

# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

## Bishops cite abortion deregulation fears in statement

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Fears about laws and changes in regulations on abortion that might advance under a new Democratic-run Congress and White House are the central focus of a statement approved by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops Nov. 12 during their annual fall meeting in Baltimore.

The majority of the 830-word, untitled statement focuses on concerns about the possible passage of the Freedom of Choice Act, calling it “an evil law that would further divide our country” and adding that the church “should be intent on opposing evil.”

It warns against interpreting the outcome of the Nov. 4 elections as “a referendum on abortion” and says “aggressively pro-abortion policies, legislation and executive orders will permanently alienate tens of millions of Americans.”

The statement was crafted during the bishop’s meeting and involved a total of nearly three hours of discussion on the topic during executive and public sessions Nov. 11. Under USCCB policies, statements drafted outside the usual committee approval process may be issued by the conference president on behalf of the bishops.

The final product was written under the supervision of Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, USCCB president, after the bishops weighed in with a wide range of recommendations about its content, tone and

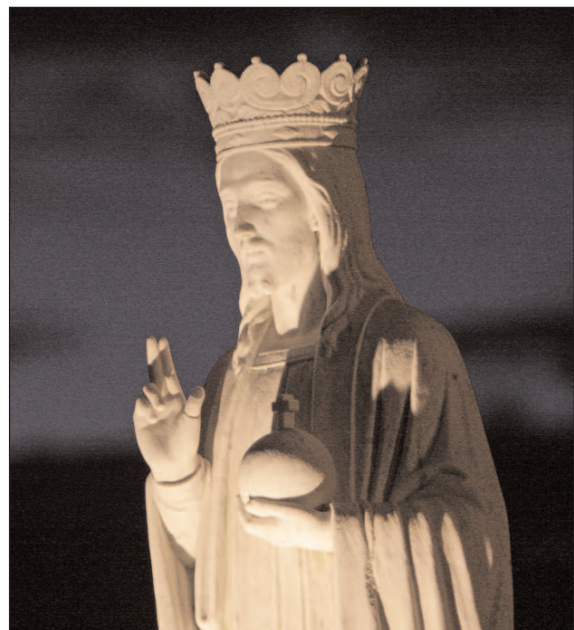
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CNS PHOTO/NANCY WIECHEC

Bishop Placido Rodriguez of Lubbock, Texas, center, and other U.S. bishops review a proposed statement on the U.S. political situation Nov. 11 at the meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Baltimore.

### STATUE OF JESUS WEARING A CROWN



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHERITZ

A statue of Jesus wearing a crown is seen outside Christ the King Church in Commack, N.Y., Nov. 16. The feast of Christ the King, celebrated the Sunday before Advent, is observed Nov. 23 this year.

## With economic downturn, needs of the poor increase

### Vincent Village a beneficiary of CCHD collection

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Imagine being homeless and having your name placed on a waiting list with 50 names ahead of you to enter a shelter that helps the homeless get back on their feet. That is the situation many families face when seeking shelter at Vincent Village in Fort Wayne. Vincent Village Director Ann Helmke is also the diocesan director for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) to fight poverty across the United States and in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Along with the generosity of the diocese through the Annual Bishop’s Appeal, Vincent Village was also the recipient of a national CCHD grant and received a grant from the diocese’s portion of the CCHD collection. The collection is slated this Sunday, Nov. 23, and envelopes can be found in church envelope packets. Twenty-five percent of the CCHD collection stays in the diocese to fight poverty right here. Poverty is on the rise and fast becoming a serious problem in the current economy. The need is great.

Area groups and parishes apply for CCHD funding and selected applicants are approved by Bishop John M. D’Arcy. Grants are awarded based on whether or not the activity is going to help the poor move out of poverty. For example, giving food out would not be a funded activity but helping to set up community vegetable gardens, financial literacy, English as second language, etc., are all activities that would address the root causes of poverty.

Helmke told *Today’s Catholic* that Vincent Village and TAP (Transforming Action into Power) in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend have received grants from the national office of CCHD. Brian Stevens from the national office visited the diocese a few weeks ago to monitor the grants.

Local grants, Helmke said, are used to educate Vincent Village families with budgeting and financial management. The national grant provided economic development funding and “we used it to start up the Vincent Village Outlet Store, providing free furnishings for homeless families moving

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### Diocesan Offices closed Nov. 27-28

Bookstore open Nov. 29

## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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

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

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

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

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

BUREAU OFFICE: 114 W. Wayne St., South  
Bend, IN 46601. Telephone (574) 234-  
0687. Fax: (574) 232-8483.

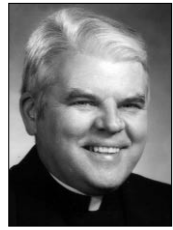
News deadline is the Monday morn-  
ing before publication date.  
Advertising deadline is nine days  
before publication date.

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Mail letters to: Today's Catholic,  
P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN  
46856-1169; or e-mail:  
editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org

ISSN 0891-1533  
USPS 403630

# U.S. bishops to ask President-elect Obama not to support or sign Freedom Of Choice Act



NEWS  
& NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

## Some days in Baltimore

It is the first diocese in our country. Sometimes called the Primary See. The distinguished John Carroll was its first bishop. His cousin, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and I believe the only Catholic signer. The present archbishop is Edwin O'Brien, a native of New York. In the last few years, the bishops of our country have returned to Baltimore for our fall meeting.

## A historical moment

There was much discussion among the bishops at general sessions, and informally, about the recent election. The election of an African-American as president of the United States was greeted with great respect, and joy, that our country has come so far. We have a number of African-American bishops, and our president for a recent term, was Archbishop Wilton Gregory, of Atlanta, an African-American born in Chicago. Gladness — especially for our Americans of African-American heritage who have suffered so much before taking their rightful place, but also a certain anxiety, even foreboding. Much of this concern centered around a proposed piece of legislation called The Freedom Of Choice Act. The intense concern about this legislation came from the fact that the president-elect, during the days of the presidential primaries, while speaking to Planned Parenthood, had given staunch and unconditional support to this act. Our Pro-Life Office supplied me with a tape of this during the election campaign. It is ominous, and worrisome.

In its present form the proposed law would wipe out many of the gains, limited — but important, which have come about through legislation in the various states.

Many who have analyzed the act believe that important measures, such as waiting periods, parental permission, requiring ultrasound so that the mother sees the child she is carrying, would be eliminated. Such limitations, which have been assisted though the various states, speak to the dignity of the mother and father — requiring them to reflect before committing this terrible act. In many cases, they have saved the child.

There is another concern. Catholic hos-

pitals and other health institutions are protected by the Constitution, and are not required to allow abortions; many believe that this legislation would take away such respect for conscience.

What concerns many is that the president-elect said quite clearly that he would support the Freedom of Choice Act and sign it into law.

In the statement of our president, Cardinal George, the archbishop of Chicago, approved unanimously by the body of bishops, we expressed the belief that the president-elect was sincere in his call for national unity. We bishops indicated our support for that call, and asked him in order to ensure such unity, not to support the Freedom of Choice Act. This was a request that the president-elect not divide the people, but rather draw people together to face the serious problems confronting us; namely, the economy, the issue of immigration and wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. If the government of our beloved country pushes ahead in making abortion a right protected by this statute, it will be neces-

the sacredness of the text, and also to protect sound theology. An excellent job has been done, and we expect within a few years there will be a whole new translation of the Mass. I am not anxious about that change. I welcome it and support it. Surely, there will be a serious pastoral responsibility, especially on the part of priests and bishops to work hard to prepare our people for this change. But I have always found that if we catechize and teach properly, if we explain the reasons for it and show that this is better and more beautiful, our people will rally behind it. It is a pastoral task, which we can face together.

