



# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

## A prayer for lawyers, the church

BY DON CLEMMER

FORT WAYNE — “This is a prayer for you,” Bishop John M. D’Arcy said as he opened the Oct. 5 Red Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. He was addressing the various lawyers, judges and elected and appointed public officials present at the annual event. He also said that the Red Mass is a reminder that all law comes through Jesus Christ.

In his homily, the bishop pointed out the image in the readings of workers in a vineyard and cited examples of saints who did great work for the church, the Lord’s vineyard, after reflecting on the cross of Christ, including St. Francis, St. Thomas More and Blessed Teresa of Calcutta.

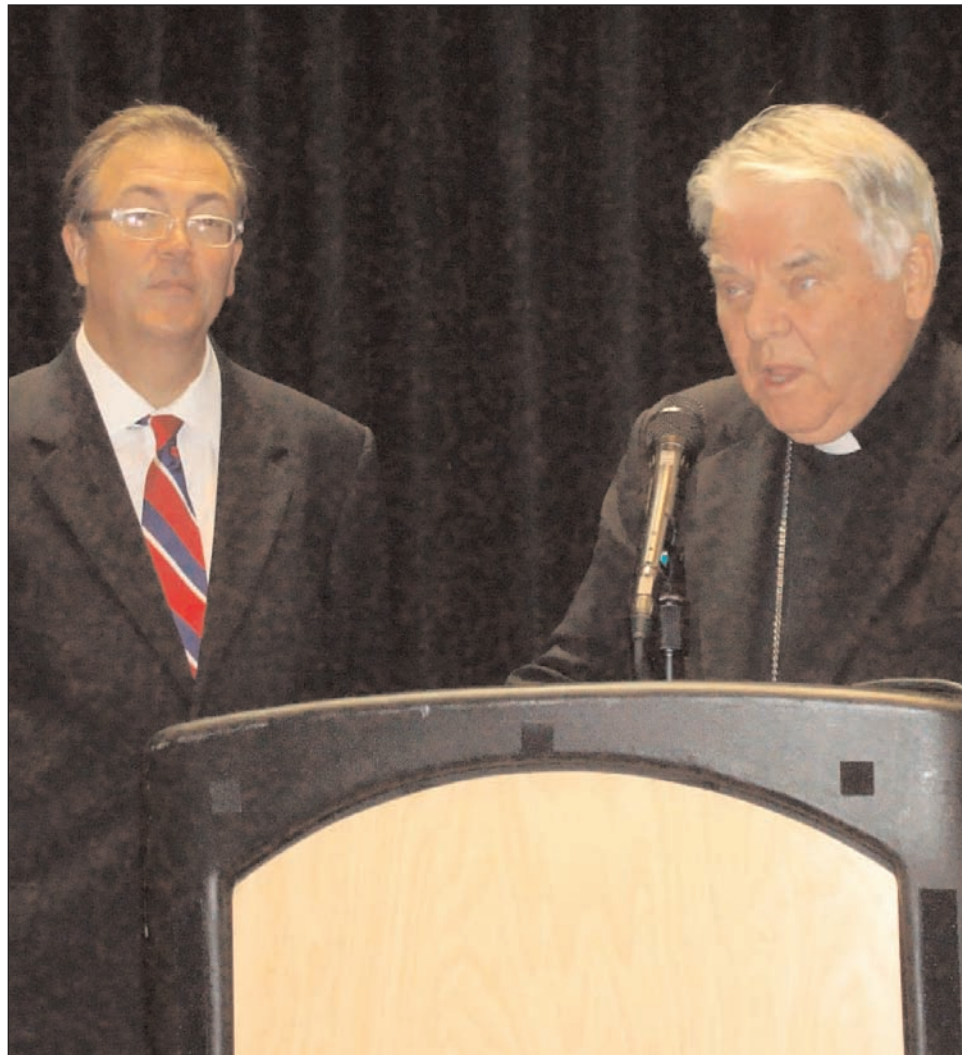
Bishop D’Arcy asked the lawyers and public officials at the Mass how much time they spend with God. He noted that St. Thomas More, as a result of his disciplined and devoted prayer life, made Christ present to those around him and that this was the vocation of all workers in the vineyard of the Lord.

The speaker at the brunch at the Grand Wayne Center, following the Red Mass, was one such worker. Nicholas Cafardi, dean emeritus of the Duquesne University School of Law, serves on the National Review Board, which monitors the U.S. bishops’ compliance with the 2002 Dallas “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People” against clergy sexual abuse. Cafardi has also done legal work on behalf of the church for decades.

Cafardi shared that he always like being on the side of the “guys in white hats” when he worked for the church. This changed in 1988, when a sexual abuse case was brought against the Diocese of Pittsburgh, whom he represented. His client was suddenly wearing “a very dark hat” he told those attending the brunch.

As he wove the story of his research and

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DON CLEMMER

Bishop John M. D’Arcy thanks Nicholas Cafardi, left, for speaking at the Red Mass brunch on Oct. 5. Cafardi had, in his talk, praised Bishop John M. D’Arcy as one of very few leaders in the U.S. church who understood the issue of clergy sexual abuse from the very beginning.

## ST. JUDE BREAKS GROUND



HEATHER CISZ

St. Jude School, Fort Wayne, broke ground Sept. 30, for a \$470,000 expansion, which will include a secured entrance and office space off the playground. In the photo, Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry recognizes Father Thomas Shoemaker, pastor, with a lapel pin. In 2006 St. Jude was recognized as a National Blue Ribbon school.

## Scripture essential to church’s evangelizing mission

BY JOHN THAVIS

ROME (CNS) — At a Mass to open the world Synod of Bishops on the Bible, Pope Benedict XVI said knowledge of Scripture was essential to the church’s evangelizing mission in an increasingly godless society.

“It is indispensable that the church know and live that which she proclaims, so that her preaching is credible, despite the weaknesses and poverty of her members,” the pope said Oct. 5 at the Roman Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls.

“Only the word of God can profoundly change the heart of man,” he said. The need for such conversion is great in today’s confused society, in which human beings sometimes proclaim themselves “the only masters of creation,” he said.

Following the papal liturgy, the pope kicked off a marathon reading of Scripture on Italian television. The next day, at the first Vatican assembly of the three-week synod, about 300 synodal participants listened to a

report outlining the main themes of discussion.

Key topics included the need to strengthen religious formation and remedy “the ignorance of the Scriptures,” the improvement of preaching based on Scripture, and greater guidance on biblical interpretation — perhaps through a new papal encyclical.

The pope convoked the 12th general assembly of the Synod of Bishops on the theme “The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church.” He was to preside over most of its twice-daily sessions and accept its conclusions as the basis for a likely papal document on the topic.

He celebrated the opening Mass in the basilica dedicated to St. Paul in part because the church is marking the 2,000th anniversary of the saint’s birth, and in part to highlight the connection between Scripture and evangelization.

The pope, dressed in gold and green vestments, processed into the basilica with bishops from around the world. Also in atten-

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## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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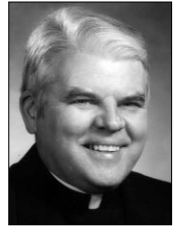
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# Bishop joins priests for sessions on preaching homilies



## NEWS & NOTES

### BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

#### A seminar on preaching

For many years, I have joined our priests for a three-day session on continuing education. We have gone over many pastoral areas, including one led by Carolyn Woo and her staff at the Notre Dame School of Business, where we received help on the many skills that a pastor needs now in the area of management, budgeting, interviewing, etc.

This year, our Council of Priests suggested a topic, which is central to parish life and to the vocation of the priest. The subject was preaching. More particularly, how can the preacher, while remaining faithful to the Scriptures, which have just been read in church, also present the doctrine of the church and make the homily truly instructive. This was substantially the same seminar given to 50 American Catholic bishops last winter. All our teachers were from the excellent theology department at Notre Dame.

As priests, we have an extraordinary opportunity. As I mentioned recently, the Liturgical Renewal of the Second Vatican Council has opened up the Scriptures for our people, so that in the course of a three-year cycle they hear so much from the Old Testament, from the Pauline Epistles and from the Gospels.

But a homily, which is linked to Scripture, does not mean that the teaching of the church on such matters as sacraments, the nature of the church, the last things, and the saints, should be set aside. Scriptures and doctrine are internally linked.

So we had a beautiful talk from Professor Cavadini, chair of the department of theology, Notre Dame, on using the Catechism of the Catholic Church for preaching. He chose especially to concentrate on a teaching found in church fathers, in the catechism, and the Second Vatican Council, about the church being born from the side of Christ. He also helped us to see the way the catechism uses Scripture — not as text to prove a point, but interwoven with the doctrinal teachings.

#### Other teachings

As you know, priests now give homilies at daily Mass. I often celebrate daily Mass at noontime at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception or in South Bend at the downtown Faith, Hope, Charity Chapel. This is often on the feasts of saints, and you can use readings either from the feast of the saint or from the general readings of the Lectionary. I usually go with the saint, but many priests stay with the regular readings.

At any rate, we had an excellent presentation on how priests preach the lives of the saints from Sister Ann Astell, who is also a member of the theology department at Notre Dame and an expert on saints in the Middle Ages, especially people like St. Catherine of Siena and St. Teresa of Avila.

We also had talks on giving homilies to the Catholics who come to us from Mexico and other lands to the south, and on the link between doctrine and spirituality. A wonderful few days to reflect on this great privilege. I found it very humbling in the sense that these excellent teachers opened up to preach the word of God in ways that will be more enriching to our people. I left wanting to be a better preacher.

As always, the real heroes for me were our priests. I think there were 65 priests present, and there is no doubt that their whole hearts were in it.

I also found it a nice place to walk and to pray.

As always, we prepared a little chapel with the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, and we said morning and evening prayer, and celebrated the Eucharist each day.

#### Two weekends with lawyers

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It is a privilege each year to celebrate the Red Mass for lawyers, judges and elected officials. This past weekend the Red Mass was celebrated at the Cathedral of Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. The Mass honors St. Thomas More, that extraordinary lawyer from the 16th century whom we still talk about. He was chosen as the lawyer of the millennium, and you all know about that great play of Robert Bolt, "A Man for All Seasons."

In Fort Wayne, we have a speaker, and this week it was Dean Nicholas Cafardi. I have known Nick for many years, he is both a canon lawyer and a civil lawyer. I found him an excellent advisor on canonical and legal questions.

He had recently written a book called "Before Dallas." It shows clearly the painful things the church has gone through in the recent crisis; which as I said before will, I hope, be a purification. Dean Cafardi touched on some of the mistakes that had been made by bishops during this period. He also shared with us, in painful fashion, the way the papacy was lived around the time of St. Thomas More. We did not have popes at that time, like we have today; and the church was in serious difficulty. Scandal in the highest places. Yet, he said, Thomas More believed that the church is the body

of Christ. Although every bishop in England, except John Fisher, also canonized with Thomas More, took the false oath that the king of England was the ultimate religious authority in that land, and although many in the courts of England did as well, Thomas More did not. The loss of his life did not bother him. His anxiety was whether or not he would be strong enough to leave his beautiful wife and children, and especially his daughter, Meg, who was the child of his heart. He was able to see through the weakness and sins of the church, to what it really was, the body of Christ and the spouse of the Savior; and that is where his faith remained.

Dean Cafardi took us step-by-step through these two different moments of crisis and scandal in the church, and helped us to see what is central and important.

I will be at the Sacred Heart Basilica at Notre Dame this Sunday with lawyers from the South Bend area, and students from Notre Dame Law School. This is a diocese where the bishop does most things twice.

#### Important events coming up

A rally at North Manchester Oct. 18, for all those receiving confirmation this spring. This will be led by our Office of Youth Ministry. I will be there to help with confessions and preach.

The ordination to the priesthood. On Oct. 25, 2008, it will be my joy and privilege to ordain to the holy priesthood, Deacons Kevin Bauman and Andrew Curry. I give thanks to God for this extraordinary privilege which I approach with a sense of unworthiness, but also with joy and gratitude to God. Please keep them both in your prayers. Both are graduates of Saint Joseph's High School in South Bend. I know them well, and regard them highly.

#### The baseball playoffs

A sweep of the mighty Los Angeles Angels on the road. Who could have expected it. However, I must make a confession. For the two late games on the West Coast, one while I was with our priests in Pokagon, and the other back home in Fort Wayne, I stayed up for the complete game. It was much too late, but I could not break away. On Friday night, the phone rang after 1 a.m., when the Red Sox had pulled it out late. Of course, it was my sister, Anne; a Sister of St. Joseph in Boston. If anything, she is a more ardent fan than I am. Does this mean we will be facing the Dodgers and Manny Ramirez in the World Series? That would be something. We trail two games to one at this writing. My condolences and sympathy to my many friends who follow the Cubs. It will come. Do not lose hope.

See you all next week.



CNS PHOTO/MAX ROSSI, REUTERS

**Bishops listen to Pope Benedict XVI during the opening meeting of the Synod of the Bishops at the Vatican Oct. 6. The focus of the gathering was "The Word of God in the Life and the Mission of the Church."**

## SYNOD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

dance were synod delegates from other Christian churches.

In his homily, the pope said the purpose of the synod was to consider "how to render more effective the proclamation of the Gospel in our own time" and to underline the need to "place the word of God at the center of our life."

Like St. Paul, who evangelized with enthusiasm and urgency, the church today senses new opportunities for spreading the Gospel, he said. But it also recognizes that in some parts of the world, Christians have fallen away from the practice of faith, he said.

The pope's homily centered on the image of the vineyard in the day's liturgical readings. The prophet Isaiah described the divine project of salvation as a vineyard that was planted and cared for with love, but which brought forth only "wild grapes."

In a New Testament parable related by St. Matthew, Christ describes a struggle over a vineyard to illustrate unjust behavior and the rejection of God, the pope said.

These images remain relevant today, he said, especially for Christians who have been given the gift of the Gospel.

"If we look at history, we are forced to notice the frequent coldness and rebellion of incoherent Christians. Because of this, God, while never shirking in his promise of salvation, often had to turn toward punishment," he said.

The pope noted that some flourishing early Christian communities have disappeared, and asked: "Could this same thing not happen in our day and age?"

"Today, nations once rich in faith and vocations are losing their own identity, under the harmful and destructive influence of a cer-

tain modern culture. There are those who, having decided that 'God is dead,' declare themselves 'god,'" he said.

The pope, turning to a dominant theme of his pontificate, asked whether people who remove God from their lives can truly be happy, and really can build a just and peaceful world.

"Is it not more likely — as demonstrated by news headlines every day — that the arbitrary rule of power, selfish interests, injustice and exploitation, and violence in all its forms, will extend its grip?" he said.

The pope then returned to Scripture, pointing out that the biblical passages promise that God "does not abandon his vineyard," and that "if in some areas faith weakens to the point of vanishing, there will always be other peoples ready to embrace it."

He said the message from Scripture is ultimately a positive one: "the certainty that evil and death will not have the last word, but it will be Christ who wins in the end. Always!"

At his noon blessing at the Vatican the same day, the pope asked Catholics around the world to pray for the success of the synod. He said synodal assemblies were particularly important because they brought together representatives from every culture and population, in a direct exchange of information about local realities.

On the evening of Oct. 5, the pope read from the Book of Genesis as he led off a Bible-reading marathon on the Italian state television. He was followed by Russian Orthodox Bishop Hilarion of Vienna and Austria.

After the famed tenor Andrea Bocelli sang Johann Sebastian Bach's "Lodate Dio" ("Praise God"), the Italian actor Roberto Benigni read the next section of Genesis.

The inauguration of the unprecedented initiative, "The Bible, Day and Night," was broadcast on the main channel of RAI, Italy's state-owned broadcasting

company. Most of the remaining 138 hours were to be shown on a sister satellite channel, RAI Educational.

Each of about 1,200 people from 50 countries — including Catholics and other Christians, as well as several Jews and Muslims — was to read for between four and eight minutes until all 73 books of the Catholic edition of the Bible have been read.

The synod got down to business Oct. 6, with the reading in Latin of a lengthy pre-discussion report. Prepared and presented by Cardinal Marc Ouellet of Quebec, the synod's recording secretary, it synthesized the main themes that have emerged during months of preliminary consultations.

Cardinal Ouellet told reporters afterward that the synod would come up with concrete suggestions for helping Catholics learn to read the Bible, to pray with it and to share its message with the world.

The synod's first week was to be dedicated largely to individual speeches by synod members and invited guests. In an extraordinary move, one of the first speakers was a Jewish scholar, Rabbi Shear-Yashuv Cohen, the chief rabbi of Haifa, Israel, who was to talk about the role of Scripture in Jewish life.

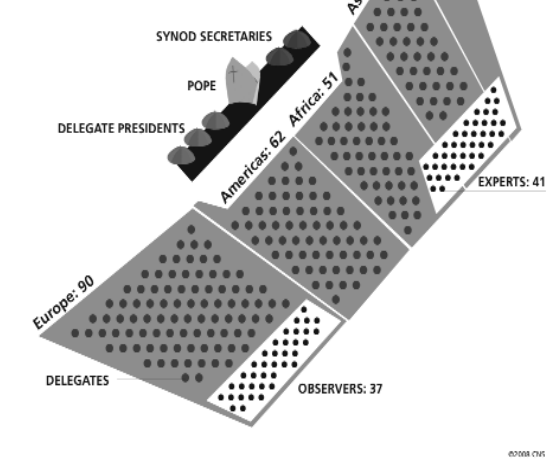
In order to increase the opportunity for open discussion in the synod hall, each of the 253 synod fathers will have a maximum of five minutes to address the assembly. At the last synod in 2005 the limit was six minutes and before that it was eight minutes.

The participants include the 253 voting members of the synod, made up of cardinals, patriarchs, bishops and a dozen priests who head religious orders; 12 "fraternal delegates" representing other Christian churches; and 35 invited observers and experts.

The Vatican said the synod's 253 voting members included bishops from Hong Kong and Macau, but none from mainland China, because Chinese authorities would not allow them to attend.

## Synod on the Bible

A synod is a gathering of church leaders that discusses and advises on major church issues. The focus of this Synod of Bishops is the word of God in the life of the church. These are the participants.



