example at a wedding. What is it?

- a. An icon of Steven, the first Russian martyr
- b. A ritual crown
- c. A rope of golden thread used to symbolically bind the newly married couple

### 13. These soldiers guard the Vatican and the pope

- a. Service Armata del Papa
- b. Swiss Guards
- c. Sancta Soldati

### 14. The Synoptic Gospel are all but this one:

- a. Matthew's Gospel
- b. Luke's Gospel
- c. John's Gospel

### 15. A Seraph (plural Seraphim) is a type of

- a. angel
- b. serpent
- c. dome

### ANSWERS:

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

# Mary is assumed to speak throughout Scriptures

**Besides finding Jesus in the temple and the wedding at Cana, were there any other times when the Blessed Virgin Mary spoke?, R.M., South Bend**

Mary spoke at the Annunciation in Nazareth when the angel Gabriel told her she would bear Jesus. Mary responded: "How can this be since I do not know man." The angel replied this conception will happen through the power of the Holy Spirit. Mary responded: "I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say."

Mary also spoke at the Visitation in Ain Karim outside of Jerusalem when she visited her kinswoman Elizabeth. Elizabeth told Mary she was blest among women because of her approaching birth.

Mary then responded with the canticle called the Magnificat: "My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit finds joy in God my savior."

Mary appears elsewhere in the Gospels. Although she might not be quoted in exact words, we presume she said something. Thus, at the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem, Mary would have spoken to St. Joseph and the midwives. When the shepherds and the Magi visited Mary, she would have spoken with them. At the circumcision of Jesus, Mary would have spoken to St. Joseph and her relatives. At the Presentation of Jesus in the temple in Jerusalem, Mary would have spoken to St. Joseph, Simeon and Anna.

During the flight into Egypt and the stay there Mary would be speaking. During the hidden years of Jesus, from age 12-30, Mary would have spoken to Jesus and St. Joseph and the women at the well in Nazareth and Mary probably visited her mother St. Anne.

During the public life of Christ, we see Mary leaving the

## THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

wedding feast at Cana and going with Jesus at Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee where she could have spoken with Jesus' disciples and even St. Peter's mother-in-law. We also see Mary and the relatives of Jesus trying to get Jesus' attention among the crowds so they could speak with him.

The Way of the Cross devotion shows Jesus meeting Mary while carrying the cross. Here Mary could have spoken to Jesus. Although this episode is not mentioned in the Bible, it makes sense because the Gospel of John

does place Mary at the foot of the cross. Mary would be speaking to St. John the Apostle and the other women at the cross.

Father J. Delaney says it is believed that Mary was present at the resurrection and ascension of Jesus, but this is not in the Bible. We do, however, see Mary pres-

ent in the upper room in Jerusalem at Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon the apostles.

**Father Richard Hire**, pastor of St. Martin de Porres Parish, Syracuse, answered this week's question.

# How 'alt.' lost the kingdom — and why it matters

Back in the day, before the parish repertoire was expanded to accommodate the hymn sandwich (the "opening hymn" and "closing hymn"), the "offertory hymn," and the almost-never-sung-by-parishioners "Communion hymn," Catholics in the U.S. didn't know a lot of hymns. Everyone knew "Holy God, We Praise Thy Name": disfigured by those baroque trills ("In-fih-ih-neh-ett thy vast do-oh-main") that aren't in the score, but the American Catholic fight song, nonetheless. Then there were the Marian standards, of which the treacly confessions ("Bring Flowers of the Fairest, Bring Flowers of the Rarest") were more prevalent than the noble classics ("O Sanctissima").

And there was "Lord, Who at Thy First Eucharist," which I may have learned for my first holy Communion in 1958, but which was certainly a standard long before then. In an era of theologically thin hymn-texts, it was a eucharistic hymn chock-full of theology. It centered the church's identity and unity in the Eucharist. It reminded Catholics of the ecumenical imperative. It closed with an image of the supper of the Lamb, in the kingdom where the redeemed live in the unity of trinitarian light and love.

It's a fine hymn. And it's now been wrecked by that great wreckovator, "alt." You say you've never heard of "alt."? Go to the bottom of any page in the hymn section of your worship aide, and there you will find the ubiquitous "alt.," a protean character who seems to have rewritten virtually the entire repertoire. "Alt." did a particularly egregious job on "Lord, Who at Thy First Eucharist."

