



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Women share a day of grace

Johnnette Benkovic shares message of faith



KAY COZAD

Johnnette Benkovic, forefront, joins over 350 women in the opening prayer service at the "A Day of Grace" full-day conference held on Grace College campus Saturday, Sept. 27.

BY KAY COZAD

WINONA LAKE

Women from across the Midwest gathered in Rodeheaver Auditorium on Grace College campus in hopes of inspiration. Johnnette Benkovic, author, speaker and founder-president of Living His Abundant Life Ministries, and the inspired Catholic apostolate, Women of Grace, a Catholic women's Bible study, drew over 350 women, representing 73 parishes, to Winona Lake near Warsaw on Saturday, Sept. 27, for "A Day of Grace," a full-day conference sponsored by the diocesan Office of Spiritual Development.

The conference offered four inspirational talks, including one given by Holy Cross Father Edmund Sylvia, advisor and chaplain of Living His Abundant Life Ministries. Each session began with song and prayer led by Ginny Kohrman, director of the Office of Spiritual Development.

The buzz of exuberant voices gave way to rousing applause with a standing ovation as Benkovic, who humbly yet fervently visited with those in the audience preceding the talks and throughout the day, took the stage for the first session titled "Women of Grace: Called and Gifted." Following the recitation of the Hail Mary, Benkovic spoke of straying from the faith in her young adulthood and finding her way back in a mighty fashion. She shared how verses from St. Paul's letter to the Ephesians continues to resonate in her life and answers the question "Who am I?"

"I am the most-high daughter of God. Each of us was chosen to have life by God himself," said Benkovic confidently. She challenged the women present to be filled with the love of God so "when people see us they see God radiated in and through us."

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Witness of St. Paul inspires teen at Faithfest

BY DENISE FEDOROW

SYRACUSE — Over 350 teens from 31 parishes across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend gathered Sunday and rapped, prayed, read Scripture, asked questions and received answers, worshiped and celebrated Mass with Bishop John M. D'Arcy as part of this year's Faithfest.

"Can I Get a Witness? Celebrating the Year of St. Paul" was the theme for a day of faith formation for teens held at Wawasee Middle School in Syracuse.

The teens were pumped up with some rap, rock and humor by Popple before guest speaker Adam Kronk of South Bend helped relate the teachings of St. Paul to the teen's lives.

After reading about Paul's conversion, Kronk said, "We shouldn't expect instantaneous conversion into a perfect Christian. It's a process, not a magical 'bam'-one-second thing," he said.

Kronk, who along with his wife works at the South Bend Center for the Homeless,

reminded teens that Jesus hung out with the outcasts of society — sinners and lepers.

"You know there are people ... that because of their reputation, we don't want to go near them. Be open to how God may use you in anybody's life. Don't let that (reputation) be an obstacle for God's purpose for you," Kronk said.

"Paul said in his letters to early Christians basically in picking me, Christ can use anybody. In high school you might feel like you don't fit in, you might wonder if you're worthy — the answer to that is 'no, but nobody is,'" he said.

Kronk told the teens a story about a young man who came to live at the shelter at age 18 after being sexually abused at home when he was younger and spending most of his life in foster care. He created a "God's Eye" in an art therapy class and explained to Kronk that the three colors he chose represent the bluest ocean, the greenest fields and the gold of God's crown.

"In my life I will always remember that

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STATUE OF ANGEL



CNS PHOTO/NANCY WIECHEC

A statue of an angel is seen in historic Glenwood Cemetery in northeast Washington. Pope Benedict XVI said Sept. 29, on the feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Raphael that God sends angels to help people as they make their way through life and toward eternity with him.

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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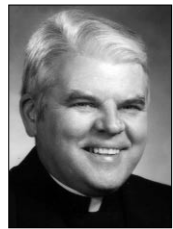
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World's bishops will look at the word of God at October synod



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

The word of God in the life and mission of the church

This is the focus of the International Synod of Bishops, which begins its work this week in Rome. This meeting, which will bring bishops to Rome from all over the world, is a fruit of the teaching of the Second Vatican Council on Collegiality. At the first Vatican Council, in response to the pastoral and political tensions of the time, the focus was on the successor of Peter and his authority over the church. The Second Vatican Council completed this teaching with its focus on the bishop in his diocese as his successor of the apostles and on the relationship of the bishops with one another and with the bishop of Rome, the successor of Peter and never without him.

The experience of the council brought forth these meetings of bishops, which I believe were first held every two years and now every three years. They were a reflection on a particular important pastoral concern in the church. At the first synod in 1971, they discussed two topics. One was the ministerial priesthood and the other was the church's commitment to peace and justice.

Following that, key pastoral areas were discussed. For example: the family; the ministry of catechesis; formation of priests both in the seminary and after ordination; the laity; religious life; the Eucharist; in the life and mission of the church. What developed was the bishops brought together at the end of the session a number of propositions which came about from their intense discussions. These propositions were then presented to the Holy Father for an exhortation, or an encyclical, which followed the synod.

Thus, the church, still learning about the proper understanding of the communion between bishops and the pope, saw this method of propositions, followed by a statement by the successor of Peter, as a way to strengthen the church on these various topics.

'Instrumentum laboris'

This is the title in Latin of a document received recently by the bishops and by others. It is not hard to translate these words as an "Instrument of Labor," or of the work. This extensive document will help the bishops to look at ways that the word of God might become more deeply situated in the life of every parish and of each individual.

In the foreword of this document, we read some positive fruits of recent years and also some uncertainties and questions

concerning our listening to God's word. Space allows mention of one of each.

A positive fruit: A renewed appreciation of the Bible and the liturgy, catechesis, and more importantly, exegetical and theological studies.

Uncertainties and questions: Many more people are reading the Bible; however, it is being done without sufficient knowledge of the entire deposit of faith, to which the Bible belongs.

I find in many parishes a growing hunger of our people to know and understand the word of God. One of the results of a council, still influencing us, is the expansion of the word of God as read at Sunday Mass. I well recall the first 10 years of my priesthood, reading the same Gospel and Epistle (as we called it then), every Sunday. In fact, we usually did not read the Epistle or the reading from St. Paul in English, but only in Latin. Also, as I recall, there was very seldom to be found an Old Testament reading in the liturgy prior to the Second Vatican Council.

Yet for all that, as the "Instrumentum Laboris" points out, much work remains to be done if the inspired word of God is to touch our hearts and transform our parishes.

Thus, the church, still learning about the proper understanding of the communion between bishops and the pope, saw this method of propositions, followed by a statement by the successor of Peter, as a way to strengthen the church on these various topics.

Please pray for the synod meeting in Rome from Oct. 5-26, 2008, that it may bring about good results, and that we as bishops may see that it is implemented in our dioceses so that our people grow not only in understanding of the word of God, but in believing it, what it really is — Jesus Christ speaking to our hearts.

Pope Benedict XVI, in his recent visit to France where he gave a number of extraordinary, and one could say very beautiful and very humble and gracious presentations to the church in that beloved old country, referred to the celebrated phrase of St. Jerome: "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ."

An encouraging weekend

Two events took place this past weekend, which are most encouraging to a bishop.

On Saturday, under the direction of the Spiritual Development Office and the leadership of Ginny Kohrman, there was presented a seminar entitled "A Day of Grace for Women." Three-hundred-and-forty women attended this event held at Grace College at Winona Lake in the center of our diocese. The featured speakers were Johnnette Benkovic and Father Ed Sylvia, CSC.

Much of the talks were rooted in the teaching of Pope John Paul II, as found in "Mulieris Dignitatem," ("Dignity of Woman"). We are celebrating the 20th anniversary of that document. I am grateful to the Spiritual Development Office for this excellent event and to Grace College for their outstanding hospitality.

And then our young people

The next day, our Office of Youth Ministry presented Youth Fest at the Wawasee Middle School. I drove down Route 6 from South Bend, around a detour, and arrived in time for the question-and-answer event. There were 350 present, including the wonderful adults who work with the young people in our parishes. After the question-and-answer period, I heard confessions, along with several other priests, enjoyed lunch and then celebrated Mass and preached to this wonderful group.

A special part of this event was the presence of our seminarians, who traveled from the Josephinum Seminary in Columbus, Ohio. Also present were sisters from various communities: The Mishawaka Franciscans, some Dominican Sisters from Michigan and a Felician Sister from Holy Family, South Bend. The seminarians led some of the breakout sessions and also spoke to the entire group. I was especially impressed by these words from Tink Coonan, "We are all called to share the cross of Christ." He spoke of it relative to his own call to consider the priesthood. I think our high school students were most impressed by the sisters and seminarians who were present. After Mass, we had exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and some time for silent prayer. I am convinced that through prayer in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, including exposition of the Eucharist, the Holy Spirit is calling many, especially the young, to a closer relationship with Christ.

South, then, to Fort Wayne

Grateful to God for these few days and for the privilege of being bishop in this diocese at a time when the Holy Spirit is calling all of us to spiritual renewal. When a parish in a diocese becomes more eucharistic and more open to the Holy Spirit, vocations to the priesthood and the consecrated life will follow. They do not grow in isolation; they grow only in a church, which is truly holy.

See you all next week.



CNS PHOTO/YURI GRIPAS, REUTERS

U.S. House Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio, and House Minority Whip Roy Blunt, R-Mo., at the microphone, speak to the media about the current financial crisis at the U.S. Capitol in Washington Sept. 26.

Don't forget human aspect of bailout

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Church leaders urged members of Congress and the Bush administration to keep the human and ethical dimensions of the economic crisis in mind as they craft a financial bailout package for Wall Street.

"This crisis involves far more than just economic or technical matters, but has enormous human impact and clear ethical dimensions which should be at the center of debate and decisions on how to move forward," said Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., in a Sept. 26 letter to Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and key House and Senate leaders.

Bishop Murphy, who chairs the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, also stressed responsibility, accountability, awareness of the advantages and limitations of the market, subsidiarity, solidarity and the common good in the search for just and effective responses to the economic crisis.

The House of Representatives rejected a \$700 billion compromise bailout package Sept. 29.

The economic crisis and proposed bailout also drew comment from the president of Catholic Charities USA, a Catholic representative at the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility and a former Vatican official.

Bishop Murphy's letter was harsh in its assessment of the circumstances that led to the economic crisis.

"The scandalous search for excessive economic rewards even to the point of dangerous speculation that exacerbates the pain and losses of the more vulnerable are egregious examples of an economic ethic that places economic gain above all other values," he said.

"Sadly, greed, speculation, exploitation of vulnerable people and dishonest practices helped to bring about this serious situation," Bishop Murphy added. "Those who directly contributed to this crisis or profited from it should not be rewarded or escape

accountability for the harm they have done."

He also called for "protection of the vulnerable — workers, business owners, homeowners, renters and stockholders" in any economic bailout and said renewed "instruments of monitoring and correction within economic institutions and the financial industry," as well as greater public regulation and protection, will be necessary.

Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities, said in Sept. 25 letters to the leadership of the House and Senate that any financial bailout for Wall Street "must include economic relief for the hardships of Main Street."

Any plan to rescue the nation's banking and financial system must ensure "that those with the least do not bear the greatest burden in this crisis," he said.

"We urge Congress to remember the low- and middle-income Americans whose lives and economic security are being shattered by the current economic crisis," he added.

Specifically, Father Snyder said, the plan should extend unemployment insurance; increase Food Stamp benefits; protect low-income families from losing Medicaid and social service assistance; and increase home energy assistance.

"While we fully appreciate the potential dangers for our nation's economic stability if we fail to act to secure our financial system, we also understand that the road to long-term recovery must include assisting poor and low-income families who are suffering the direct effects of this economic crisis in the form of rising utility, energy, food and housing costs," said the president of the Alexandria, Va.-based network of Catholic charitable agencies and institutions.

"We ask that you keep those families in mind and champion their needs as you move to develop a truly comprehensive economic recovery package," Father Snyder added.

Father Seamus Finn, who has

represented his community, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, at the Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility for many years, said any financial bailout must not "impose additional burdens on the marginalized and poorest who are at the periphery of the workings of financial markets."

It also must address the "root causes of the meltdown," while also "restoring credibility to the financial market in a transparent manner at the lowest possible cost to the taxpayers without bailing out shareholders or management via golden parachutes," Father Finn said.

Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin, Ireland, commented on the international ramifications of the economic crisis in a Sept. 28 opinion piece in *The Mail* on Sunday, a Dublin newspaper.

"Economic growth always brings with it social responsibility," he wrote. "(The market) can only function in an ethical and judicial framework where the vulnerable are protected and the natural arrogance of the powerful is curbed."

"Irresponsible traders do not just gamble with the future of a big multinational firm — they eventually affect the lives of people all over the world," added Archbishop Martin, who served in the 1990s as secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace at the Vatican.

The Franciscan Action Network also urged its members to contact their members of Congress about the financial-bailout package, asking them to "reflect on our culture's tendency toward excess and immediacy."

"These root causes, along with the fate of persons on the margins, may escape the notice of legislators in a hurry," the network said in an "emergency action alert" e-mailed to its members. "Therefore it is our responsibility to share the wealth of our Franciscan perspective with them."

The alert did not list specific recommendations for the economic-bailout package.

Bishop D'Arcy addresses 'Faithful Citizenship'

The general election of 2008 intrudes on us each day. It will not be easy as the weeks go on, to find the truth about various issues confronting our beloved country. It is important also to reflect on the responsibility of the church.

Our pulpits are sacred places; they are for the word of God, and not for political partisanship. Both the priest and the parish must avoid such partisanship if we are to guard the nature of our mission.

Yet, neither can the church be unwilling to stand for and with those who are alone and have no constituency. We must never be found unwilling to stand with the unborn child, the homeless, those suffering from war, and yes, even for the person on death row.

The church must never shrink from her role to help form the consciences of our people, and must always seek to uphold the natural law, that law written in the heart of the human person.

Pope Benedict XVI, in his first encyclical "Deus Caritas Est," has outlined clearly the role of the church as we live through the intense weeks ahead.

The church cannot and must not take upon herself the political battle to bring about the most just society possible. She cannot and must not replace the state. Yet at the same time she cannot and must not remain on the sidelines in the fight for justice. She has to play her part through rational argument and she has to reawaken the spiritual energy without which justice, which always demands sacrifice, cannot prevail and prosper. A just society must be the achievement of politics, not of the church. Yet the promotion of justice through efforts to bring about openness of mind and will to the demands of the common good is something which concerns the church deeply.

We have seen that the formation of just structures is not directly the duty of the church, but belong to the world of politics, the sphere of the autonomous use of reason. The church has an indirect duty here, in that she is called to contribute to the purification of reason and to the reawakening of those moral forces without which just structures are neither established nor prove effective in the long run. The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society, on the other hand, is proper to the lay faithful. As citizens of the state, they are called to take part in public life in a personal capacity. So they cannot relinquish their participation "in the many different economic, social, legislative, administrative and cultural areas, which are intended to promote organically and institutionally the common good."

The responsibility of the church, therefore, is to help form consciences, to bring light to the national discussion, to purify reason, to help our people focus on the dignity of the human person and to encourage the parish participation of the laity in public life.

"... the church wishes to help form consciences in political life and to stimulate greater insight into the authentic requirements of justice as well as greater readiness to act accordingly, even when this might involve conflict with situations of personal interest." — Pope Benedict XVI, "Deus Caritas Est."