### U.S. DELEGATES

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo  
Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston  
Cardinal Francis E. George  
Archdiocese of Chicago  
Archbishop Basil M. Schott  
Byzantine Archeparchy of Pittsburgh  
Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl  
Archdiocese of Washington  
Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas  
Archdiocese of Tucson, Ariz.  
Father Glen A. Lewandowski  
Master General, Crosiers  
Father Joseph W. Tobin  
Superior General, Redemptorists

### U.S. EXPERTS

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University of St. Mary of the Lake,  
Mundelein, Ill.  
Missionary Servant Sister Sara  
Butler  
St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, N.Y.  
Jesuit Father Stephen Pisano  
Pontifical Biblical Institute, Rome  
Msgr. Timothy Verdon  
Theological Faculty of Central Italy

### U.S. OBSERVERS

Carl A. Anderson  
Knights of Columbus  
Mother Mary Clare Millea  
Superior General, Apostles of the  
Sacred Heart of Jesus

## Pope explains history, importance of synods

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — At the beginning of the world Synod of Bishops on the Bible, Pope Benedict XVI explained why he thinks such meetings are important.

He did it in typical Benedict style — reviewing a bit of church history and explaining the roots of the Greek word "synodos" to pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square.

The basic role of the Synod of Bishops, held every three years or so, is to advise the pope and solidify church communion, the pope said Oct. 5.

He recalled that the synod was established as a regular institution by Pope Paul VI in 1965, during the final phase of the Second Vatican Council.

Pope Benedict listed four main functions of the assemblies:

- To promote closer union and cooperation between the pope and the bishops of the world.
- To furnish direct and accurate information about the church's situation and problems.
- To encourage harmony between doctrine and pastoral action.

• To deal with themes of great importance and timeliness.

Over the years, some bishops have called for decision-making powers for the synod. The pope made no reference to a possible change in its strictly consultative role.

He said the Greek roots of the word "synod" — "syn" meaning "with" and "odos" meaning "road" — suggest the idea of traveling together, which he said was the church's experience through history.

"The synodal dimension is an essential component of the church. It consists in the coming together of every population and culture to become one in Christ and to walk together behind him," he said.

Pope Benedict, who presided over a Synod of Bishops on the Eucharist in 2005, has modified some of the synod's rules. He has shortened the length of the assemblies to three weeks and reduced the maximum length of individual speeches from eight minutes to five minutes.

At the same time, he has created more opportunity for open discussion at the end of the daily sessions in the synod hall.

## CARDINAL OUELLET SPEAKS AT SYNOD



CNS PHOTO/EMANUELA DE MEO, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Cardinal Marc Ouellet of Quebec speaks at a press conference during the Synod of Bishops on the Bible at the Vatican Oct. 6. The Bible is not just "a book of ideas," he said. "When one opens the book, one opens one's heart and it is God who speaks" and engages in a dialogue with the person who reads and contemplates what is written, he added.

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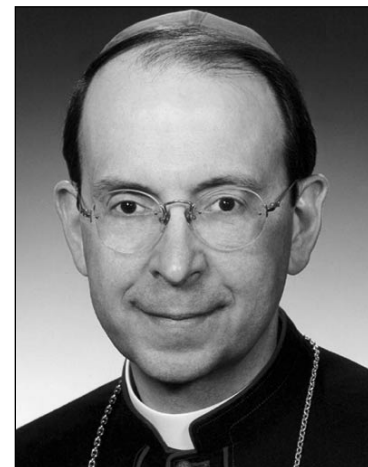
# U.S. bishops urge Catholics to study candidates' views on life issues



Cardinal Edward M. Egan



Cardinal Francis E. George



Bishop William E. Lori

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the weeks leading up to the elections, several U.S. bishops have been writing pastoral letters, columns in diocesan newspapers, letters to the editor and blog entries urging Catholics to look closely at where candidates stand on life issues.

"The right to life is the right through which all others flow. To the extent candidates reject this fundamental right by supporting an objective evil, such as legal abortion, euthanasia or embryonic stem-cell research, Catholics should consider them less acceptable for public office," said a statement released Oct. 2 by the New York bishops.

The statement, "Our Cherished Right, Our Solemn Duty," signed by New York Cardinal Edward M. Egan and the state's other Catholic bishops, said it is "the rare candidate who will agree with the church on every issue." But they also noted, citing the U.S. bishops' 2007 document, "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship," that "not every issue is of equal moral gravity."

"The inalienable right to life of every innocent human person outweighs other concerns where Catholics may use prudential judgment, such as how best to meet the needs of the poor or to increase access to health care for all," said the statement, issued by the New York Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the state's bishops.

The bishops stressed the importance of casting votes informed by faith and conscience not only in the national election but also in state and local elections. The full statement can be found online at [www.nyscatholic.org](http://www.nyscatholic.org).

In a pastoral letter read at all Masses in the Diocese of Scranton, Pa., during the weekend of Oct. 4-5, Bishop Joseph F. Martino stressed that a candidate's views on abortion outweighed all other issues.

"Being right on taxes, education, health care, immigration and the economy fails to make up for the error of disregarding the value of a human life," the bishop's letter said. It added that the "finest health and education systems, the fairest immigration laws, and the soundest economy do nothing for the child who never sees the light of day."

The bishop said it was

"incumbent upon bishops to correct Catholics who are in error regarding these matters." He also said Catholic public officials who "persist in public support for abortion and other intrinsic evils should not partake in or be admitted to the sacrament of holy Communion."

"I will be vigilant on this subject," he added in the letter distributed at all diocesan parishes as part of Respect Life Weekend in the diocese.

In the U.S. Catholic Church, October is observed as Respect Life Month and the first Sunday in October, Oct. 5 this year, is designated as Respect Life Sunday.

A statement from Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George and the other Illinois Catholic bishops stressed the need for Catholics to strongly consider the sanctity of human life when voting and to also recognize "a hierarchy" among these issues.

The statement "Our Conscience and Our Vote" was issued Sept. 22 through the Illinois Catholic Conference and is available online at [www.catholicconferenceofillinois.org](http://www.catholicconferenceofillinois.org).

"The direct and intentional destruction of innocent human life from the moment of conception until natural death is always wrong," the statement said. "It is not just one issue among many and must always be opposed."

The Illinois bishops said other life issues should not be ignored. "Issues such as racism, the use of the death penalty, unjust war, the use of torture, war crimes, failure to attend to the needs of the poor, and unjust immigration policy also must be addressed because of our belief in the sanctity of human life," they said.

The bishops urged Catholics to pray for guidance before voting and to familiarize themselves with church teachings "that affect political choices."

"Voting is not a small matter to be dealt with casually or carelessly," they added. "It calls upon all to reflect seriously and prayerfully on moral issues that reflect God's design for the common good."

In a column for the Sept. 26 issue of *Today's Catholic*, newspaper of the San Antonio Archdiocese, Archbishop Jose H. Gomez reiterated what the bishops said in "Faithful

Citizenship." The statement, he said, stresses that "all issues do not carry the same moral weight and that the moral obligation to oppose intrinsically evil acts has a special claim on our consciences and our actions."

"Our No. 1 priority," the archbishop wrote, "must always be to promote the sanctity of human life and the right to life — especially for the unborn, the aged and the sick. Unless the right to life is protected, all other rights in our society are at risk."

Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., chairman of the U.S. bishops' doctrine committee, also quoted "Faithful Citizenship" in his Oct. 2 blog at [www.bishoploriblog.org](http://www.bishoploriblog.org), stressing the point it makes that there are "intrinsically evil actions" which "must always be rejected and opposed and must never be supported or condoned."

"In our nation," he wrote, "abortion is at the forefront of these intrinsically evil actions."

He pointed out that "while 'Faithful Citizenship' acknowledges that one may only vote for a politician who supports policies supporting legalized abortion for truly grave moral reasons, a conscientious voter must question what grave moral issue rises to the level of nearly 49 million lives lost to the evil of abortion."

He also said a politician "who opposes abortion should not go unchallenged if he or she adopts positions that undermine human dignity in other ways."

Two New York bishops wrote to *The New York Times* disputing a Sept. 17 article in the newspaper that described a "running debate" among Catholics about how to cast their vote in light of church teaching on abortion.

The letter, signed by Brooklyn Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio and Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, who chairs the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, said how to vote is "not a dilemma for the bishops."

The bishops emphasized that Catholics need to "look at the whole teaching of the church on justice and peace, serving the poor and advancing the common good — beginning with a fundamental priority on protecting innocent human life from direct attack as in abortion."



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# Economic crisis shows why life shouldn't be built on money

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The current global financial crisis illustrates why it is a mistake to build a life on passing realities like money and success, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"We see this today in the collapse of the great banks: This money disappears, it's nothing. And so all these things we thought were real and were counting on are in fact realities of a second order," he said Oct. 6, the day European stock markets plummeted following news of government bailouts for two more mortgage and banking companies.

"We need to change our idea of realism. The realist is someone who recognizes in the word of God, in this reality that appears so weak, the foundation of everything," he said.

The pope made the impromptu remarks at the opening session of the world Synod of Bishops on the Bible. He said the morning's Scripture readings had brought to mind Christ's parable of the two houses, one built on sand and one built on rock.

"On sand is built only things we can see and touch: success, career, money. Apparently they are real, but one day they pass," he said. He said the banking crisis demonstrated how quickly they can disappear.

"Whoever builds his life on these things — on material things, on success, on appear-

ances — is building on sand," he said.

The true realist is someone who builds his life on the things that remain, recognizing God's place in his own life, he said.

Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the pope's reference to the banking crisis underlined an obvious contrast between eternal truths and the realities that occupy a great part of people's lives.

"Here we have institutions — financial and political — upon which people relied as if they were ultimate," the cardinal told Catholic News Service.

"There is nothing ultimate except God and the word of God, which is, as (the pope) said, more real than all the material dimension of creation that so preoccupies us," he said.

Archbishop Claudio Maria Celli, president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, said at a press conference that the pope clearly was offering a spiritual reflection, not an evaluation of financial problems.

"The pope's main theme was not the current economic situation, but the value and importance of the word of God in the human journey," the archbishop said.

He said that although economic issues are important in human society, Christians sometimes forget that they are not the ultimate realities for man.

# To be authentic Christians must be committed to the poor, speaker says

BY MARNIE McALLISTER

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (CNS) — People cannot be authentic Christians without a firm commitment to serving the poor, Jack Jezreel told a gathering of about 500 members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Sept. 25.

Jezreel, a local Catholic who developed and directs the national JustFaith Ministries, was a keynote speaker at the society's 2008 national meeting in Louisville Sept. 23-27. The gathering also marked the society's 175th anniversary worldwide and the 155th anniversary of its establishment in Louisville.

The meeting included small-group sessions and workshops, a retreat and the first Friends of the Poor Walk, which was held in Louisville and more than 100 other cities and towns in the United States Sept. 27.

In his speech Jezreel acknowledged that he was "speaking to the choir." With that in mind, he said, his talk was intended as both an affirmation of Vincentians' work and a challenge to them to continue in service to the poor.

"Our faith is integrally linked to the care and attention to our brothers and sisters who suffer the sin of poverty," said Jezreel. "We can't be authentic Christians without also an attention and a commitment to our brothers and sisters who are poor and vulnerable."

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops wrote in its 1993 document, "Communities of Salt and Light: Reflections on the Social Mission of the Parish," that "parish communities are to be measured by their commitment to the poorest of the poor within their community and beyond," said Jezreel.

Before the Second Vatican Council, Jezreel said, the work of the church was to be carried out by clergy.

"This worked well, especially in this immigrant country," Jezreel said. "But it had a weakness. Everyone else was ministered to. It created a passive role" for the laity.

Vatican II changed the model, asserting that baptism calls all members of the church to active ministry. And that ministry



CNS PHOTO/JOSEPH DUERR, RECORD

Members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul carry banners of their local councils and parish conferences as they walk to the Cathedral of the Assumption for a Sept. 27 Mass during their national meeting in Louisville, Ky. Members of the Louisville Pipe Band are also pictured.

should happen everywhere — not just at church, Jezreel said.

This is where he sees the American church stumbling at times. Some churches — what he calls "Vatican one and a half" parishes — excel at ministering within the parish, while serving beyond the boundaries of the church community remains a challenge for dioceses around the United States, he said.

At the end of Mass, "having broken bread, having shared a cup, there is but one thing to be done," Jezreel said. "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord."

"As we walk toward the exit doors, what we go to is a family, a neighborhood, a world of politics, a world of poverty where people are starving to death — three-quarters of whom are children," he said. "When we realize the full dream of Vatican II, we will see more activity outside of parish boundaries."

"This is what our young people are hoping for," he continued. "My fear is that in a church that has somewhat emptied, especially in Europe, if Vatican II isn't fully lived, we will see an implosion in the American Catholic Church." Jezreel congratulated members of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul for expanding their service beyond the parish and using their gifts to minister to the poorest of the poor.

God reserves a special preference for the poorest and most vulnerable, and so too must his followers, Jezreel noted.

People can choose between two paths — a "spiritual coma" that's focused on "me, my and mine" or a spiritual journey that leads to God. God's path calls

people to expand their circle of love to take in all people, he said.

"Relationship with God is expressed in relationship with our brothers and sisters who are most broken, neglected, abandoned and forgotten. Period," he said, noting that Scripture is clear. "The 'Cliff Notes' version: Feed the hungry or go to hell. The Gospel uses language to jostle people out of their spiritual comas."

For the nonpoor the good news is "there is a way out of your preoccupation," he said. "There is a way out of hell. What must I do to share in everlasting life? Sell all that you have and give it to the poor."

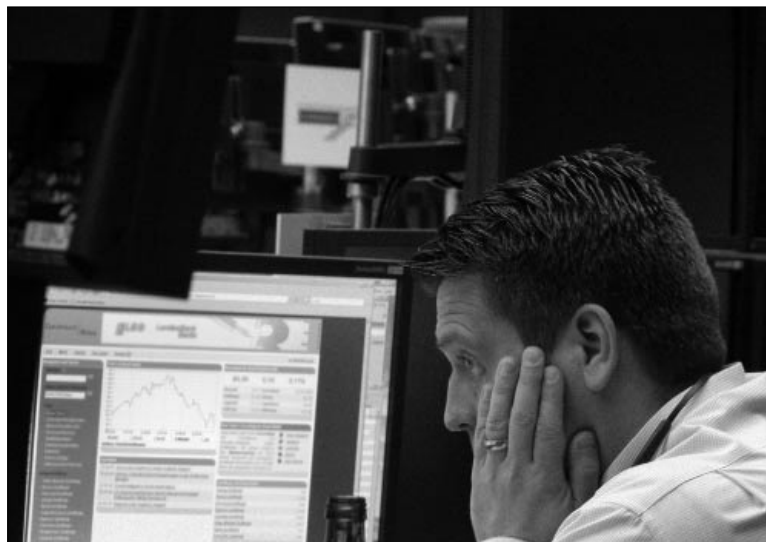
It's a challenge, he said, to become a "seamless garment of care" for the poor. But, Catholics know, "We can't get to Easter without Good Friday," he added.

The return on selfless giving is palpable, Jezreel said in closing. "We do this work because it brings abundant life to the world and to me."

Jezreel's resolve was tested three years ago when he was diagnosed, at age 48, with advanced stage 3 colon cancer. He was given a 25 percent chance of survival.

His first thought was, "If I'm going to die soon, what are the things I haven't done that I'd like to do?" he told the Vincentians. He thought about going to Acapulco, Mexico, and buying a new truck, among other self-indulgent things.

"And then, I thought, 'Nah, I don't think so,'" he said. "I just keep doing what I do, because what else fills us up? Can you imagine another purpose for your life that would fill you up?"



CNS PHOTO/ALEX GRIMM, REUTERS

A trader reacts at the stock exchange in Frankfurt, Germany, Sept. 30. Markets worldwide have been affected by the U.S. financial crisis.

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## Number of parishes in Lansing Diocese will be trimmed under new plan

LANSING, Mich. (CNS) — A three-year process to determine how the Diocese of Lansing will look in the future has resulted in a plan to trim the number of parishes from 97 to 80. Unveiling the plan at a recent press conference, Bishop Earl A. Boyea said it does not mean the closing of 17 churches, but it does call for the merging of several. "If everything were to be implemented, say, within four or five years, then what we would anticipate is a reduction from the current 97 parishes to 80," Bishop Boyea said. "Now that doesn't mean there would be 80 churches. A lot of those parishes would have two churches." The plan was set in motion in August when the diocese closed three Flint parishes. It calls for closing three more churches — Sacred Heart Chapel in Jackson, Transfiguration in Ypsilanti and St. Leo in Flint. A source in the diocesan offices, however, indicated another Flint parish, All Saints, would close when and if its pastor retires. If that happens, Flint would go from 13 parishes to eight.

## Wall Street slide shouldn't affect retired religious, nun says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The slide in Wall Street stocks triggered by the federal takeover of mortgage banks and finance houses in September should not pose a problem for religious orders, including those with large numbers or percentages of retired members, according to the head of the National Religious Retirement Office. "Most of the religious communities are invested for the long term. So depending on how long this market upheaval lasts, they can ride it out," said Precious Blood Sister Janice Bader, the office's director for the past year. But, she added, "if they're in a position where they have to draw down funds while the market is down, that'll have an impact, that's for sure." Sister Janice said, "Most of the communities have positioned their portfolios so that the money they're going to be withdrawing for current use is in short-term investments, which are not going to be impacted as severely as long-term funds." The office is jointly sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and the Council of Major Superiors of Women Religious.