Also, the Mass is not something that we make up. We receive it as a gift, an enormous and ineffable gift from Christ through the church. This translation would be better English, more sacred, and will help us to pray. It is a change, which is foundational and helpful and will require the collaboration of all of us.

Also, this is favored by the Holy See, and a keen obligation of the bishop is always to be in communion with the successor of Peter.

## A further update

On Sunday, I drove east to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. What a joy to approach this church, built by the people of the diocese as part of our celebration of the great Jubilee of 2000. A special thanks to Linda Furge, without whom, I believe this church might not be a reality.

Her hard work over many years with architects and with the parish made it possible. It is a result of a nationwide architectural contest, and it sits beautifully on a hill looking like a church one might see in Mexico. I was there for confirmations in Spanish, and it was a joy.

A touch of sadness that Father Paul Bueter, who has been pastor there for these many years, including the time when the parish church was a garage in Milford, will be retiring Jan. 2, 2009. Father Paul is beloved by the parishioners there, and will be missed. And I am grateful that Sister Joan Hastreiter, CSJ, a native of this diocese, will continue her work at this important parish.

A great joy on Monday to give a presentation to all our Catholic Charities workers on Catholic identity, based on the encyclical "Deus Caritas Est." I tried to lay out those distinctive characteristics and marks, which Pope Benedict XVI has laid down as central to a Catholic agency which works for the poor.

Winter is coming and seems already here. But so is Thanksgiving, and then Advent, and Christmas, and other beautiful moments of faith.

See you all next week.

Winter is coming and seems already here.  
But so is Thanksgiving, and then Advent, and  
Christmas, and other beautiful moments of faith.

sary to organize a strong opposition, and we would see this as a solemn responsibility. It is my understanding that some of the leadership of our conference hope to meet with the president-elect on this and other issues.

## A new translation

We also approved, after intense discussion, and a number of amendments, many prayers to be included in the new missal. Our readers may wonder why the church is, once again, looking to change the prayers at Mass, which we have been praying now for many years. Let me say, that I am entirely supportive of this change. The new translations restore a certain sacredness to the words in these prayers. My old friend and former colleague, Archbishop Al Hughes, served on a commission in Rome, where he goes several times a year, called "Vox Clara" ("Clear Voice"). The archbishop, like myself, graduated from Boston College High School, but I dare say he is a much better Latinist than I am. Remember, the church has very little experience with Mass in modern languages. For 500 years, the text of the Mass of the Roman rite was Latin, which at one time was almost a universal language. The effort was to protect



## BISHOPS

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writing style. After an overnight writing session, the statement was read by Cardinal George to the body of bishops, who greeted it with applause.

It starts by saying the bishops "welcome this moment of historic transition and look forward to working with President-elect (Barack) Obama and the members of the new Congress for the common good of all."

"We want to continue our work for economic justice and opportunity for all; our efforts to reform laws around immigration and the situation of the undocumented; our provision of better education and adequate health care for all, especially for women and children; our desire to safeguard religious freedom and foster peace at home and abroad," it said. "The church is intent on doing good and will continue to cooperate gladly with the government and all others working for these goods."

The statement went on to explain church teaching that life is a gift from God and that "a good state protects the lives of all."

It said *Roe v. Wade*, the 1973 Supreme Court ruling overturning nearly all restrictions on abortion, was "a bad law. The danger the bishops see at this moment is that a bad court decision will be enshrined in bad legislation that is more radical than the 1973 Supreme Court decision itself."

The statement elaborated a range of concerns about the proposed Freedom of Choice Act, including concerns that it would "deprive the American people in all 50 states of the freedom they now have to enact modest restraints and regulations on the abortion industry." It said the bill "would coerce all Americans into subsidizing and promoting abortion with their tax dollars," and would counteract any efforts to reduce the number of abortions in the country.

Statutes requiring parental notification when minors receive abortions, informed-consent provisions and bans on procedures such as partial-birth abortion would also be prohibited, the statement said. It raised concern that abortion clinics would no longer be regulated, that a current ban on federal funding of abortion would end and that it would "have lethal consequences for prenatal human life."

Catholic health care institutions and Catholic Charities would be threatened, it said, because the bill would have a "destructive effect on the freedom of conscience of doctors, nurses and health care workers whose personal convictions do not permit them to cooperate in the private killing of unborn children."

The Freedom of Choice Act has been introduced in at least the last four sessions of Congress without any action. Other versions go back to the early 1990s. In 1993, when Democrats controlled both houses of Congress, the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee approved that year's version. But it never reached a floor vote and saw no action in the House.

In a January 2008 statement, Obama said he would support passage of the Freedom of Choice Act. The latest version introduced in April 2007 would establish federal protection of abortion, regardless of what state laws might exist.

The statement from the bishops noted the recent election "was principally decided out of concern for the economy, for the loss of jobs and homes and financial security for families."

If the election "is misinterpreted ideologically as a referendum on abortion, the unity desired by President-elect Obama and all Americans at this moment of crisis will be impossible to achieve," it said. Besides alienating tens of millions of people, erasing restrictions on abortion "would be seen by many as an attack on the free exercise of their religion," it said.

The statement concluded by thanking "all those in politics who work with good will to protect the lives of the most vulnerable among us," and reiterating the bishops' desire "to work with all those who cherish the common good of our nation. The common good is not the sum total of individual desires and interests; it is achieved in the working out of a common life based upon good reason and good will for all."

It said the bishops' prayers accompany Obama and his family and those "who are cooperating with him to assure a smooth transition in government."

During discussion of the statement at the bishops' meeting, some bishops raised the point about not taking the election results as a green light for changing abortion policies. Others seemed to prefer that the statement take on other issues, such as how the church responds to Catholic politicians whose political actions seem to conflict with church teaching.

Bishop Joseph F. Martino of Scranton, Pa., said though he realized the statement would not address that topic "we are going to have to speak as firmly as possible to Catholic politicians who are not merely reluctant to vote pro-life, but are stridently anti-life." He noted that in ages past the U.S. bishops took canonical measures against Catholic politicians who supported institutional racism.

"We have to have something like that," he said. "I cannot have the vice president-elect (Joseph Biden) coming to Scranton (his childhood home) saying he learned his values there, when his values are utterly against the teachings of the Catholic Church."

Bishop Blase J. Cupich of Rapid City, S.D., recommended emphasizing Obama's campaign call to personal responsibility.

"That was a message that resonated with the prominent Catholics who decided to support him and it may be the basis for seeking common ground," he said.

Some bishops recommended the statement specifically not take an attacking posture, and instead seek a "prophetic voice."

Bishop Cupich said it was important the statement be prophetic. "What we need is a prophecy of solidarity, speaking for those without a voice, for the community we serve and the nation we live in," he said. The statement, he said, should be perceived as coming from bishops who are acting "as caring teachers."

## Bishop D'Arcy highlights U.S. bishops meeting at airport press meeting

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — As the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) finished their meeting in Baltimore, Md., Nov. 12, Bishop John M. D'Arcy, after returning to Fort Wayne International Airport late that evening, was available to meet with the media to reflect upon the fall meeting's highlights.

Changes in the Mass, and the U.S. bishops joining forces to state their concern about life issues such as the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) with President-elect Barack Obama, were some of the meeting highlights mentioned by Bishop D'Arcy.

"I would say there was a good discussion in the changes in the Mass and putting that into a more sacred English," Bishop D'Arcy said. "And that has been approved. It will probably not be enforced for a couple or more years. It's the completion of a long process."

Concerning the recent election, Bishop D'Arcy said, "We had an intense discussion about the election. Our leadership, Cardinal (Francis) George, will be meeting with the president-elect. And it was made clear, we know the president-elect is interested in unity."