With this in mind, I am sending to each parish a copy of a document prepared by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops entitled, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship." It is a reflection on the many issues which face our nation in these troubled times. I am also including a summary, one-page document that is suitable for parish-wide distribution. This summary can be duplicated as long as the USCCB is notified.

In this document, the bishops make clear the importance and complexity of forming one's conscience in order to serve the truth.

The document warns us that "two temptations in public life can distort the church's defense of human life and dignity. The first is a moral equivalence that makes no ethical distinction between different kinds of issues involving human life and dignity. The direct and intentional destruction of innocent human life from the moment of conception until natural death is always wrong and is not just one issue among many. It must always be opposed.

"The second is the misuse of these necessary moral distinctions as a way of dismissing or ignoring other serious threats to human life and dignity. Racism and other unjust discrimination, the use of the death penalty, resorting to unjust war, the use of torture, war crimes, the failure to respond to those who are suffering from hunger or a lack of health care, or an unjust immigration policy are all serious moral issues that challenge our consciences and require us to act. These are not optional concerns which can be dismissed. Catholics are urged to seriously consider church teaching on these issues."

You will be approached to give out voters guides. I urge the parish not to give out such guides. We may, in some cases, agree with them, but often they violate the principles found in "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship." That document makes clear the complexity of this situation, the need for the guidance of the Holy Spirit, and the proper position of the Catholic Church. Other guides may be helpful to some people, but what they lack is the all-embracing guide to Catholic teaching and the proper formation of a Catholic conscience.

Each parish should feel free to copy this letter for your people, or if you prefer, to copy a portion of it. I certainly urge you also to foster prayer, simple and nonpartisan, at the appropriate time in the liturgy, such as the Prayer of the Faithful, asking God to send the Holy Spirit on our country in this important time.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

John M. D'Arcy

Most Reverend John M. D'Arcy

Deacon Fred Larson dies

Remembered as hard worker, humble man of service

FORT WAYNE — Deacon Fred J. Larson, who served the diocese for 25 years in the permanent diaconate, died Tuesday, Sept. 23, at Woodview Health Care in Fort Wayne. He was 92.

Born in Allen County in 1915, Larson was the son of the late Harry and Cecelia Larson and a member of the first graduating class of St. Jude School in 1930. After graduating from high school in 1934, he worked odd jobs until entering the service. He was a World War II U.S. Army veteran and a member of American Legion Post 330.

Larson and his wife, Bernice, raised 10 children while he worked at Zollner Corp. The family attended St. John the Baptist Parish, New Haven.

After retiring from Zollner Corp. in 1980, Larson felt a need to be with people and also a call to service. He entered the diocesan program for the permanent diaconate and, after three years of study and formation, was ordained along with 22 other men on June 11, 1983, at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne.

The first four years of his diaconate were served at St. Henry Parish in Fort Wayne, where he assisted with liturgies and wrote and presented a monthly homily.

Deacon Larson also served at St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, where he remained active into his 90s, cooking dinner for family and friends, shoveling snow and taking care of his home.

"He was eager to help any time he could. He will especially be remembered for his great ministry to the sick and the homebound," notes Father Tom Shoemaker, pastor of St. Jude. "Until his stroke in late May, he was visiting hospitals, nursing



Deacon Fred Larson

homes and homebound parishioners nearly every day. He loved to sit and visit and he was careful to see that people were not missed."

"He didn't know a stranger," Larson's daughter, Joan Lawrence, told *Today's Catholic* this year.

"Especially visiting the sick, it didn't matter to him if they were Catholic or not. If he just felt that they needed someone, dad was there for them to talk to. And in that way, he was fearless."

Lawrence also experienced her father's ministry first hand.

"He baptized my daughter," she said, adding that he also performed funerals for relatives. "Growing up, the faith was always a big part of his life," she recalled of her father.

Father Shoemaker also recalls Deacon Larson as a man

of prayer.

"He helped at Mass nearly every day, he spent many hours in the adoration chapel, he took part in several prayer groups in the parish, and he helped at nearly every funeral at St. Jude," says Father Shoemaker.

"I have no regrets," Larson told *Today's Catholic* in 2005. "My faith is my life."

Larson is survived by his children, Stephen (Cindy) Larson and Joan (Jim) Lawrence, both of Fort Wayne, Paul (Mary-deceased) Larson of New Haven, Patricia (Jerry) Trowbridge of Leo, Rita (Donald) Chislighi of Beavercreek, Ohio, David (Betty) Larson of Johnstown, Ohio, Theresa (Dave) Larson of Eau Claire, Wis., Daniel R. (Debbie) Larson of Six Mile, S.C., Mary Larson of Denver, Colo., and Monica Larson of Arecibo, P.R.; brother, John (Leila) Larson of Helena, Mont.;

sisters-in-law, Mona Larson of Tipton, Ind., and Eleanor Ehinger of New Haven; brother-in-law, Philip (Mary Ann) Schnelker of Fort Wayne; 24 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by

his wife, Bernice, in 2002; three brothers, including a former priest of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend; and three sisters. Mass of Christian Burial was Saturday, Sept. 27, at St. Jude Catholic Church, Fort Wayne.

"I have no regrets.

My faith is my life."

DEACON FRED LARSON

Cardinal urges Congress to reject proposed Freedom of Choice Act

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Declaring that "we can't reduce abortions by promoting abortion," the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities has urged members of Congress to reject the proposed Freedom of Choice Act.

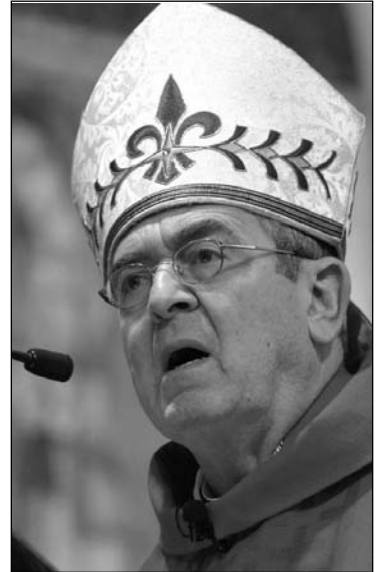
In a Sept. 19 letter, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia said the legislation "would counteract any and all sincere efforts by government to reduce abortions in our country," force all Americans to subsidize abortion with their tax dollars and overturn "modest restraints and regulations on the abortion industry" in all 50 states.

"No one who sponsors or supports legislation like FOCA can credibly claim to be part of a good-faith discussion on how to reduce abortions," he added.

The Freedom of Choice Act was introduced in both the House and Senate April 19, 2007, the day after the Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act in *Gonzales v. Carhart*. It states that "every woman has the fundamental right to choose to bear a child, to terminate a pregnancy prior to fetal viability, or to terminate a pregnancy after fetal viability when necessary to protect the life or health of the woman."

Although no action has been taken in either house since then, "the Catholic bishops of the United States are gravely concerned about any possible consideration" of the legislation in the final weeks of the 110th Congress, Cardinal Rigali said.

"Pro-abortion groups and some of the bill's congressional sponsors have said they want this legislation enacted soon," he added.



Cardinal Justin Rigali

An analysis of the proposed legislation by the bishops' Office of the General Counsel said its provisions could invalidate "a broad range of state laws if challenged," including informed consent laws, parental notification laws, laws promoting maternal health if they raise the cost of abortions, safety regulations affecting abortion clinics, and government programs and facilities that pay for, provide or insure childbirth or health care services generally, but not abortion.

Also likely to be overturned would be laws protecting the conscience rights of health care providers or institutions; laws prohibiting partial-birth abortion; laws requiring abortions to be performed by a physician; and "quite possibly laws preventing the implantation of an existing cloned embryo for purposes of bearing the child," the analysis said.

Cardinal Rigali said that recently "the national debate on abortion has taken a turn that may be productive" as members of both political parties "have sought to reach a consensus on ways to reduce abortions in our society."

He expressed support for legislation such as the Pregnant Women Support Act, which would provide practical support to help pregnant women carry their pregnancies to term, and said "there is one thing absolutely everyone should be able to agree on: We can't reduce abortions by promoting abortion."

"We cannot reduce abortions by invalidating the very laws that have been shown to reduce abortions," the cardinal added. "We cannot reduce abortions by insisting that every program supporting women in childbirth and child care must also support abortion."

Urging all members of Congress "to pledge their opposition to FOCA and other legislation designed to promote abortion," Cardinal Rigali said, "In this way we can begin a serious and sincere discussion on how to reduce the tragic incidence of abortion in our society."

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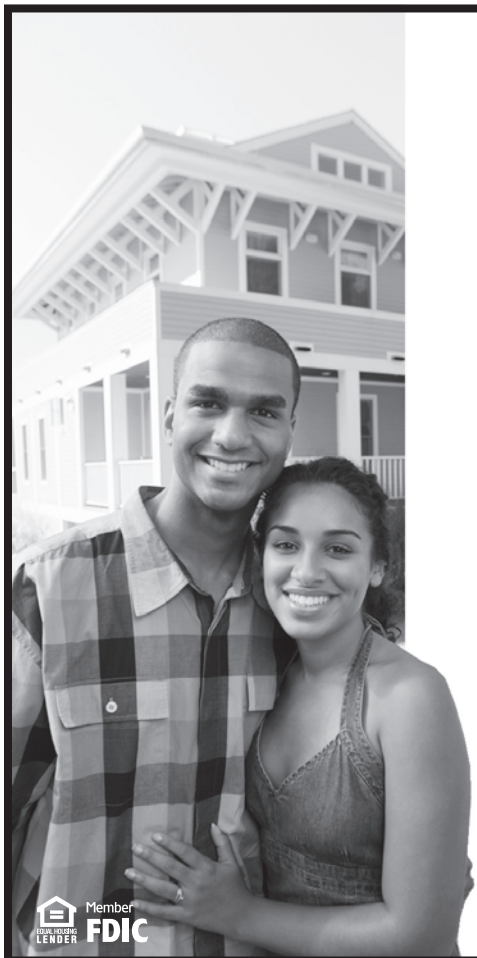
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National kickoff for 40 Days for Life held in South Bend

BY TOM UEBBING

SOUTH BEND — David Bereit, national director of the 40 Days for Life Campaign, launched the national effort with a kickoff rally from South Bend on Sept. 24. The campaign consists of prayer, fasting, a 24/7 vigil at the abortion clinic and a community educational outreach with the goal of ending abortion.

Bereit chose South Bend out of the 179 cities that have signed up because South Bend was the first to do so and because he was impressed with the area's strong pro-life commitment from previous visits.

Sean Scott began the event with inspirational songs. Holy Cross Father Neil Ryan, pastor of Little Flower, South Bend, where the event was held, welcomed the turnout of about 250 that filled the parish hall and led an opening prayer that emphasized a change of heart and that "love conquers all."

David Bathon shared how, when his mother was pregnant with him, the doctor discovered she had cancer. She refused his recommendation of an abortion and immediate cancer treatment, thus saving her son but losing her own life.

"And Father Neil said in his prayer 'love conquers all,' it truly does," Bathon said. "We are trying to change hearts and minds through our love and our sacrifices, our prayers, our fasting. And it is love that will conquer all."

Bathon said that those praying at abortion clinics are comforting those being murdered there, and they also pray for their mothers and fathers as well.

Mary Akre, the South Bend area campaign director and mother of seven, shared how she saw the hand of God in the local 40



TOM UEBBING

Many keep vigil outside the abortion facility in South Bend on Friday, Sept. 26, as part of the national 40 Days for Life campaign. Parishes across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have organized parishioners to pray and fast and to take part in the educational outreach with the goal of ending abortion in the United States.

Days effort. New volunteers for the organizing committee kept showing up every week. Through providential connections the 40 Days campaign got a booth at the Pulse Christian Music Festival. An unemployed pro-lifer arrived in town, ended up manning the booth and garnered 250 signups for 40 Days.

Akre addressed the mindset of skeptics who think that prayer is ineffective and that action is what is needed. She countered that prayer is not an abstraction but an action. "Prayer does change people's hearts. We know God acts on prayers."

Evangelical Penny Moore offered prayer and read Scriptures calling for repentance, prayer and fasting. Penny is involved in a prison ministry for women and the inmates she ministers to will be joining the campaign from prison in their daily prayers.

Dr. Charlie Rice, professor

emeritus at the University Notre Dame Law School, critiqued the false foundations of the pro-abortion movement — secularism, relativism and individualism. He said that taking control over the beginning of life has led to taking control over the end of life. Although politics is important,

the answer lies in the re-conversion of the American people. Abortion will be conquered not by reason, but by grace.

David Bereit traced the movement's biblical inspiration, inception, rapid growth, successes and the many hard sacrifices made along the way. He compared the 40 Days movement to the civil rights movement and the cool reception Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., received from President Lyndon B. Johnson when he asked him to support a civil rights voting act. Johnson turned him down, but King turned around and "started something" at Selma that resulted in the legislation being passed a short three months later. In the same way the 40 Days campaign is "starting something." Bereit cited 514 confirmed babies saved, five abortion workers quit and two clinics closed.

Father Bob Lengerich of St. Pius X, Granger, led the participants in a prayer similar to the Prayer of the Faithful and offered a special prayer for the commissioning of missionaries. Many participants drove to the nearby abortion facility and began the vigil in the dim light of a street lamp. Their reverent prayer "Oh my Jesus, forgive us our sins..."

permeated the darkness.

In Fort Wayne, Bereit spoke at a kickoff rally at Concordia Lutheran High School on Sept. 21 to launch the 40 Days for Life campaign there. Nearly 300 people attended the ally.

Robert Gregory, organizer of St. Vincent de Paul Parish pro-life activities, reported that on day one of the prayer vigil from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at the abortion facility in Fort Wayne, "We saw a full day of constant prayer from various groups and people. ... In Fort Wayne, we have seen at least two cars drive in and out of the lot of the clinic ... so we may have seen two women change their minds."

Gregory said the campaign also captured attention from local television news.

"I encourage you to take the time to visit the vigil site any time you can come," Gregory added. "We need you there praying. Please bring your children if needed. Come at lunch. Come after work, before work, whenever, but please come." The Fort Wayne Women's Health Clinic is located at 2210 Inwood Dr.

A Mid-Way Event is planned from 2-3:15 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 5, at Catholic Cemetery in Fort Wayne.

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Partnerships needed to sustain Catholic schools, says archbishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The church, businesses and governments must work together to finance and keep open Catholic schools, Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl said Sept. 20 to religion writers gathered in Washington from across the country. "Catholic schools are facing enormous challenges, but I see this as a time to mark the turning point for Catholic education, especially in poor urban areas and rural areas," the archbishop said. His address to about 250 journalists attending the Religion Newswriters Association convention came one week after the release of his pastoral letter on strengthening and supporting Catholic education. The pastoral letter, "Catholic Education: Looking to the Future With Confidence," stressed that Catholic schools' academic excellence, accessibility and affordability is the responsibility of all Catholics. The archbishop told the religion writers that most of the public is "aware of the contributions" Catholic schools make and are "very, very aware of the struggle of the church in maintaining these schools." He said challenges to keep schools open stem from population shifts and rising costs.