## Bishop welcomes faithful home to new Cathedral of Christ the Light

OAKLAND, Calif. (CNS) — "This is our Father's house. This is our house. Welcome home." With those words, punctuated by enthusiastic applause, Oakland Bishop Allen H. Vigneron welcomed more than 2,000 invited guests to the Sept. 25 dedication of the Cathedral of Christ the Light. Bishop Vigneron spoke of

# NEWS BRIEFS

## CARDINAL BLESSES ALTAR DURING DEDICATION



CNS PHOTO/MATTHEW BARRICK, COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia blesses the altar during the dedication of a chapel honoring Our Lady of Pompeii at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Oct. 4. The cardinal called the newest addition to the basilica another chapter in the story of Mary's love.

the new cathedral's importance to the life of the Oakland Diocese which has been without a cathedral since the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake irreparably damaged St. Francis de Sales Cathedral. The new cathedral, said Bishop Vigneron during his homily, is the mother church for the whole Catholic community of the East Bay and "a most visible sign, a very public sacrament as it were, of the many ways we confess our belief in Christ the light of the nations." Speaking to the 1,350 people seated in the cathedral and the 600-plus gathered in the plaza outside, the bishop said, "The Diocese of Oakland has built this cathedral to testify to this truth, which is for us life itself — that Jesus Christ is the light for all peoples, for all ages, and that he is found in our midst."

## Protest of Iranian president called effort to fight 'appeasement'

NEW YORK (CNS) — A New York rally against a U.N. address by Iran's president and a dinner held for him by a number of religious organizations was aimed at fighting the "appeasement of evil," one participant said. President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad — best known for his oft-stated desire to "wipe Israel off the map" and his denial the Holocaust actually occurred — used his U.N. speech to rail against "Zionist

murderers" and "bullying powers" such as the United States. While he was in New York he met Sept. 25 with representatives of the American Friends Service Committee, the Mennonite Central Committee, the Quakers' U.N. Office, Religions for Peace and the U.N. liaison office of the World Council of Churches. The gathering was protested by a loose coalition of almost 60 groups including Iranian dissidents, Christians, Jewish organizations and American political groups, including Women United, Christian Solidarity and the Jewish Action Alliance. "Dozens of leaders and organizations representing diverse faiths, ethnicities and political affiliation spoke out in a united voice today against appeasement of evil," said rally organizer Beth Gilinsky of Women United and Jewish Action Alliance.

## Pope thanks Knights of Columbus for defending life, moral truths

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI expressed gratitude to the Knights of Columbus for defending moral truths and the right to life and for their dedication to charitable works. The pope made the remarks during a private audience Oct. 3 with Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, and mem-

bers of the fraternal association's administrative council. Pope Benedict said he hoped the Knights would "discover new ways to serve as leaven of the Gospel in the world and a force for the renewal of the church in holiness and apostolic zeal." He thanked the Knights for giving young people a solid formation in the faith and for their efforts "to defend the moral truths necessary for a free and humane society, including the fundamental right to life of every human being." He expressed his gratitude to the Knights for their acts of charity and annual monetary contribution to the pope to support papal charities and special projects.

## Head of Missionaries of Charity discusses refugee situation in Orissa

BHUBANESWAR, India (CNS) — The superior general of the Missionaries of Charity said the situation in India's troubled Orissa state is a call for Christians to be witnesses to the faith. "Disciples cannot be greater than their master," said Sister Nirmala Joshi, the successor of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who founded the Missionaries of Charity. "God will strengthen his people to face this tough situation." Sister Nirmala spoke to Catholic News Service Oct. 1 after meeting with bishops and leaders of religious

congregations in Orissa. The church leaders met to develop a plan to take care of the tens of thousands of Christian refugees who have been fleeing attacks by Hindu extremists since August. More than 30 people have died in the violence. Nearly 10,000 refugees have fled to Bhubaneswar and government-managed refugee camps in the Kandhamal district. At the meeting, the church leaders decided to shift 800 teenagers to church institutions outside Orissa's Kandhamal district so they could continue their education.

## Hope, faith in abundance at first Mass on Galveston Island since Ike

GALVESTON, Texas (CNS) — An hour prior to Mass, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston was walking around the grounds of St. Patrick Church, taking time to speak with those who showed up early for the first Mass on Galveston Island since it was battered by Hurricane Ike Sept. 13. They all shared similar stories. Some had lost everything. Some had only lost their utilities and were still waiting. Some were born on the island. Some weren't. Regardless, they all shared in the hope that the historic island would recover as it has after previous storms, and they all shared the same faith — that Jesus Christ in the Eucharist would lift their spirits during these challenging times. And like his predecessors — from Bishop Jean Marie Odin to retired Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza — Cardinal DiNardo was present to his flock when they needed him most, sharing a smile, a word of hope, or just a simple pat on the back. "I want the people of Galveston to know that faith is going to be pretty important for them as they begin all of their cleanup and rebuilding and we are here with them," the cardinal said.

## NCCW general assembly gets lesson about toxins in consumer goods

SALT LAKE CITY (CNS) — More than 600 women attending the 2008 general assembly of the National Council of Catholic Women got a chemistry lesson at this year's annual gathering, learning about the dangers of toxins in some of the most common consumer goods. The lesson came during a workshop led by Pat Smuck of the Chicago Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women. Her presentation was part of NCCW's eight-year-old Children and a Safe Environment program. A motivational speaker, Smuck said toxins such as phthalates are found in women's makeup, children's toys and food packaging. Exposure to phthalates can lead to cancer, mental disturbances and tremors, she said. Lipstick also poses a danger because it contains lead, Smuck added. "What you put in your bodies today will affect your offspring for the next seven generations," Smuck told delegates who gathered from across the country Sept. 24-28 in Salt Lake City. "If we are not healthy, then our children will be unhealthy."

## John XXIII Retreat Center directors will lead St. Jude Parish mission

FORT WAYNE — The former directors of the John XXIII Retreat Center in Hartford City will lead the St. Jude, Fort Wayne, parish mission on Sunday, Oct. 19, through Tuesday, Oct. 21.

Father Keith Hosey has served as a priest of Diocese of Lafayette-in-Indiana for 52 years. After 10 years as an assistant pastor, he became the retreat director at John XXIII Retreat Center and served in that ministry from 1966-2006. He is presently the resident chaplain for the Sisters of St. Joseph in Tipton.

Sister Maureen Mangen, a Sister of the Precious Blood from Dayton, Ohio, served as co-director of John XXIII from 1971-2005 and currently serves as a spiritual director and retreat facilitator for the Sisters of St. Joseph. "Their years of retreat experience should provide a great spiritual experience for our parish as they lead the mission," say parish mission organizers.

The theme will be "What gifts does God have for us?"

The mission begins, Sunday, Oct. 19, the feast of St. Jude, with a 5:30 p.m. potluck.

Each evening's session will be from 7-8 p.m. Sunday's presentation will focus on "Gifts of the Father." Monday's topic will be "Gifts of the Son." Tuesday night will close the mission with Mass and a homily on "Gifts of the Holy Spirit."

Each evening will include a special program for the children and child care for the tots.

For more information call the St. Jude Parish office at (260) 484-6609.

## Series explores U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults

GRANGER — The Office of Catechesis will sponsor a three-evening session on the "United States Catholic Catechism for Adults" (USCCA) on Wednesday evenings, Nov. 5, 12 and 19, from 7-9 p.m. at St. Pius X Parish in Granger. Shawn Sullivan is the instructor.

The three sessions will explore the U.S. catechism from its history and purpose to its relationship to the Catechism of the Catholic Church. The contents of the USCCA will be examined including excerpts on the saints and other holy persons that have shaped the faith experience of the United States. Doctrines of the church will be covered, especially as they apply to the culture of the United States.

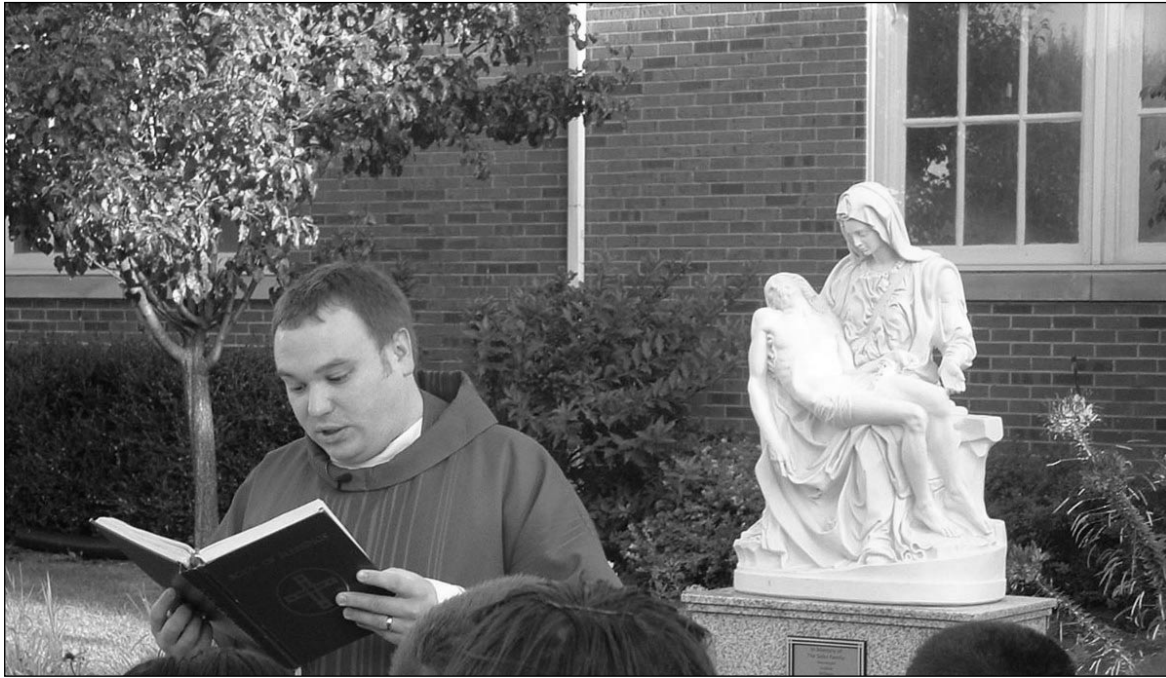
Registration is required. Interested participants can register online at [www.diocesefwsb.org/OC](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/OC) under Adult Faith Formation, call Janice Martin at (260) 399-1411 or e-mail her at [jmartin@fw.diocesefwsb.org](mailto:jmartin@fw.diocesefwsb.org).

Participants should have the "United States Catholic Catechism of Adults." It may be purchased at Cathedral Bookstore, with a 25 percent discount plus tax, by contacting Kara Slocum at (260) 422-4611 ext. 3356 or through e-mail at [kslocum@fw.diocesefwsb.org](mailto:kslocum@fw.diocesefwsb.org).

To prepare for the sessions, the following readings are suggested from the USCCA: "Introduction" through page 162 for the first class;

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## GOSHEN PARISH BLESSES PIETA STATUE



PROVIDED BY ROBIN KRUSE

Father Christopher Smith blesses the new Pietà with the schoolchildren and parishioners on Sunday, Sept. 19, at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Goshen. The Pietà was a bequest to the church by a parishioner in memory of the Sajko family. Church member Mark Wheeler did the landscaping for his Eagle Scout project.

pages 163-388 for the second session; and pages 339-501 for the third session. Pope Benedict XVI's two encyclicals — "Deus Caritas Est" ("God is Love"), and "Spe Salvi" ("Saved by Hope") — along with the apostolic exhortation, "Sacramentum Caritatis" ("Sacrament of Charity") will be addressed throughout the presentation of the USCCA.

## Saint Mary's College hosts its first African American alumnae homecoming

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary's College will host its first African American Alumnae Homecoming Oct. 10-11. The event, which is expected to also attract current students, includes a keynote address by Juanita Boozer Bay, class of 1952, a retired civil servant and the first known African-American to have graduated from the college.

"We welcome Juanita and our other alumnae back home to Saint Mary's. This weekend offers opportunities to learn about Juanita's experience at the college back in the 1950s and to reflect on the progress Saint Mary's has made since then to become more diverse. We know that we need the assistance of our alumnae to improve in this area," acknowledged Carol Ann Mooney, president of Saint Mary's College. "We hope that through conversations with these women we will learn what is needed to attract more African American students to the college. It is Saint Mary's ultimate goal to have a student body that reflects the ethnic composition of society."

According to the college's strategic plan released last fall, it is

Saint Mary's goal over the next five years to increase enrollment of students from historically underrepresented minorities to at least 15 percent. The college is working towards that objective with a current minority population of 10 percent; over the past several years that percentage has been between 7.5 percent and 9.0 percent. Without a more diverse student body, the report states, many academically talented young women may not select Saint Mary's College because the lack of diversity could adversely impact their educational experience.

"This inaugural reunion of African American alumnae is critically important to the college," said event chair Paula Dawning, class of 1971, a member of the college's board of trustees. "As we move forward to a multi-pluralistic society it is imperative that the voices of all Saint Mary's alumnae are heard and that we are clearly focused on the college as a national leader in higher education."

Dawning is a former AT&T executive, former superintendent of Benton Harbor Schools and a native of South Bend. "Saint Mary's College prepares women to make a difference in the world, and it is my hope that the college will attract young black women, as it has in the past, who will continue to lead in the shaping of our complex world," she said.

## Sister Kampwerth presents at Lampen Lecture Series

DONALDSON — Poor Handmaid of Jesus Christ Sister Annemarie Kampwerth gave her presentation "Service Goes a Long Way" at the

Gerald J. Ball Library at Ancilla College on Oct. 1. Sister Kampwerth is the director of mission, education and partnerships for HealthVisions Midwest and is also a member of the Ancilla College board of trustees.

Her presentation highlighted many of the ways that HealthVisions Midwest is currently serving the needy in such places as Lake, Porter, LaPorte, Marshall, St. Joseph, Starke and Allen counties, as well as East St. Louis.

"The whole focus is dignity and respect for all," said Kampwerth. "Service is respecting the dignity of those you are serving. From a health perspective, there are many things that need to be done in our communities. Collaborating with others instead of doing it on your own is the best way to bring about change."

This year's theme for the Lampen Lecture Series is "Dignity for All."

The series was designed to combine the universality of the Catholic Church, the international character of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, who sponsor Ancilla College, and the Earth Charter to promote thinking beyond one's own experiences and interests.

## Distinguished professor to give lecture on Francis of Assisi

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis will host a lecture by Dr. William R. Cook entitled, "Francis of Assisi: A Model for 21st Century Christians" on Thursday, Oct. 16, at 7:30 p.m. in the North Campus Auditorium.

For over 35 years, Dr. Cook has focused much of his research on St.

Francis, especially how he was represented in art. The author of four books on St. Francis as well as many articles, Dr. Cook is a distinguished teaching professor at the State University of New York at Geneseo.

The lecture is presented by iConnect and the Center for Franciscan Spirit and Life. For more information, contact Dr. Matt Smith at (260) 399-7700 ext. 8105.

## Infant loss remembered in October

LIGONIER — October is National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month and Oct. 15 is designated as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day. These national observances offer the opportunity to increase understanding of the tragedy involved in the loss of unborn and newborn babies through miscarriage, stillbirth and early infancy death. It is also meant to promote education and awareness of the matter.

"In recognition of this national day, we are providing candles to be lit on Oct. 15 at 7 p.m.," said Blessed Sacrament, Albion, parishioner Krystal LeCount-Veach, who recently lost her son at 37 weeks. "Please light your candle and let it burn for at least an hour before extinguishing the flame. Not only are we asking that you do this in memory of our son Wyatt but, we also would like people to recognize all of the babies that have died as well as the families who have had to endure these tragedies."

Veach asks people to take a digital photo of the lit candle and e-mail it to [k\\_lectount@hotmail.com](mailto:k_lectount@hotmail.com) where she plans to collect the photos and place them on a Web site.

In 1988, Ronald Reagan made a Presidential Proclamation declaring the month of October as Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month. This national observance offers the opportunity to increase understanding of the tragedy involved in the deaths of unborn and newborn babies. In 2001, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a resolution designating Oct. 15 as National Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day.

## Heartland Chamber Chorale and USF announce partnership

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis and the Heartland Chamber Chorale (HCC) have announced a partnership to benefit both organizations.

Through the terms of the agreement, the Heartland Chamber Chorale, an independent vocal ensemble, will be in residence on the campus of the University of Saint Francis. HCC will conduct workshop performances with the University Singers and provide professional assistance to the university choir and resources such as the chorale's music library. The chorale will offer internship opportunities for USF students in arts administration. The university will provide office, rehearsal and performance space along with a recording studio for HCC's use.

# Couple's Bible, crucifix meaningful first gifts to newlyweds

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — The long-awaited wedding day has finally arrived and the sacramental marriage rite is a joy to witness. Anticipation of the upcoming reception brings thoughts of renewed friendships, culinary delights and mountains of gifts. But at Queen of Angels Parish in Fort Wayne the newlywed couple receives their first gift even before they leave the altar — a couple's Bible and crucifix from their parish family.

What began over two years ago as a small heartfelt project has grown into a parish ministry that seems to delight not only the newlyweds but the congregation as well. Father Gary Sigler, pastor of Queen of Angels Parish, says the gift presentation is a surprise for the couples, who are very appreciative.

"I present the Bible and crucifix to the couple before they process out; telling them their parish family has a gift for them. It is their first gift as a married couple," he says.

The idea was the inspiration of Norb Sauter, parishioner of Queen of Angels, who had been the pho-



PROVIDED BY NORB SAUTER

**Father Gary Sigler, pastor of Queen of Angels Parish in Fort Wayne, presents a Bible and crucifix to the Mitchell and Abigail McAfoose couple as their first wedding gift from their parish family.**

tographer in a fund-raising venture in 2006 involving the sale of unique Christmas cards there. Following a friendly discussion on how to use the proceeds of the card sales, the idea of the newlywed's gift was developed.

The purpose of presenting the gift as the finale to the wedding ceremony is twofold, says Sauter. "Not only do we want to get the newlywed couple started on the right foot, but some Protestants in the congregation think Catholics don't use Bibles. Then they see the Catholic couple getting a Bible right away," he says. That, he believes, is a form of catechesis that is as important for the non-Catholics as it is for the couple.

The couples, he says, "are astounded" when they are gifted with the Bible and crucifix, and adds, "Some from the congregation come up afterwards and say how great that is. They've never seen it before, especially a gift from the parish family."

The gifts offered over the past two years to each couple married at the parish, exhausted the card sales fund and Sauter subsidized the gift project for a while on his own to keep the ministry alive. Recently, after being reinstated as a returning member of the Knights of Columbus, he took the cause to his council.