Here's the original last verse: So, Lord, at length when sacraments shall cease

May we be one with all Thy Church above,

One with Thy saints in one unbroken peace,

One with Thy saints in one unbounded love;

More blessed still, in peace and love to be

One with the Trinity in unity.

"Alt.," who breaks out into hives whenever he encounters "Thy," was not content to wreck-ovate that into Eliza Doolittle English. No, "alt." had to flatten the theology as well as the vocabulary. Thus the wreckovated hymn now limps to the finish-line with a slavish repetition of previous verses: "O may we all one bread, one body be/Through this blest sacrament of unity."

What happened to the kingdom-to-come? Or to the life of the blessed who live within the really real presence of the Most Holy Trinity? They've been jettisoned in favor of togetherness. This kind of gelding is not without consequences, and the consequences aren't only literary; the deeper consequences are theological and liturgical. "Lex cantandi, lex credendi, lex orandi" — "what we sing affects what we believe and how we pray."

As the fathers of the Second Vatican Council taught in the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, the celebration of the Eucharist here-and-now is our privileged participation in the liturgy of angels and saints that goes on constantly around the Throne of Grace. In the Eucharist, we experience the unity of the church in this world, true; even more importantly, we experience our unity with what we used to call the "church triumphant." The Eucharist doesn't simply focus our attention on us, and on now. The Eucharist, rightly understood, points us toward our fuller communion with the redeemed of the Lamb, in the



GEORGE WEIGEL

## THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

time-beyond-time that is God's time, trinitarian time. To diminish this kingdom-sense is to diminish an essential element of the Eucharist.

As I've argued in this space before, losing a sense of the Kingdom-to-come is one key factor in our post-Vatican II liturgical languors. If the reformed liturgy has failed to do what two generations of liturgical reformers expected it to do — equip the people of God for a new evangelical Pentecost in the world — that may have something to do with too intense a focus in our prayer and song on us, and on now.

The answer? Catechetical preaching on the kingdom-dimension of the liturgy is essential. And might I suggest the proper authorities consigning hymnals defaced by the arch-wreckovator, "alt.," to the parish dumpster?

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

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for September 21, 2008

Matthew 20:1-16a

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the 25th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle A: a parable about the generosity of God. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

KINGDOM	HEAVEN	LANDOWNER
LABORERS	DAILY WAGE	NINE O'CLOCK
IDLE	NOON	HIRED US
THE LAST	THE FIRST	RECEIVE
GRUMBLED	ONE HOUR	EQUAL
BURDEN	HEAT	FRIEND
USUAL	ENVOIOUS	GENEROUS

### THE WAGE

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

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## LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

in the early church and the first-century saint proposed practical ideas for bringing Christians from Jewish, Greek and Roman cultures together "in a basic unity of faith," Father Collins said.

Donfried said St. Paul warned against the "inherent contradiction between saying on the one hand we are in Christ and yet holding sharply diverging opinions and doing things ... anti-Gospel."

The Jewish-born apostle tried to strip away superficial, cultural baggage and drive his audience back to the central questions for all Christians about the Gospel, Jesus and what it means "to be transformed by the Holy Spirit into a new life and not be conformed to the world," he said.

The problems preventing full unity 2,000 years later are similar, he said.

"Throughout the history of the

church there are cultural ideologies ... that people easily adapt to; they become a kind of 'cultural Christian' insofar as they have a superficial understanding of the Gospel and the church," Donfried said.

When people become driven and motivated only by their culture, they risk drowning out Christ's power to transform, he said.

He said the current fixation on social justice or the "political agenda of good works" is obscuring God's true message and impoverishing spirituality.

Churches and the faithful should not be looking to see whether the Democratic or Republican parties resonate more with their beliefs; rather they should be asking, "How does Jesus Christ transform my understanding of the political, social or cultural" world, Donfried said.

While Christians must be concerned about rectifying injustices, he said, they first must be "transformed and informed" by Jesus, who gives people courage.



# Sports

**COUGARS OVERCOME WEATHER, HAWKS** Weather and the Quincy University football team conspired to ruin the University of Saint Francis (USF) road trip to Quincy, Ill., but the fourth-ranked Cougars prevailed 21-0 on Saturday afternoon. By about 5 p.m. CST, nearly 1.5 inches of rain had inundated the Quincy region and the Cougars were loading up the busses and trying to dry out. The Cougars travel to Taylor University in Upland on Saturday, Sept. 20, starting at 1 p.m.