What would Jesus do? Scholars look at morality in the Bible

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Even when it comes to morality, Catholics are not biblical fundamentalists, although they view the Bible as an important source of moral guidance, said top Catholic scholars. The various books of the Bible were written in different epochs, in different cultures and by different authors, the scholars said, so when looking for moral precepts a Christian cannot focus on just one line. In their new document, "The Bible and Morality," the scholars on the Pontifical Biblical Commission said biblical morality is not so much a set of do's and don'ts as it is a set of principles meant to help Christians grow in perfection and contribute to establishing God's kingdom on earth. The English translation of the document rolled off the Vatican printing press Sept. 24, less than two weeks before the opening of the world Synod of Bishops on the Bible. In the 235-page booklet, the biblical scholars presented two main criteria for judging human actions or potential actions: Does it protect and promote the dignity of the human person? Does it conform to something Jesus would do?

Ray Flynn goes home after hospitalization

BRIGHTON, Mass. (CNS) — Raymond L. Flynn, former Boston mayor and U.S. ambassador to the Holy See, was discharged from Brighton's Caritas St. Elizabeth's Medical Center Sept. 24 following a stay that began after his collapse at a Sept. 17 Theology on Tap event in Quincy. "Ray is home and is

CARDINAL LEVADA BLESSES REPLICA OF PORZIUNCOLA



CNS PHOTO/MARTIN DELFINO, CATHOLIC SAN FRANCISCO

U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in Rome and former archbishop of San Francisco, blesses the interior walls of the Porziuncola Chapel at the National Shrine of St. Francis of Assisi in San Francisco during its dedication Sept. 27. The chapel was built on a scale of 78 percent of the original Porziuncola church near Assisi, Italy.

doing very well. He was released from St. Elizabeth's this morning and is expected to fully recover," his longtime friend, Democratic state Rep. Brian P. Wallace of Boston, said on the day he was discharged. "I spoke to him this morning and was in the room with him yesterday. The prognosis is great and he looks great." Wallace, who worked as an aide to Flynn from 1970 to 1993, said doctors isolated the cause of the collapse and are treating it. "It was a combination of things. He was run-down and exhausted, plus they just opened up his ear to remove a cancer and that was part of it." Media reports said Flynn, 69, was about 35 minutes into his talk at Bad Abbots Pub in Quincy when he passed out, remaining unconscious for about five minutes.

Congressmen outline proposal to ban sex-selection abortions in U.S.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Despite evidence that sex-selection abortions may be occurring in the United States, U.S. law affords "less protection from sex-based feticide" than India or China do, according to proposed legislation that is to be introduced soon in the House of Representatives. Republican Reps. Trent Franks of Arizona and Jeff Fortenberry of Nebraska discussed the Prenatal Nondiscrimination Act at a Sept. 23 press conference on Capitol

Hill. The proposed bill would "prohibit discrimination against the unborn on the basis of sex or race." Franks said, "Today we put forth a principle that all Americans of good will can warmly embrace — that no child should be marked to die based on their sex or their race. And we put it forth in the backdrop of over 100 million little girls having been aborted simply because they were little girls instead of little boys," he added. "It is also put forward in the backdrop of the mind-numbing reality that today in America half of all African-American children are being aborted before they are born."

Tribal Indians burn cardinal's effigy to protest Bible translation

RANCHI, India (CNS) — A group of tribal people in India has burned effigies of Ranchi Cardinal Telesphore Toppo, holding him responsible for a Protestant Bible they say insults their indigenous religion. On Sept. 22 protesters shouted slogans against the prelate, the first Asian tribal cardinal, reported the Asian church news agency UCA News. They blamed him for the publication of the "anti-tribal Bible" and burned effigies of the Catholic leader in front of the bishop's house in Ranchi. The Bible Society of India, a Protestant organization, published the Bible translation into the Oraon tribe's Kurukh dialect in 2000. Manoj Lakra, a journalist, told UCA News the

protesters hold Cardinal Toppo, an ethnic Oraon, responsible for the Protestant translation because they do not understand denominational differences and consider the cardinal head of all tribal Christians in the state. The Catholic Church is by far the largest Christian group in the region and is popular for its education and health services.

Vatican releases norms for institutes teaching religious studies

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican's Congregation for Catholic Education released new norms for institutes teaching religious studies in an effort to guarantee the consistent quality of instruction and ease the recognition of degrees coming from the world's different ecclesial establishments. The 20-page instruction, approved by Pope Benedict XVI in June, is titled "Reform of the Higher Institutes of Religious Sciences" and was released by the Vatican Sept. 25. These specialized institutes were established after the Second Vatican Council to offer lay Catholics and consecrated religious in-depth instruction in theology and sacred studies. Particularly in Europe and especially in Catholic countries like Italy and Spain, the institutes primarily served as a means to prepare educators to teach religion in primary and secondary schools, both public and private. However, through the so-called Bologna Process, European countries have

been trying to guarantee that the kind of education received in one European Union nation is comparable to and compatible with education received in other EU countries.

Catholic social agencies mobilize in Hurricane Ike relief efforts

HOUSTON (CNS) — In the aftermath of Hurricane Ike, Texas Catholic social agencies have swiftly mobilized to offer assistance to those affected by the storm, which hit the region Sept. 13. Staff members and volunteers from Catholic Charities have visited coastal communities such as Texas City, Dickinson and Bacliff, as well as Houston, to provide assistance to those in need. By coordinating relief efforts, Catholic Charities USA has opened a warehouse specifically for the purpose of delivery of goods to distribution sites. "We are focusing on Galveston County, and the needs of far-reaching communities who have limited access to government sponsored PODs (point of distribution)," said Jim Gajewski, Catholic Charities vice president of program services. Catholic Charities planned to continue its efforts in the field into the foreseeable future, as long as supplies lasted and the needs remained.

Mixed reviews: Implementation of Tridentine ruling frustrates some

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A year after Pope Benedict XVI opened the way to wider use of the Tridentine Mass, implementation of the papal directive is drawing mixed reviews from its target audience. Catholic traditionalists remain grateful for the pope's document and say it has given them a certain legitimacy in local church communities, as well as greater practical access to the old rite. But some — backed by a Vatican official — have complained that bishops and pastors continue to place obstacles in the way of groups seeking the Tridentine liturgy. On a long-term issue, traditionalists are pleased at new efforts to instruct priests in celebrating Mass in the older rite. Meanwhile, those who envisioned Tridentine Masses popping up in every parish are somewhat frustrated. "We're only looking at one calendar year, and we know that in the church these things take time. But the problem — dare anyone say this? — the problem is the bishops. Because you have bishops who aren't on board," said John Paul Sonnen, an American Catholic who lives in Rome. Sonnen and about 150 others attended a conference in Rome in mid-September on the theme: "Summorum Pontificum: One Year After."

Full-day kindergarten comes to Sacred Heart Catholic School

WARSAW — The beginning of the 2008-09 school year marked the beginning of full-day kindergarten programming for Sacred Heart School in Warsaw. Responding to a request from parents to look at full-day kindergarten, teachers and administrators launched the option of full or half-day kindergarten for the class of 2021.

"Full-day kindergarten enhances the learning environment for the students by actually allowing us more time to explore the standards-based kindergarten requirements at a deeper level. For instance, we have more time to do the 'hands-on' activities that were difficult to fit into a half-day program," expressed kindergarten teacher Monica Smith. "Our students participate in gym, music, library, computers, art, Mass, family group activities, lunch and recess, just like all the other students in grades 1-6."

"Sacred Heart has high expectations and student accomplishments as evidenced by our test scores," Principal Mary Ann Irwin commented. "Full-day kindergarten allows us to give a good foundation of skills in reading, writing, math, social studies, science and religion, without students or teachers feeling overstressed. We give them the 'luxury' of time to enjoy and explore the concepts."

Students love their class pet gerbils, Peanut Butter and Jelly, and learn to care for them. With the assistance of involved and supportive parents, students take lots of field trips to explore the world in which we live and learn more in depth the subjects studied in class.

Thirty new mobile laptop computers are wheeled into the classroom or set in the library, and even these youngest students wield the "mouse" and navigate programs without fear. The class of 2021 is already preparing for jobs that haven't even been invented, yet.

Smith sums up Sacred Heart kindergarten as "a structured, academic environment where all students are encouraged to learn and explore in a fun and positive way. All children are a 'gift' to their families, to our school, and to our community, and it is our job to find how to 'open' their treasures so they can reach their academic, social and spiritual potential."

"The school and parish building program will allow some expansion of programs such as preschool and kindergarten in the 2009-2010 school year," Irwin stated. "I love to visit the kindergarten room and see the bright and smiling faces there. It really is true. ... 'Everything you need to know is learned in kindergarten.'"

Ancilla College holds 10th annual United Way Pledge Drive

DONALDSON — John Gough is not afraid to think outside the box when it comes to getting his point across to students.

So if it means dressing up in a costume from "American Graffiti" and jumping into Lake Galbraith

AROUND THE DIOCESE

SOUTH BEND SERRA CLUB HOSTS DAY OF RECOLLECTION



ELMER J. DANCH

A record turnout of both Serra Club members and St. Stanislaus Kostka parishioners greeted Father Paul J. McCarthy, pastor, in New Carlisle for a special Day of Reflection that included Mass, eucharistic devotions, spiritual readings, sacrament of reconciliation, sacrament of the sick, adoration and benediction. Father McCarthy, who is also chaplain of the Serra Club of South Bend, also provided special literature and was host at the luncheon.

in late September, he's certainly willing to go the extra mile to make it happen.

"We've been doing this for 10 years," said Gough, assistant professor of business at Ancilla College. "I started this my second year at the college. As a school, we had never historically raised much for United Way, and we thought we needed to change that."

"All of the presidents here at the college have been big proponents of United Way. It's part of the mission of Ancilla College to serve the underserved."

Along with Sharon Blubaugh, Ancilla College registrar, Gough's antics have helped raise awareness and greater funding for those in need through the annual United Way Pledge Drive at Ancilla College.

The two certainly don't hold back when it comes time to make the events enjoyable. From Gough's summersault into the lake with Todd Zeltwanger, executive director of Institutional Advancement, to the full costumes he and Blubaugh wear, to the annual Radio Flyer race that will be held in the near future on a date to be determined, students have been more involved than ever in the pledge drive.

Gough also stated that if the goals of the pledge drive are met, Jennifer Maddox, executive director of United Way in Marshall County, will participate in the student events and will wear a curv waitress outfit complete with

roller skates.

"It's important to get students involved in the community," said Blubaugh. "United Way is an organization that helps everyone in the community. We do this to create student participation and awareness of United Way, and we hope this will continue to be annual event."

Mother Teresa's doctor to speak at Little Flower

SOUTH BEND — Dr. Paul A. Wright, M.D., will share his personal experiences with Mother Teresa from his book "Mother Teresa's Prescription: Finding Happiness and Peace in Service," on Tuesday, Oct. 7 at Little Flower Church, 54191 Ironwood Rd., South Bend. Mass will be at 11:30 a.m. following by a lunch, presentation and book signing from 12-1:30 p.m. Donations are welcome.

Dr. Wright first met Mother Teresa in 1992 at the Beato Juan Diego shelter, a homeless shelter run by the Missionaries of Charity. He began treating Mother Teresa in 1994. Dr. Wright received the Catholic bishops' 2003 Voice of Hope Award, which is given to an individual who reveals excellence, creativity and leadership in charity and justice. In 2004 he received the Thomas A. Dooley Award from the Notre Dame Alumni Association. This award is bestowed upon an alumnus who has shown exceptional service and care for humanity. Wright is a cardiologist and graduate of the

University of Notre Dame. He lives in Brookfield, Ohio, with his wife and daughter. This is his first book.

Register for the event by contacting Georgette Griffiee, R.N., by Sunday, Oct. 5, at (574) 243-3435.

Father Pfister to offer class on Book of Revelation

DECATUR — The diocesan Office of Catechesis is sponsoring a three-week session on the Book of Revelation to be held on Thursdays, Oct. 23 and 30 and Nov. 6, at St. Mary of the Assumption, Decatur, from 7-9 p.m. each evening. The sessions will be facilitated by Father John Pfister, pastor of St. Mary, Huntington.

The Book of Revelation is quite different from how many television evangelists present it and how popular authors present it — it is not a book of fear, but a book of hope for the faithful Christian.

Father Pfister will offer historical context and an understanding of the apocalyptic style of writing in the first session, and he encourages participants not to miss the first session.

Participants should bring their Bibles.

Registration is available online at www.diocesefwsb.org/OC under Adult Faith Formation, by calling Janice Martin at (260) 399-1411 or through e-mail at jmartin@fw.diocesefwsb.org

Sanctuary at Holy Cross earns Indiana's 'Excellence in Service' award

SOUTH BEND — Sanctuary at Holy Cross, a long-term care community, was awarded Indiana's Excellence in Service award at the Fall 2008 Indiana Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (IAHSA) conference last week. The award recognizes only one outstanding long-term nursing provider in the state of Indiana each year. Currently, there are 120 similar communities in the state.

Joe Doran, administrator, Sanctuary at Holy Cross, accepted the award on behalf of the staff and residents. "We have dedicated ourselves to changing the way traditional, long-term nursing care is provided," Doran said. "Respecting the wants and needs of our residents is something we believe helps heal the mind, body and spirit. It is an honor to be recognized for these efforts that we believe our residents are entitled to."

Decatur school expands preschool

DECATUR — St. Mary's Parish and St. Joseph School have recently expanded their preschool capacity by remodeling the building attached to the school known as the convent.

The convent, constructed with the same materials as the church, was originally built in 1963 to house the Sisters of St. Agnes and be a tie-in to the school. Up to 23 sisters could be accommodated at the convent at any given time.

The top floor of the building now consists of newly remodeled preschool rooms — three brand new classrooms, a large playroom, two new restrooms, two storage rooms and two offices.

St. Joseph School offers an all day Monday, Wednesday, Friday 5-year-old program; an all day Tuesday, Thursday, 4-year-old program; a morning Monday, Wednesday, Friday 4-year-old program; and a Tuesday, Thursday morning 3-year-old program. They have four staff members and 70 children registered.

Numerous parishioners have been working on this project weekly for the past year.

New Haven parish to celebrate Forty Hours

NEW HAVEN — With the intentions of promoting life and vocations, St. John the Baptist Parish in New Haven will hold a Forty Hours devotion beginning Friday, Oct. 10, with the 8 a.m. Mass through a closing service on Sunday, Oct. 12.

Forty Hours devotion is a eucharistic devotion consisting of continuous adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, solemnly exposed, by shifts of people for 40 hours. Families from the parish have signed up for the shifts, but all are invited to pray before the Blessed Sacrament.

The closing service will include 16 priests and the Knights of Columbus Honor Guard on Sunday, Oct. 12, at 4 p.m.

St. John the Baptist Church is located at 943 Powers St. For additional information, contact the parish at (260) 493-4553.

Catholic authors' series opens with the wit of Evelyn Waugh

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — Writing satire, which is humor or sarcasm that critiques society, can be “dangerous moral ground to occupy,” said Jesuit Father Paul Mankowski, because satire causes pain for its target and fosters ridicule.