"I felt like St. Paul," recalls Sauter. "They jumped on it and said that was just the thing they would like to be involved in." The soft cover couple's Bible and walnut crucifix with pewter corpus and golden halo are purchased at the Cathedral Bookstore located in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center.

Father Sigler says the Bible is

not a coffee table version but is meant to be used regularly.

"I tell them it's to be used to pray together and read together, to make it part of their personal devotions," he says.

Currently the Knights of Columbus, a combined group of devout men from Queen of Angels and Most Precious Blood (PB) parishes, are providing the Bibles and crucifixes for the newly married couples.

And much to Sauter's delight, Most Precious Blood Parish has adopted the project as well.

Most Precious Blood Pastoral Associate Cheryl Donaghy, who is marriage preparation and parish wedding coordinator, says PB has been offering the gifts to their

couples for two months now, and they have been received well.

"I put them in a decorated bag and present them to the couple at the rehearsal. I tell them Knights of Columbus provided the gift presented by their parish," she says, adding that following marriage preparation meetings, the gift reinforces the belief that Jesus is in the midst of the marriage. "The Bible and crucifix can be used as a reminder of their marriage vows — that they're not alone," she says.

Father Sigler feels it is special to get a gift from a parish. The Bible and crucifix represent the life of faith for the newlywed couple. "And you can't get more Catholic than that," says the priest, who is grateful that what began as a single parish project has been enthusiastically funded by the Knights of Columbus and now has the potential to be adopted by many other parishes in the diocese.

**"I tell them it's to be used to pray together and read together, to make it part of their personal devotions."**

FATHER GARY SIGLER



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# Bishop D'Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund awards tuition assistance

BY ELISA SMITH

Twenty-four Catholic elementary students in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend are being awarded tuition assistance of \$300 each for school year 2008-2009 from The Bishop D'Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund. Twelve students are from Fort Wayne area elementary schools and twelve are from South Bend area schools.

The Bishop D'Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund is a restricted endowment fund within the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana. It was established by Bishop John M. D'Arcy with gifts from the 50th anniversary of his priesthood, in memory of his late sister Mary Caprio and from other special donations. The purpose of the fund is to grant tuition assistance to Catholic students in Catholic elementary schools in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Schools that have a student receiving an award for school year 2008-2009 are as follows:

• **Fort Wayne area:** Huntington Catholic, Huntington; Most Precious Blood, Fort Wayne; Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne; St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne; St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne; St. Joseph, Fort Wayne; St. Joseph, Garrett; St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel; St. Jude, Fort

Wayne; St. Louis, New Haven; St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla; and St. Rose of Lima, Monroeville

• **South Bend area:** Christ the King, South Bend; Holy Family, South Bend; Our Lady of Hungary, South Bend; Queen of Peace, Mishawaka; St. Adalbert, South Bend; St. Anthony de Padua, South Bend; St. Bavo, Mishawaka; St. John the Baptist, South Bend; St. Jude, South Bend; St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend; St. Monica, Mishawaka; and St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart.

Bishop D'Arcy said, "One of the greatest needs in our diocese and a great responsibility as well is to gather funds so we can give assistance to those who otherwise cannot attend our schools as Pope Benedict XVI said in his recent visit — 'No child should be denied his or her right to an education in faith, which in turn nourishes the soul of a nation.'"

The fund will make distributions each year based on an annual payout of 6 percent of the value of the fund at June 30. Recipients will be awarded financial assistance based on need by a committee appointed by Bishop D'Arcy that consists of Daniel Fitzpatrick, James Fitzpatrick, John Gaughan, Joseph Ryan and Elisa Smith.

Bishop D'Arcy celebrated 50 years as a priest on Feb. 2, 2007. He contributed gifts that he received from the anniversary of

his priesthood to create the Bishop D'Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund. In addition, when his sister, Mary Caprio, died in September 2007, Bishop D'Arcy requested that memorials be given to this fund. Moreover, a special gift from a family foundation was contributed to the Bishop D'Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund in May 2008, which has brought the total value of the fund to over \$120,000.

The committee sent letters and tuition assistance application forms in April 2008 to principals and pastors of all Catholic elementary schools in the diocese, inviting them to recommend one student from the school who qualified for tuition assistance based on financial need. Also, the committee requested a written essay, not more than 100 words, from each student who applied, titled "Why Catholic Education Is Important to Me."

For each student who is granted an award, it will be for one time and nonrenewable.

**If you would like to make** a current gift of cash or stock or a planned gift such as a will bequest to the Bishop D'Arcy Catholic Education Jubilee Fund, please contact Elisa Smith, director of Planned Giving, at (260) 422-4611 or [esmith@fw.diocese-fwsb.org](mailto:esmith@fw.diocese-fwsb.org).

## WordOnFire priest to begin production on TV documentary about Catholicism

CHICAGO — Publishing books, podcasting his sermons and posting movie reviews on his YouTube channel were just warm-ups for Chicago priest and popular theologian Father Robert Barron. Next week, he heads to Rome to shoot the second episode of his biggest production yet — a \$10 million, 10-part TV documentary on Catholicism.

With filming for the first part completed in Israel in June, the next nine episodes will bring Father Barron and his production crew to Rome, Krakow, Warsaw, New York, St. Petersburg, Istanbul, Sinai, Nazareth, Ephesus, Lourdes, Guadalupe, Athens, Corinth, Mexico City, Lagos, Rio de Janeiro, Assisi, Auschwitz, Calcutta, Philadelphia — 30 locations in 15 countries in all. Viewers can preview the sweeping production online and participate in viral pilgrimages at [www.WordOnFire.org](http://www.WordOnFire.org).

Through his journeys, Father Barron will explain what Catholics believe and why — using art, architecture, literature, music and all the riches of the Catholic tradition to tell a visually arresting and inspiring story. It may be one of the most ambitious productions ever to promote the Catholic faith to the world.

"'Catholicism' could well become one of the most significant

efforts ever to advance what Pope John Paul II called 'The New Evangelization,'" said George Weigel, biographer of Pope John Paul II and distinguished senior fellow of Washington's Ethics and Public Policy Center. "Truth, goodness, beauty — they're all here, in a stimulating and compelling exploration of the spiritual, moral, and intellectual riches of the Catholic world. This is the Catholic story told from inside, with knowledge, sympathy and passion, rooted in friendship with Jesus Christ."

"In looking at the modern challenges and opportunities facing the church, I felt an urgency to come up with a creative and constructive response to remind people of the richness and good news that Catholic tradition brings people," said Father Barron. "What I didn't realize at first is how far our travels would take us. We'll log more miles than St. Paul on his apostolic mission, I hope without the shipwreck."

A portion of the first episode is available online at [www.WordOnFire.org](http://www.WordOnFire.org). Titled "Amazed and Afraid — The Revelation of God Become Man," it follows Father Barron through Israel. From the lush region of ancient Caesarea Philippi, to the shores of the Sea of Galilee, to the holy city of Jerusalem and to the

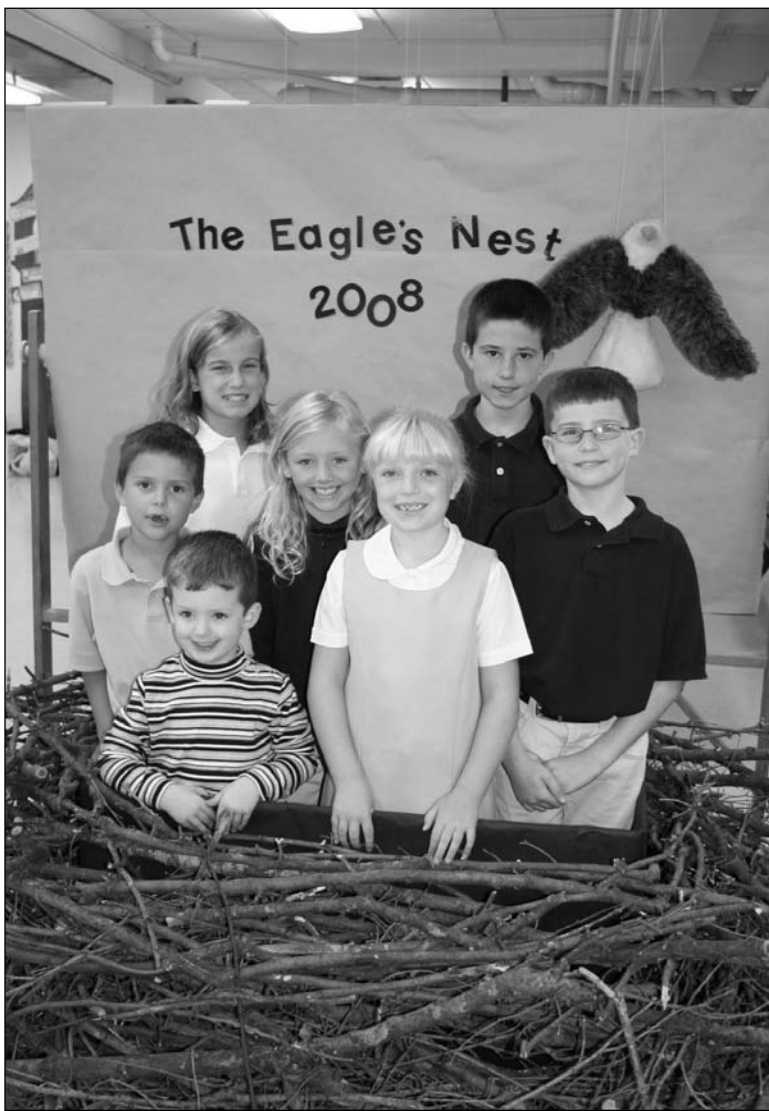
eternal city of Rome, Father Barron illuminates and explains the Catholic faith's conviction that Jesus of Nazareth is the promised Messiah and the revelation of God become man.

While the project will take more than a year to complete, its supporters can follow its making online. The Word on Fire Web site will feature a community forum and behind-the-scenes interviews, photos, and information to create an immersive experience that allows followers to become a part of the story.

Father Barron is an award-winning author of nine books on Catholicism and creator of five DVDs, 25 YouTube reviews of podcasted sermons. With such new-media savvy, it's no surprise he was adamant about using the latest in high-definition technology for the documentary. To further ensure the highest production values, Father Barron tapped as executive producer Mike Leonard, a 30-year veteran correspondent for NBC's "Today" show.

The documentary is being funded entirely by private donations, with the goal of raising \$10 million for the production, promotion, distribution and study guides for the film.

## IMAGINATION DAY CELEBRATES ANIMALS AND ENVIRONMENTS



PROVIDED BY KARI HALDERMAN

St. Bernard School students in Wabash participated in its 14th annual Imagination Day 2008 on Friday, Sept. 27. This year's theme was "Super Science Spectacular." Students were divided into groups and participated throughout the day in activities, which focused on animals and environment. Group activities included a bald eagle Web quest, the eagle's nest, the river otter, orangutan, animals and their habitats, the Kapok tree and the food chain. Students in the photo are: front row, from left, Valentino Baucio and Madison Garrett; middle row, Caleb Gidley, Rachel Orpurt and Sammy Hipskind; and back row, Abby Stein and Andreas Palmert.

## YODER KNIGHTS DONATE MONEY TO BI-COUNTY SERVICES



PROVIDED BY FRANK SHANLY, BLUFFTON NEWS-BANNER.

St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus representatives Russell Sorg, left, and Mike Follis, right, presented a check for \$2,487.52 to Jim Wicker, president of the Bi-County Services in Bluffton on Thursday, Sept. 25. The money was raised through Tootsie roll candy sales in Wells County and will be used to help fund Bi-County's Summer Fun program for children with disabilities.

# Men affected by abortion need healing, reconciliation, say speakers

BY ALICIA TORRES

OAKBROOK, Ill. (CNS) — For men suffering the aftermath of abortion, Thomas Golden offers a message of healing.

"We have to learn to love men. ... That is how we are going to reclaim fatherhood," he said.

Golden, author of "Swallowed by a Snake: The Gift of the Masculine Side of Healing," was a speaker at a conference on "Reclaiming Fatherhood" Sept. 8-9 in Oakbrook. He has been teaching mental health professionals around the world about men and boys and the way they heal from stress, grief and trauma.

The conference on how abortion affects men was the second such gathering sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and organized by the Milwaukee-based National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing. The first conference was held in November 2007 in San Francisco.

Co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office for Evangelization, this year's event featured presentations by psychologists, a counselor and a sociologist. Several fathers who have lost a child to abortion also spoke.

For those from 36 states and four countries gathered in Oakbrook, the message was clear: Society must recognize the unique experience of men who have lost their fatherhood through abortion, and the ministries and resources available to guide the healing process must be made known.

Ministries offered by the Catholic Church and other faith traditions have been focused on



**John Morales of Glenview, Ill., a co-founder of Sports Faith International, holds up his adopted son Joseph Dominic Morales after sharing his personal story on dealing with abortion as a younger man during a conference on abortion in Oak Brook, Ill., Sept. 8. The Knights of Columbus and the Archdiocese of Chicago's Office for Evangelization, co-sponsored the event titled "Reclaiming Fatherhood," a national conference that focuses on the effects of abortion.**

supporting women who have had an abortion. Until recently, the grief and pain experienced by the men affected by abortion has not been as widely discussed.

Men are involved in an abortion decision in many ways, and the level of their involvement affects how much guilt they feel afterward, according to the speakers. Many men know about and fully support the decision, while others may not know until years later that they lost a child to abortion.

Conference speakers noted that in the 35 years since the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its

Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion, more than 40 million abortions have been performed and at the same time there has been in general a lack of attention to those suffering from the decision, particularly men.

Anthropologist Lionel Tiger of Rutgers University, author of "The Decline of Males," maintained that society's devaluing of masculine identity has contributed to the loss of people's ability to address issues that deeply impact men, including the aftermath of abortion.

"When we look at the labor force of economics, we are seeing males leaving the labor force and

women entering the labor force and doing well," he said. "The educational system is the credentialing system ... and women do better there.

"The guys don't know how to compete in the school system. More women graduate than men, even though we are supposed to be living in a patriarchal society in which all this sexism is going on, and yet women are doing better than men," he said.

According to data presented by psychologist Vincent Rue, studies indicate that men involved in abortion are very likely to experience post-traumatic stress disorder. Rue, director of the Institute for Pregnancy Loss in Jacksonville Fla., reports that 41 percent of men responding to an online survey about their abortion experience met the full diagnostic criteria for post-traumatic stress disorder.

For men suffering from an abortion, the disorder is a haunting condition, he said. Men may be plagued by nightmares, become

severely overprotective of their families and in extreme circumstances take their own lives.

Vicki Thorn, founder of Project Rachel, the Catholic Church's post-abortion healing ministry, called for a need to recognize the differences between men and women. "The first book ever written on men and abortion was in 1984. It has taken almost 25 years to actually get together to talk about the issue," she said.

Thorn is also founder and head of the National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation and Healing.

Speaker Golden said that women tend to process grief by recalling events with close friends, while men are wired to taking action to process their grief.

"When our father died, my brother and I built a box in which to place his ashes. It was during that time together in the shop that we confronted the loss of our father, through the stories we shared and memories recalled," he said.

Men who have suffered abortion need to process in a similar way, added Golden, who in 1995 founded [www.webhealing.com](http://www.webhealing.com), the Internet's first interactive site for grieving people.

"We have to learn about men, we have to study them and find out what helps them, what brings them to healing," he said.



**Vicki Thorn, founder of the post-abortion ministry Project Rachel and executive director of the National Office of Post-Abortion Reconciliation & Healing, addresses participants during the conference.**

## Pornography, sexual exploitation harms people and society

### Joe Sergio's fight against pornography leads to Citizens for Community Values

BY ANN CAREY

SOUTH BEND — When Joe Sergio drove to work each day, his route took him past a cluster of sexually-oriented businesses in South Bend. This was always disturbing to him because, as a psychologist, he was painfully aware that pornography often is at the root of other social and behavioral disorders like teen promiscuity, adultery, abortion, sexual abuse, rape and prostitution.

One day, Sergio was happy to see that a so-called "adult bookstore" was being torn down, but his happiness was short-lived, for he soon found out the business would be replaced with one of the largest "adult emporiums" in the state.

"When I asked God why this was happening," Sergio told *Today's Catholic*, "I got the conviction to do something."

Sergio had earned master's and doctorate degrees in psychology from the University of Notre Dame, so he knew how pornogra-

phy and sexual exploitation harmed people and society, but he never had been prompted to say anything publicly about it. He related that for two weeks, he argued with the Lord about getting involved, and eventually decided that he would devote three years of his life to working on the problem. That was 15 years ago, and Sergio is still working on the problem, with many successes to show for his efforts.

He was one of four founders of Citizens for Community Values, an organization devoted to reducing sexual exploitation, promiscuity and abuse by increasing public awareness of the harmful effects of pornography. Sergio serves as president of the CCV board of directors while simultaneously holding down his full-time job as president of The Sergio Corporation.

The CCV have helped either close, or prevent from opening, over 30 sexually-oriented businesses in Indiana and lower Michigan. Among those successes are passage of ordinances regulat-



**JOE SERGIO**

ing sexually-oriented businesses in South Bend, Mishawaka and St. Joseph County, as well as in White Pigeon, Mich. Sergio, who is a member of Christ the King Parish in South Bend, told *Today's Catholic* that he keeps motivated by what he calls the "continued sexualization of society" which is promoted at younger and younger ages. This harms a person's understanding of sexuality as a part of life, he said, because sex becomes life for so many people, and they become addicted, with sex consuming their lives.

"Addiction to pornography has a predictable pattern of addiction that parallels drug addiction," Sergio explained.

Our bodies are wired to react to sex and pornography, he said, and neurotransmitter fluids are released that change the chemistry of the brain. Thus, with porn use, drugs

are released in the body that cause a euphoria that eventually goes away. Like drugs that are injected into the body, the person addicted to pornography needs more and more porn to reach a high, so he or she escalates up to more prurient materials, and many eventually act out through prostitution, molestation, etc.