## Field conditions send CYO football to D'Arcy Stadium

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) football action for the fourth week of the 2008 season was switched from Bishop Luers Field to the University of Saint Francis, due to soggy field conditions and expected rainfall.

In the Sunday, Sept. 14 first game, Redeemer Radio broadcasters kept dry as the St. John Eagles downed a "never-say-die" St. Vincent club, 30-18.

In the contest dedicated in memory of former principal, Bob Herber, the Eagles upped their win streak to 4-0. Channing Williams broke the ice returning the kickoff 80 yards for a touchdown. Matt Williamson added a score on a 10-yard pass play from Thomas Starks and Sam Stroncsek was 3-4 on PATs.

Jocquel Cooper had another big day rumbling twice for the Eagles who will face St. Charles next week.

St. Vincent Coach Cory Kitchen was very pleased with his team's tremendous performance against the Eagles' size and speed, "I felt like we were playing a bit shell-shocked (after the opening TD), and the game got away from us in the first half, but we came back in the second half and were not intimidated, playing with a lot of heart."

Nick German scored all three touchdowns for the 2-2 Panthers.

The torrential rains continued into the St. John New Haven vs. Sts. JAT (St. Joseph-Elizabeth-Aloysius-Therese) 30-0 game. A relentless Raider defense turned out their third shutout in the past four games and Coach Dan Carey's line dominated in the wet conditions. The offensive attack was led by quarterback Jake Britton's score and a pair of touchdowns from Dillon Carey. Adam McCarthy was 3-4 on point after attempts and added the other six points.

The downpour did not let up and the third matchup was finally called during the fourth quarter when the score read Holy Cross, 24; St. Charles, 8. Consequently, a disappointed group from St. Jude and Precious Blood/Queen of Angels was forced to reschedule their grid-iron showdown.

Next week, Catholic Radio 1450 A.M. will feature the St. Jude Eagles against the 2-2 Knights from JAT in a 1 p.m. contest, Sunday, Sept. 21.

## Rain, rain, go away ... ICCL games canceled

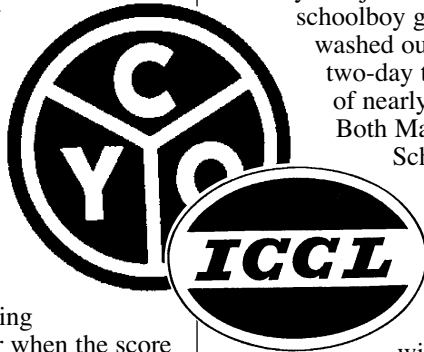
BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — For the first time in the history of the Inter-City Catholic League, both varsity and junior varsity schoolboy games were washed out because of a two-day torrential rain of nearly 12 inches.

Both Marian High School field in Mishawaka and Saint Joseph's field in South Bend were covered with water.

ICCL President Tony Violi said, "Never before in the 64-year history of our league have we experienced such a disaster, even though, in some years past, we played football games on snow-covered fields."

He said the games would be made up at a later date.



## Faith, family support propel woman to Paralympics basketball team

BY STEVE EUVINO

LAKE STATION (CNS) — An automobile accident put Patty Cisneros in a wheelchair but not out of commission.

A three-sport athlete in high school, she currently is seeking a gold medal as captain of the U.S. women's wheelchair basketball team at the Beijing Paralympics Sept. 6-17. She's on her way: Cisneros scored four points and grabbed five rebounds in the team's win over Germany Sept. 8.

Cisneros, 30, earned a gold medal at the Athens Paralympics in 2004 and played on the U.S. team at the Sydney, Australia, games four years earlier. The Paralympics consist of events for athletes with physical disabilities; Cisneros was introduced to wheelchair basketball by a physical therapist in Indianapolis.

The fourth of 10 children, Cisneros played basketball and ran track and cross-country in high school. The valedictorian of her high school class, she was in her first semester at Indiana University, Bloomington, in 1996 when both of her legs were paralyzed following an accident in which she was a back-seat passenger.

A parishioner at St. Francis

Xavier Church in Lake Station, Cisneros said her Catholic upbringing helped her survive the crippling accident.