Speaking at the University of Notre Dame Sept. 23, Father Mankowski was the first lecturer in a series that focuses on prominent figures in Catholic literature. The title of the series this year, which is sponsored annually by Notre Dame's Center for Ethics and Culture, is “Wit's Way to Wisdom: Four Catholic Satirists.”

British Catholic author Evelyn Waugh was the subject of Father Mankowski's lecture. The Jesuit priest is a native of South Bend who grew up in St. Pius X Parish, so he combined a family visit with his Notre Dame appearance. Two days after the lecture, he returned to Rome, where he is a scholar of Scripture and Hebrew at the Pontifical Biblical Institute.

Father Mankowski had high praise for Waugh, who lived between 1903 and 1966. Waugh wrote 13 novels, several travel books and biographies, diaries and thousands of letters. Father Mankowski spoke about three aspects of the man: Waugh as a prose writer, as a convert to Catholicism and as a satirist.

As a prose writer, Father Mankowski said that, from an early age, Waugh had a “freakish-



ANN CAREY

Jesuit Father Paul Mankowski of the Pontifical Biblical Institute in Rome was the opening speaker in this year's Notre Dame's Ethics and Culture Center's Catholic authors series, “Wit's Way to Wisdom: Four Catholic Satirists.” After his Sept. 23 lecture, Jesuit Father Paul Mankowski talked to many of the Notre Dame students who attended his lecture on Evelyn

ly mature mastery of English prose” and “was incapable of writing a boring sentence.” Even in his casual and mundane writing of letters and diaries, Waugh displayed “remarkable, flawless craftsmanship.” And in writing dialogue in his books, he had a “genius for conveying spoken English,” Father Mankowski said.

Waugh was attracted to Catholicism not by any aesthetic appeal to church music or architecture or ritual; he already had that with the Anglican Church, Father Mankowski said. Rather, Waugh found the appeal of Catholicism to be the church's “universal claim to authority that required submission of mind and spirit.”

Waugh couldn't have been a good satirist if he were not a Catholic, the priest said, because Waugh realized that the Christian satirist must place himself under the same criteria as his targets, and he must use satire to instruct, not just to ridicule. Shame can cleanse and cause some people to reform, Father Mankowski said, and when satire is true, it helps people to see truth, and this is a positive contribution toward moral advancement.

Students asked Father

Mankowski what they should read first of Waugh's works to acquaint themselves with the author. He recommended that to amuse themselves, they read “The Loved One” or “Decline and Fall.” To learn to write well, he said one could read any of Waugh's letters or diaries. The priest said that “Brideshead Revisited” was one of his favorite Waugh books, and Waugh

thought it was his best work, but later in life Waugh considered “Helena” to be his best work.

The second speaker in the series, Notre Dame Professor Ralph McInerney, was to speak Sept. 30 on Baron Corvo. On Oct. 7, Father Marvin

O'Connell, longtime Notre Dame history professor, will speak on G.K. Chesterton. Joseph Pearce of Ave Maria College will talk about Oscar Wilde on Oct. 14, and Holy Cross Father Charles Gordon, a theology professor at Portland University, also will speak on Evelyn Waugh on Oct. 28.

The lectures all take place at 8 p.m. in DeBartolo Hall, Room 155, and are free and open to the public.

“Waugh couldn't have been a good satirist if he were not a Catholic.”

JESUIT FATHER PAUL MANKOWSKI

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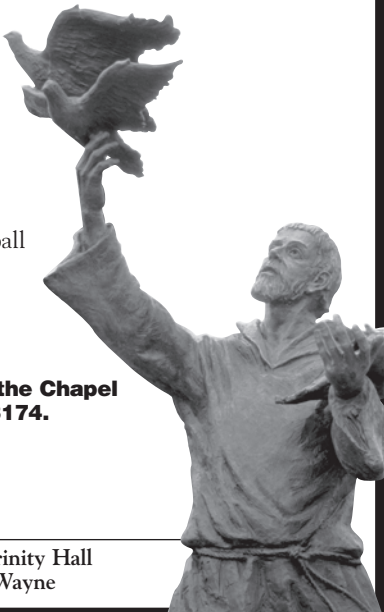
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Brannick clinic committed to serving poor

SOUTH BEND — Perhaps the longest arm that reached out to help the poor and underprivileged who had no funds for medical help belonged to Holy Cross Sister Maura Brannick, who is best known for establishing the Chapin Street Clinic.

Today, the sparkling clinic is known as the Sister Maura Brannick, CSC, Health Center. It is located at the corner of Western and Chapin streets, just about a stone's throw from its original start in a two-bay garage on Washington Street in 1986 at downtown South Bend.

A few years later, Sister Maura found an empty building that was abandoned on Chapin Street and she turned it into a health clinic where services were provided only for those who received no government funds of any kind.

She tapped the volunteer services of many doctors who during the years provided no cost services to the poor and needy.

Since 1986, the old and new clinic has provided more than 90,000 patient visits for the needy. The clinic today stands as a landmark to her legacy of caring for the poor and needy. — EJD



ELMER J. DANICH

Holy Cross Sister Maura Brannick, whose years of devotion of helping provide health services for the poor and needy is a legacy. Sister is congratulated by Nancy Hellyer, chief executive officer of Saint Joseph Regional Medical Center in South Bend on sister's retirement.

DECATUR PARISH BREAKS GROUND FOR NEW GYMNASIUM



PROVIDED BY KARLA HORMANN

St. Mary of the Assumption Parish and St. Joseph School in Decatur celebrated the official groundbreaking for their new gymnasium on Sept. 6. The gym will be built across the street from their school building where their playground use to be. They raised over \$3 million by running a dual Building on Our Heritage campaign along with the Legacy of Faith campaign that the diocese ran. The gymnasium is the first part of the construction phase. After the gym is completed they will begin work on the parish hall and gathering space that will be attached to the current rectory and church.

GRACE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The gift of the feminine gender is no mistake cautioned Benkovic.

"The capacity in our own being to bear another human being is a gift," she said. For those who cannot physically bear children, Benkovic calls them to spiritual maternity saying, "Every woman is called to be a mother and is always a spiritual mother too."

Benkovic opened the second session titled "Women's Influence: His power and Effect" with prayer and spoke passionately of the army of holy women God is calling to transform humanity at this time and place. "Each of us has a job to do. Women impregnated with the spirit of the Gospel can do so much to save humanity," she proposed.

Following a box lunch catered by Grace College and a visit to the book and DVD sales table, where the vivacious Benkovic met participants and autographed books, the conference reconvened with song and prayer to open Father Ed Sylvia's session titled "Male and Female: He Made Them." There must be collaboration between men and women the priest said, adding that discipleship is a lifelong journey.

"Ladies," he told the attentive crowd, "the work is great, but God's grace is greater."

"Chosen and Sent" was the theme of session four opened by Johnette Benkovic following an afternoon ice cream break. Referring back to Ephesians 1:3-4, the enthused speaker reminded all present that God offers every spiritual blessing saying, "God



KAY COZAD

Johnette Benkovic signs books at the recent "A Day of Grace," conference.

gives us everything to step forward in this day and time. His blessings are always and immediately available and that gives us confidence."

Her witness of grief over first the tragic loss of her son Simon, and then the illness and death of her beloved husband Anthony drove home the truth about the abundant blessings of God in adversity.

"I have learned," she said, "that those painful moments are treasures of grace. ... Faith is not based in feelings and emotions. It resides in the intellect and is exercised in the will."

Benkovic's message of feminine purpose in God's plan for the world in this age of turmoil brought hope to many.

Arlene Lewis of St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla, said, "Every woman should hear her message ... of bringing the world together to be peaceful."

Mylene Weber, parishioner of St. John Vianny, Mentor, Ohio, was pleased to have the opportunity to join the gathering of women, while her husband took

in the Notre Dame vs. Purdue football game in South Bend. She said, "What she is saying is hitting home. God's forgiveness is a big issue."

Peggy Beuchel of St. John the Baptist, New Haven, said of the conference, "It's nice to be in a space where I am affirmed as a Catholic woman and I can embrace my Catholic identity with other Catholic women."

Cindy Bradtmueller of the Columbia Ladies of Our Lady of Good Hope Parish in Fort Wayne enjoyed Benkovic's humor while she spoke of the commonalities of women.

As the day drew to a close, the reverence was palpable in the auditorium as Mass was celebrated by Father Sylvia. After thanking Ginny Korhman and all who volunteered to present the spirit-filled day, including a special thanks to Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Benkovic left the women with these instructions, "We can reclaim our culture for Christ ... Take the light and love of God with you to your homes and to all you meet."

Of her visit with the women of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and surrounding area, Johnette Benkovic offered enthusiastically, "The openness of heart and the receptivity of the people in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are remarkable. God is doing a great work in the diocese and in the hearts of his daughters."

Several parishes within the diocese offer the eight-week women's study, Women of Grace. For more information contact Ginny Korhman at (260) 422-4611 or e-mail gkorrman@fw.diocese-fwsb.org.



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Postmortem on the abuse crisis

Canon lawyer, Red Mass brunch speaker, urges vigilance, accountability

BY DON CLEMMER

In 1962, Father Joseph Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI) wrote, "What the church needs today ... are not adulators to extol the status quo, but men ... who face every misunderstanding and attack as they bear witness ... who, in a word, love the church more than ease and the unruffled course of their personal destiny."

The legal community of Fort Wayne will likely find such a man in Nicholas P. Cafardi, the speaker at the Oct. 5 Red Mass brunch at the Grand Wayne Center, as he addresses the topic, "Christian Lawyering: What To Do When The Church Fails."

Cafardi is an original member of the National Review Board, the all-lay board created by the U.S. bishops to oversee their compliance with the policies for protecting children from sexual abuse by priests put in place at their June 2002 meeting in Dallas. So he has seen up close what happens when the church and its leaders fail. He has studied it. He has also spoken out strongly whenever necessary.

Cafardi has even written a book, "Before Dallas: The U.S. Bishops' Response to Clergy Sexual Abuse of Children," published by Paulist Press. His book documents the time from 1984 on, when the U.S. bishops failed numerous times to address clergy sexual abuse.

One of the few lay people in the U.S. to have a canon law degree, in his case a doctorate, Cafardi serves on the faculty of the Duquesne University School of Law, and he brings a deep legal understanding to why the issue was not addressed. Cafardi first looks to every version of the Code of Canon Law, the law of the church, dating back to the end of the first century.

"All of those collections of church law make it very clear that the sexual abuse of minors is a crime," he notes. "The problem is that we failed to follow our own law and treat it as a crime."

Treating it as a crime means not only the involvement of civil authorities, but also of mechanisms within the church.

"The church has a very good legal system," Cafardi explains. "Every diocese has its own courts. We have international courts at the Holy See in Rome. We have an extensive legal system that's been around for a very long time."

But instead of prosecuting abusive priests according to the church's own law, the U.S. bishops more or less collectively ignored the issue until it ruptured publicly in early 2002.

As to why the bishops failed to act sooner, Cafardi cites a couple of reasons. One was that some bishops were overly conscious of their own prerogative in their own dioceses.

"Nobody could tell them what to do in their own diocese," he explains. "In their own diocese,



NICHOLAS CAFARDI

they were the ultimate authority."

While the authority of the bishop is true, Cafardi notes, he says this became a problem when such a bishop either refused to address the problem or put an abusive priest back in ministry.

As a group, the bishops' discussions on the issue were in executive session, meaning a complete record does not exist, but, putting the

pieces together, Cafardi says, "It appears that every time the bishops discussed this, they more or less said, 'All we can do as a group is advise each other because the national caucus does not have the authority to legislate for the entire country.'"

While this is also true, Cafardi cites the example of the bishops of Canada who, despite the same restrictions, were able to agree on guidelines they would follow, asking the laity to hold them accountable as they did so.

Accountability to the laity, Cafardi notes, is a big key to ensuring the abuse crisis will not reemerge in the future.

own. ... What the code lacks is a mechanism for accountability."

Looking ahead, Cafardi still has his fears about whether the church has put the abuse crisis entirely in the past.

"I'm not sure that every bishop gets it," he notes. He says such bishops are few and, in coming to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, is also visiting a friend on this issue, Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

"Bishop D'Arcy is one of my heroes," Cafardi says. "He was one of the bishops that got it right from the very, very start. I wish we'd had more Bishop D'Arcys in the church of the United States."

Cafardi maintains that it's up to the laity to hold the bishops to the promises of the Dallas charter, especially since the Dallas norms have to be renewed periodically, meaning the bishops

could decide the problem is resolved and that the no longer need them.

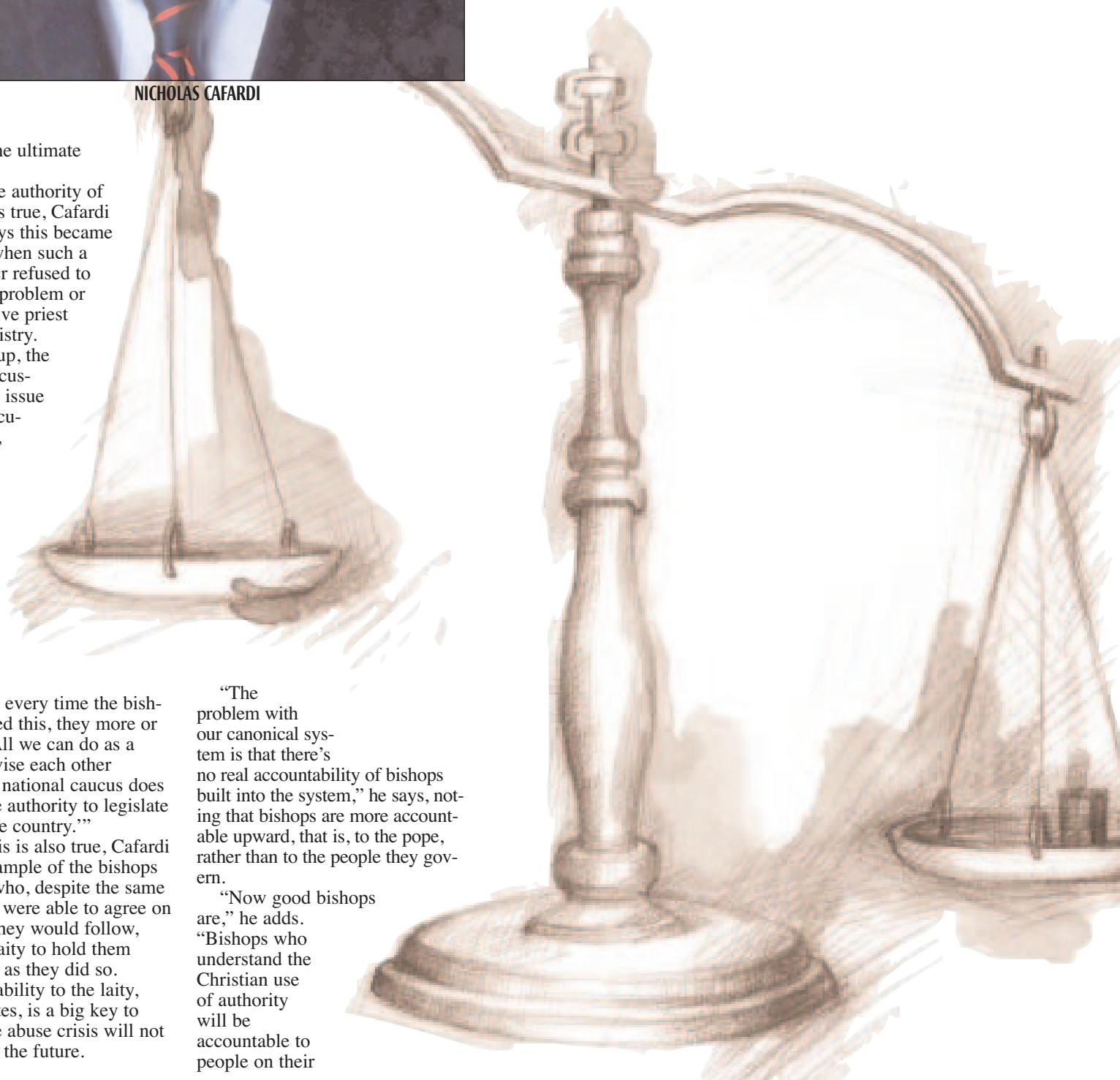
"I think that would be a very serious mistake," Cafardi says.