And of course, other consequences of our sexualized society are devastating, as well. When young people are encouraged by the culture to have sex anywhere, any time, and with anyone, this results in our current epidemic of sexually transmitted disease and fuels the abortion industry, Sergio said. This all ties into the need to respect all of human life, from conception to natural death, he added.

CCV has had a significant impact on restricting adult businesses and prostitution, Sergio said, but legal actions are "just a holding action," for pornography continues to be available, especially on the Internet. The bigger challenge is to educate people, he said.

One of Sergio's efforts at education is a Bible study class he conducts at the St. Joseph County Jail, a popular class with prisoners. The prisoners don't understand that porn is dangerous, he said, so he talks about the big difference between the world's view of sexuality and God's view of sexuality.

"The prisoners react very well," Sergio said. "I have their attention, and they ask good, serious questions. Many of them made bad choices in their past — some related to this. I feel honored to be able to have their time and attention."

Sergio also speaks with perpetrators of sex crimes and hopes to "restore people, bring them to the right spot with the Lord," working as Jesus did to embrace the person while rejecting the sin.

Sergio invited readers of *Today's Catholic* to attend the CCV annual banquet and fundraising dinner on Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. at the Gillespie Center in the Hilton Garden Inn on the campus of Saint Mary's College. Tickets are \$30 per person. For reservations, call (574) 247-9299.

# Everything about the Women's Care Center is God's work

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — In a political climate where the issues can become distorted, the mission of this area's premier pregnancy help center is refreshingly simple and direct.

"We help women choose life for their babies," stated Women's Care Center President Ann Manion.

With the emphasis on "help," Manion and her longtime sidekick and Women's Care Center board member Kitty Fulnecky have spent the last two decades working tirelessly to make abortion a thing of the past, staying out of the political arena to do it. Both women give all credit to God and their Catholic faith.

"Everything about the Women's Care Center is God's work," explained Fulnecky. "From the very beginning we've relied on Divine Providence!"

The "very beginning" was nearly 25 years ago, when a professor at the University of Notre Dame spent her spare time praying at a nearby abortion clinic. Dr. Janet E. Smith realized that young women facing unplanned pregnancies needed an alternative where they could receive information and loving counsel. The Women's Care Center was born in 1984, setting up shop in what was then known as "the little blue house on St. Louis Boulevard."

As the Women's Care Center was opening its doors, Manion

was enjoying a successful career as an accountant, but also knew she wanted to be a full-time mother to her infant daughter. A member of the second class of women to go four years and graduate from Notre Dame, Manion felt the pressure to succeed in the business world.

"One of the scariest things I ever did was leave Price Waterhouse after 11 years," recalled Manion. "I remember when Mary was a baby and I got this call from another company asking if I wanted to be the tax director, and I'm thinking, 'Yes! I do!' But then I said, 'No, I'm going to be at home with my baby.'"

Fulnecky is quick to point out how God looked out for her, leading Manion to join the Women's Care Center as a volunteer just as it was just getting off the ground. There, Manion could use her business skills and do much of that work from home. She believes it was a perfect fit, and later became Women's Care Center president in 1988. Never drawing a paycheck from the organization, Manion now volunteers at least 30 hours a week to oversee the 14 area Women's Care Center locations.

Trust is something both women say is the foundation of the Women's Care Center, especially as it has grown throughout the years.

"We have to trust," insisted Fulnecky, referring to the most recent expansion project that took them to Columbus, Ohio, where a

new Women's Care Center office opened just this week.

According to Manion, a benefactor encouraged the Women's Care Center to consider opening in Columbus, where until now there was no full-time pregnancy help center in a city of 1 million people.

"We got to town," recalled Manion, "and there's a little house available, next to the biggest abortion clinic in the city, for \$120,000. What are the odds of that? And it had gone on the market just the week before."

"God wouldn't have opened up opportunities if he didn't want us to take them," said Fulnecky. "From the very beginning it's always been a leap of faith, and he's asking for another one! There was a naïve, childlike openness to God, because he presented opportunities to us that we were scared to death to think about."

Because such leaps of faith aren't based on any business model, some might question it. According to Manion, Fulnecky would always be the one to get up during a board meeting to give her "God speech."

"That was Kitty's role," said Manion, "and lest she'd forget it, I'd call her up before the board meeting and remind her."

Fulnecky says she has confidence in God's providence after her years with the Women's Care Center.

"The times where we tried to maneuver things ourselves have never worked out as well as when the door had literally been opened, people stepped forward and provided the means and the brains ... and that's the other thing. We always had people on the board who could help us"

Manion believes by being a truly Catholic-based outreach, the Women's Care Center is more effective than any other pregnancy help center in the country. Not all the counselors are Catholic, but everyone embraces the mission.

"I think our Catholic roots are why we are successful," explained Manion. "Our evangelization is more subtle, and just more loving and caring ... and Mother Teresa-like. Our counselors don't preach, but try to show compassionate understanding to each woman they meet."

"We have a lot of support from other individuals and churches," added Fulnecky. "The Lutheran Foundation is one of the largest all-time supporters, next to Our Sunday Visitor."

Bishop John M. D'Arcy has been a huge fan since the beginning, according to Manion, and has helped out in many ways.

"The Bishop's Appeal gives us \$10,000 a year," said Manion. "In the early the days, the bishop really carried the load. We would just hang on until October."

Both women say they have received many graces during their time with the Women's Care Center. Their husbands embrace the mission, and the children have grown up witnessing Catholic faith in action.

While some would have us believe the battle over abortion can never be won, Manion and



DIANE FREEBY

Ann Manion, president, left, and Kitty Fulnecky, board member of the Women's Care Center, have spent the last two decades working tirelessly to make abortion a thing of the past, staying out of the political arena to do it. Both women give all credit to God and their Catholic faith.

Fulnecky continue to make sure work in the pro-life trenches continues. According to this year's annual report, over 9,000 women were assisted by the Women's Care Center in 2007.

"Abortion numbers are coming down," said Manion. "With record numbers of women served at all our centers, there seems to be no end in sight to the need to help more young moms and babies. None of what we do at the Women's Care Center could be accomplished with out the vital prayers and financial donations of our supporters."

One of the Women's Care Center locations in South Bend is located next to an abortion

provider. Nearby, the 40 Days for Life prayer vigil is underway until election day. As a Catholic, Manion believes it is ultimately the power of the Holy Spirit that makes people decide for life.

"I really, really like that effort," she said, referring to the 40 Days for Life vigil. "I believe in the power of prayer, that a prayerful presence can have a real impact."

Manion remains hopeful for the future.

"The hope I see is coming from the young people. My children and their friends are more pro-life than my generation. On a one-on-one level, people's hearts are being changed."

## GIRL SCOUTS DONATE ITEMS TO WOMEN'S CARE CENTER



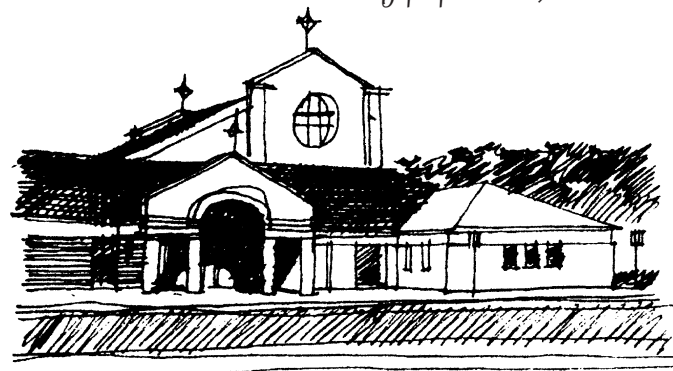
PROVIDED BY CHERYL HEISE

The St. Vincent de Paul Girl Scouts, in Fort Wayne, held their annual fall campout on Sept. 19-20. This campout incorporates community service in our fun times. The Girl Scouts collected donations of baby diapers and wipes, pull-ups and carseats for the Women's Care Center, an organization whose mission is to assist young women in pregnancy crisis (giving them an alternative to abortion). About 100 Scouts made crafts, cooked dinner over the campfire, went on hikes, and then spent the night at Girl Scout Camp McMillen. Presenting donations to the Women's Care Center are Chelsea Heise, Jessica Heise, Grace Kline and Lucy Kline.

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*"Cease to do evil, learn to do good:  
seek justice, rescue the oppressed,  
defend the orphan,  
speak out on behalf of the widow."*

*Isaiah 1.17*

*"You shall not practice abortion nor harm  
the infant...nor plot to deceive your neighbor.  
You shall hate no one. You will correct some,  
pray for others, and some you will love more  
than your own life."*

*Didache 2 (c.110 AD)*



*Rev. Michael Heintz*

*Rev. André Léveillé, CSC*

*Miss Mary Ann Retseck, Principal*

*Mr. Scott Steiner, CCD Director*

*Mrs. Lisa Marino, RCIA Director*

*"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you."*

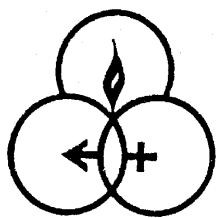
*-JEREMIAH 1:5*



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*"God created man in his image,  
in the divine image he created him;  
male and female he created them."*

*Genesis 1:27*



Holy Cross and  
St. Stanislaus Parish  
SOUTH BEND

**Abortion**  
*cannot be a human right  
...it is the very opposite.*

- Cardinal Franz König



**St. Joseph County Right to Life, Inc.**  
320 North Lafayette Blvd., South Bend  
232-5433

[prolife@michicana.org](mailto:prolife@michicana.org)

## Pope urges church to help couples see beauty of natural procreation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The church must find ways to help Catholic couples see the beauty of respecting the true design of procreation and avoid artificial reproduction and contraception, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The encyclical, "Humanae Vitae" ("Of Human Life"), "illustrates and defends the beauty of conjugal love" while respecting the divine laws of nature, he said in a written message addressed Oct. 3 to participants of an international congress.

The Oct. 3-4 congress in Rome was sponsored by Rome's Catholic University of the Sacred Heart and the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family. The Vatican released a copy of the message Oct. 3.

The church, in its teachings and pastoral programs, "must know how to guide couples to understand with their hearts the wonderful plan God has inscribed in the human body."



Here's a miracle  
To have and hold  
Here's a life  
To shape and mould.  
Born to be cherished  
Born to know love  
A little angel  
Sent from above.

**LITTLE FLOWER PARISH**

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# Respect Life

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## Cardinal Rigali calls upon Catholics to 'build a culture of life'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — All Catholics are called “to help build a culture of life in which every human life without exception is respected and defended,” the chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities said in a message for Respect Life Sunday Oct. 5.

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia invited Catholics to build a culture of life and to “rededicate ourselves to defending the basic rights of those who are weakest and most marginalized: the poor, the homeless, the innocent unborn, and the frail and elderly who need our respect and our assistance” in a statement Sept. 30.

Two initiatives on the Nov. 4 ballot in the state of Washington and Michigan were held up by the cardinal as examples where respect for life has waned. The Washington proposal would legalize doctor-assisted suicide for terminally ill patients. In Michigan, an initiative would endorse “the deliberate destruction of human beings” for embryonic stem-cell research, Cardinal Rigali said.

At the same time, the cardinal hailed therapeutic successes in research on adult stem cells and umbilical-cord blood.

“The Catholic Church strongly supports promising and ethically sound stem-cell research and strongly opposes killing week-old human embryos, or human beings at any stage, to extract their stem cells,” he said.

The cardinal also noted that most Americans favor banning all abortion or permitting it only in rare cases, such as rape, incest or danger to the mother’s life. He cited a recent Guttmacher Institute study which found that the U.S. abortion rate declined by 26 percent between 1989 and 2004.

However, the cardinal again raised concern about the Freedom of Choice Act — FOCA — which is pending in Congress.

Cardinal Rigali echoed his Sept. 19 call for defeat of the bill when it comes up for a vote, whether in the closing days of the current session after the Nov. 4 election or when the next Congress convenes in January and a new version of the legislation is introduced.

“FOCA establishes abortion as a ‘fundamental right’ throughout the nine months of pregnancy and forbids any law or policy that could ‘interfere’ with that right or ‘discriminate’ against it in public funding and programs,” Cardinal Rigali explained. “If FOCA became law, hundreds of reasonable, widely supported and constitutionally sound abortion regulations now in place would be invalidated.”

“We cannot tolerate an even greater loss of innocent human lives. We cannot subject more women and men” to post-abortion grief and suffering, he said.

Cardinal Rigali’s full statement can be found online at [www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2008/08-141.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/comm/archives/2008/08-141.shtml).

## Feminism’s founders stood for life

BY LISA EVERETT

The candidacy of Gov. Sarah Palin has raised the public profile of pro-life feminism, a concept which many in our society consider a contradiction in terms. Some wonder how a woman can seriously claim to be a feminist if she does not believe in “reproductive freedom,” understood as unfettered access to contraception and abortion. Others believe that equality with men requires that women be liberated from the burden of bearing and raising children.

What many people do not realize, however, is that the radical, secular version of feminism that most of us are familiar with today is far removed from the original vision of the 19th century founders of the movement, who were women inspired largely by Christian concepts of morality and justice.

In addition to insisting on their right to own property, participate in government, receive equitable wages and have equal opportunities for advanced education and employment, one of the major goals of the original feminists was to address the abuse of sexuality both within and outside of marriage.

As David Reardon, director of the Elliot Institute for Social Sciences Research, recounts: “They condemned male promiscuity, and denounced the social injustices that induced their sisters to degrade themselves in lives of prostitution. They demanded that husbands honor their commitments to their wives, and that sons learn to honor the integrity of all women. Equal rights, they believed, could be achieved only by fidelity, mutual sacrifice and commitment. Self-control, not self-indulgence, was their solution to marital unhappiness.”

These early feminists championed mutual fidelity and mutual respect in marriage. When they objected to “enforced motherhood,” they meant that a wife

should not have to submit to every sexual advance of her husband without regard for her own desires, health or the possibility of a pregnancy resulting. In a social and cultural context, which

heavily favored the husband’s right to conjugal relations whenever he so desired, this demand was considered radical. This conviction on the part of the early feminists would later find explicit confirmation in Pope Paul VI’s encyclical “*Humanae Vitae*”:

“A conjugal act imposed on one’s partner without regard to his or her condition or personal and reasonable wishes in the matter, is no true act of love, and therefore offends the moral order

and degrades women even further to being regarded as sex objects by their husbands. More than a century later, Pope Paul VI sounded the same alarm in “*Humanae Vitae*”:

**It is not science that redeems man: man is redeemed by love.**

POPE BENEDICT XVI,  
“SPE SALVI,” NOV. 30, 2007.

“A man who grows accustomed to the use of contraceptive methods may forget the reverence due to a woman, and, disregarding her physical and emotional equilibrium, reduce her to being a mere instrument for the satisfaction of his own desires, no longer considering her as his

partner whom he should surround with care and affection.” (#17)

The early feminists also foresaw, as did Pope Paul VI, that widespread use of contraception would facilitate adultery and

father.

Susan B. Anthony, referring to abortion as “child murder,” wrote in her 1869 publication *The Revolution*: “No matter what the motive, love of ease, or a desire to save from suffering the unborn innocent, the woman is awfully guilty who commits the deed. It will burden her conscience in life; it will burden her soul in death; But oh, thrice guilty is he who drove her to the desperation which impelled her to the crime!”

Elizabeth Cady Stanton classified abortion as a form of infanticide and described it as an affront to the dignity of mother and child alike: “When we consider that women are treated as property, it is degrading to women that we should treat our children as property to be disposed of as we see fit.”

Alice Paul, the author of the original Equal Rights Amendment of 1923, deeply lamented the later linking of “reproductive rights” with this amendment because she characterized abortion as “the ultimate exploitation of women.”

What we know today about the link between breast cancer and both abortion and the pill — to name only one example — provides further confirmation that the contemporary clamoring for “reproductive rights” is anti-woman as well as anti-child. There can no longer be any doubt that the modern, mainstream feminist movement has betrayed the ideals and convictions of its founders and in so doing, has sacrificed the well-being of millions of women and the lives of countless children. What the pro-life movement needs now more than ever are women imbued with the spirit of the Gospel who know that their ability to bear and nurture new life is not a liability, but a gift.

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

**“Even as we work toward social equality, we, as African Americans, must accept the reality that abortion remains the number one destroyer of the Black community.”**

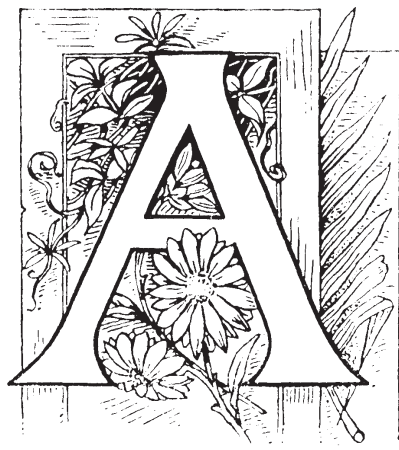
BISHOP MARTIN D. HOLLEY, “A REFLECTION ON THE AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY AND THE CULTURE OF LIFE,” RESPECT LIFE PROGRAM 2008.

in its particular application to the intimate relationship of husband and wife.” (#13)

Far from insisting on contraception and abortion to regulate procreation, 19th century feminists condemned both. They considered contraception to be “unnatural,” “injurious” and “offensive” to women, and feared that its use in marriage would rel-

leave women even more vulnerable to being victimized and ultimately abandoned by their husbands.

The early feminists likewise knew that abandonment by a man often motivated a woman to commit the atrocity of abortion. But while they did not exonerate the mother herself, they placed even more blame at the foot of the



**s believers, how can we fail to see that abortion, euthanasia, and assisted suicide are a terrible rejection of God’s gift of life and love? And as believers, how can we fail to feel the duty to surround the sick and those in distress with the warmth of our affection and the support that will help them always to embrace life.**

--Pope John Paul II Homily at Trans-World Dome, St. Louis, January 27, 1999

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Rev. Christopher Smith, Pastor

**St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish - Bristol**

Rev. Robert Van Kempen, Pastor

**St. Thomas the Apostle Parish - Elkhart**

Rev. William Sullivan, Pastor

**St. Vincent de Paul Parish - Elkhart**

Rev. Philip DeVolder, Pastor

## EDITORIAL

## Fighting the battle for life on several fronts

As we mark October as Respect Life Month, we would do well to reflect again upon the theme of Pope Benedict's pastoral visit to our country in the spring: Christ, Our Hope. What might be the implications of that theme for our responsibility to help build a culture of life?