Bishop D'Arcy said the bish-

ops want to pray for the president-elect and cooperate with him, but they will also put before him a statement: "We don't want to take away that unity everybody wants by coming out with things that are going to be offensive to the Catholic population and others such as the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA)," Bishop D'Arcy said.

"There was much concern with the bishops about the Freedom of Choice Act," he said, "and that was put in a letter that our (USCCB) president (Cardinal George) wrote. It's going to be presented to our president-elect," and presented publicly.

"The Freedom of Choice Act ... would take away all the restrictions that have been placed on abortions like waiting periods and parental permission that have gone through state legislatures," Bishop D'Arcy said. "For them to take that away would be a terrible offense to the Catholic population and others. But most importantly, it would endanger the lives of the infants."

"Also (the bishops) are worried about Catholic hospitals," Bishop D'Arcy added. "Are they going to lose the protection that they have? So we think it is a violation of church and state. We think it is terrible legisla-

tion."

Bishop D'Arcy explained some of the recent concerns of the FOCA legislation: "It was already introduced in the Congress last summer. Now there's a stronger Democratic majority, so that's a worry. But we hope that the president would not so divide the country as to bring that in."

He added, "But there are some legislators, including Catholics, who have supported it. So there was much discussion on that."

Another item of discussion was the blessing of the child in the womb. Bishop D'Arcy said the blessing was requested by many mothers and many of the pro-life people. "That's a very beautiful blessing," Bishop D'Arcy said. "Once it's published and put together, we hope it will emphasize, 'this is a child, this is a person, and we'll consecrate the person to God.'"

On the personal level, Bishop D'Arcy said a eucharistic holy hour and the opportunity for the sacrament of reconciliation were most appreciated.

"I also saw the film 'Testimony,' which is the life of John Paul II. It was narrated by Bishop (Stanislaw) Dziwisz, the (Pope John Paul II's) secretary," Bishop D'Arcy reflected. "That was terrific."

## US economic downturn fuels flow of migrants returning to Guatemala

BY SUMMER HARLOW

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — Standing on busy Sixth Avenue hawking nail clippers and gloves, Oscar Gonzalez was just one more merchant in a sea of vendors, shoppers, beggars and the occasional thief.

This was not how Gonzalez, 36, had planned on supporting his wife and four children.

Like so many other Central Americans before him, Gonzalez had counted on the allure of the American dream, the promise of jobs waiting for the taking north of the U.S.-Mexican border.

But after struggling for a year and a half to find construction work as an undocumented immigrant in Arizona, Gonzalez gave up.

"There were no jobs; I was without work for three months, so I had no choice but to leave," said Gonzalez, who returned home to this predominantly Catholic country Aug. 30.

He was not the first to leave.

The downturn of the U.S. economy, the lack of construction, landscaping and restaurant jobs, and the threat of deportation from a U.S. crackdown on illegal immigration have prompted thousands of undocumented immigrants like



CNS PHOTO/SUMMER HARLOW

Oscar Gonzalez poses Nov. 13 with gloves, nail clippers and other items he sells on the street in Guatemala City. Gonzalez returned home to Guatemala Aug. 30 after struggling for over a year to find construction work as an undocumented immigrant in Arizona.

RETURN, PAGE 5

# Parishes offer practical, spiritual support for the unemployed

BY CAROL ZIMMERMANN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The impact of the wave of layoffs in firms, factories, financial companies and the automotive industry can be felt in parish halls or church basements across the country on any given weeknight.

That's where many of the newly unemployed go for practical and sometimes spiritual advice.

Just outside Detroit, at St. Andrew Parish in Rochester, a job support group began last year with about 20 participants. Now, at least 80 people attend the twice-monthly meetings, according to Betty Dobies, chair of St. Andrew's Career Mentoring Ministry, which has a partnership with 13 church groups in the Detroit area.

"We started out thinking we'd review resumes and interview techniques, but we found that the main thing people really need is support," Dobies said.

During the sessions, parish volunteers, including career advisers, licensed counselors and human resource specialists, are paired with job seekers. Guest speakers also give tips on updating resumes and on networking.

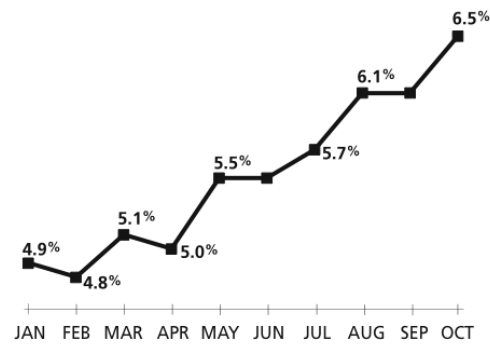
Dobies, a St. Andrew parishioner and retired sales manager who worked at Xerox and AT&T, said that for many people attending these sessions this is their first experience with unemployment. It might also be the first time for them to be looking for a job since they were initially hired.

"What they don't know is that the job market has changed so much," she told Catholic News Service in a Nov. 12 telephone interview. She noted that landing a job is often based more on net-

## Rising Unemployment

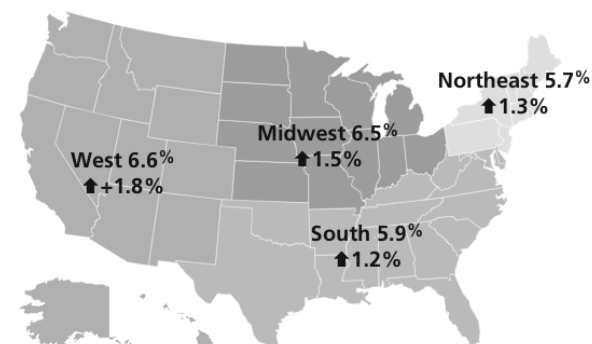
The U.S. unemployment rate has risen to more than 6 percent, the highest level since 2003.

2008 NATIONAL UNEMPLOYMENT RATE



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE BY REGION, INCREASE FROM SEPTEMBER 2007



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working than anything else. "Resumes are not enough," she stressed.

"A lot of people have no idea what to do," she said of those who have lost their jobs after decades with the same company.

In Michigan, these jobs have predominantly been in the automotive industry. The car giants Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Corp., slammed by huge losses, have closed factories and laid off thousands of employees already and may announce more cuts by the end of the year. The companies are waiting to hear if they will be given a federal bailout.

"We find people not in Michigan don't really understand how dramatically this is affecting people," Dobies said, adding that often those who have lost their jobs can't easily pick up and move to work elsewhere because they often can't sell their homes.

Like many other Michigan natives, Dobies comes from a family whose members have worked in the automotive industry for generations. She said she "never would have guessed" the car industry would be in trouble.

"It's so encompassing," she said. "The auto industry is tied to suppliers all over the world."

But Detroit is not the only place feeling the affects of the nation's troubled economy. Construction companies, retailers, mortgage bankers, securities firms, the motel industry, appliance factories, shipping companies and steel plants all have cut jobs this year.

During the month of October alone manufacturing jobs decreased by 90,000, construction by 49,000, retail by 38,000 and the financial industry by 24,000. Only the health care and mining industries gained employees in this time period.

According to the U.S. Labor Department statistics released Nov. 7, the jobless rate rose to 6.5 percent in October when employers fired 240,000 workers. That figure put the total number of unemployed Americans past 10.08 million, the highest level in 25 years. One year ago, the jobless rate was 4.8 percent.

Gene Gilbert, one of the coordinators of the St. Basil Job Search Support Group in Brecksville, Ohio, said he sees the affects of frequent layoffs in the Tuesday night meetings at his parish where participants range from "high-level CFOs to part-time employees," and sometimes both husbands and wives are unemployed.

In Ohio, 7,000 job cuts were recently announced by the international shipping company DHL. Other layoffs in the state have come from Whirlpool Corp.; *The Plain Dealer*, Cleveland's daily

newspaper; and steel companies and auto parts factories.