He says it is a sad part of the nature of pedophiles to seek jobs where they are alone with children in positions of authority.

"That's why people like this become school-teachers. That's why they become Scoutmasters. It's why they become choir directors. It's why they become Catholic priests," he says. "It requires constant vigilance."

"Bishop D'Arcy is one of my heroes. He was one of the bishops that got it right from the very, very start."

NICHOLAS CAFARDI



USCCB, CRS urge presidential nominees to ponder world poverty issues

BY CHAZ MUTH

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Representatives from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services in a telephone press conference Sept. 23 called on the major parties' presidential candidates to lay out their foreign policy strategies in relation to the world's poor and overseas assistance.

The campaigns of Democratic Sen. Barack Obama and Republican Sen. John McCain have failed to adequately address the global food crisis, the increasing role of the U.S. Defense Department in humanitarian work, the refocusing of U.S. foreign assistance, and how the government should help the poor adapt to climate change, said Bill O'Keefe, senior director for the advocacy department of the Baltimore-based CRS.

The Obama and McCain campaigns also have failed to sufficiently articulate if their foreign policy programs would promote religious equality, strengthen international law, support a safe haven for foreign refugees, or actively pursue a comprehensive resolution between the Israelis and Palestinians, said Stephen Colecchi, director of the Office of International Justice and Peace for the USCCB.

"This topic is timely considering that this Friday night (Sept. 26) the candidates will be debating foreign policy," O'Keefe said. "These

are critical issues that are crying out for attention."

Both campaigns are currently focused on the domestic economic crisis and the Bush administration's proposed bailout of U.S. financial institutions, which could cost taxpayers \$700 billion or more if it's approved by Congress.

With approximately \$38 billion currently being spent on foreign aid — which includes costs for foreign embassies and diplomatic missions — both men argued that money spent to address global poverty is a minimal expense in the federal budget compared to the proposed bailout of U.S. financial institutions.

"There is no doubt the next administration and Congress has tough financial problems they will have to deal with," O'Keefe said. "But there is a missed opportunity by the candidates to demonstrate their own leadership (on these matters) and to prove to the voters they can think comprehensively and broadly about comprehensive issues. The person who can demonstrate they can do that is more likely to win the election."

If the U.S. government would invest in a solution to poverty in foreign countries, those nations would become better trade partners, Colecchi said.

Nations with fewer poverty issues also tend to be more peaceful countries and more peace in the world would reduce "the amount that we have to spend on defense," he said.

The USCCB and CRS repre-

sentatives used the Sept. 23 press conference as a way of reaching out to the candidates to urge them to address these issues in their campaigns.

The USCCB also has submitted its "Faithful Citizenship" statement — which address these and other moral issues — to both campaigns and has sought a meeting with each candidate to discuss the topics face to face, Colecchi said.

O'Keefe also urged Catholics to bring up these issues with the candidates at campaign events and write letters to editors as a way of gaining support for moral concerns.

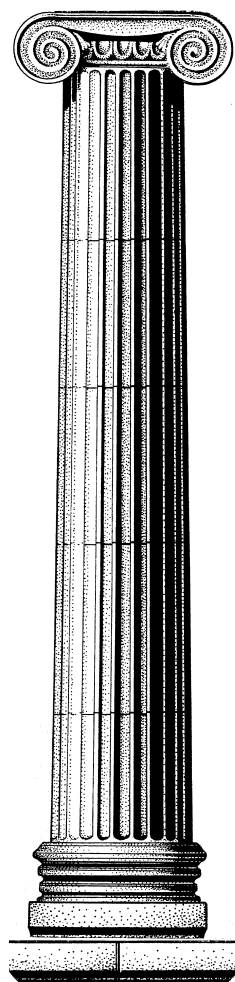
Ultimately, Catholics have the power to vote for the candidate they believe has best addressed these moral issues of conscience, he said.

Colecchi said the U.S. Catholic bishops are calling for a new style of politics that focuses "more on the pursuit of the common good than on the demands of narrow special interests."



CNS PHOTO/MIKE CEASER

A young girl stands outside a shack built on stilts in Buenaventura, Colombia, in this January 2006 file photo. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services are urging the presidential nominees to ponder issues affecting the world's poor people.



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Bishops invite candidates to meet before election

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has extended invitations to Republican Sen. John McCain and Democratic Sen. Barack Obama to meet before the Nov. 4 election and discuss their views on a variety of election issues.

Invitations to the major presidential candidates were sent in August, *The Wall Street Journal* reported Sept. 17.

Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., chairman of the bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, told the newspaper that five bishops who lead various policy committees want to discuss the candidates' views on social policies such as abortion, education, immigration, international affairs and communications.

Any meetings, should they occur, will be private and off the record, Bishop Murphy said.

"This isn't born of any concern

or worry or problem," Bishop Murphy told the newspaper. "We think it would be helpful for us to have that time and we think it would be helpful for the candidates to hear from the teachers of the Catholic Church ... as to what our concerns are."

The invitations are the first in recent memory to seek meetings prior to an election. They were sent prior to USCCB responses earlier in September to two Democrats who support legalized abortion. Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware, the vice presidential candidate, and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California made remarks on national television stating their positions on abortion, prompting the bishops to clarify Catholic teaching.

Neither presidential candidate has replied to the requests, Mercy Sister Mary Ann Walsh, USCCB director of media relations, told the newspaper.

Bishops' document on election goes high tech in podcast, video format

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Ask Catholic teenagers if they've read a recent document by the U.S. bishops and you might get a blank look.

But ask if they've heard of the bishops' statement "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility," either through a podcast, a video quiz on YouTube or its page on the social networking site Facebook, and you might get a nod of recognition.

That's what the U.S. bishops are hoping anyway.

"Faithful Citizenship," the document that urges Catholic voters to form their consciences around a variety of social concerns based on Catholic social teaching, is not something new. The bishops initially published the document in 1975 and produce a new version of it about every four years to coincide with the national elections.

For starters, its Web site, www.faithfulcitizenship.org, has resources for youths and those who work with them.

The site is "tech savvy," according to Jill Rauh, youth and young adult coordinator for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development.

"I think if the church is going to be effective at communicating the message of 'Faithful Citizenship,' and all its messages, it needs to do so in ways that are appealing to young people," Rauh said.

She said getting youths to go beyond just reading the text or

hearing about it is key to the new push behind the "Faithful Citizenship" quizzes, an iPod contest on the site and video clips. The hope is that young people will not only get the document's message but talk about it, reflect on it and apply it to their lives.

The Web site suggests some formats for talking about "Faithful Citizenship," such as one called "Coffee Discussion," which includes a series of questions about social issues and Catholic teaching that friends could informally talk about over coffee.

And youth ministers and religious educators are not limited to just making handouts of the document. Instead they are given ideas for skits, murals, open-microphone nights and prayer services based on "Faithful Citizenship."

Rauh told Catholic News Service the outreach to younger people is a recognition that they have "an important role to play in living out faith as leaders in the Catholic community. They are both the future and the present in our church."

And even if these Catholic youths are not old enough to vote, she said, they "still have a responsibility to be faithful citizens" — to be active in their communities and to challenge their leaders.

Across the country, youth and diocesan leaders have taken a variety of approaches in getting out the word on "Faithful Citizenship."

Becky VanPool, parish outreach and program development director for Catholic Charities of Oklahoma City, Okla., worked with the diocesan young adult ministry program to host a "Faithful Citizenship" bar-

becue Sept. 28.

VanPool said she was convinced the format to discuss faith and political issues would be "much more valuable than a presentation," although a small presentation was planned to give an overview of Catholic social teaching.

Students at Melbourne Central Catholic High School in Melbourne, Fla., have been taking a close look at where the church stands on a variety of political issues in preparation for a congressional candidate forum they planned to host Sept. 25.

The students created the questions based on the "Faithful Citizenship" document and were to moderate the discussion.

Deborah Stafford Shearer, director of the Office of Advocacy and Justice for the Diocese of Orlando, Fla., who helped organize the forum, said this was the first time an event like this was being coordinated by students; usually it is done on the parish level.

But she saw it as an important "educational moment" for the students who have been preparing for the forum in religion and civics classes. The students formulated questions on abortion, marriage, health care, the economy and the environment.

To do so, Stafford Shearer said they had to learn "a lot about where the church stands on issues and also the diversity of issues" it addresses, something that is often a surprise to adults, she said.

That's why she hoped the event would "get a big parent turnout," so the lessons on active Catholic citizens would reach an even broader audience.

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Thomas More: interview with Gerard Wegemer

BY ANN CAREY

DALLAS — St. Thomas More is the patron saint of public servants and those in the legal professions. More himself was a lawyer, judge, diplomat and chancellor of England. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London and eventually beheaded in 1535 because he refused to take the Oath of Succession, which named King Henry VIII as head of the Church of England and declared the legitimacy of the Henry's marriage to Anne Boleyn.

Professor Gerard Wegemer of the University of Dallas is director for the Center for Thomas More Studies at the University of Dallas, and he talked to *Today's Catholic* about Thomas More.

Today's Catholic: Why is Thomas More considered such an outstanding role model for public servants and those in the legal professions?

Professor Wegemer: More presents the law as a vocation that deeply affects the life and culture of a country. Besides being an excellent lawyer and a judge, he trained himself in philosophy, theology and history in order to understand how to apply and develop the law. He therefore represents the profession in its fullest scope and also shows

how the professional himself has an important role in the life of the law.

He clearly shows that justice requires just people and people dedicated toward thinking about the good of the country, and not one particular case or one particular issue.

Today's Catholic: How did this mindset affect More's interactions with King Henry?

Professor Wegemer: More was a person of the law willing to die for the law, and Henry was set on breaking the law, going around the law — the strongest laws of England, the Magna Carta and his own coronation oath. More, in a very effective and powerful way, without causing a war, but clearly setting forth the principle, appealed to the conscience of the whole country and repeatedly to Henry, until Henry eventually had More eliminated because he was too effective.

Today's Catholic: After More's death, did the opposition to Henry just dry up?

Professor Wegemer: It took several generations, but eventually the principles More set forth took hold, the ones that strengthened parliament and strengthened the rule of law and diminished the power that was accumulated in the hands of an arbitrary monarch.

So More is an example of

Professor Wegemer invites

lawyers and judges to visit the Web site for Thomas More Studies at www.ThomasMoreStudies.org for various scholarly papers about More and to learn about the Nov. 7-8 conference on Thomas More at the University of Dallas. Lawyers, scholars and judges from England and the U.S. will give presentations on the trial of Thomas More at the conference, and attendees can earn 10.5 continuing education legal credits in ethics.

how to bring about constructive cultural change, even though it may take a generation or more, and he was willing to die because he knew it was for the good of the country, short term and long term.

Today's Catholic: So, how can people today emulate him in their own professions?

Professor Wegemer: More is one of the first persons to use the word "integrity" in the sense of moral excellence and true consistency of word and thought. That seems one of the greatest requirements of professionals in politics today, that their word and their action can be trusted. That's why More was so admired and effective both as lawyer and judge in London or a

negotiator internationally. He was chosen by his colleagues because they trusted him. And Henry knew that people trusted More, and that's why he had to eliminate him.

Today's Catholic: Can you sum up why More is such an important role model for public servants?

Professor Wegemer: He shows the personal virtues one must have, and there are a range of virtues: diplomacy, shrewdness and great courage. Probably his longest lasting effect will be in teaching people, but also in his writings, how to bear up under very difficult circumstances. ...

At his trial, for instance, once he was condemned by 15 colleagues and former friends, he

says to them, "Though you now are agents of my condemnation, I hope we will all merrily one day be together in heaven." To have that level of good will to people who have just destroyed your life and your family is extraordinary. ...

He has his eyes on eternity, but also on the future of England, and he's trying to teach by his actions and his deeds. ... He's full of edifying surprises: On the scaffolding he jokes with his jailer. ... This is part of the phenomenal integrity of man. ... To the very last moment of his life, he is working to live faith in charity and lift up the people around him and give them hope.

Today's Catholic: Which works of More would you most recommend for public servants?

Professor Wegemer: The two classics he wrote in the tower: "The Sadness of Christ," which is his last reflections at the end of a very diverse and full life, and it's the last book he wrote, which has a lot to say about friendship and leadership. Then his "Dialogue of Comfort against Tribulation," also written in the tower, ... is his great contribution on the nature of suffering, how one acquires the courage to put up with suffering.



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EDITORIAL

Cardinal Rigali on the Freedom of Choice Act

On Sept. 19, Cardinal Justin Rigali, the Archbishop of Philadelphia and the Chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issued a letter to all members of Congress voicing his strong opposition to the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) that may be considered in this or the next Congress. In his letter, the cardinal noted that not only would this legislation create a "fundamental right" to abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy for virtually any reason, but it would also invalidate numerous state and federal pro-life laws and, for the first time, make abortion an entitlement that must be supported and promoted with state and federal tax dollars.

According to an analysis of the legislation by the U.S. Bishops' Associate General Counsel, Michael Moses, FOCA is a radical measure that would almost certainly invalidate a broad range of state laws, including:

- Informed consent laws like the one in Indiana that requires that a woman seeking an abortion be offered information about fetal development, the risks of abortion, alternatives to it and the opportunity to see the ultrasound of the child and hear her heartbeat;
- Laws like the one that pro-life Hoosiers struggled for years to see enforced that require an 18-hour waiting period in order for a woman to weigh that information before having the procedure performed;
- Parental notification or consent laws like the one in our state that requires that a minor have a parent's consent unless a court allows her to make the decision by herself;
- Laws like the one in Indiana that outlaw a particular abortion procedure, such as partial birth abortion;
- Abortion clinic regulations, even those designed to make abortions safer for women, like the recently passed law in Indiana that regulates abortion clinics so that they must meet the same minimal requirements as do other surgical centers;
- Laws like those in our state that promote childbirth over abortion and which refuse to fund abortion except to save the life of the mother;
- Laws like the one in Indiana that requires that abortions only be performed by a licensed physician or one that would require that abortionists have local hospital privileges in order to better assure their competence as physicians;
- Laws like the one in our state that require that abortion providers maintain certain records with respect to performed abortions; and, perhaps most disturbingly,
- Laws like those in Indiana that protect the conscience rights of doctors, nurses and hospitals from performing or cooperating with the performance of abortions.