There is no doubt that the battle for life has been protracted and progress has been slow. Unfortunately, some have even been tempted to throw in the towel and concede that the cause has been lost.

Yet, this is precisely when we need to rely on the virtue of hope, understood not as "wishful thinking," but rather, as the catechism puts it, the "confident expectation of divine blessing." Now more than ever, we need to believe that God will bless our faithfulness to build a culture of life and make it bear abundant fruit in his own good time.

The battle to build a culture of life must be fought on several fronts. The U.S. Bishops' 2001 Pastoral Plan for Pro-Life Activities specifies four of them. One "front" is education, both within the Catholic community and, more broadly, in the public square. The bishops call on clergy, religious and laity, whether at church, home, school or the office, by all forms of media, to help form those that they influence to grow in a more profound respect for human life from conception to natural death. The primary purpose of education directed to the general public is the development of pro-life attitudes and the rejection of abortion, euthanasia, embryonic stem-cell research and other direct threats to the lives of innocent human beings.

A second "front" is pastoral care, which seeks to provide moral support and concrete assistance to individuals and families experiencing difficult circumstances: women with problems related to pregnancy; those who have been involved in an abortion; those who are disabled, sick and dying; prisoners, those on death row, and victims of violent crime.

A third "front" on which the battle to build a culture of life must be fought is public policy. Our faith gives us the clarity and the conviction to remind our fellow Americans that, in the words of Pope John Paul II, our true greatness as a nation is tested by the way we treat the weakest among us. Political advocacy on behalf of those who cannot defend themselves is an essential element of building the culture of life, not an optional one, explain the bishops, because in a just society, the lives of innocent human beings must be legally protected:

"The Gospel of Jesus Christ is a 'Gospel of life.' It invites all persons to a new life lived abundantly in respect for human dignity. We believe that this Gospel is not only a complement to American ... principles, but also the cure for the spiritual sickness now infecting our society. ... We cannot simultaneously commit ourselves to human rights and progress while eliminating or marginalizing the weakest among us. Nor can we practice the Gospel of life only as a private piety. American Catholics must live it vigorously and publicly, as a matter of national leadership and witness, or we will not live it at all."

A fourth and final "front," without which all of our other efforts to build a culture of life will not bear fruit, is that of prayer. We can sin against the virtue of hope, not only by succumbing to despair, but also by presuming that our own efforts are enough, rather than by seeking light and strength from the Lord.

### Committing the cause to the Lord

The battle to build a culture of life is not ours alone — it is primarily the Lord's — and we must commit the cause of life to him, in confident expectation of the ultimate triumph of good over evil, of grace over sin, of truth over lies. As Pope John Paul II pleaded with us in his great encyclical on the Gospel of Life:

"A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. Through special initiatives and in daily prayer, may an impassioned plea rise to God. ... Let us therefore discover anew the humility and the courage to pray and fast so that the power from on high will break down the walls of lies and deceit: the walls which conceal from the sight of so many ... the evil of practices and laws which are hostile to life."

May it be so.

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

## A Day of Grace for Women a blessing

On Saturday, Sept. 27, over 300 women attended the Women of Grace Conference at Grace College.

This was the most inspiring event I have ever attended. Johnnette Benkovic is a very dynamic speaker who shared her energy, insight and humor with us in her presentations, as well as discussing the difficult times we face in life. Johnnette moved many of us to tears as she told about the death of her 25-year-old son in an auto accident and then, last year, the death of her beloved husband to brain cancer. I had the privilege of talking with Johnnette for a few minutes and she was very supportive and told me that she would pray for my family as they continue to face ongoing medical problems. I was touched by her kindness.

My heartfelt appreciation to Bishop D'Arcy for his support of this event, and to Ginny Kohrman, Mary Worman, Jenny Kohrman and all the volunteers who worked so hard to bring the "Women of Grace" conference to our diocese.

Patty Sosenheimer  
Fort Wayne

## Abortion issues of the parties

This letter is in response to a column in *Today's Catholic* dated Sept. 21, 2008.

The column is a reprint of an editorial called "Politics and Abortion: What's the Choice?" This editorial attempts to compare the positions of the Democratic and of the Republican party on abortion. The author, Frank Wessling of the *Catholic Messenger* of the Diocese of Davenport concludes: "Neither party deserves our trust as a true pro-life carrier of values." I submit that he is wrong based on the following facts:

- In the 1980s the Democratic governor of Pennsylvania was denied the right to speak at their national convention because he was

pro-life.

- Barack Obama's pro-abortion position is very firm. When he was in the Illinois state legislature, he voted three times against a law to protect the lives of babies who had survived failed abortions. He has stated during his campaign: If one of his daughters became pregnant he would not want her to be punished with the baby. On Aug. 27, on a televised interview he was asked, "When does life begin?" His response, after much ambiguous stalling, was that the answer was above his pay grade. In the same interview John McCain's answer was prompt and concise, "Life begins at conception."

- Since the *Roe v. Wade* decision, the Democratic Party, in Mr. Wessling's own words, has "hooked its fortune to the abortion 'choice' position. ..." Most democratic legislators have taken that same position. Notable among these are the professed Catholic Democratic Senators Ted Kennedy, John Kerry and Joe Biden and Rep. Nancy Pelosi.

- Recently Nancy Pelosi, Democratic Speaker of the House, stated that the Catholic Church never taught that life begins at conception. Her archbishop duly corrected her and suggested she contact him concerning this issue.

Compare the above facts with the record of John McCain and the Republicans.

- Since the *Roe v. Wade* decision it has been the Republican Party that has consistently defended the life of the unborn and has opposed late-term abortions.

- Beginning with Reagan, every candidate for president and for vice-president on the Republican ticket has been pro-life

- John McCain has consistently defended the life of the unborn. In response to pressure from the conservative wing of his party, he resisted his original preference for pro-choice vice president, and picked Sarah Palin, a strong pro-life governor.

- The four strong conservative Supreme Court justices were all appointed by Republican presidents,

and John McCain has pledged to appoint like-minded justices to the court if he is elected.

Fair minded citizens may disagree as to which party would better serve the people for the next four years, but on the issue of abortion, there can be no question. I unreservedly disagree with Mr. Wessling when he writes: "Neither party deserves our trust as a true pro-life carrier of values."

Bernard Richardville  
Fort Wayne

## Serrans encourage priest recognition

This Oct. 26 is National Priesthood Sunday. The purpose of this day is to affirm the priesthood in the Catholic Church. There are over 36,000 parish priests in the United States who show their fidelity to God and to us every day of the year. It is incumbent upon us, through love, to express honor and support to the dedicated priests who have given themselves totally to the holy church. Priests should be loved and respected by those in the parish community and beyond.

The Serra Clubs of Fort Wayne and South Bend asks all Catholics of the diocese to express appreciation to Bishop John M. D'Arcy and the priests of the diocese to make an intentional effort to express appreciation to our bishop and priests.

Pray for a specific priest and write him a card or invite him for a meal or give him a gift card to purchase some gasoline. Let him know you recognize the daily and often times thankless job he performs for the love of Christ. The priest needs to know we care about him too.

Let us all band together not only to grow vocations, but also to maintain them. Thank you father and God bless. Our warmest congratulations to the servants of Christ on their extraordinary services to Jesus and his church. Happy priesthood day.

Dick Dornbos  
Serra USAC, District Governor of  
Northern Indiana  
South Bend

## A day to honor Our Lady of Fatima

BY FATHER ADAM SCHMIDT

On Monday, Oct. 13, many Catholics will celebrate the 91st anniversary of the miracle of the sun at Fatima, Portugal, of Oct. 13, 1917. What was the miracle? It was a rainy day, the area muddy — 70,000 were present and their clothes were wet. At noon that day the sun came out and dried up the muddy field and the clothes of the 70,000, as if it had never rained.

Then the sun began to shed different colors and swirl around for 12 minutes — even coming towards the earth, which caused the 70,000 people great fear as

they thought it was the end of the world.

On July 13, Aug. 17 and Sept. 13 of 1917, Our Lady of Fatima told Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta that there would be a miracle for all to believe on Oct. 13, 1917. As Our Lord foretold his resurrection for all to believe in him and his message, so Our Lady foretold the miracle of the sun — the likes of which has never happened before or since in the history of the world — that all might heed her message of how to bring peace to our lives and to the world, namely praying the rosary daily for this intention, and making daily sacrifices for the salvation of souls.

The message of the Fatima

apostolate is peace will come to the world through beads not bullets — rosary beads not bullets.

To celebrate this anniversary there will be Mass at St. John the Baptist Church, New Haven, Monday, Oct. 13, at 11:15 a.m., followed by a rosary procession at noon. Msgr. J. William Lester will be the main celebrant of the Mass in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and Father James Seculoff will be the homilist. All priests are invited to concelebrate. All are invited to attend.

Father Adam Schmitt is a retired priest who resides at St. Joseph Parish, Fort Wayne.

# Grieving the death of an infant

Death of a loved one is never easy, and the relationship nurtured with a special person has much to do with the grief experienced at their passing. Though my daughters lost their father as preschoolers, his absence continues to manifest in their life experiences in a very real sense, though far different than mine following my own father's death in my early 30s. Losing a spouse is a distinct grief journey as compared to losing a friend.

But what of losing an infant before birth through miscarriage or still birth? Do we grieve a person not yet viable and functioning in this world? Therese says yes.

Therese, her husband John and their two young daughters joyfully awaited the birth of their new child. The pregnancy had been full-term and uncomplicated. Though they had not yet met their new addition, Therese says, "I felt like I knew him. When you first find out you are pregnant, you immediately make plans. What should we name him/her? What will the big sisters think? The idea of a baby is never out of your mind. So for nine months you are thinking of, talking to, caring for

your baby. You know when the baby is sleeping and when the baby is active. This is your child and you love him."

Then two days before he was to be born, movement ceased. Therese wondered about the inactivity but knew babies naturally slowed before birth. However during a routine doctor's visit later that week, it was discovered for reasons unknown, the infant had died.

She says, "When you hear your child has died, all your dreams are shattered. I once heard, 'When you lose a parent, you lose your past. When you lose a child, you lose your future.' So true! When I saw perfect little Joshua, I was filled with sadness, grief and an overwhelming feeling of what might have been." A lifetime of living has been lost.

Losing an infant can be devastating for the extended family as well. Unfortunately many wonder how they can help and may feel because the baby was not a viable part of the life it should not be mentioned. Many grieving parents experience isolation in their grief.

John says, "Family did not know how to respond. Like any

## HOPE IN THE MOURNING

KAY COZAD

loss, they were afraid to talk about him because I might remember. If they only knew, I never forgot — and still don't." As with any loss, survivors are touched to know that others think of their loved one.

Therese adds, "The hard part about losing a child is in the months ahead. People have seen you pregnant for months, so many ask about the baby, those who knew you were expecting, but hadn't heard the news. I'm not sure what is harder, telling those people or them hearing your child has died. Most are empathetic, but some try to soften the grief with, 'You can have another one,' or 'At least you didn't get to know him.'"

HOPE, PAGE 16

# God's mercy extends to all



## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### 28th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mt 22:1-14

The first part of the Book of Isaiah provides this week-end's first reading at Mass.

Understanding the cultural, social, political and economic context surrounding the composition of biblical texts always helps to capture their meaning.

As a general rule, times rarely were good for the Chosen People. Aside from bursts of prosperity and peace under David and Solomon, they usually had to cope with war, invasion, want or worse.

Also as a general rule, the prophets saw little in which they could truly rejoice. Invariably the prophets wrote that human sin, not divine revenge, was the cause of trouble in the world.

So, frequently the prophets counseled the people to avoid entanglements with pagan neighbors, and always to be true to God.

This writing actually was written when times were not all that bad, but dark clouds lay on the horizon. The people, generally speaking, were lukewarm in honoring God. Isaiah loudly protested that the sluggishness in religious devotion would be their downfall.

However, Isaiah also insists, if the people are faithful to God, all will be right. Peace and security will reign. Prosperity will prevail.

The holy city of Jerusalem, God's city, and the royal capital, will be seen throughout the world as the center of a great nation.

The second reading is from the Epistle to the Philippians. On several occasions that are recorded in Acts or in the Pauline epistles, Paul was imprisoned, having been arrested for preaching against the establishment or simply for disturbing the peace. This passage from Philippians was written while Paul was in prison.

Being jailed, humiliated and abused was Paul's plight. Nevertheless, he says that his faith in God never lessens, nor does his commitment to proclaiming the Gospel. Nothing else matters, not even his comfort or personal well-being. God gave Christ to the world. Paul must extend this gift far and wide.

St. Matthew's Gospel furnishes the last reading. The reading is a parable, with three parts.

In the first part, a "king," who represents God, invites guests to a wedding banquet for his son. These people reject the invitation. The king invites guests again. Again, the invitation is ignored. Then, in the second part, the king invites outcasts and strangers to the feast. They come.

However, in the third part, the king sees a guest at the banquet improperly dressed. He orders this guest to be thrown out.

The king's servants represent the prophets. The prospective guests who spurn the invitation represent the people of Israel. The outcasts and strangers represent the aliens and the sinful.

The message is that God's mercy extends to everyone. Even so, God drags no one into the kingdom of heaven. Even repentant sinners must reform to be worthy of heaven.

## Reflection

These readings call us to several basic facts. The first is that God never fails in mercy. He does not disown the promise, spoken long ago through the prophets, and then finally by Christ, to guide people to everlasting life by revealing to them the laws of righteousness and by strengthening their resolve to be righteous.

The second fact is simple, and constant throughout history. Humans just cannot accept it. The fact is that humans sin. The sin of Adam and Eve weakens humans. Their nature is distorted. They are myopic. They exaggerate their own powers, discounting their need for God.

Conversion requires a frank realization of who and what humans are. They are sinful, but God loves them.

In this realization, humans come to the firm conviction that drove St. Paul to proclaim the Lord in spite of all. Nothing matters other than to be with God. There is no life apart from God. Everything other than God is fickle and impermanent, here but for a while.

## READINGS

**Sunday:** Is 25:6-10a Ps 23:1-6 Phil 4:12-14, 19-20 Mt 22:1-14

**Monday:** Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31-5:1 Ps 113:1b-5a, 6-7 Lk 11:29-32

**Tuesday:** Gal 5:1-6 Ps 119:41, 43-45, 47-48 Lk 11:37-41

**Wednesday:** Gal 5:18-25 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 11:42-46

**Thursday:** Eph 1:1-10 Ps 98:1-6 Lk 11:47-54

**Friday:** Eph 1:11-14 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 12-13 Lk 12:1-7

**Saturday:** 2 Tm 4:10-17b Ps 145:10-13, 17-18 Lk 10:1-9

## CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

In October, the Catequiz'em has two octets of O's, C's, and T's.

**1. Which Oct was the young Roman who became the Augustus whose census drove Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem?**

- a. Octillo      b. Octavian      c. Octto the Great

**2. These heretics were, at one time, numerous in southern France, near Albi:**

- a. Calistitae  
b. Cantianates  
c. Cathars

**3. First used by Leibnitz, this term refers to the study of God as known by reason:**

- a. theophany      b. theodicy      c. theopasy

**4. This is the dominant church in the Eastern Christian world:**

- a. Orthodoxy  
b. Oriental  
c. Ovidean

**5. This is a liturgical garment:**

- a. chanson  
b. chasuble  
c. canonics

**6. These fighting knights were the "special forces" of the Crusades:**

- a. terrorists  
b. tertiary order of seals  
c. templars

**7. The Council of Trent forbade boys under 10 to become**

- a. ornery monks      b. oblates      c. orphans

**8. The "Cherubikon" is a hymn in this Eastern Catholic Rite/Church:**

- a. Byzantine  
b. Cypriot  
c. Muscovite

**9. A thurible is useful for:**

- a. feeding reptiles  
b. mixing wine  
c. burning incense

**10. These Christians rejected reforms in the Russian church intended to make the church more aligned to Greek liturgy:**

- a. Oblasts  
b. Old Believers  
c. Ostthro Goths

**11. This rare and obsolete term referred to a vowed woman following the rule of Augustine:**

- a. catechist  
b. canoness  
c. called-by-Gus

**12. This is the third hour of the Divine Office:**

- a. terce  
b. trey  
c. thrice

**13. This German name refers to the policy of the Vatican had to create better relations with the Eastern (communist) regimes to benefit the church there:**

- a. Ostia  
b. Ostpolitik  
c. Ostalgie

**14. Monks from this "Charter-House" are of the Order of St. Bruno, but are more commonly known as:**

- a. Cistercians  
b. Columbian fathers  
c. Carthusians

**15. In a Catholic Church, this must be locked when not in use:**

- a. tabernacle  
b. till for cash  
c. tool kit

**16. This is another name for a monstrance:**

- a. ossuary  
b. occultum  
c. ostensorium

### ANSWERS:

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

# Roman roads aided in the spread of Christianity

## How did Christianity spread so fast in the time of the apostles? JK Angola

St. Luke speaks of the spread of Christianity in his New Testament book called the Acts of the Apostles. He attributes the spread of Christianity to the action of the Holy Spirit. He particularly looks at the missionary work of St. Peter and St. Paul. The New American Bible says St. Luke perceives the action of God in history laying open the hearts of all mankind to the divine message of salvation.

Although the Holy Spirit is the spirit of the church who helps it grow and keep on the right track, there are other favorable human factors at the time of the apostles that enabled Christianity to flourish.

Remember that ancient Rome governed the world of the apostles, and they established the "Pax Romana" or Roman peace. J. Packer says historians date the Pax Romana from 30 B.C. to about A.D. 180 when Rome flourished in a time of imperial greatness. During this period, the Roman Empire brought peace, prosperity

and good government to an area that ranged from Great Britain to the Euphrates River in Iraq and from the North Sea to the Sahara desert in northern Africa.

At the Battle of Actium in 31 B.C., Rome was finally united under one ruler, Octavian or Augustus Caesar, who concentrated on the empire's internal problems and laid the foundation for strong rule and peace.