Gilbert, who retired in 2002, knows what it's like to lose a job; he was laid off in 1993 from a longtime job. But he also knows a job loss today is far different than it was a decade ago.

When he was laid off he received one year's severance pay and was guaranteed help with finding a new job. "That was back when companies were still taking better care of their employees," he said, noting employees who lose their jobs today frequently do not get a severance package and are highly unlikely to get help finding another job.

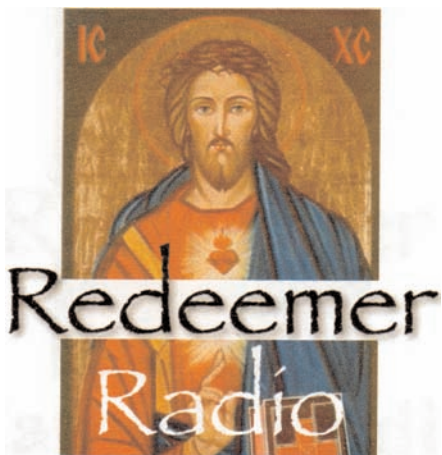
He said parish job support programs are "filling a void." The St. Basil group, formed about five years ago, is part of a group of four parishes in the Employment Network Ministry of the Cleveland Diocese.

"A major thing our church stresses is there are basically two commandments: Love the Lord and love your neighbor as yourself. Right now, our neighbors are hurting in so many ways," Gilbert added.

"We want to make sure they have as much help as they can get in this stressful period. It's one of the biggest crises people can go through when their very livelihoods are in jeopardy," he said.

Dobies agreed the church can play a key role in helping people find jobs and also maintaining their self-confidence.

"One of the main things job seekers need is hope — the belief they can find another opportunity and that their lives are not over," she said.



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# Michigan priest posts advice to unemployed on parish Web site

BY CAROL ZIMMERMAN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — One of the top items on the parish Web site for St. Joseph Church in Lake Orion, Mich., is certainly a sign of the times.

"Struggling with unemployment? St. Joseph Church can help," it reads.

The link leads readers to three audio files with speakers offering spiritual and practical advice and discussing the emotional toll of losing one's job. A fourth audio, scheduled to be posted soon on the site, will discuss job loss from an entirely different perspective: how a manager copes with the task of firing employees.

Father Michael Verschaeve, pastor at St. Joseph, posted the links on the Web site — [www.stjosephlakeorion.org](http://www.stjosephlakeorion.org).

He said the audio links were something parish leaders thought they should provide as a way to reach out to the church community located near the Chrysler headquarters and a General Motors assembly plant.

The auto industry has faced huge losses this year, and GM in particular has gone through a dramatic reduction of its factory workforce with buyouts and early retirement offers.



CNS PHOTO/REBECCA COOK, REUTERS

**General Motors auto workers leave the GM powertrain plant in Warren, Mich., Nov. 11. The auto industry has faced huge losses this year and GM in particular has gone through a dramatic reduction of its factory workforce with buyouts and early retirement offers.**

In 2003, the company had about 125,000 U.S. employees. By the end of 2008, that number is expected to be 62,500. Earlier this year the company announced it was closing four plants where pickup trucks and sport utility vehicles are built, but it has yet to fully make cuts at factories that produce engines, transmissions and other parts.

Among parishioners at St.

Joseph are both managers and factory workers in the auto industry. Although some have lost their jobs, others are in a time of uncertainty, Father Verschaeve told Catholic News Service Nov. 10 in a telephone interview.

"We're waiting for the other shoe to drop — what will happen with Chrysler and General Motors," he said, noting that more job cuts are anticipated.

The priest said the mood was "very dour" as people waited and wondered if they should take the proposed buyouts.

Yet amid the economic uncertainty, parish giving has not decreased. "People are still generous," he said, adding that in tough times "people turn to the church and focus on things that are important."

Father Verschaeve, who delivers the Web audio address on "The Spiritual Challenges of Being Unemployed" on the parish site, advised listeners to "cry out to God" with their complaints, saying it is "good for the soul."

He also urged them to find their strength in God and others and to recognize that "sometimes after traumatic events we can find moments of grace. ... A new challenge to grow emerges."

sands more leaving on their own, the Inter-American Development Bank has reported that for the first year on record the value of remittances to Latin American families will have dropped.

Remittances to Latin America and the Caribbean are projected to be down 1.7 percent this year from last, when adjusted for inflation. That's contrasted with the nearly 14 percent growth rate the region had been seeing since 2000.

Also, a new report from the Swiss-based International Organization for Migration projects the deportations to Guatemala mean a \$55 million loss in remittances this year.

Rodolfo Rodas, 46, who returned to Guatemala a year ago after being unemployed for six months, said that while he was working in San Francisco he sent money home to his wife and two daughters every month.

The reason Rodas made the dangerous and expensive trip across the border in the first place was to pay for his daughters' education, he said.

"I wanted them to be able to get ahead," he said. "It got to the point that I wasn't making any money, and I wasn't sending any money home, so before all my money ran out, I bought a plane ticket to come home."

The problem, Rodas said, is that home does not have much more to offer than the United States.

"There's no jobs in Guatemala either, but at least here I'm with my family," he said.

Teddy Morales, 22, said his worry is that, unless the Guatemalan government steps up, an influx of returned migrants —

like himself — will only cause more problems in a country marked by violence and where 60 percent of the population lives in poverty.

"It's making things in Guatemala worse, worse than anything we've seen so far," he said.

The Guatemalan bishops' conference recently denounced the escalating murder rate, kidnappings and drug trafficking, acknowledging that high unemployment and increasing deportations play a role.

"People are coming back without anything, without money, a house or a job, so they're tempted to get involved in drug trafficking or organized crime," Lopez said. "The worry is that unless there are some development programs implemented, crime will grow, poverty will grow, and I think we'll be at the door of another armed conflict or civil war."

The returned migrants and deportees still do not outnumber those making their way to the United States for the first time.

The International Organization for Migration's report shows that 50,000 more Guatemalans will migrate to the United States this year.

One, Carlos Marroquin, is a 30-year-old who recently stopped at the migrant house in Guatemala City on his journey to meet his brother and sister in New Jersey.

"I'm scared, because I've heard about all the risks and the immigration raids and discrimination and the economy," said Marroquin, who is leaving behind his 9-year-old son. "But life here is hard. There's nothing I can do for my son here. I want him to go to school. I want his life to be easier than mine."

# Church must strengthen efforts to educate Catholics in politics

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Catholic Church must strengthen its efforts to educate and assist lay Catholics involved in politics so that the positions they hold and the policies they promote reflect the values of the faith they profess, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Meeting members of the Pontifical Council for the Laity Nov. 15, the pope emphasized the need to educate lay Catholics to play their proper role in building a world of justice, charity and protection of human rights.

"In a special way, I reaffirm the necessity and urgency of the evangelical formation and pastoral accompaniment of a new generation of Catholics involved in politics, that they would be coherent with their professed faith," morally upright, professional and passionate about serving the common good, he said.

Laypeople are called to fulfill their mission as followers and wit-

nesses to Christ in government, social life, workplaces, schools and families, the pope said.

"Every environment, circumstance and activity in which we hope will shine the unity between faith and life is entrusted to the responsibility of the lay faithful, moved by a desire to communicate the gift of encountering Christ and

the certainty of the dignity of the human person," the pope said.

Pope Benedict also praised the council for the laity's commitment to promoting the dignity and participation of women in the church and in the world.

"Man and woman, equal in dignity, are called to enrich each other in communion and

collaboration, not only in marriage and family life, but also in society," he said.

"One can never say enough about how much the church recognizes, appreciates and values the participation of women in its mission of spreading the Gospel," the pope said.