Such a sweeping, universal and devastating strike at hundreds of pro-life laws across the country — many of which have been successful in reducing the number of abortions — would undeniably lead to a sharp increase in the numbers of those killed. In fact, according to a statistical analysis by Dr. Michael New of the Heritage Foundation, parental involvement laws, informed consent laws and funding restrictions alone save an estimated 125,000 unborn children per year in the United States.

Ominously, among the 20 Democratic and independent senators who have already signed on as sponsors of this radical measure, three of the most outspoken are Senators Barbara Boxer, Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama (see list at www.aul.org/FOCA). In fact, last year, Sen. Obama pledged at a Planned Parenthood event that "the first thing that I'd do as president is sign the Freedom of Choice Act. That's the first thing that I'd do."

In closing his letter, Cardinal Rigali made this blunt assessment: "We can't reduce abortions by promoting abortion. We cannot reduce abortions by invalidating the very laws that have been shown to reduce abortions. We cannot reduce abortions by insisting that every program supporting women in childbirth and child care must also support abortion. No one who sponsors or supports legislation like FOCA can credibly claim to be part of a good-faith discussion on how to reduce abortions."

Headline Bistro: Because Catholics need to know

Speaking of staying tuned, back in August, the Knights of Columbus launched a new Web site and e-mail news service called Headline Bistro, which is "dedicated to bringing readers the top, daily headlines that Catholics need to know." The idea is to present national and international news stories "from the perspective of Catholics who want to know what is happening in the church, nation and world around them." It's well done and worth checking out.

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

Concerned about straying from Roman Missal

Why do many priests feel a need to ad lib certain parts of the holy Mass, "source and summit of the Christian life?" When one reviews the Roman Missal, there are only a very few places that permit options, and those options are carefully scripted. Also, CIC Can. 846 §1 states, "In celebrating the sacraments, the liturgical books approved by competent authority are to be observed faithfully; accordingly, no one is to add, omit, or alter anything in them on one's own authority."

Often the liberties taken by the celebrant are distracting, sometimes they are silly, and occasionally they are theologically problematic. Could it also be that the example set by priests influences so-called Catholic politicians like Sen. Biden and Sen. Pelosi who "ad lib" the church's teaching on abortion?

Since the bishop is unable to monitor regularly these infidelities, I also pray that priests would not react indignantly to a suggestion from the laity that the holy Eucharist might be celebrated more reverently if the missal were "observed faithfully."

I am also reminded of St. Luke 16:10, "He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much."

Parker Ladwig
South Bend

Present records and views

The recent news article in the Sept. 7 issue of *Today's Catholic* written by Dennis Sadowski on Barack Obama seemed like a glossed over political endorsement of Mr. Obama. The column presented Mr. Obama in a favorable light but left out some key facts that should be considered by Catholic voters.

Mr. Obama has an extreme voting record and a willingness to misrepresent that record. He has a 100 percent rating by pro-choice organizations. He is the co-sponsor of the Freedom of Choice Act which would make partial birth abortion legal again, require taxpayer funding of abortions and strike down all limitations on abortion that have been fought for over the years. He has promised to sign this act into law as president.

In the article, Sister Simone Campbell, executive director of Network uses the faulty argument that better health care will reduce the number of abortions. Mr. Obama's extreme stance

doesn't want to offer health care to a baby born alive during a botched abortion. He has voted against the Live Baby Act on three separate occasions even though the United States Senate voted unanimously to approve it. He has said an additional doctor should not be brought in to attend to the baby when that would burden the original decision made by another doctor and the aborting mother. He has said he would not want his own daughters to be punished by a baby if they made a mistake.

Mr. Obama supports embryonic stem-cell research, voted against filtering pornography on school and library computers and voted for sex education for kindergarten children through fifth grade. He has voted against a bill barring early release from prison for criminal sex offenders.

He is also against tax credits and vouchers for private schools. Perhaps most important is the kind of judges Mr. Obama along with Mr. Biden will nominate for the Supreme Court. They both support liberal judicial activists. Mr. Biden has proved hateful in his treatment of Justices Thomas, Roberts and Alito during their confirmation hearings.

Speaking well and looking good do not equal a good leader. We should all work toward the Faithful Citizenship themes. However much of what both parties provide is empty promises and campaign rhetoric. Rarely are these promises fulfilled. Health care has been in crisis long before the present administration. Louisiana was poverty stricken long before Katrina. Given that, we must go on the candidates' records and what they have already done. Mr. Obama's record is extreme and not compatible with Catholic teaching.

Let us hope that we as Catholics do not do anything to present less than the whole picture of Mr. Obama and his running mate. I hope future articles will not present only campaign promises made but actual records and views.

Marianne Dunne
Fort Wayne

Look at the platforms

Frank Wessling's commentary "Politics and abortion: What's the choice?" which was reprinted in the Sept. 21 issue of *Today's Catholic* seems an egregious attempt to create an erroneous moral equivalence between the Democratic party and the Republican party on the issue of abortion by claiming that "neither of our major political parties

is centered on a fundamental pro-life stance. ... Conscientious voters won't feel comfortable in either camp."

All one has to do is look at the 2008 platforms of each party on the issue of abortion to see the enormous differences between them. The 2008 Democratic platform states, under the heading of "Choice": "The Democratic Party strongly and unequivocally supports *Roe v. Wade* and a woman's right to choose a safe and legal abortion, regardless of ability to pay, and we oppose any and all efforts to weaken or undermine that right."

The 2008 Republican party platform states, under the heading "Maintaining the Sanctity and Dignity of Human Life": "Faithful to the first guarantee of the Declaration of Independence, we assert the inherent dignity and sanctity of all human life and affirm that the unborn child has a fundamental individual right to life which cannot be infringed. We support a human life amendment to the Constitution, and we endorse legislation to make clear that the Fourteenth Amendment's protections apply to unborn children. We oppose using public revenues to promote or perform abortion and will not fund organizations which advocate it. We support the appointment of judges who respect traditional family values and the sanctity and dignity of innocent human life."

In addition, Wessling's assertion that "the Republican party has had years of opportunity to actually move in that direction with nothing to show for it" is simply untrue.

The U.S. Bishops' Pro-Life Secretariat can point to numerous accomplishments in the pro-life political arena in the past several years, including the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act and the Born Alive Infants Protection Act. Not only have positive things been accomplished, but just as importantly, the well-funded pro-abortion political agenda has been thwarted, especially with regard to taxpayer funding of abortion, the tying of U.S. foreign aid to aggressive population control programs which include abortion, and the pressure to force Catholic hospitals to provide abortion "services" or referrals.

To boldly state, as does Wessling, that nothing significant has been accomplished through the political process nor is likely to be, does not reflect either a balanced review of the facts or the position of the U.S. bishops.

Lisa Everett
Co-director, Office of Family Life
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Being in Christ

Before his conversion and renaming, Paul was known as Saul. We are told he was on a journey to Damascus when a light from the sky suddenly flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

What do you suppose went through his mind? He had been persecuting disciples that belonged to a new sect growing up in Jerusalem. They believed incredible things about a carpenter from Nazareth, and Saul was doing his part to stop it. Three chapters earlier in the Book of Acts, he had stood by at the execution of one of their number, named Stephen. Did he wonder if it was Stephen's voice he heard now questioning him from the sky?

Saul was also traveling north with letters to present to the synagogues in Damascus. These gave him permission to bring back in chains anyone he found who belonged "to the Way." Did he wonder if the voice he was hearing on the Damascus road was one of his future victims? Perhaps they were crying out,



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The Year of St. Paul

demanding to know why he came to persecute them?

So Saul asked, logically enough, "Who are you, sir?"

In reply came a whole doctrine of the church (an ecclesiology). The answer was not "I am Stephen," or "I am one who you dragged out and handed over for imprisonment (Acts 8:3)." The answer came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." This stopped Saul in his tracks.

Paul thought he was persecuting a group of people, but the voice from heaven accused him of persecuting the very Son of God. Christ was connected to the Christian more truly than Paul could have imagined before his blinding illumination. What was

this mystical connection?

Emile Mersch wrote about how the faithful possess Christ within them. He said, "Since that day, when (Paul) saw Christ in the church which he was persecuting, it seems that he can no longer look into the eyes of a Christian without meeting there the gaze of Christ."

This was a turning point for Paul. He went away, into the desert for three years to search the Scripture to figure it out. When he finally did, his understanding set the terms for what has since been known as the mystical body. The church is not just a group of like-minded persons

PAUL, PAGE 16

We bring chaos upon ourselves



THE
SUNDAY
GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt 21:33-43

The first section of the Book of Isaiah is the source of this weekend's first reading.

The prophet then speaks directly to the people. He speaks as God, in the first person.

In this reading, the prophet employs an image with which his contemporaries would have been very familiar, the image of the vineyard. The prophet describes the land of God's people as a vineyard. The vineyard belongs to God. God tends the vineyard. Lavish in generosity and care, God fills the vineyard with the choicest vines.

The author of this section of Isaiah was very disappointed with his people. Furthermore, he saw them moving along a path that would lead to their destruction.

What was happening as a result? The people were polluting God's vineyard. They became wild grapes, sour and repulsive, unworthy of being in the beautiful vineyard. They themselves were creating their own doom by being disloyal to God.

They were disobedient in their laxity in religious observance, at least in the prophet's mind.

Especially troubling for him were the leaders who were flirting with neighboring pagan states and who

allowed the paganism of these neighbors to influence policy.

The Epistle to the Philippians provides the second reading this weekend.

Philippi was an important military post in the Roman Empire, located in modern Greece. As such, it was a thoroughly pagan community. Because of their worship of the God of Israel, of Jesus as the son of God, and because of their devotion to the Gospel values of love, sacrifice and life in God, pagans looked upon Christians with disdain, at best, as threats at most.

Before long, this disdain for Christians in the empire erupted into outright persecution.

Understandably this Epistle had to encourage and reassure Philippi's Christians. It admonished the Christians of Philippi always to be faithful to God, always to be holy, and indeed never to fear opposition or even persecution.

St. Matthew's Gospel is the source of the third reading.

As has been the case on other weekends, the selection for this weekend is a parable. Again, the story is about a discussion between Jesus and priests and elders.

Voicing the parable, Jesus refers to a "landowner," who of course is God.

The landowner has planted a vineyard. (Remember the first reading? Vineyards often were used in the Old Testament to describe the nation of Israel.) The vineyard belongs to God. Those who occupy the vineyard merely are tenants. God protected this vineyard by surrounding it with a hedge, and then God went on a journey, leaving tenants to tend the vineyard.

In due course, the landowner sends his servants to the tenants to collect the yield. However, the tenants have turned against God. The

tenants kill these servants. God sent more servants. They too were killed. Finally, the Son of God was sent, also to be killed. Finally, God drives the tenants from the vineyard.

Reflection

The church has called us to discipleship during these weeks. It restates this call in these readings.

Ultimately, today's lesson is not about doom and destruction, although both Isaiah and Matthew feature unhappiness and death. Rather, the message is of salvation and hope.

By disobeying, or ignoring, God, we bring chaos upon ourselves. God does not hurl thunderbolts of anger and revenge at us. Instead, we create our own eternal situation. We choose to sin. We choose to be with God, or to be without God. Salvation is not forced upon us. We choose our plight of death and hopelessness.

All is not necessarily lost. The wonder, and great opportunity, in all this is that God accepts us back if we repent. God is merciful. By forgiving us, God returns us to the vineyard, there to find life and goodness forever.

READINGS

Sunday: Is 5:1-7 Ps 80:9, 12-16, 19-20 Phil 4:6-9 Mt 21:33-43

Monday: Gal 1:6-12 Ps 111:1b-2,7-9, 10c Lk 10:25-37

Tuesday: Gal 1:13-24 Ps 139:1b-3, 13-15 Lk 10:38-42

Wednesday: Gal 2:1-2, 7-14 Ps 117:1bc, 2 Lk 11:1-4

Thursday: Gal 3:1-5 (Ps) Lk 1:69-75 Lk 11:5-13

Friday: Gal 3:7-14 Ps 111:1b-6 Lk 11:15-26

Saturday: Gal 3:22-29 Ps 105:2-7 Lk 11:27-28

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Campion

In October, the church remembers St. Therese of Lisieux.

1. Where is Lisieux?

- a. France
- b. Belgium
- c. Canada

2. According to some sources, Therese's mother had this ambition:

- a. to be the first flying nun to reach Mach 2
- b. to be a saint
- c. to vote for the separation of Quebec from the British provinces

3. Not unusual for in those days,

- a. Therese and four siblings that survived and four that died
- b. Therese's parents had to surrender the oldest son to be raised as a Janissary
- c. the children's father sold them off to buy beer

4. When she was four, Therese lost:

- a. her rosary
- b. her mind
- c. her mother

5. During a childhood illness, Therese prayed to Mary and

- a. St. Komodo, patron of people who are feverish
- b. drank unconsecrated communion wine until cured
- c. was inexplicably cured

6. What nickname is used of St. Therese?

- a. La Petite
- b. The Little Flower
- c. The Belgian Waffler

7. Unlike many saints, Therese had a short life, dying when she was

- a. 24
- b. 34
- c. 44

8. She died a member of this order

- a. the Carmelites
- b. the Dominicans
- c. the Bonne Secours

9. Where did Therese serve as a missionary?

- a. the Belgian Congo
- b. Mali and later Senegal
- c. Nowhere — she was never a missionary

10. All of Therese's siblings who survived infancy

- a. died before she was born
- b. became Protestants
- c. became nuns

11. And all but one

- a. was a girl
- b. became a Carmelite nun
- c. was married

12. When Therese wanted to be a nun she was dissuaded by

- a. the local bishop
- b. her fiancé Hugo Naught
- c. her mother

13. Her autobiography is called

- a. "I Was a Teenage Carmelite"
- b. "The Way of the Cross"
- c. "The Story of a Soul"

14. Eventually she got her wish and became a nun, but only after going to see

- a. the pope
- b. Napoleon III
- c. the fist Belgian Movie, "Dracula et le banque de sang"

15. Pope John Paul II declared her a Doctor of the Universal Church. Which other women have that title?

- a. Mother Teresa and Mary Madgalene
- b. Teresa of Avila and Catherine of Siena
- c. The Virgin Mary and St. Catherine De Medici

ANSWERS:

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

All Christians are called by Jesus to poverty of heart

How does the church view maintaining personal wealth and financial planning if Jesus teaches to give your goods away and love your neighbor as yourself? TC, Fort Wayne

The call of Jesus to be poor extends to every one of his followers. However, how that poverty is lived out is unique to each follower according to the specific vocation of each. Some are called by Jesus literally to give up everything in following him. Among these especially would be religious brothers, sisters and priests. Religious make a vow of poverty by which they renounce the right to own anything. Now this does not mean that they must live in abject poverty. Rather, all their resources belong to the entire community and from the community they receive what they need to live and to fulfill their vocation.

Diocesan priests do not make a vow of poverty. (Many people,

I think, do not know this.) Diocesan priests are able to own material goods for themselves. However, diocesan priests are asked to live "in the spirit of poverty" which means that they are to avoid ostentation of life and are to live simply.