M. Tenney says the Pax Romana increased Rome's trade and prosperity. The navy swept the Mediterranean Sea of pirates who imperiled shipping between Rome, Asia Minor and Africa. A stable coinage and improved methods of banking encouraged economic expansion. Manufacturing sprang up in the Roman provinces, so pottery from France and glass from Germany could be found in Rome.

A key to maintaining peace was Augustus Caesar's willingness to allow provinces local self-government, coupled with his quick use of military force to stifle rebellion or terrorism. To create less problems, the Romans allowed conquered nations to keep their lan-

## THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

guage, customs and religion, as long as the people stayed on peaceful terms with Rome.

A second factor that helped the spread of Christianity was the great system of Roman roads. W. White says the Romans were amazing road builders, spending five centuries completing a road system that extended to every corner of the empire that included 50,000 miles of first-class highways and 200,000 miles of lesser roads.

These Roman roads were built primarily as military routes to the provinces. But they also allowed grain to be brought to Rome and wine and olive oil to the provinces. Stone bridges were built where roads crossed streams. Today you

can see the famous Appian Way, the road on which St. Paul traveled to Rome.

Michael Grant says the roads of the Roman Empire were the most potent guarantees of external and internal peace and stimulants of prosperity. A Roman road went along the coast of northern Africa from Morocco to Egypt. A Roman road went from Egypt through Israel, Syria, and Iraq to Turkey. A Roman road went from Turkey along the coast of the Black Sea to the area of Russia. A Roman road went from Turkey to Greece and Macedonia, along the Danube River in Eastern Europe, and along the Rhine River in Germany and then on to France and Spain. Finally Roman roads were also built on the separated country of England.

A third factor that helped the spread of Christianity was the ability to travel by ship on the Mediterranean Sea that many

ancient countries bordered. Thus St. Paul was able to visit the islands of Cyprus, Crete, Rhodes, Malta and Sicily. Early Christian missionaries could visit the vast territory of the Northern African coast, the coast of Lebanon, Turkey, Greece, Italy, France and Spain.

Father John McKenzie adds a fourth factor in the spread of Christianity, namely that the one language of Greek was spoken everywhere in the Roman Empire. The New Testament itself was written in Greek. Some of the apostles, like Philip, had a Greek name, and Philip himself introduced Greek-speaking people to Jesus. Greek was the business language of this time.

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

## Respecting life is just learning to love

My mother was flipping through the church bulletin one Sunday when she observed a notice asking for parishioners to consider being foster families for Catholic Charities. Since my mother has a big heart, since her last pregnancy had ended in miscarriage, since she was in her early 40s and since it was pretty obvious she wasn't going to be having any more babies, she immediately pulled dad aside. "We could do this," she told him.

The two of them disappeared into the living room for awhile, and when they emerged, they told us their plans. They'd apply to be short-term foster parents. That meant we'd be short-term foster brothers and sisters. Short-term foster parents, at the time, entailed accepting and caring for newborn babies from the day they left the hospital until they could be placed in loving adoptive homes. Did I mention mom and dad already had 12 children in high school at the time.

Many babies came through my parents' doors. Some came for a very short time like a day or two. Others stayed a matter of weeks. One little boy, about 6 months old, arrived at our home unresponsive to any type of social overtures. If you played peek-a-boo with him he didn't break a smile. If you cradled him in your arms and sang, he just stared. Not in the usual situation, this little guy had been taken from his mother's home because he was being neglected and a consequence, a self-protective measure, said the social worker, was that he didn't show emotion.

He probably had cried so long and no one had responded that he had given up on that too. But my family loved him despite his lack of emotion, sang songs and played finger games with him.



## EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

Theresa A. Thomas

We read him books and sat with him on the porch, showing him things outside. My little brothers and sisters doted upon him constantly, and by the time he left us, he was progressing beautifully and chuckling happily again.

The last child to come to our family's household was a baby named John. African American, and 3 weeks old, his original foster mother decided she couldn't handle the little guy. Of course, mom and dad welcomed him with open arms. John integrated well into our family, and before we had known it, time had flown by. John was a toddler.

John's case was reopened when he was 2 years old, paving the way of his eligibility for adoption. Although my parents had not considered adopting any of the foster children they had taken in, this situation was obviously different. After two years, Johnny was one of us. We couldn't say "goodbye" or give him up. My parents applied to be his parents.

Every parent knows that raising children is difficult. Adoptive parents know that there can be special challenges reserved just for adoptive families. But like all families who have a good dose of common sense, faithfulness, dedication and God, love abounds. And it did in our family as well.

This month is Respect Life Month. I want to thank my parents because I think this is something they taught us children really well. Sure, they made sure we learned respect of cultures other than our own, took us faithfully to visit our aging grandparents,

helped us drop food donations into the food pantry's box for the needy, and educated us on laws that were being passed or not passed in our country to protect the unborn, elderly and vulnerable.

But my parents went one step more than that. They lived the pro-life message every single day of our lives. They knew that pulling the lever for the candidate who supports life or donating clothes to St. Vincent de Paul Society or writing a letter to elected officials is only part of the respect-life responsibility. They taught us kids to reach out to those who live in poverty or injustice by actually inviting them into our home.

The Catholic Church offers all of us a beautiful document entitled "Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics." This document may be found on the USCCB Web site here:

[www.usccb.org/prolife/gospel.shtml](http://www.usccb.org/prolife/gospel.shtml). It gives us many suggestions on how our families can respect life every day. I'm so glad my parents took the time to show me that learning to respect life is really not that hard. It's just learning to open one's heart and simply learning to love.

**Theresa Thomas**, parishioner of St. Matthew Cathedral Parish in South Bend, is the mother of nine children and wife of David. Visit her Web site at [www.theresathomas.typepad.com](http://www.theresathomas.typepad.com).

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for October 12, 2008

Matthew 22:1-14

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading, Cycle A, the parable about the groups of wedding guests. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

KINGDOM	WEDDING	HIS SON
INVITED	PREPARED	READY
BUSINESS	MISTREATED	KILLED
ENRAGED	TROOPS	MURDERERS
BURNED	STREETS	FOUND
HALL	GUESTS	A MAN
FRIEND	DARKNESS	TEETH

## COME TO THE FEAST

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

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## HOPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Then is not the time for old worn-out cliques but for reaching out to the bereaved parents with words of shared sorrow. A simple "I'm so sorry," resonates deep within the hearts of grieving parents.

In the not too distant past when a baby was stillborn or a woman miscarried, the body of the infant was removed immediately so as not to grieve the parents further. Thankfully bereavement norms have slowly, steadily begun to return to following the heart and more is being done to ensure a healthy start to the journey of grief. Hospital staff members now are more understanding. Picture taking, clipping strands of the

infant's hair and presenting the baby's cap and bracelet have become compassionate outreaches to grieving parents.

Therese and John birthed three more children into their now family of seven, in which little Joshua will always be a part. Their hearts have healed over the years with the compassionate support of friends and family who understand the need to mourn the loss of an infant not born to live in this world. But they say they will always remember.

They remind us, "There are always milestones ... the first Christmas, birthdays, starting school and graduation. You always remember."

**Kay Cozad** is a certified grief educator and writer for *Today's Catholic* newspaper.



# Sports

**ANOTHER SHUTOUT RECORD FOR SAINT FRANCIS** The fourth-ranked University of Saint Francis football Cougars expected to win their game Oct. 4 against Ohio Dominican — just not 35-0 over an Ohio Dominican University team. The Cougars shut out ODU (3-2) and in the process set a USF record with three shutouts in the same season. And USF also won its 48th consecutive home game.

## ICCL gridiron action rallies to final weeks

**SOUTH BEND** — With just a few weeks left to complete the regular season play of the Inter-City Catholic League boys' varsity football, the Mishawaka Catholic Saints remain unbeaten.

The Saints defeated the St. Anthony-St. Joseph Panthers, 24-0, at Bob Otolski Field at Marian High School on Sunday, Oct. 5.

The Saints were lead by scoring runs by Vince Ravotto, Michael Whitfield and Tyler Nixon. Chase Lentych-Hack kicked the three extra points.

In other-varsity action, at Saint Joseph's High School, the Holy Cross-Christ the King Crusaders beat the Holy Family Trojans, 16-0.

The Crusaders were lead by Pierre Byrne, who returned a punt of 35 yards and a free kick of 45 yards for touchdowns. Mike Madden kicked a two-point conversion.

In B-team action, The St. Anthony-St. Joseph Panthers

defeated the Granger Catholic Titans, 25-0.

The Panthers were lead by Justin Drinkall's two scoring runs of 16 and 55 yards. Chris Lippert and Oliver Page also had scoring runs in the win.

The Holy Cross-Christ the King Crusaders beat the St. Matthew Blazers, 36-6.

The Crusaders were lead by Peter Rymysza's three touchdowns, of 30-, 2- and 12-yard runs. Brendan Connelly had touchdown runs of 42-yards and 20-yards for the Crusaders. Jacob Jobe kicked three two-point conversion kicks.

St. Matthew's No. 59 returned the opening second half kick 70 yards for the Blazers' touchdown.

The Corpus Christi Cougars defeated the Holy Family Trojans, 18-0. The Cougars were lead by Garrett Lukens 24-yard touchdown pass to Noah Sheer. Caleb Horban and Ricky Entzian both had scoring runs in the win.



## Last week of CYO play secures placements

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

**FORT WAYNE** — In the final week of 2008 regular season Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) football action, Sts. JAT (Joseph-Elizabeth/Aloysius/Therese) took on St. Charles at Bishop Dwenger Sunday, Oct. 5. The Knights beat the Cardinals, 22-0, to secure a solid fourth place-finish in regular season play.

Leading the offensive attack for the Knights was John Cassell, Aaron LeMaster, Matt Harris and Nick Deiser. Deiser had two touchdowns and Matt Harris added a third.

Coach Mike Deiser also reported that Nic Morken and Dan Beckman took care of things defensively for Sts. JAT, who have won their last three outings.

Showing great improvement in the last half of the season, Casey Cooney, Cam Messman, Adam Whisler, Jacob Burgener, Jordan Tippmann, Tyler Tippmann, Jacob Chelf, Mike Lombardi, Tony Price, Nathan Niese, Austin Pearson and Greg Robertson all

chipped in a great effort for the Cardinals who ended up in the sixth spot.

Bouncing back from last week's loss to Sts. JAT, the St. John Fort Wayne-Hessen Cassel Eagles defeated St. Jude, 40-0, to wrap up a first-place finish in regular season play with a 6-1 record. In the game, Brandon Dock had a 20-yard touchdown run.

Thomas Starks threw a 10-yard strike to Brendan Gonzales and Sam Stroncsek threw a 10-yarder to David Shank, while Brandon Volmerding threw a 20-yard TD pass to Matt Williamson. Jabri Bramley rumbled in 30 yards on the last score. The PAT team was perfect on the day with Stroncsek handling the kicking chores. The two teams return to Bishop Dwenger Sunday, Oct. 12, meeting in the first round of the playoffs.

Heading into the post season, the St. Vincent Panthers downed Queen of Angels/Most Precious Blood, 26-0. In the win, Nick German had three touchdown runs and Grady Eifert added a score.

"I was most pleased with our offensive line and Chris Rama's

running game this week," reported St. Vincent Coach Cory Kitchen. According to Kitchen, the six lineman — Blake Bowers, Jeremy Reese, Gunnar Dahm, Austin Hillman, Brandon Evans and Jonathan Hake, who are coached by Matt Hatfield, Sean Lyons and Curtis Smith — controlled the line of scrimmage from the first play. St. Vincent finished with a 3-4 record and will square off against Sts. JAT in playoff action while Queen of Angels-Precious Blood will meet Holy Cross.

The final contest of the day found Holy Cross and St. John New Haven vying for the second seed position. Each with just a single loss (both to the St. John Fort Wayne Eagles in the early weeks of the season), Holy Cross downed the Raiders, 24-8. The Raiders lone score came from Dillon Carey with Adam McCarthy adding the extra point. Defensively, Robbie Lake had an outstanding effort with three sacks in the loss. The Raiders (5-2) wound up CYO's third seed and will face St. Charles (2-5) in the first game of the much anticipated "road to South Bend."

## CYO volleyball teams forge ahead

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

**FORT WAYNE** — The ladies from St. Therese are off to a 4-0 start in Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) Blue League volleyball action. The combined team of seventh and eighth graders lists nine on their roster for 2008. Veteran Coach Lisa Palmer returns along with assistants Jamie Uecker, Sarah Walker, Jill Davidson and Dusty Luegring.

"We may be small in numbers this season, but have an awesome group of girls to work with. They give 110 percent at every practice and work very hard," explained Palmer.

Palmer was pleased with her team's performance in two big wins during the month of September. First off, St. Therese beat the defending Blue League champs from Queen of Angels, 25-22 and 25-24, in a hard-fought battle that went back and forth with many lead changes. With excellent servers from Queen of Angels to contend with, St. Therese got behind in both games with passing troubles.

"It was anyone's game up until the final point," said Palmer. In the win, Taylor Luegring and Mackenzie North led the team in serving, while Anjelica Trevino had eight assists and Jessica Carsten five kills.

The next weekend at St. Aloysius, the Crusaders were vic-

torious in three matches by scores of 25-18, 25-23, 15-9.

"Again, either team could have won this match. We passed the ball very well which meant we also attacked and set up the ball extremely well — like 24 times in the second game alone," explained Palmer. Against the Gators, North had 10 kills and Trevino tallied nine kills and 11 assists. Luegring added eight assists while Carten and Rachel Braun dominated in the serving area. "Both wins were a total team effort and our girls never gave up even when we were behind," summarized Palmer.

Also small in numbers, but not spirit this season is the team from St. Mary-St. Joseph. Coach Nancy Ehmke started the volleyball program with the two schools hailing from the towns of Avilla and Garrett four years ago. Also coaching the fifth- and sixth-grade girls along with assistant Maryanne Budreau, Ehmke's varsity roster for 2008 consists of Kristy Brennan, Stephanie Ehmke, Nichole Rorick, Natalie Pine, Rachel Ley, Rachel DePew and Lydia Waring.

Ehmke struggles with current enrollment trends and rising gas prices. With no gym in Avilla, she transports her girls to Garrett twice a week to practice after school, in addition to serving as coach, athletic director, accountant, booster club president and "staff psychologist" while her husband helps out as equipment manager, transporta-

tion director and concession stand supervisor.

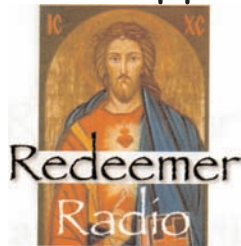
Ehmke's overall objective for the program this season is to provide the girls with the opportunity to learn more about the sport of volleyball. The leader also hopes the girls gain knowledge and skills and learn all the responsibilities of being part of a team. An additional goal for each player is to learn to play competitively.

"I am very pleased about the improvement in skill level the team is showing over the season so far," reports Ehmke, whose Carpenters/Eagles are 1-1 in Blue League play. Ehmke, a clinical nurse specialist, has coached at the college level and recently had her number retired from Salem State College in Salem, Mass., where she was a volleyball standout.

The Reds from Precious Blood are 0-4 in league play so far this season, but first-year head coach Ashley Peters is encouraged by her young team's serving and passing in an "upbeat game." Peters adds, "A couple of wins would be nice, but our goal is for each player to improve this season."

The Reds list three eighth graders on their roster along with six seventh graders. Peters is a junior at Concordia High School. After assisting with the team last year, she was asked by a family friend to fill the leader spot this year. Lisa Workman, the school athletic director, also helps out with the Lady Reds.

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# Still learning '... after all these years'

BY LINDA FURGE

## Opening prayer

"My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my savior. For he has looked upon his handmaid's lowliness; behold, from now on all ages will call me blessed. The Mighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name. His mercy is from age to age to those who fear him. He has shown might with his arm, dispersed the arrogant of mind and heart. He has thrown down the rulers from their thrones but lifted up the lowly. The hungry he has filled with good things; the rich he has sent away empty. He has helped Israel his servant, remembering his mercy, according to his promise to our fathers, to Abraham and to his descendants forever." — Lk 1:46-55.

## Commentary

Ziggy says, "Life is an adventure!" And I recently discovered (again) just how exciting it can be to start a new adventure. This past August I eased into my "fourth life" — first life, nurse; second life, stay-at-home mom; third life, Campus/Young Adult Ministry — as part of the diocesan Office of Spiritual Development. The teachers and staff of St. Louis Academy, Besancon, and St. Joseph School, Monroeville, asked the Office of

Spiritual Development to lead a retreat on "Mary our Model." This was my first time leading sections of a retreat — so I was a bit nervous (the flip side of excitement) and anxious to do a good job and not embarrass myself in the process. (My heartfelt prayer, as I drove to the retreat, was: "Oh, God, don't let me mess up too badly! Help my mouth say the right things when it's supposed to and keep shut when it's not.")

It didn't take me long to realize that the role I expected to play that day was going to be completely upended. I had thought that, with our talks, I/we would help guide the teachers into new insights on Mary. What I discovered, instead, was that these wonderfully wise women led me — all day long — into a new appreciation of her.

My lesson began quickly as I listened to their answers to our ice-breaker question, "How would you describe your relationship with Mary?" The depth and intimacy of the relationships they described were incredible, and I was instantly humbled. How could I ever presume to be their teacher? What could I possibly offer when they already related to Mary far better than I?

The teachers continued teaching me as we asked them to reflect on their personal and professional lives and write their own mysteries of the rosary. By way of introduction, we looked at the fact that, in the Middle Ages, the rosary was



## Sharing Faith

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

sometimes called the "psalter for the poor" because it was used by ordinary Christians as a parallel prayer to the formal liturgical offices of the clergy, monks and nuns.

We talked about Pope John Paul II's great reflection on the rosary in 2002 in which he proposed the addition of the luminous mysteries to the traditional joyful, sorrowful and glorious mysteries. He encouraged us to see the face of Christ in the daily events of our lives so that: "... our heart can embrace in the decades of the rosary all the events that make up the lives of individuals, families, nations, the church, and all mankind. Our personal concerns and those of our neighbor, especially those who are closest to us, who are dearest to us. Thus the simple prayer of the rosary marks the rhythm of human life." By offering the new luminous mysteries, Pope John Paul encouraged us to use our own life experiences to fashion mysteries for personal meditation and prayer.