*"... that they would be coherent with their professed faith," morally upright, professional and passionate about serving the common good ..."*

POPE BENEDICT XVI

# RETURN

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

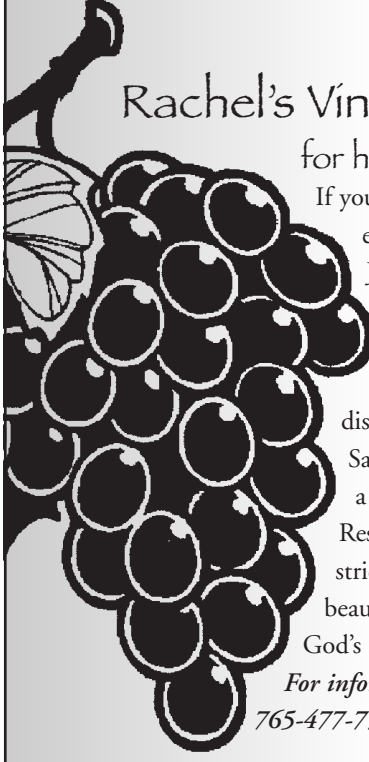
Gonzalez to return to Latin America. Such return migration, however, is fueling fears that in poor countries like Guatemala, which depend on money sent home by migrants, a glut of unemployed former immigrants could smash the local economy and exacerbate the job, health, education and crime problems.

"It's a grave situation for Latin American countries, especially Guatemala, because the state isn't able to sustain all these people," said Carlos Lopez, administrator for Casa del Migrante in Guatemala City, part of the Scalabrini missionaries' network of migrant houses. "If all 1.5 million Guatemalan immigrants returned tomorrow, it would be a crisis, economically and socially."

The U.S.-based Center for Immigration Studies, which favors limiting immigration, estimates that between August 2007 and May 2008 the United States' undocumented immigrant population fell 11 percent, from 12.5 million to 11.2 million. The group attributes the decline to both stepped-up enforcement and the economy.

Remittances, the money migrants send home, represent about 12 percent of the gross domestic product for Guatemala; 4.1 million of the roughly 13 million Guatemalans benefit directly from remittances.

With a record 28,000 Guatemalans deported from the United States this year and thou-



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## By receiving Eucharist, Catholics can 'transform world,' bishop says

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — The purpose of the Eucharist is seen in the actions of the saints, Bishop Paul A. Zipfel of Bismarck, N.D., told a gathering of the Gateway Liturgical Conference in St. Louis Nov. 7. "The bread and wine are transformed in order to transform us so that we can transform the world," he said during the annual conference sponsored by the St. Louis archdiocesan Office of Sacred Worship. Using St. Francis as an example, he said: "He regularly received the Lord and was changed. Then, he was able to change the world by his life and love. He was able to perceive Christ's presence in everyone, and people, in turn, could see Christ's presence in him." Bishop Zipfel also used the example of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, India. When asked how she was able to care for the poorest of the poor without becoming burned out, she responded by simply pointing to prayer before the Eucharist, he said. Bishop Zipfel is a native of St. Louis who was an educator, parish pastor and auxiliary bishop of the archdiocese before being named to the North Dakota diocese in 1996.

## Vatican newspaper says economic experts are confusing consumers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In the midst of a financial situation of great uncertainty, consumers have a right to be confused, said an article in the Vatican newspaper. Too many so-called experts are telling consumers "the infallible remedy for overcoming the risk of poverty caused by the economic crisis under way" is to "spend, consume and go into debt to keep the economy going," said the article in *L'Osservatore Romano*. But, the Nov. 17 article said, basically what those people are saying is that "to overcome the crisis it is necessary to continue the same behavior that provoked it, that is consumption and indebtedness." The article was written by Ettore Gotti Tedeschi, an Italian banker and a professor of financial ethics at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan. He said people are right to be confused and even frightened when the same experts encouraging them to keep spending say that "a recession is under way and the worst is yet to come."

## FBI investigating white powder mailed to Knights' headquarters

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — A mailroom and printing plant at the Knights of Columbus headquarters in New Haven remained closed Nov. 14 while the local FBI office investigated a white powder contained in an envelope mailed from California. David Rhieu, chief division counsel at the FBI office in New Haven, said Nov. 14 that the testing of the powder will be completed within 48 hours and "the results will be released to the victim, the Knights of Columbus."

# NEWS BRIEFS

## CHILD SHOWS PART OF LUNCH AT SOUP KITCHEN



CCNS PHOTO/JIM WESTS

Three-year-old Matthew Malone shows off part of his lunch at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen in Detroit Nov. 13. A survey says almost half of Americans are living paycheck to paycheck as food prices rise and the country's economic woes deepen. The soup kitchen is operated by the Capuchin Franciscan Province of St. Joseph and got its start during the Great Depression of 1929.

Rhieu said that while the investigation was ongoing he could not comment on whether the letter containing the powder could be linked to similar envelopes received at the national headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City and a Mormon temple in Los Angeles. Patrick Korten, Knights of Columbus vice president for communications, told Catholic News Service Nov. 14 that the letter was received in the Knights' mailroom on the morning of Nov. 13 and "produced a white powder when opened." Local police and fire officials were notified and eventually the FBI was brought in, he said. "Three individuals were decontaminated" following the incident, and the mailroom and printing plant were to remain closed until Monday, Korten said.

## Withholding nutrition, hydration kills life, say Vatican officials

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Withholding nutrition and hydration from a woman in a persistent vegetative state is a serious, inadmissible attack on life, said two Vatican officials. Italy's top appeals court refused Nov. 13 to overturn a lower-court decision allowing the withdrawal of the nasogastric tube that has kept Eluana Englaro alive for more than 16 years. For years, Englaro's father had been pursuing a legal battle to allow his daughter to die. She was injured in a car accident in 1992. Archbishop Salvatore

Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, told reporters: "It is a very serious decision. It is a big defeat for everyone." Cardinal Javier Lozano Barragan, president of the Pontifical Council for Health Care Ministry, told reporters that, while the Catholic Church does not insist that extraordinary measures be taken to keep a dying person alive, nutrition and hydration "are not extraordinary therapies that can be suspended. Interrupting them is equivalent to killing her."

## Priest's remarks on Obama voters said not to reflect church teaching

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The administrator of the Diocese of Charleston, S.C., said a pastor who told his parishioners they should refrain from receiving holy Communion if they voted for President-elect Barack Obama did not "adequately reflect the Catholic Church's teaching" on abortion and conscience. "Any statements or comments to the contrary are repudiated," Msgr. Martin T. Laughlin said in a Nov. 14 statement. Father Jay Scott Newman of St. Mary's Church in Greenville, S.C., said in a letter to his parishioners that Catholics who voted for Obama, who supports legalized abortion, would have to be reconciled with God through the sacrament of penance before faithfully receiving Communion again. The letter was published on the front page of the parish bulletin Nov. 8-9. Msgr.

Laughlin said that Father Newman's comments "diverted the church's clear teaching on abortion" by pulling it into the "partisan political arena." Quoting the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Msgr. Laughlin said that Christ gives everyone "the freedom to explore our own conscience and to make our own decisions while adhering to the law of God and the teachings of the faith." The diocesan administrator also urged Catholics throughout South Carolina to unite to support Obama and other elected officials "with a view to influencing policy in favor of the protection of the unborn child."