"If it wasn't for my faith, I don't know if I could have made it," she said. "I'd been walking my whole life, and then the accident happens."

Cisneros also cited the faith of her mother, Maria, a "traditional Mexican Catholic mom," for helping her explore different opportunities available to people with disabilities. Her father, Jesus, likes to brag to his fellow steelworkers about his gold-medalist daughter, she added.

Maria Cisneros, a catechist at St. Francis Xavier, said when her daughter was injured in the accident, the family prayed.

"God does things and we have to accept what God gives us," she said. "You try to reason why this happened to you, but you have to go on. God gives you obstacles, but we carry on with our faith and prayers."

She drove Patty to wheelchair basketball practice until her daughter could drive with hand controls.

Patty Cisneros, a former parish catechist, called her family the "backbone of my life." She said her mother is "my biggest fan and supporter. She's really the one to push me, to encourage me to try things."

After earning a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Valparaiso University in Indiana, Cisneros earned a master's degree in curriculum instruction from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, where as a wheelchair cager from 2001 to 2003, she played on two national championship teams.

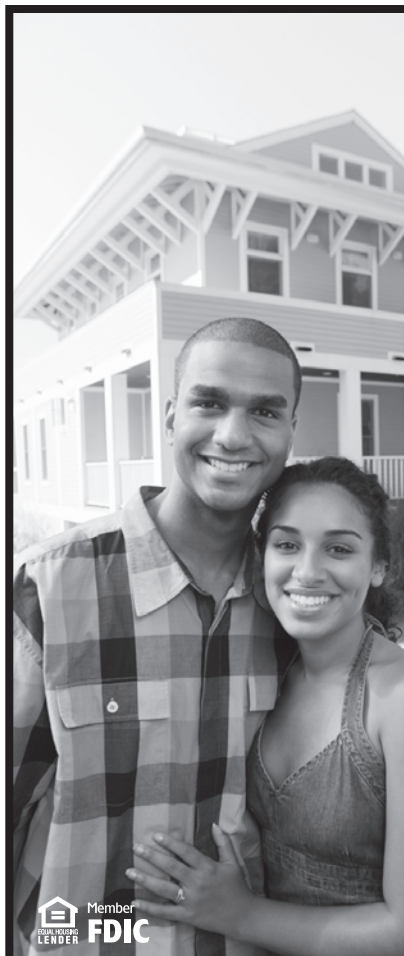
She is now in her second season as head coach of the university team.

Earlier this year, Cisneros was among four finalists for an ESPY Award from ESPN for "best female athlete with a disability."

Although she can smile now and count her medals, Cisneros said things did not always look that promising, especially after the accident.

"It was devastating, with a long period of depression," she said. "The old Patty is gone and never going to come back. There was the emotional, the mental — everything changes in you. I had to learn to deal with school being paralyzed."

For a time, she said: Why me? Now, she said, she sees the accident as part of the "big picture, God's will."



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# Bioethics book is a good resource guide covering life issues

BY YORK YOUNG

The dignity that human life deserves is so often ignored nowadays that society can't see that new technologies and scientific progress are used to damage our relationship with God and one another.

For example, over the last decade, progress in the field of genetics has moved forward so rapidly that procedures are being implemented without any consideration of the consequences. Genetic testing is so advanced now that it is possible to screen for hundreds of genetic anomalies in preborn babies. Unfortunately, any results

that show a defect, no matter how minor, are often used to abort that baby.

Meanwhile, at the opposite end of life, that of the aged, euthanasia is being promoted — legal in the state of Oregon — under the guise of compassion and “dignity,” endangering the lives of the ill and disabled.

To help us deal with these and other life issues, William May has compiled and presented detailed and in-depth analysis of the Catholic perspective in “Catholic Bioethics and the Gift of Human Life” (Our Sunday Visitor, \$19.95, second edition). Actually, this is a book few will sit down with and read from front to back. Instead, it

serves as an extensive resource for those who are working in professions that confront these issues, and can be a good reference book for every day Catholics dealing with a host of problems (struggling to conceive, taking care of an Alzheimer's relative, considering organ donation from a dying family member, and more).

May uses years of study and training in these issues and multiple resources from the church (including papal documents, the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, teaching of the Church Fathers, etc.) to explain church teaching.