The mysteries of the rosary the teachers developed, both personally and professionally as a group

exercise for this academic year, were thought-provoking and beautiful, and I have permission to share a few of them with you:

• My Faith Journey: 1) given my faith in baptism, 2) receiving Jesus in first Eucharist, 3) responding "yes" for myself in confirmation, 4) serving others in marriage and parenthood, 5) Thy will be done in daily commitment.

• Favorite Hymns: 1) "We Remember, We Celebrate, We Believe," 2) "Amazing Grace," 3) "The Church's is One Foundation," 4) "Salve Regina," 5) "How Great Thou Art."

• Mysteries for 2008-09 Academic Year (St. Louis Academy): 1) mystery of community, 2) mystery of service, 3) mystery of growth, 4) mystery of hearing God's call, 5) mystery of knowing and loving God.

• Mysteries for 2008-09 (St. Joseph School): 1) The seed of our faith, 2) the root of family, 3) the branch of knowledge, 4) the blossom of life experience, 5) the fruit of sharing.

Holy Cross Brother Philip Armstrong wrote a wonderful little book, "Your Own Mysteries:

Praying Your Life Through the Rosary," in which he offers additional suggestions for writing your own mysteries:

• People, living or dead, who were influential in your life.

• Relatives, friends, colleagues, teachers, etc., living or dead.

• Occasions of special joy.

• Challenging, difficult or painful occasions.

• Events for today's news: how would Jesus respond?

• Parables of Jesus that are most meaningful.

• Gospel personalities that resonate with me.

• Books, places, art or musical compositions that have impacted me.

• Unanswered questions or mysteries of my life.

• Locations of particular beauty.

• Gifts or talents I possess.

• Moments of special awareness or surprises God has sent my way.

We now offer Brother Philip's suggestions for your consideration so you, too, can formulate your own mysteries of the rosary. Feel free to join me — and learn ... still ... after all these years.

## Book covers the reign of seven popes in exile at Avignon

BY YORK YOUNG

Longtime readers of this column will know that this reviewer has a penchant for historical books, and having the opportunity to visit Rome in September, where tales of history are around every corner, my attention recently was drawn to "The Popes of Avignon: A Century in Exile" (BlueBridge, \$24.95), by Edwin Mullins.

In 14th-century Europe, civil strife and competing kings made for a perennial feeling of unsettledness. The popes were involved, too, often in ways not very Christlike. The papal kingdom, which included several territories in present-day Italy, were a contentious issue for many of those competing kings and popes. With so much danger so close to Rome, the papacy was moved away from the Eternal City at the time, and seven pontiffs reigned from the confines of Avignon, an independent city at the time, which is now part of France.

Beginning with Pope Clement V in 1308, the walls of Avignon provided the home boundaries of the papacy for the next 70 years. But a glorious time it was not, from the perspective of church history. With power struggles the rule of the day, nepotism and playing favorites were hard to avoid.

Pope Clement was a Frenchman, and once he took up residence on the border of France, it was hard for the papacy to avoid French influence. Pope Clement named several cardinals from France, including a few relatives. All of a sudden, after years of Italian control of the curia (papal offices) and the College of Cardinals, Frenchmen became the majority, heavily influencing the church for the next century.

During this time, some of the seven popes would occasionally take moral stands, but, generally, power and money ruled the day, not to mention an extreme lax of personal morality. Greed, lust, pride, gluttony — basically all the Seven Deadly Sins — were well represented in the papal court of the time, not excluding some popes.

But there were many interesting occurrences during this time. The first dramatic influx of the Black Death struck in 1348, during Pope Clement VI's reign. Looking for blame, many in the Holy Roman Empire blamed the Jews, annihilating many Jewish communities. Pope Clement opened the Avignon gates and protected 200 Jews during this time.

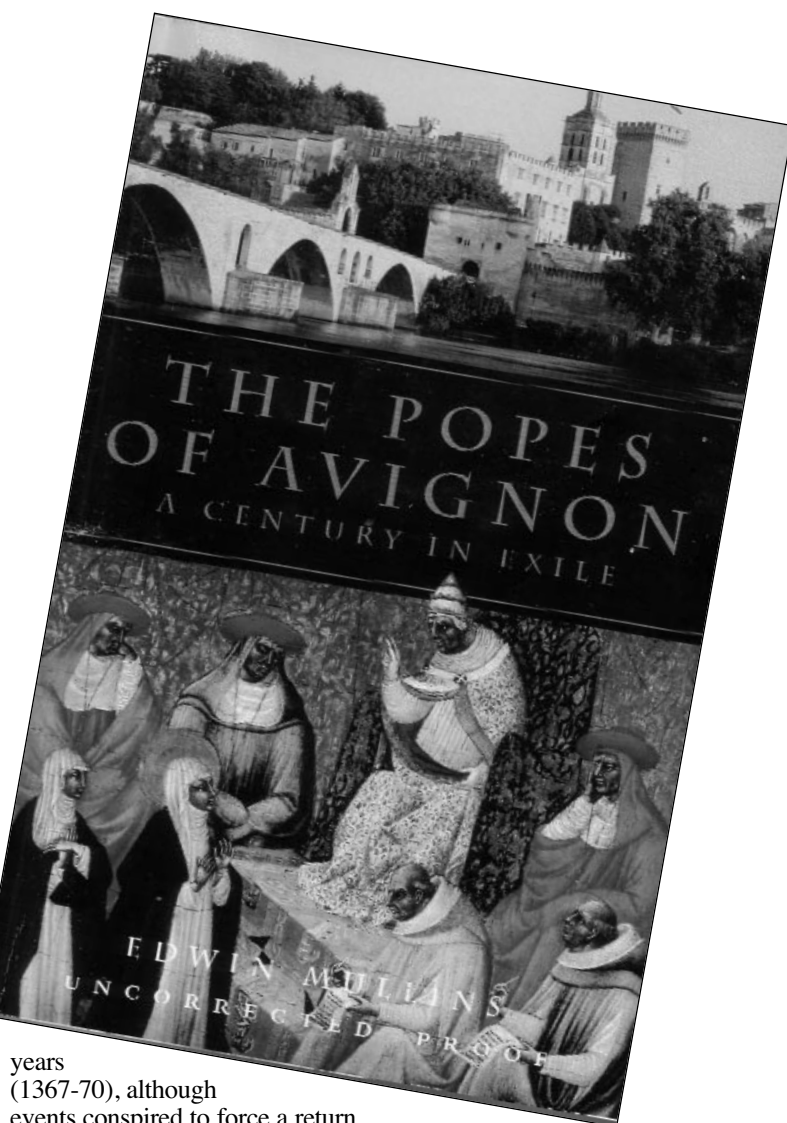
Meanwhile, the Hundred Years War was going on between France and England, which was repeatedly blamed for inhibiting the church from mounting another Crusade

against Muslims in the Holy Land. Not engaging in one last Crusade may have been a good thing, but at the time, the church was disappointed in that turn of events.

As talk in the second half of the century focused on returning the papacy to Rome, Frenchmen conspired to keep it close to their borders and churchmen were convinced that Avignon's proximity was a benefit to possible negotiations of peace between England and France.

Mullins does an excellent job of weaving in the papal history with an homage to the city of Avignon itself. The city became the envy of many in the 14th century, and grew to second largest to Paris in what is now France. With a papal title that forced all churches and religious orders to donate 10 percent of their income to the papacy — another black eye — the coffers of the church grew to expansive proportions. Before the move back to Rome was begun, however, it had all been spent, some on luxuries better left undiscussed, some on protection money to mercenaries and some to fight wars that maintained the territorial integrity of the Papal States.

This created more complication, but, ultimately, the call of Rome was too strong. Pope Urban V was able to move the church center back to Rome for a few



years (1367-70), although events conspired to force a return to Avignon.

Returning to Rome was finally accomplished less than a decade later. Romans and Catholics should appreciate the relocation in the city along the Tiber River. For

barely a century later the Renaissance began and the Vatican saw an artistic and architectural growth that lives to this day.

# 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

### Father Michael Heintz, Ph.D. to speak at St. Charles

Fort Wayne — Father Michael Heintz will speak on Models of Discipleship Tuesday, Oct. 28, at 7:30 p.m. in St. Charles Church. There will be an opportunity for questions and answers.

### Day of Reflection

Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held Wednesday, Oct. 29, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at St. Francis Convent. The theme for the day is "God's Holy Ones." Please bring your Bible. The cost of the day is \$15 and includes lunch. Register by Friday, Oct. 24, to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

### Living Healthier series sponsored by University of Saint Francis

Fort Wayne — The Living Healthier series continues with "Sleep Hygiene" by Cheryl Erickson, on Wednesday, Oct. 22, at 6:30 p.m. at the Doerner Center, Room 156. Doors open at 6 p.m. Refreshments and healthy snacks provided. Non-perishable food item donations accepted.

### 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.

## FUNDRAISERS

### Fall luncheon and card party

Fort Wayne — Queen of Angels Parish will party on Friday, Oct. 24, from noon to 4 p.m. in the

Msgr. Faber Activities Center. Cost is \$8. Men and women are welcome. Call Henrietta at (260) 482-1660 or Rita at (260) 424-6345 for information.

### Holiday bazaar

Mishawaka — The St. Joseph Church holiday bazaar will be Saturday, Oct. 25, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Over 80 craft and household item tables, raffles and baked goods will be offered. Bring canned or boxed food items and receive one free entry to the mini raffle for each item donated.

### Fancy fair and cookie bar

Rome City — St. Gaspar Parish will have a fancy fair and cookie bar on Saturday, Nov. 1, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Lunch available. For table rental call (260) 854-4888.

### Clothing sale for families

Bristol — St. Mary of the Annunciation, 411 W. Vistula St., will have a clothing sale Friday, Oct. 17 and Saturday, Oct. 18, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. each day.

### Knights plan spaghetti dinner

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

### Community Center has night of music

Fort Wayne — The St. Henry Community Center will have "A Night of Musical Distinction," Saturday, Oct. 18, from 7-11 p.m. Food, drink and live music

from many cultures in the gym, 3029 E. Paulding Rd. Tickets are \$15. Call (260) 515-2078.

### Fish dinner helps eighth grade

Fort Wayne — St. Therese School will have a fish dinner Friday, Oct. 10, from 4:30-7 p.m. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults, \$4.50 for children 6-12 and free for children 5 and under. All proceeds benefit the class trip.

### Drive through fish dinner

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel will have a drive through fish dinner on Friday, Oct. 24, from 4-6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8. Proceeds benefit the Hessen Cassel Food Bank.

### Rummage sale

New Haven — St. Louis Besancon Parish will have a rummage sale Friday, Oct. 17, from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. and Saturday, Oct. 18, from 9 a.m. to noon. Fill a bag for \$4 on Friday starting at 3 p.m. and fill a bag for \$2 on Saturday.

### Craft fair helps music department

Fort Wayne — The Bishop Dwenger Music Boosters will have a craft bazaar on Saturday, Nov. 8, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the school's gymnasium. Booth space is still available by calling (260) 483-5750.

### 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.

## REST IN PEACE

### Bremen

Brantley Taylor, 78, St. Dominic

### Decatur

Richard C. Mies, 78, St. Mary of the Assumption

### Fort Wayne

James B. Cooney Jr., 66, St. John the Baptist

Mel Quinn, 72, Precious Blood

David R. Skowronski, 58, St. Henry

Ramon Lopez Jr., 85, St. Joseph

### LaGrange

Rumalda G. Gutierrez, 98, St. Joseph

### Mishawaka

Maria Violi, 85, St. Monica

### New Haven

Gertrude C. Rorick, 86, St. Louis Besancon

Cheryl Stier, 53, St. John the Baptist

### Notre Dame

Elizabeth A. Craig, 75, Sacred Heart Basilica

### South Bend

Robert F. Brown, 73, Little Flower

Virginia S. Thornton, 89, Holy Cross

Paul T. Berndt, 87, Christ the King

Henrietta Wilder, 93, Christ the King

Felicia S. Dominkiewicz, 90, Little Flower

### Wabash

Alice Barnett, 87, St. Bernard

### Pancake and sausage breakfast

Yoder — A pancake and sausage breakfast will be served Sunday, Oct. 19, at St. Aloysius Activity Center from 7:30-11 a.m. Proceeds benefit the Athletic Booster Club. Free will donation.

### Fish and tenderloin fry

Bluffton — A fish and tenderloin fry will be held Friday, Oct. 17, from 4-7 p.m. in the social hall, 1300 N. Main St. Adults \$9, children 6-12 \$6, children 5 and under free. Carry-out available.

### Spaghetti dinner at Corpus Christi

South Bend — Corpus Christi Parish will have a spaghetti dinner Thursday, Oct. 23, from 4:30-7 p.m. Adults \$8, children 5-12 \$3 and children under 5

free. Tickets available at the rectory, school or at the door.

### Fish dinner hosted by Knights

Plymouth — The Knights of Columbus Council 1975 will host a fish dinner on Friday, Oct. 17, at the Knights Hall at 901 E. Jefferson from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are \$7 and available in advance by calling Tom Sibal at (574) 935-8442 or at the door. Drive-through service available at the Columbus Club south door.

### 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.



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# Freedom means imitating Christ, especially serving poor, pope says

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christian freedom is not being able to do anything one wants, but being free to imitate Christ, especially in serving the poor, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Let us allow ourselves to be guided by the Spirit, trying to live in the freedom that finds direction in faith in Christ and becomes concrete in service to our brothers and sisters," the pope said Oct. 1 at his weekly general audience.

"Being increasingly like Christ is essential. That is how one becomes truly free," the pope told an estimated 20,000 people gathered for his audience in St. Peter's Square.

The pope's audience talk focused on how St. Paul and the other apostles resolved differences they had, particularly regarding whether new Christians from pagan families were required to observe Jewish law.

"In the light of his encounter with the risen Christ," St. Paul understood that righteousness for the new Christians came from following Christ, the pope said.

With great respect for the Twelve Apostles who had been with Jesus from the beginning of his public ministry, St. Paul nevertheless was frank about what he believed the Gospel required, said the pope. Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, all of the apostles met in Jerusalem and adopted St. Paul's position.

"Only sincere dialogue, open to the truth of the Gospel, could

orient the journey of the church," Pope Benedict said.

He quoted St. Paul's Letter to the Romans: "The kingdom of God is not a matter of food and drink, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit."

Pope Benedict also noted how the Council of Jerusalem ended with a resolution for all the Christian communities to take up a collection to help poor Christians in Jerusalem.

"It was a completely new initiative in the panorama of religious activities," the pope said. "So great was the value Paul attributed to this gesture of sharing that he rarely referred to it as a collection, but called it service, blessing, love, grace and even liturgy."

St. Paul's reference to the collection for the poor as liturgy recognizes that care for the poor is a sign of love for God, the pope said.

"Love for the poor and divine liturgy go together," he said.

Love for God and for one's brothers and sisters are part of every Mass celebrated in the church, "which by its nature opposes the separation of worship and life, faith and works, prayer and charity for one's brothers and sisters," Pope Benedict said.

**Editor's Note:** The text of the pope's audience remarks in English is posted online at: [www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/audiences/2008/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_aud\\_20081001\\_en.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/audiences/2008/documents/hf_ben-xvi_aud_20081001_en.html).

## RED MASS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

involvement in the clergy sexual abuse scandal, Cafardi first pointed out how families went to church authorities, not civil authorities, with their allegations because they trusted the church and believed the bishops would listen to them. It was not until the church was perceived to be failing, as it was with the case of Boston priest Father John J. Geoghan, that families began turning to the law instead.

The church was perceived as failing because the bishops had sought to protect the privacy of both the accused priests and the victims.

"Secrecy breeds suspicion," Cafardi noted. He says that this approach caused one scandal to create a second scandal, one that implicated not just abusive priests, but leaders of the church.

"The church underestimated its people," Cafardi explained, saying that the bishops feared openness on the topic of priestly sexual abuse would scandalize the faithful and drive them away. But, Cafardi said, the laity are smart enough to understand that priests are sinful human beings and strong enough in their faith to endure such information. So instead of protecting the laity, the bishops' secrecy created an environment in which the problem persisted and finally erupted in 2002.

Cafardi also noted that the lawyers who served various dioceses during this time advised bishops to take action that was overly adversarial toward victims and pastorally inappropriate, counseling them not to apologize or meet

## U.S. CHIEF JUSTICE ROBERTS TALKS WITH WASHINGTON ARCHBISHOP FOLLOWING RED MASS



CNS PHOTO/NANCY WIECHEC

U.S. Chief Justice John Roberts, right, talks with Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl as they and others leave the Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle following the Red Mass Oct. 5 in Washington. The liturgy, traditionally held before the start of the Supreme Court term, includes a blessing and prayers for those who work in law and public office. At left in back is Cardinal John P. Foley, who gave the homily during the service.

with families.

"Our client is different," Cafardi said of lawyers who serve the church, noting that the "scorched earth" tactics of some lawyers "made the church look unconcerned about the least among us."

As for the effect of the scandal, Cafardi observed, "Getting sued actually helped us," in that it made the bishops realize they're

accountable to civil authorities.

Cafardi tied the experience of serving the church during the abuse scandal to St. Thomas More, the patron saint of lawyers, who served the church during some of its worst periods of corruption and yet still loved it.

"We need to look through the flaws of its leaders to the essence of the church itself," he said.

## REMEMBERING THOSE ABORTED AT MEMORIAL FOR LIFE



MARK WEBER

Escorted by a color guard from the Anthony Wayne Assembly of the Knights of Columbus, Jonathan Allgeier, with his father, Richard, carried an infant's casket to commemorate victims of abortion in Fort Wayne. More than 300 people gathered on Sunday afternoon at the Catholic Cemetery for the memorial service. Music, prayers and statements by representatives of three faiths were followed by individuals placing roses on the infant casket. The ceremony closed with Tony Koehl playing "Taps."

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