## U.S. Army returns college in Baghdad to Chaldean Catholic Church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The U.S. Army has returned the Pontifical Babel College for Philosophy and Theology in Baghdad to the Chaldean Catholic Church, promising to repair or replace anything damaged while U.S. soldiers occupied the buildings, Vatican Radio reported. The seminarians, students and staff left the complex in January 2007, temporarily moving the college programs to northern Iraq because the students and staff were not safe in the college's neighborhood in Baghdad. Three months later, the U.S. Army occupied the buildings as a "combat outpost"; the college was occupied first by the 4th Cavalry Squadron of the First Mechanized Infantry Division,

and then by the 2nd Squadron of the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment. In a Nov. 14 report, Vatican Radio quoted Chaldean Auxiliary Bishop Jacques Ishaq of Baghdad, rector of the college, as saying the Army transferred the property back to the church Nov. 6.

## Religious campaign urges new president to ban torture of detainees

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A broad coalition of religious groups urged President-elect Barack Obama to sign an executive order banning torture by any part of the federal government. "This is an opportunity where one individual, President-elect Obama, could really change U.S. history here, turn the page on a very dark chapter on U.S.-sponsored torture," Linda Gustitis, president of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture, said during a Nov. 12 press briefing. "An executive order itself could go a very long way to ending the practice of enhanced interrogation techniques," she said. The campaign, which includes the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops among more than 200 religious groups, also is calling for Congress to investigate the interrogation practices used by the country's intelligence agencies and the military to gather information from terrorism suspects, particularly those detained at the U.S. army base at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba and at prisons like Abu Ghraib in Iraq.

## Pending execution in Kentucky eyed by execution opponents

FRANKFORT, Ky. (CNS) — Kentucky's Catholic bishops have renewed their plea to Gov. Steve Beshear to grant clemency in a pending execution. Marco Chapman, whose execution is set for Nov. 21, seeks "suicide by court," the bishops note, a sign of his mental instability resulting from an abusive childhood and a long history of drug and alcohol abuse. Chapman pleaded guilty to the 2002 murders of two children, and to the attempted murder of another child and their mother. At his request, he was sentenced to death for the murders and received life sentences for the attempted murders and the rape of the children's mother. Chapman has not challenged his own execution and is considered a "volunteer," opposing efforts to appeal on his behalf. The bishops acknowledged that the "facts surrounding this grisly crime will engender little public sympathy." And they noted that Catholic social teaching allows, in principle, that governments may take the lives of those guilty of extremely serious crimes. "But this principle cannot overshadow the church's consistent belief in the dignity of every human life, even those whose actions and decisions have proved to be subhuman," said the letter from the Catholic Conference of Kentucky, which represents the state's bishops in public policy matters.



## Saint Joseph's High named to Honor Roll

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph's High School has been named for the third consecutive year to the National Catholic High School Honor Roll. The high school has been recognized as one of the best 50 Catholic secondary schools in the United States.

The Honor Roll is an independent project of the Acton Institute, an international research and educational organization. The release of the list on Nov. 10 states, "The purpose of the honor roll is to recognize and encourage excellence in Catholic secondary education. It is a critical resource for parents and educators that distinguishes those schools that excel in three categories: academic excellence, Catholic identity, and civic education."

The selection of the top 50 is determined by an advisory board comprised of Catholic college presidents and scholars. Included on the board is Professor Gerard Bradley, professor of law at the University of Notre Dame Law School. Another advisory board member Father David M. O'Connell, president of Catholic University of America, said the Honor Roll's evaluation method is indispensable. "Catholic schools must examine themselves on a regular basis using a well-rounded approach that assesses adherence to the church's educational calling."

The mission statement of Saint Joseph's High School reads, "Saint Joseph's High School is a Catholic secondary school dedicated to transforming students in heart and mind, preparing them to serve God, the church and the world. Receiving this honor roll recognition for a third year reinforces our mission and helps to define our success."

## Pontifical mission societies offer support

The Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith, an arm of the Pontifical Mission Societies, supports the Catholic church's worldwide missionary efforts by accepting contributions from the faithful of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Total contributions for the 2007 calendar year reached \$86,441. Father Phillip Widmann, who served as director of the society from 1995 to September of 2008, reports that these funds, gathered on World Mission Sunday in October, are dispersed to missionaries around the world.

Also under the umbrella of Pontifical Mission Societies is the Mission Cooperative Plan (MCP), which supports individual missionaries, including those local religious orders and foreign priests who support their homeland parishes, who request an opportunity once a year to present their mission in a parish of the diocese. The total collected for the Mission Coop in 2007 was \$228,636.85.

The Holy Childhood Association, another arm of the mission societies, is a children's

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## MIAMI INDIAN DRUMMERS BRING TRADITION TO ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST SCHOOL



TESS STEFFEN

The Painted Turtle Drummers provided authentic sounds, traditional dress and an explanation of Miami Indian traditions at St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, grade school. Some of the teachers and students were privileged to participate in traditional dance steps that were similar to a combination of square dancing and a line dance. The program tied into the Thanksgiving season because the Miami Indian descendants "must have a heart that is clean and they must be thankful" before they are allowed to play on the drum.

missionary aid society where children help children. The donations benefit children with not only basic survival needs but also opportunities to receive instruction in the faith. For the school year of 2007-2008, the children of the diocese contributed a total of \$3,996.67.

Dr. Kathleen Schneider, who has worked closely with Father Widmann for five years, has recently been appointed as the new diocesan director of The Pontifical Mission Societies and will oversee The Pontifical Society for the Propagation of the Faith, the Mission Cooperative Plan and the Holy Childhood Association. In addition to working directly with the parishes and the missionaries, her hope as director is to heighten awareness of mission work among the youth of the diocese through education.

## Bishop Luers' students recognized

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School in Fort Wayne has announced the following student achievements.

Junior Corinne Lambert was elected as a National Council Delegate for the 2008 Girls Scout National Council Session, 51st Convention in Indianapolis. As an elected delegate, Lambert accept-

ed the responsibility of being a voting member of the national organization and learned about the democratic process in Girl Scouting.

Junior Brittany Croy has applied to attend the Molecular Medicine in Action Conference held on the campus of IUPUI (Indiana University-Purdue University at Indianapolis) during March 1-2, 2009. Only 50 Indiana high-school students will receive the opportunity to participate. These selected students will work alongside some of the nation's top researchers in the labs of the Herman B. Wells Center for Pediatric Research.

## Hope Ministries hosts open house

SOUTH BEND — The community is invited to celebrate the Christmas season with the residents and staff of Hope Ministries' Family Life Center during the Home for the Holidays open house on Dec. 13, from 4-8 p.m. Hope Ministries Family Life Center is located at 432 South Lafayette Blvd. While touring the Family Life Center and learning about the needs of Hope residents, guests will enjoy live Christmas music, cookies and cocoa, a Christmas bazaar, activities for kids, festive decorations and

make-and-take crafts. Anyone interested in volunteer opportunities or donation needs for this event, please contact Sarah Greenawalt at (574) 235-4150, ext. 231 or sgreenawalt@hopesb.org.

Opportunities are also available for those interested in advertising their business or honoring a loved one to sponsor and decorate a tree or wreath to be displayed at the Home for the Holidays open house. For information regarding sponsorships, please contact Dennis Brown at (574) 235-4150, ext. 244 or dbrown@hopesb.org.

## Holy Cross College students accepting donations for Thanksgiving baskets

NOTRE DAME — With the help of the St. Vincent DePaul Society of South Bend, students at Holy Cross College have selected deserving families in the Michiana area to receive Thanksgiving baskets complete with everything to make a traditional family feast.

This is the eighth year the Social Concerns Committee at Holy Cross has raised money for this project. Because of the economic situation this year they are not asking local businesses to

donate, but are collecting from a variety of other sources — pocket change from students and donations from faculty, parents, alumni, neighbors and friends.