Lay people too, of course, are able to own their own material goods and should discern God's will for their use. We would especially cite the principles of stewardship here by which we recognize that everything that we have is a gift from God, and we should return to God a portion of what he has given to us in thanksgiving for the work of the church and the helping of the poor and needy. However, the primary use of their material goods should be in the fulfilling of their vocation, especially the mother and father who must obtain the goods necessary to take care of themselves and their children.

In general, though, all

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

Christians are called by Jesus to poverty of heart. As Jesus would say, "Blessed are the poor in spirit." One can be literally poor, but not poor in spirit, that is, a literally poor person could be filled with envy and greed. On the other hand, a materially wealthy person can be truly poor in spirit, detached from his possessions and using them in poverty of heart for the good of others.

It is not against the Christian spirit for a person to seek to be successful in business and financial matters as long as that person

acts morally in his pursuits and seeks to attain material goods in order to benefit others, his own vocation and the work of the church. In fact, it would be wrong, for example, for the father of a family to try to act like a monk by not owning any material goods. His children would not have food to live on. This would be a great injustice and, indeed, against God's will. In addition, someone who seeks to be successful in business more than likely contributes to the ability of others to maintain jobs which then in turn benefits their own families.

Again, Jesus calls all of us to poverty of heart and to detachment from material goods, but how that is lived out is determined by God's call to us in our specific vocations.

Is the pope the authority over the universal church or only the Roman Catholic Church? TC, Fort Wayne

Our firmly-held belief is that the "power of the keys" given to Peter by Jesus and shared by every successor of St. Peter, the popes, extends over the entire universal church. You can see more on this in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, numbers 881-882. Certainly, mostly all Christians who are not Catholic would not accept that. Nonetheless, we believe it to be true.

Father Mark Gurtner, pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne answered this week's questions.

Marriage, civility, persecution

In Spain, today, Juan can walk into a civil registry office, present a letter from his physician stating that a change of gender is required for his mental health, and, without further surgical ado, be issued a new national identity card declaring that Juan is now Juanita. In San Francisco (a European entrepot currently attached to the California coast), the city council and county board have officially deplored the Catholic Church's teaching on the moral character of homosexual acts as "insulting to all San Franciscans," "defamatory," "hateful," "ignorant" and "insensitive." Does anyone doubt that, if San Francisco had official identity cards, it would follow Spain's example and establish transgendering-by-legal-fiat?

The "gay liberation" movement's extraordinary success in getting many Americans to think of homosexuality as akin to race for purposes of civil rights law is one of the most impressive, if wrong-headed, political accomplishments of the past generation. Removing legal restrictions on homosexual conduct between consenting adults was never the movement's ultimate goal, however. The movement was, and is, determined to use coercive state power to enforce its expansive ideas of equality, indeed its convictions about the plasticity of human nature and institutions, on the entire society.

In the current election cycle, this involves a full-court press to redefine marriage, and to compel others to accept that redefinition. The people of California, having had gay marriage forced upon them by the split verdict of a confused California Supreme Court, are now asked to declare themselves on the issue by referendum. No one need doubt that this question, and a host of related questions, will eventually involve the entire country.

If it does, and if the movement wins, its victory will pose some very grave questions for the

Catholic Church. Will the Catholic Church be at risk for teaching that human nature is not infinitely malleable, and that the sacramental love of man and woman, expressed conjugally, is an icon of the interior life of God? Will Catholic priests who decline to perform "gay marriages" be subject to prosecution for "hate crimes?" (Canadian evangelicals who preach classic biblical morality are already subject to monetary fines levied by provincial kangaroo courts, more formally dubbed "human rights commissions.") Will the Catholic Church have to get out of the civil marriage business (i.e., priests no longer serving as officers of the court for purposes of validating a marriage). Will Catholic marriages in the United States eventually resemble marriages in, say, communist-era Poland: a sad joke of a civil ceremony, followed by the liturgical ceremony?

Thus, some questions that Catholic voters might wish to pose to the two principal presidential candidates:

Questions for both candidates:

- Is "marriage" the stable union of a man and a woman? If so, should that definition be recognized by law? At the state level? At the federal level? By the U.S. Constitution?

- Should Catholic social service agencies working with orphans be legally required to consider gay couples on an equal basis as foster care providers? How about as potential adoptive parents?

- Do you believe that homosexuality is the equivalent of race for purposes of U.S. civil rights law? Is any public statement in defense of classical biblical sexual morality a de facto act of intolerance and discrimination against gays? What are the requirements of civility vis-à-vis our gay fel-



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

low-citizens?

- Should federal funds be used to support elementary and secondary schools programs and textbooks which teach that "marriage" can mean Heather's two mommies (or daddies)?

Question for Sen. Barack Obama

You have said that you would press for "hate crime" laws and a "fully inclusive" Employment Non-Discrimination Act. Under such laws, would Catholic schools be prosecuted for not hiring openly gay teachers, and would orthodox Catholic teachers be prosecuted for teaching what the Catholic Church teaches about the moral character of homosexual acts? If not, why not?

Question for Sen. John McCain

Given your experience in the military, would you favor a policy of neutrality towards sexual orientation, explicit or otherwise, in the armed forces of the United States?

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for October 5, 2008

Matthew 21:33-46

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading, Cycle A, from Matthew about the ungrateful and murderous tenants. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

| | | |
|------------|----------|----------|
| LANDOWNER | PLANTED | VINEYARD |
| WINE PRESS | BUILT | TOWER |
| LEASED | TENANTS | SEIZED |
| BEAT | SAME WAY | RESPECT |
| HEIR | DEATH | READ |
| STONE | BUILDER | REJECTED |
| TAKEN | PRIESTS | FEARED |

VINEYARD TENANTS

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

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PAUL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

who get together for mutual support on Sundays. They are the body of Christ, and Christ is their head. They are in him, and he is in them.

We enter this body in baptism. By baptism, we are grafted into the mystical body of Christ, and now his energy flows through us. The church is a living body, and like all life, it must receive regu-

lar exercise and nourishment. It is fed in the Eucharist; wounds are healed in anointing and penance; it is communally structured in orders and marriage. The head instituted the different sacraments in order to meet all the vital needs of life divine in his mystical body.

Mersch said that after the Damascus Road, Paul could not look into the eyes of a Christian without seeing Christ. If only this were still true — that when anyone looks into the eyes of a Christian they meet there the gaze of Christ.

Sports

USF JUNIOR EARNS NAIA SPECIAL TEAMS RECOGNITION University of Saint Francis junior tailback Daniel Carter has been named NAIA Special Teams Player of the Week for his performance in the Cougars' 55-7 win at Taylor on Sept. 20. Carter becomes the first USF player selected for the NAIA honor since LB Brian Kurtz was selected during the 2006 season. This is the 10th time a USF player has been selected for the weekly honor, and Carter is the eighth different player to earn the honor.

St. Anthony-St. Joseph cruises to first place

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — The St. Anthony-St. Joseph football combination has continued to flex its offensive power in the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL), and the Panthers remain as one of the two unbeaten teams in the circuit.

Behind the accurate passing of Frankie Karczewski who fired two touchdown strikes, the Panthers racked up their third straight win in the ICCL with a 21-0 victory over the Holy Family Trojans.

Karczewski tossed a 25-yard touchdown aerial to Matt Pinter early in the skirmish and later came back with a 20-yard touchdown strike to Andrew Smith in the third period.

Denton Gillis closed out the scoring for the Panthers in the fourth period with a 10-yard burst over center. Phillip Brier added the conversion points.

St. Matthew's Blazers chalked up a win with a sparkling 12-2 decision over Christ the King-Holy Cross Crusaders.

Dominique Sanders tallied the Blazers' first touchdown on a 1-yard plunge to complete a 34-yard drive. Then Tyran Ottbridge raced

27 yards for the Blazers' second score in the fourth period to seal the win. The Crusaders picked up the safety in the fourth period when the Blazer punter stepped on the line in the end zone.

The deadlock for first place in the junior varsity division continues with St. Anthony-St. Joseph and Mishawaka Catholic.

The Mishawaka Catholic Saints nipped Corpus Christi Cougars, 13-6, on the strength of Joe Molnar's 15-yard touchdown pass to Will Whitten and Michael Voor's 15-yard touchdown dash in the fourth period.

The Cougars' score came on a 35-yard touchdown aerial of Garrett Lukens to Noah Sheer in the third period.

St. Anthony-St. Joseph Panthers rolled over Holy Family Trojans, 24-7, behind the scoring of Chris Lippert who raced for touchdowns on scampers of 40, 65 and 35 yards. Andrew Kimm added the fourth 35-yard touchdown for the Panthers on a 55-yard run.

Nicholas Williams picked up the lone score for the Trojans on a burst to complete a 35-yard drive.

St. Matthew and the Granger Catholic Titans played to a scoreless tie.

Week 6 CYO games played at USF

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Gridiron games for "Week 6" of Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) football play were held at the University of Saint Francis on Sunday, Sept. 28. Redeemer Radio highlighted the "ironmen" from St. John New Haven against Jeff Weddle's Royal Reds from Precious Blood/Queen of Angels.

According to Raider Coach Dan Carey, the Royal Reds "came well prepared and played hard." But it was the Raiders who ended up on top by a score of 34-6.

Carey added, "The game felt closer than the score indicated. PB/QA did a good job all day." The Raider offense was once again led by its running back Adam McCarthy who scored three touchdowns in the victory. Dillon Carey and signal caller, Jake Britton, added one a piece for the Raiders who improved to 5-1. On the other side of the ball,

Graham Renbarger had an interception and Jeffrey Heaton blocked a punt for the winners.

Earlier in the week, the Royal Reds got their first "W" of the season by defeating St. Jude in week four's rain out, makeup game. St. Jude led at the half, 8-6, scoring on a quarterback sneak by Gus Schrader, but the Royal Reds went on to win, 20-8. St. Jude also did double duty this week, but fell to St. Charles 28-0 in Sunday's matchup.

Mixing things up just before the last week of regular season play, the JAT team handed the only undefeated team in the league, the St. John Fort Wayne/Hessen Cassel Eagles, their first loss of the season in a huge 24-16 overtime upset. With the score all knotted up at 16 at the end of regulation, JAT scored first in the extra minutes and the Eagles were not able to answer back.

An elated Knights Coach Mike Deiser reported that it was such a tremendous team effort that he

could not even begin to name names.

"This win moves our team to a new level this season. I told the kids all week that there are two to three teams in the top ring of the CYO this year. I told them it was up to them if they wanted to be in that ring or not," concluded Deiser.

Eagles Jocquel Cooper and Channing Williams scored for the Eagles while Sam Stronczek was 2-2 on point after attempts in the loss.

Eagle Coach Jim Carroll said, "Hats off to the JAT team. They played with a great level of toughness and effort and executed very well."

In the final game of the day, St. Vincent lost to a tough Holy Cross team 32-8. The Panthers lone touchdown came on a 15-yard pass play from Nick German to Ryan Burns, with Steven Colligan converting on the PAT kick.

Holy Cross is now 5-1 along with the Raiders and Eagles.

Cardegals compile cross country accolades

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — At the midpoint of 2008 Catholic Youth League

(CYO) cross country action, Coach Dan Kaufman reports that the Cardegals from St. Jude and St. Charles boys have compiled a 25-7 record, while the girls are at a

20-10 mark.

Recently, both teams took top honors in the Huntington Catholic Invitational. In the varsity boys' race, Luke Miller won the blue ribbon while Danielle Colone was the second place girl behind Addie Reimbold of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth.

The Cardegals junior varsity squad also won both the boys' and girls' meets. Brandon Underwood and Christina Mercedes took top spots for the champs.

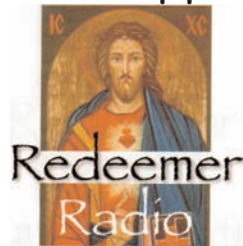
Tuesday, Sept. 23, the team competed in the Lutheran Middle School Invite at Concordia Seminary and was victorious in both the boys' and girls' competition once again. In the individual results, Luke Miller's 10:37 pace was just a second ahead of the Lutheran team runner-up earning him first place. St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth's Addie Reimbold won the girls' race while Danielle Colone finished second.

Earlier in the season, the boys finished seventh of 20 teams at the Indian Springs Middle School Invitational. The girls finished ninth in the same meet.

Overall top runners for the boys are Luke Miller, Jake Malmstrom, Tyler Johnson, Jacob Kohlmeyer, Tony Giron, Sean McManus and John Richter. Individuals running out front for the girls are Danielle Colone, Karen Eckrich, Maddy Obergfell, LeeAnn Moeller, Gabrielle Acree and Emily Miller.

The Cardegals are set to run in the New Haven Classic yet, the Carroll Middle School meet and the Cardegle Invitational on Oct. 9 at Shoaff Park.

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New book details corporate strategies that promote peace

NOTRE DAME — A new book edited by the director of the University of Notre Dame's Center for Ethics and Religious Values in Business outlines how some of the nation's top companies have implemented corporate strategies that foster peace.

"Peace Through Commerce: Responsible Corporate Citizenship and the Ideals of the United Nations Global Compact," edited by Holy Cross Father Oliver F. Williams, contains case studies documenting the efforts of businesses that include IBM, Bristol-Myers-Squibb, General Electric, Nestle and Ford.

The book, published by Notre Dame Press, includes essays by major business leaders and scholars who discuss the issues presented by the U.N. Global Compact, a forum in which multinational businesses work to promote human rights, prevent violent conflict and contribute to peace.

Launched in 2000 with more than 5,000 businesses participating, the compact is the world's largest voluntary corporate citizenship organization.

Father Williams, who also is an associate professor of management at Notre Dame, is the editor or author of 14 books as well as numerous journal articles on business ethics.



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

"Nights in Rodanthe" (Warner Bros.)

Sensitively played but synthetic tale of a betrayed wife (Diane Lane), mulling her errant husband's (Christopher Meloni) surprising request to return to her, and a troubled plastic surgeon (Richard Gere), coming to terms with the death of a patient, who connect at a North Carolina waterfront inn, offer each other comfort and, of course, fall in love. Stage director George C. Wolfe makes his feature-film debut with this gauzy adaptation of Nicholas Sparks' best-seller which, though it has little overtly objectionable content in terms of graphic sex or language, romanticizes an objectively adulterous affair. A few expletives including one use of the F-word, mild innuendo, a non-graphic sexual encounter, and the acceptance of nonmarital sexual relationships and divorce. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"Eagle Eye" (DreamWorks)

Well-executed action yarn about two strangers, a gifted underachiever (Shia LaBeouf) and a divorced mother (Michelle Monaghan), who are thrown together when they become the unwilling agents of an anonymous, seemingly all-powerful entity that uses technology and personal information to blackmail

them into obedience, while an FBI agent (Billy Bob Thornton) and an Air Force investigator (Rosario Dawson) try to track them down. Though its solution is hardly original, director D.J. Caruso's sleek puzzler provides sufficient diversion along the way. Moderate action violence, brief sexual humor, one use of the F-word, much crude

language and some uses of profanity; possibly acceptable for older teens. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Public square rosary crusade

Diocesan wide — A public square rosary crusade will be held at the following parishes Saturday, Oct. 11, at noon. Sacred Heart, Warsaw on the northwest side of the Courthouse Square; Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne; St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla and St. Charles, Fort Wayne.