His eight chapters focus on (1) major issues in Catholic bioethics; (2) true moral judgments; (3) mar-

riage and reproductive technologies; (4) contraception; (5) abortion; (6) human experimentation; (7) euthanasia; (8) organ transplants and defining death.

Perhaps the most difficult chapter for everyday readers is the third, looking at couples who desire to have a baby, but are having trouble conceiving. Since 1978, when the first in vitro fertilization success was announced — the headlines call her the “test-tube baby” — couples have had an option of creating children outside the womb, then implanting the embryo in the mother for development and delivery.

This has become common enough that many Catholics don't

see any problem with this — sort of like contraception (another area where Catholics join the culture in attitudes, seeing nothing wrong with it) — but these acts say that the church teaching on married sexual love is wrong. Despite what much of secular society would have you believe, the church has thought these issues through carefully, using the Bible, tradition and the Holy Spirit as its guide.

Sometimes, life gives us situations in which doing the right thing is difficult. When Jesus told the rich young man to sell all he had and “then come, follow me,” — Mt 19:21 — he was talking to all of us.

For life issues, May's book helps us see the way to follow him.



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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.

## FUNDRAISERS

### Knights plan spaghetti dinner

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Sept. 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$7, children (5-12) \$3. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, garlic toast and coffee. Carry-out available.

### St. Hedwig chicken dinner

South Bend — St. Hedwig Parish will have a chicken dinner at the Hedwig Memorial Center, 331 S. Scott St., Sunday, Sept. 28, from noon to 2 p.m. Advance tickets only. Deadline Sept. 22. Adults \$9, children 6-10 \$5 and children 5 and under free. Call (574) 299-1194, (574) 287-4821 or (574) 232-6546 for information.

### Card party planned

South Bend — The Altar Rosary Society of St. Casimir Parish is sponsoring a card party at the parish annex, 1308 W. Dunham St., on Sunday, Sept. 28 at 1 p.m. Lunch and dessert will be served. The cost is \$4 (advance sales only). Bring your own cards and/or dice. Gentlemen are welcome. To purchase tickets contact Theresa at (574) 291-9131 or Fides at (574) 289-2059.

### Rummage and bake sale supports rosary society

Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Parish, 1515 Barthold Ave., will have a Rosary Society rummage and bake sale Thursday, Oct. 2, and Friday Oct. 3, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. and on Saturday, Oct. 4, from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. in Mohr Hall.

### Sigma Alpha Chi Sorority pasta bake, silent auction and wine tasting

Fort Wayne — St. Jude Hall will host the Sigma Alpha Chi Sorority event Thursday, Oct. 23, from 5-9. Dan and Krista Stockman, wine critics from the *Journal Gazette* will be featured. Dinner is \$8 for adults, \$5 for children 4-12 and those under 4 free. All proceeds benefit local charities.

## MISC. HAPPENINGS

### Seniors 50 and over invited to lunch

Waterloo — St. Michael Parish will host the Harvest House Festival Thursday, Oct. 9, beginning at 10:30 a.m. with the rosary. The 11 a.m. Mass will be followed by a country-style home-cooked meal, entertainment and door prizes. Tickets are \$8 and need to be reserved by Wednesday, Oct. 1, to Mary Ann Heitz at (260) 837-7420.

### Joint Parish Mission:

#### Companions on The Journey

South Bend — The Parishes of St. Jude and Sacred Heart of Jesus will have a joint mission Monday, Sept. 22, to Wednesday, Sept. 24, at 7 p.m. each evening at St. Jude Parish, 19704 Johnson Rd.

### Banquet for Life

Fort Wayne — The Banquet for Life hosted by Sen. David Long and Allen County Right To Life will be Monday, Oct. 13, at the Grand Wayne Center. Keynote speaker will be U.S. Rep. Mike Pence with special guest Majorie Dannenfeler. Tickets are \$30. Call (260) 471-1849 for reservations.

### Rebuilding workshop offered

Fort Wayne — The Rebuilding workshop sponsored by St. Vincent's de Paul's divorced and separated support group is open to the public. The eight-week seminar will be held Thursdays, beginning Oct. 2 from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Spiritual Center on Auburn Rd., just south of Wallen. Cost is \$40 which includes the book, "Rebuilding, When Relationships End," by Drs. Bruce Fisher and Robert Alberti, as well as the accompanying workbook. Co-facilitated by Dian Sullivan, LCSW and Mary Jo Todoran, LCSW. Your check for \$40 made out to St. Vincent's Catholic Church, (attn. Judy), 1502 Wallen Rd., Fort Wayne IN 46825, will serve as your reservation.