The committee is accepting donations until Friday, Nov. 21. Later that day, students will use the money at the local Meijers to fill the baskets with turkey, stuffing, yams, cranberry sauce, canned vegetables, dinner rolls and pumpkin pie. Checks may be made payable to Holy Cross College with Social Concerns noted in the memo. For more information contact Social Concerns President Nichole Molnar at nmolnar@hcc-nd.edu. Mail donations to the Social Concerns Committee, Holy Cross College, P.O. Box 308, Notre Dame, IN 46556-0308.

## Advent service an ecumenical event in Elkhart

ELKHART — Christians from many churches joining together to celebrate the event that unites us all — the birth of Christ. It's with that spirit that the Ninth Annual Ecumenical Advent Lessons and Carols program is held at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 1108 South Main St., Elkhart.

The program is always held the first Sunday of Advent, which falls on Nov. 30 this year. The service traces salvation history from creation to the foretelling of the birth of Christ through Scripture.

Lucy Minichillo, music director at St. Vincent, explained how the program began.

Minichillo said in 1997 the choir at St. Vincent joined with St. Thomas' parish choir for an Advent service and at that time someone suggested it should be ecumenical. Minichillo said when she became full time music director in 1999 she wanted to make that ecumenical service a reality. It took a couple of years but in 2000 they held their first service.

Over the years the choir has continued to grow, currently representing 18 different churches including Mennonite, Lutheran, Episcopalian, Methodist, Nazarene and United Church of Christ with some clergy and lay members participating in the choir and as readers. The 64-member ecumenical choir is under the direction of Walter Ginter, retired from the Notre Dame music department, according to Minichillo.

The program is also bilingual with some of the music, readings and prayers in Spanish. The program will be held from 5-6 p.m. and is free and open to the public. A free chili supper will follow.

There will be a freewill offering collection for Church Community Services, Elkhart, a non-denominational organization that offers job training, mentoring and a food pantry. There will also be a collection of nonperishable food items for the food pantry at CCS.

— Denise Fedorow

# ICC launches online tool for Catholic grassroots effort

INDIANAPOLIS — Catholics across Indiana can engage their elected officials in a new and powerful way through an online tool offered by the Indiana Catholic Conference.

Capitol Advantage, the software tool launched by the Indiana Catholic Conference, now available on the ICC Web page, allows visitors to enter a Legislative Action Center and engage in a variety of grassroots activities in a few simple keystrokes. One of the key features of the software allows visitors to quickly identify and contact their elected officials.

By clicking "Legislative Action Center" on the ICC home page, the visitor has information and quick access to government officials. The center includes these choices: elected officials, issues, election and media. Under the "Elected Officials" menu, for example, visitors are able to access the "Indiana Legislative Directory" for state officials; or select "President" to access the president of the U.S., federal agencies and a congressional directory; or select the "Supreme Court" for contact information for the U.S. Supreme Court. In addition to contact information for each office holder, biographical information and links to other useful Web pages for individual members of the Indiana General Assembly, or the U.S. Congress, governmental agencies and the U.S. Supreme Court are available.

Visitors to the center also have the option to join the action network. By joining the action network, members will begin receiving a weekly electronic newsletter called Legislative Update when the Indiana General Assembly is in session during the months of January through May 2009. Those receiving the Legislative Update remain up to speed on the issues and in tune with the ICC's efforts in the legislature. The ICC also sends periodic electronic "Action Alerts" to network members who when called upon via e-mail will assist the church's legislative efforts at the state house by contacting lawmakers.

"When the Indiana General Assembly is in session, getting

input from constituents in a timely manner on legislation that is being created is vital to the process," said Glenn Tebbe, executive director for the Indiana Catholic Conference.

"When Catholics contact their representatives in unison with the work of the Catholic Conference, it allows the church to be more effective in shaping morally sound public policy. The use of this software by Catholics has the potential to significantly impact the church's role in the public policy arena," said Tebbe. "It is my hope that our faith community will seize the opportunity to take advantage of this online tool."

Tebbe said, "Catholics that have a particular charism in pro-life, social justice, education, immigration reform, healthcare or family life issues will be able to stay connected and be counted when important legislative decisions are made on priority issues the church is following."

Want to know what the current issues are or how elected officials voted on abortion legislation? Select "Issues" from the menu in the Legislative Action Center. Under "Issues," individuals can look up voting records under "Key Votes" for members of the Indiana General Assembly (State Senators and State Representatives) or members of Congress (U.S. Senators and U.S. Representatives) on legislation affecting the unborn, families in poverty, capital punishment, same-sex marriage, the common good, education and immigration reform.

Also under the "Issues" menu, visitors can view current legislation, legislative alerts and updates, and get tips on contacting legislators via phone, mail or in person. Other features include a "Tell a Friend" option which allows visitors to e-mail friends or family members legislative alerts or updates further expanding those who can become informed and involved in the legislative process.

Want to write a letter to the editor or put a call into a talk radio program to voice a concern from a Catholic perspective? Contacting the media is made easier than ever by selecting

"Media" from the menu in the Legislative Action Center. Contact information is available for major newspapers, magazines, radio and television stations in the state including e-mails, addresses, phone and fax numbers.

While the role of the Indiana Catholic Conference is to serve as the official voice of the Catholic Church in the public policy arena primarily in Indiana, those visiting the ICC Web page will also be notified about important federal legislation that the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops is concerned about, and offers the means to contact members of Congress.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) reminds us "It is necessary that all participate, each according to his position and role, in promoting the common good. This obligation is inherent to the dignity of the human person. ... As far as possible citizens should take an active part in public life."

Since its inception in 1996, over 1,200 organizations nationwide have used Capitol Advantage's online tool to engage millions of interested citizens in the public policy process.

There are 11 other state Catholic conferences that use Capitol Advantage including California, Kentucky, District of Columbia, Iowa, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey, New York and Wisconsin. There are six other Catholic conferences that use similar online systems.

Christopher Leifeld, executive director for the Minnesota Catholic Conference said that in the two years since the Capitol Advantage software was made available in their state, they have had over 1,500 subscribed users. Over 450 of the subscribed users have sent e-mail messages to government officials.

"We have editable messages, so many of the messages sent by users are personalized, resulting in greater impact," said Leifeld.

To explore the ICC's new, online, public policy tool, go to the ICC Web page at [www.indianacc.org](http://www.indianacc.org). Click "Legislative Action Center".



PROVIDED BY THE PONTIFICAL COLLEGE JOSEPHINUM

Pictured with Bishop Daniel Jenky, CSC, Diocese of Peoria, Ill., are, from left, Jacob Meyer, Benjamin Muhlenkamp, Christopher Lapp, Msgr. Nevin Klinger (vice-rector, school of theology), Msgr. Paul Langsfeld (rector-president), Terrence Coonan and Matthew Coonan.

## Seminarians instituted as readers, acolytes

COLUMBUS, Ohio — On Nov. 8, 25 seminarians from 11 different dioceses were instituted into the liturgical ministries of reader or acolyte at the Pontifical College Josephinum by the Bishop Daniel R. Jenky, CSC, bishop of Peoria. The installation Mass was celebrated in St. Turibius Chapel in the company of visiting priests, families of the candidates, as well as benefactors and friends of the Josephinum.

Once termed minor orders, the positions of reader and acolyte are conferred to first and second year theologians, respectively.

First-year theology students installed as readers are commissioned to proclaim the word of God in the liturgical assembly and to catechize the faithful. During the liturgy, the candidates knelt before Bishop Jenky, who held out a Bible to them and said, "Take this book of holy Scripture, and be faithful in handing on the word of God so that it may grow strong in the hearts of

his people."

The candidates for acolytes, who are second-year theologians, were entrusted with the duties of attending to the altar, assisting the deacon and priest at Mass and distributing holy Communion as an extraordinary minister. They may also expose the Blessed Sacrament for adoration. The candidates approached the bishop and knelt before him as he held a paten of bread and said, "Take this vessel with bread for the celebration of the Eucharist. Make your life worthy of your service at the table of the Lord and of his church."