A Call to Conscience:

responsible Catholic voting forum

Notre Dame — Sacred Heart Parish will host a Catholic voting forum Thursday, Oct. 9, at 7 p.m. at the parish center located off Douglas Rd. A panel discussion moderated by Robert Schmuhl will include Notre Dame Professors J. Matthew Ashley, Father Daniel Groody, Vincent Rougeau and James Sullivan. Issues addressed will be the environment, immigration, respect for life and the economy.

Miracle of Fatima remembered

New Haven — A Mass, procession and rosary will be held Monday, Oct. 13 at St. John the Baptist Parish beginning at 11:15 a.m. in honor of the 91st anniversary of the miracle of the sun at Fatima.

St. Therese School 50th anniversary

Fort Wayne — St. Therese School will have an all-school reunion weekend Oct. 10-12. All alumni, families and friends are invited. Friday: fish fry at 5 p.m. and reception at 9 p.m. after BLHS football game. Saturday: 3 p.m. open house, 5 p.m. Mass, 6 p.m. dinner. Sunday: 9 a.m. pancake breakfast and open house. Visit www.sttheresefw.org/school.

Little Flower Holy Hour

Fort Wayne — Father Jason Freiburger will celebrate the holy hour at MacDougal Chapel, Tuesday, Oct. 7, at 7:15 p.m.

St. Vincent Thrift Store plans 99 cent coat sale

Fort Wayne — St. Vincent de Paul Thrift Store, 1600 S. Calhoun St., will have a 99 cent coat sale Monday, Oct. 13, through Saturday, Oct. 18. Store hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Fall play presented at BD

Fort Wayne — Bishop Dwenger will be present "George Washington Slept Here," Oct. 30, at 7 p.m., Nov. 1 at 7 p.m., and Nov. 2, at 2:30 p.m. Reserved seating is \$10, adult tickets are \$7, and student and senior tickets are \$5. All performances will be in the main gym. Call Ryan VanAntwerp at (260) 496-4730 for more information.

FUNDRAISERS

Knights plan fish fry

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

Fish fry announced

Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council #4511 will have a fish fry on Friday, Oct. 3, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Knights hall on Bell Drive. The cost is \$8 for adults and \$4 for children ages 6-12. Fish, baked beans, green beans, coleslaw, apple-sauce and beverage included.

Breakfast brunch

Fort Wayne — St. Peter Church, 500 E. DeWald St., will have a breakfast brunch in their Pavilion on Sunday, Oct. 12, from 8-11 a.m. Adult tickets are \$5, children 12-16 are \$3 and children 11 and under are free.

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.

Paper and can drive benefit Habitat for Humanity and an orphanage

Fort Wayne — The Bishop Dwenger Social Justice Club will be sponsoring a paper and can drive to benefit a Bolivian orphanage and Habitat for Humanity. Paper and aluminum cans will be accepted from 9 a.m. to noon Oct. 18, in the southeastern parking lot of the school. Students will be available to help. Call Melissa Wheeler at (260) 496-4600 for information.

Pancake Breakfast

Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council #4511 will sponsor a pancake breakfast on Saturday, Oct. 11, at the Knights Hall on Bell Drive from 7-10:30 a.m. Tickets are \$5 prior to the breakfast and \$6 at the door.

Tenderloin Fry

Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council #4511 will host a tenderloin fry on Friday, Oct. 17, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Knights Hall on Bell Drive. Tickets are \$6, which includes tenderloin, fries, coleslaw and drink.

Spaghetti dinner

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council #553 will have a spaghetti dinner Saturday, Oct. 18, from 5-7 p.m. at the 553 E. Hill St. council hall. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for children 14-6 and children under 6 free. Cash bar available.

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Fort Wayne

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James E. Benecke Sr., 77, St. Jude

Sean Vincent Matea, 11, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Beverly A. Roach, 64, St. Charles Borromeo

James M. Hooper, 74, St. Joseph

Philip E. Jockel, 78, St. Charles Borromeo

Fred Larson, 92, St. Jude

Sean Kearney, 51, St. Charles Borromeo

Gerald Kramer, 95, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Goshen

Robert E. Yarger, 44, St. John the Evangelist

Huntington

Carl M. Brown, 83, St. Mary

Phyllis J. Christman, 77, Sts. Peter and Paul

Mishawaka

Richard A. Scheibulhut Sr., 94, Queen of Peace

John McCarthy, 77, St. Joseph

Notre Dame

Sister Marian T. Slattery, CSC, 73, Church of Loretto

Lillian Toth Fahey, 84, Basilica/Sacred Heart

Margaret Mae Boggs, 82, Basilica/Sacred Heart

South Bend

Maxine M. Shuman, 90, Little Flower

Edward L. Varga, 87, St. Anthony de Padua

Thomas J. Hojnacki, 87, Our Lady of Hungary

Florentine S. Zalai, 95, Christ the King

Ingeborg M. Bowman, 76, St. Matthew Cathedral

Loretta C. Paprocki, 80, Holy Family

Carrie M. Lapczynski, 94, St. Anthony de Padua

Mary L. Kapitan, 88, St. Anthony de Padua

Helene Manning, 79, St. Matthew Cathedral

Warsaw

Ted A. Stamper, 66, Sacred Heart

Holy Name Society plans fish fry

New Haven — The St. John the Baptist Holy Name Society will have a fish fry Friday, Oct. 3, from 4-7 p.m. Adults \$7, children 5-12 \$3.50 and children under 5 free.

Knights sponsor fish, tenderloin fry

Fort Wayne — A fish and tenderloin fry sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Father Solanus Casey Council 11276 will be held Friday, Oct. 10, from 5-8 p.m. in the new parish cafeteria at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church. Adult meals will be \$8, children ages 6-8 will be \$5 and children five or under are

free. Carry-out will be available at adult or children's meal prices.

St. John plans rummage sale

South Bend — St. John the Baptist Parish's Altar and Rosary Society will have a rummage and bake sale Oct. 18-19, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Saturday and from 8 a.m. to noon on Sunday.

Knights plan fish fry

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

ADVERTISEMENT

Hospice Care May Prolong Life

Report shows patients live an average of 29 days longer

A STUDY PUBLISHED in the March 2007 issue of the *Journal of Pain and Symptom Management* reports that hospice care may prolong the lives of some terminally ill patients.

Among the patient populations studied, the mean survival was 29 days longer for hospice patients than for non-hospice



Mark Schomogyi, M.D.

patients. "In other words, patients who chose hospice care lived an average of one month longer than similar patients who did not choose hospice care," said Mark Schomogyi, M.D., Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home's medical director.

National study

Researchers selected 4,493 terminally ill patients with either congestive heart failure (CHF) or cancer of the breast, colon, lung, pancreas or prostate. They then analyzed the difference in

survival periods between those who received hospice care and those who did not.

Longer lengths of survival were found in four of the six disease categories studied.



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FAITH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

moment. He, in his own brokenness, was pointing to God and that helped me to know, someday in my brokenness, I can point someone to God," he said.

Kronk finished his speech by explaining 1 Cor. 12-13; spiritual gifts and the meaning of love, and he told the teens, "Live your life as a gift to someone else. Whatever you're doing, it's important to do it as a gift."

Megan Oberhausen, who along with Cindy Black organized the event, said, "We are so blessed in this diocese to have wonderful people with gifts of speaking and knowledge of the faith."

Teens had a wide selection of workshop sessions from which to choose.

Kaytlyn Taylor of St. Joseph Parish, Mishawaka, attended the

Speaking the Truth session because, "I thought it would be cool to come and learn deeper knowledge of the faith and understanding what we actually stand for." And when asked if she feels she has to defend the faith, she replied, "I go to public school, and sometimes it's a battle."

Taylor said she came with her youth group and said she was excited about the year of St. Paul and wanted to experience it with others in the diocese.

The leader of the Speaking the Truth session, Joe Garcia, told the teens, "When trying to defend your faith, focus on holiness and base it on love."

"I go to public school, and sometimes it's a battle."

KAYTLYN TAYLOR

"When someone challenges you on faith, that's how you grow and can be a better witness," Garcia said.

In the He Became Poor session led by Melissa Wheeler, teens

were asked to imagine seven things being taken away from their family one by one so they'd be living like more than 1 billion people in developing countries live. Those seven things include clothing,

energy, water, house, food, health care and lastly, hope.

"What does Jesus call us to do? He calls us to be the person to help the outcast, to help the poor because he's not here anymore," Wheeler said.

Ask the Bishop

The morning portion of the program concluded with the popular Ask the Bishop session.

Cindy Black, director of the Office of Youth Ministry and Formation, explained, "Each year at Faithfest, Ask the Bishop workshops fill up quickly and go over on time because the bishop is so good about answering young people's questions, and he knows you're challenged a lot."

Teens lined up with questions including Hannah Oberhausen of Our Lady of Good Hope in Fort Wayne who asked why women can't be priests.

Bishop D'Arcy said it was a question of the church's fidelity to Christ, and women have important roles in the church. "It does not mean men are closer to Christ," he said. "I know a lot of women — sisters and lay people who are closer to God than me."

The bishop also answered why we confess sins to priests. "Men



DENISE FEDOROW

The audience of approximately 350 teens across the diocese respond with laughter to Pople's routine at Faithfest.

and women need the sacraments. When you're alienated from a person you need an embrace, a phone call, you need that sign that you're forgiven. When you go to confession you hear the words 'You are forgiven.'"

Marissa Johnson of St. Robert Parish in North Manchester asked what we need to look for in a presidential candidate. Bishop D'Arcy said he sent a letter to priests in the parishes. "The Catholic Church does not tell you who to vote for; I myself find it very hard."

Issues like abortion, racism, an unjust war, torture of prisoners and disregard for the poor all count, and voters have to prayerfully consider these things.

"This election for Catholics is very difficult," he said.

Other questions posed regarded stigmata and helping friends deal with crisis of faith.

The afternoon program included reconciliation, adoration, music by Frankie and the Holy Rollers, Mega Sessions, Mass with the bishop and XLT.

Today's Catholic

BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB

This month's featured selection:
"Journals and Letters of Mother Theodore Guerin"

Foundress of the Sisters of Providence, Saint-Mary-Of-The-Woods, Ind. Edited with notes by Sister Mary Theodosia Mug, SP

On the coast of Brittany, where the Atlantic casts a brooding mist on the rocky shores of France, a girl was born in 1798, whose destiny was in America, and whose work would build from nothing, a religious community with international boundaries and a blueprint for Catholic education in America.

She was Anne-Therese Guérin, the eldest of four children. Two brothers died in childhood, and her sister lived to old age.

When Anne-Therese was 14 years old, her father, a captain in the French navy, was robbed and murdered on a journey home.

The tragedy so devastated her mother, that Anne-Therese was forced to assume care of the home, her 8-year-old sister and her mother.

At the age of 25, she entered the Sisters of Providence of Ruellé-sur-Loir and was given the name Sister St. Theodore.

Meanwhile and far away in Vincennes, Ind., a need for Catholic missionaries in the New World resulted in a request to France for assistance.

Although she did not volunteer for the mission, Sister St. Theodore was chosen to lead five other sisters to a new home in America where she would be the superior of the motherhouse and superior general of any other houses established from it.

It is from this point in her life that Mother Theodore had difficulties so daunting, but faith and focus on Providence so unwavering that the results were eventual prosperity for the Sisters of Providence in America, and a more highly distilled consequence, sainthood for Mother Theodore.

Consider that the little band of six, none of whom could speak English, embarked on a small sailing ship, the Cincinnati, on a 40-day voyage of seasickness, storms at sea, cramped quarters, bad food, a fire on board, fights among the crew and hostility from fellow passengers.

Under such conditions, Mother Theodore encouraged

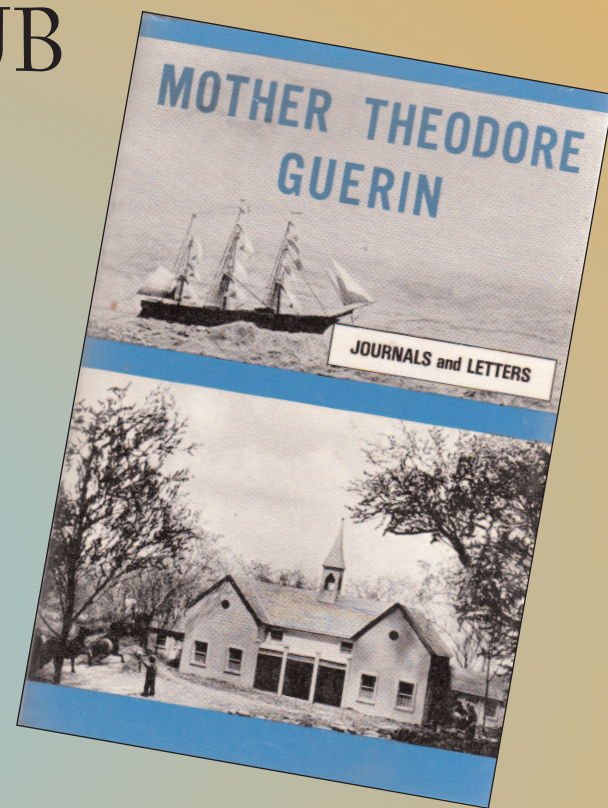
her companions, nursed other passengers, baptized a dying child, and all the while kept a journal so highly detailed that it included the number of teeth on a porpoise caught by the crew.

This single characteristic of unswerving attention to the job at hand in the midst of many possible distractions is seen throughout her life. Steadfast faith in the Blessed Mother and her Son sustained her. Obstacles were seen as opportunities for spiritual growth and reminders of the cross. The greatest of these was in the person of the man who recruited her for America, Celestine de la Hailandiere, bishop of Vincennes. He had the embarrassing experience of seeing a subordinate — a woman — outdistance him in achievements and leadership and it caused him to turn against her in a tormenting way that lasted seven years. It caused him great suffering to observe Mother Theodore become comfortable with English, while he made no progress with "this language which I shall never know."

While he and some others experienced homesickness for France, Mother Theodore never saw America as a place of exile. She called Saint-Mary-Of-The-Woods this beautiful place expressing joy as she returned to "my beloved Indiana" ... wishing to kiss its soil. When she referred to herself and others as "we Hoosiers of the Woods," the transplant seemed complete.

Questions for discussion

- When Sister St. Theodore was mother superior, she was in poor health, short on money, oppressed by her bishop, and operating under conditions of the times, i.e., the trip from Terre Haute to Fort Wayne was a five-day journey by stage and canal boat. Yet she maintained that "if you lean with all of your weight upon Providence, you will find yourselves well supported." Can you place yourself in her position?



Visit www.diocesefwsb.org/blog for discussion on this book.

- With the Sister of Providence firmly established in Indiana, the influence of the sisters led to many religious vocations. One Fort Wayne parish had more than 90 girls enter the religious life, most of them with the Sisters of Providence. Is it possible that such interest in religious vocations will ever return?

- We take it on faith that Sts. Peter, James, John and others walked on earth with Christ in far away places. We know that our Hoosier saint, Mother Theodore Guérin, traveled Indiana, visiting many places in between. Does that make the sainthood level more realistic and attainable?

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