### Beginning Experience

Donaldson — A Beginning Experience weekend retreat for widowed, divorced and separated persons will be held at Lindenwood Retreat Center from 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 10, to 3 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 12. Register by Sept 27 to Teresa at (574) 261-0123 or by e-mail at greenlight7113@sbcglobal.net or Marilyn at (269) 684-0882 or Becky at (260) 768-7350.

### Youth Mass begins for fall

New Haven — St. John the Baptist, St. Louis Besancon and St. Rose of Lima parishes will collectively celebrate a youth Mass on Sunday, Sept. 21, at 6 p.m. at St. Louis Besacon Church. A free high school program follows in the parish hall with a teen dinner. Time allowed for teens to socialize with peers while learning ways to strengthen their walk with Jesus Christ.

### Find out about becoming a Serran

South Bend — The Serra Club will host an information meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 30, in the Andre Room at Holy Cross Village from 12:30-2 p.m. Refreshments will be served.

### FaithFest 2008 - Can I Get a Witness?

Syracuse — All high school students are invited to celebrate the Catholic faith and the Year of St. Paul at the diocesan high school youth rally on Sept. 28, at Wawasee Middle School. Music, workshops and the chance to meet teens from all across the diocese. Registration begins at

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Kroemer, 101, Provena  
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St. Mary of the  
Assumption

### Elkhart

Diana Lynn Bedford,  
61, St. Vincent de Paul

Jewell E. Turgi, 91,  
St. Vincent de Paul

### Fort Wayne

Germaine Floyd Miller,  
85, Our Lady of Good  
Hope

Ilene Hess Pierce, 83,  
Saint Anne Home

William A. Russell, 91,  
St. Charles Borromeo

Thomas Nartker, 70, St.  
Elizabeth Ann Seton

Janice Keys, 65,  
St. Vincent de Paul

### Huntington

Jane Frances Scher, 82,  
Ss. Peter and Paul

### Ligonier

Loretta Leona Noe, 73,  
St. Patrick

### Mishawaka

Catherine M. Weinkauff,  
89, St. Monica

### New Haven

Eugene C. Hoffman,  
80, St. John the Baptist

Donald L. Woodring  
Sr., 76, St. Louis  
Besancon

### Notre Dame

Sister M. Gerald  
Hartney, CSC, 98,  
Our Lady of Loretto

### South Bend

Rocco Ameduri, 90,  
St. Joseph

Dorothy E. Eberhardt,  
94, St. Anthony de  
Padua

Joseph E. Walsh,  
St. Anthony de Padua

Irene R. Gergacz, 87,  
St. Patrick

Virginia G. Koch, 85,  
St. John the Baptist

Eugene J. Staszewski,  
76, St. Stanislaus

Richard J. Chwalek, 82,  
Holy Family

Timothy J. Hojnacki,  
51, St. Hedwig

Gregory C. Hatfield, 48,  
Holy Family

Beverly Jean Scarsella,  
76, St. Anthony de  
Padua

Joseph G. Szucs, 86,  
Our Lady of Hungary

Betty M. Nemeth, 85,  
Christ the King

### Yoder

Mary G. Harber, 86,  
St. Aloysius

8:30 a.m. and the day ends at 6 p.m. The cost is \$20. Teens can register with their parish youth minister or with the Office of Youth Ministry. Visit [www.diocesefwsb.org/YOUTH](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/YOUTH) or call (260) 422-4611 for information.

### Chicago bus trip

Fort Wayne — The Bishop Dwenger Development Office is sponsoring a bus trip to Chicago

on Saturday, Nov. 8. Depart Bishop Dwenger at 7 a.m. and leave Chicago at 5 p.m. Central Time. Cost is \$35 per person. Seating is limited. Checks should be made payable to Bishop Dwenger High School and sent to the Development Office: 1300 E. Washington Center Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46825. Call (260) 496-4710 for more information.

## Part-time Custodian

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# Thumbs up for 'Fireproof,' opening Sept. 26

BY LISA EVERETT

It is not often that a major motion picture does more than mesmerize its viewers for 90 minutes, leaving little impact on their lives once they exit the theater. That is why moviegoers are in for a pleasant and potentially life-changing surprise when the film "Fireproof" open across the country on Sept. 26.

I was able to watch the movie during a prerelease screening in South Bend this summer to which Catholic and other Christian leaders were invited. My family and I had seen and loved Sherwood Pictures' previous film, "Facing the Giants," and I hoped that "Fireproof"

would have the same high production quality and moving story line that would give it the uncanny ability to both entertain and evangelize.

The movie begins seven years into the struggling marriage of Caleb and Catherine Holt. Caleb is the captain of the local fire department and a hero to everyone but his wife. Catherine is public relations director of a hospital and finds herself becoming attracted to a doctor on staff who pays more attention to her than does her husband.

Both spouses are embittered and on the brink of divorce when a friend and fellow firefighter says to Caleb: "When most peo-

ple say, 'For better or for worse,' they really only mean 'for better.'"

What follows is the moving story of how Caleb discovers how to put out the fires that are destroying his marriage and win back the heart of his wife. Needless to say, "Fireproof" surpassed my expectations as I found myself alternately laughing and crying, drawn into this realistic, poignant and powerful drama of a marriage on the rocks that is rebuilt on the rock of Christ.

Perhaps as remarkable as the film itself is the story of how it came to be produced. Like "Facing the Giants" before it, "Fireproof" is the fruit of the faith and prayer of brothers Stephen and Alex Kendrick, who serve as associate pastors of Sherwood Baptist Church

in Albany, Ga.

"We were praying for months for the next story line for a movie, and we had a lot of ideas that we were batting around," recalls Stephen. Alex recounts that the answer came unexpectedly: "I was running around the block one day and the Lord impressed on me to focus on marriage, which is not what I was inclined to do."

Following the Lord's lead, the brothers decided to delve into the question, "What does it really mean to love your spouse?"

Alex describes the basic scenario with which they wanted to begin: "We want to take a marriage that is in the midst of the

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'for better.'"



daily struggles that most people can relate to that are married, the selfish tendencies that we sometimes have, the blandness that can occur in a marriage, and start there — how do you put life back into that marriage?"

Stephen knew that a story like this could strike a universal

chord: "Couples struggle with the same things all over the world. They don't know how to communicate, they don't know their roles, they don't know how to love each other unconditionally."

The Kendricks realized that the question of how to really love your spouse could not be ade-

quately answered without reference to the greatest love story of all time, in which Christ, the bridegroom, laid down his life for his bride, the church. It is this "great mystery," in fact, which St. Paul says marriage is supposed to point to and make present.

"Just like we don't always deserve God's love, our spouse doesn't always deserve love. But you still love anyway," Alex points out.

And as St. Paul emphasized in his letter to the Ephesians, husbands in particular are called to show this sacrificial love to their wives, after the heart of Christ: "A husband is supposed to represent Christ to his bride," remarks Stephen. "He is supposed to lay down his life for her."

This is the lesson that Caleb ultimately learns in "Fireproof", and it is a lesson that our culture needs now more than ever.

Kirk Cameron, former star of the sitcom "Growing Pains" who plays Caleb, comments on the power of this film to change lives: "We show the truth about real love: it's a decision, a commitment. It's a choice to love even when you don't feel anything. When a man loves a woman that way, with God's help, she'll bloom, even if he's neglected her."

In this age which proffers so many attacks on authentic love and the institution of marriage, take the time to see this inspiring movie.

Lisa Everett is the co-director of the Office of Family Life for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

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Kirk Cameron, Erin Bethea, Ken Bevel "FIREPROOF" Mark Willard, Terry Catt, Alex Kendrick

Produced by Sheila McBride, Bob Scott, Brad Weston, Dennis Weimer, Tracey Goode, Michael C. Catt, Jim McBride, Terry Hemmings

Directed by Stephen Kendrick, Alex Kendrick, David Nixon, Alex Kendrick, Stephen Kendrick, Alex Kendrick

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## PRECIOUS BLOOD BLESSES MARY



CHARITY MOSS

Father Joe Gaughan, pastor of Most Precious Blood Parish in Fort Wayne, blesses a statue of Mary outside the church after Mass on Sunday, Sept. 14. Parish families volunteered their time to rebuild the statue's base and landscape the area around it.