The Josephinum serves an average of 30 dioceses — national and international — each year. Seminarians from 11 dioceses received ministries during the liturgy: Alexandria, Brownsville, Columbus, Covington, Fort Wayne-South Bend, Gaylord, Kalamazoo, Peoria, Steubenville, Tyler and Youngstown.

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**John Lassen to lead the Associated Churches food bank system**

FORT WAYNE — John Lassen was appointed to replace Ellen Graham as the new director of the Associated Churches food bank system at the Oct. 8 Associated Churches board of director's meeting.

Lassen has worked with food related industries throughout his life, including Parkview Hospital and the University of Saint Francis, and has worked with the food bank system since 2001. He will manage all aspects of the food bank system, especially working with the 350 food bank volunteers from the 26 Associated Churches food bank sites.

The Associated Churches food bank system began in 1979 and has served the hungry of the community for the past 29 years. The system will feed over 88,000 Fort Wayne and Allen County residents a total of 1,320,000 balanced meals or 2,508,000 pounds of food at cost. The number of clients has increased by nearly 30 percent in the past three years.

The Associated Churches food bank system is a faith-based, neighborhood-centered volunteer driven system.

Associated Churches is a United Way Agency and works with most of the agencies in Fort Wayne that work with the unemployed, underemployed and the historic poor.

**CHRIST CHILD SOCIETY DISTRIBUTES OVER 2,400 COATS TO NEEDY**



KATHLEEN SHIELDS ROUSSEL

Bishop John M. D'Arcy sits with volunteers at the computer check in at the coat distribution held at Sacred Heart School. From left are Beth Shields, Lynne Pollifrone, Carolyn DeGroff, Shirley Vorndran and Karen Wagner, who are each two-year veterans of the computer check in system that was implemented in 2006 to record client information. Computers and software were acquired through private donations. The coat distribution began in 1998 when 94 coats were distributed. This year, 2,470 coats were distributed. In the 10 years of coat distribution, 12,359 coats have been given out.

**KNIGHTS HOST CLERGY APPRECIATION DINNER**



PROVIDED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS, AVE MARIA COUNCIL #5521

The Father Julius A. Nieuwland 4th Degree Assembly 242 hosted their 32nd annual Clergy Appreciation Dinner on Nov. 11. The event was held at the Knights of Columbus, Ave Maria Council No. 5521 hall in South Bend. Honored for their devotion to the Knights of Columbus, was Past Faithful Friar Father Jim Gillis and Sir Knights and Past Faithful Navigators Bernie Doyle, left and Tom Lesniak, right. Not pictured are honorees Sir Knights and Past Faithful Navigators Joseph Szalay and Elmer Danch.



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# Local artists offer art, serve community food bank

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — Many art collectors in the Midwest area travel to Chicago or Indianapolis to view and buy high quality professional art. Some local artists want them to know that they no longer have to travel long distances. The best kept secret in Fort Wayne, they say, is the creative talent right here at home.

Santa Brink, one of those local artists, has teamed with 20 other gifted artisans to offer their creations in a unique venue on the southwest side. Artworks Holiday Art Gallery, now open at Jefferson Pointe shopping mall, is a collection of fine art for holiday purchase. The store, next to Barnes and Noble Bookstore, is tastefully laid out displaying a multitude of media including original handmade jewelry, pottery, photography, blown glass, paintings, sculptor, unique clothing, hand-painted bags and more from award winning artists.

But more than promoting the local artists and offering the community the unique experience of perusing this fine art right here in Fort Wayne, this venture is a heart-felt community outreach. The artists have joined together to donate a portion of the proceeds of all sales to the Community Harvest Food Bank.

"I've always been involved with charity," says Brink, parish-

ioner of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne, who has worked with art events that benefited local organizations such as the SPCA and Pediatric Oncology Unit at Lutheran Hospital. Working with Jefferson Pointe this past October with the art festival proved a congenial partnership, she says, adding that they agreed to her idea of combining art and charity. And with help from volunteers and artists she had the Artworks Holiday Art Gallery open for business within a week and a half of approval.

When asked why she chose Community Harvest Food Bank as recipient of the artists' proceeds, Brink says, "They are in need in these economic times and they are a solid organization. There are no negatives about giving food to people."

Acquiring the committed artists to join in this community outreach was surprisingly easy, says Brink, who sent a mass e-mail out to artists in the area. Those who received the invitation called in other artists, and within days, 20 had joined forces. "They all said, 'How can I help?'" says Brink, who has been pleased with the artists' response. "It's been a collaborative effort. We have a lot of good souls together." Each artist is required to donate their time to man the store according to their schedules.

One of the responding artists is MaryAnn Halsey, whose vibrant



KAY COZAD

**Local artists, from left, MaryAnn Halsey, Bonnie Manning and Santa Brink arrange their creative works in the newly opened Artworks Holiday Art Gallery. The store is located next to Barnes and Noble Bookstore at Jefferson Pointe shopping center and open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. The gallery offers unique handmade artwork with a portion of the proceeds to benefit the Community Harvest Food Bank.**

watercolor paintings adorn the walls of the newly opened gallery. Her hand-painted bags, wallets and purses are on display as well. Of the project she says, "It's an adventure to promote our art and a great way to give back to the community for the food bank, especially now during these times. There are so many people in need."

In developing her art work, Halsey, a part-time speech pathologist and parishioner of St. Elizabeth Parish as well, has found a new depth to her faith. "I had

prayed on it. I say, 'You're (God) in charge.' I have always believed that this is a partnership in his art. He wants me to do this ... to move this visual art onto paper."

Another artist involved in the outreach project is Bonnie Manning, yet another St. Elizabeth parishioner, who is retired from the postal service. Her media is photography, which has been displayed at several of the local art festivals. Stunning floral shots captivate the viewer as they stroll through the store. She feels the

gallery is more than a store, saying, "It's like visiting a museum when you're shopping. That's what I like about it — it's a gallery and a store. It's a mini adventure — an 'out-of-town experience in town.'"

Though these three talented women are Catholics, Brink says the gallery is a vibrant ecumenical effort. "There are so many faith persuasions here, with similar spirit. They are all just giving and amazing. And everyone is so supportive."

The faithful and busy Brink is executive director of Santa Brink and Associates, a child advocacy consultation firm and is employed with Productive Business Interiors as business development consultant as well.

A food and wine reception was held on Nov. 16, Brink's 60th birthday. The successful effort included a silent auction and, of course, monetary donations, and those of nonperishable food items were graciously accepted for the food bank.

The artists plan another reception on Dec. 6 from 5-8 p.m. for patrons to "meet the artists." It is open to the public and Brink says, "We are serving more than one need, meeting the needs of the artists and the community. It's a unique experience and we gladly accept food products or donations at any time. People can come and buy gifts here and give to the food bank. It's a great concept!"

## 'God writes straight with crooked lines'

Prison pen pal provides priest presider for Mass

BY VINCE LABARBERA

MISHAWAKA — It's been nearly four years since a prisoner named Ken at the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City sent a letter to Sister Agnes Marie Regan of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Mishawaka.

When she opened the curious envelope adorned with smiley faces, Sister Agnes was invited to become a pen pal with Ken, who was making a ministry in prison of sending "homemade" cards to others while serving a 60-year sentence for burglary (*Today's Catholic*, March 18, 2007).

Sister Agnes came to Ken's attention and about 80 other prison inmates who watched her introduce the half-hour Sunday TV Mass sponsored by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend on WNDU TV, Channel 16, at 10:30 a.m. The prisoners were participating in a "St. Dismas Community within the Walls" group, which met weekly to watch the TV Mass and study the Bible. To the inmates, and many others throughout the South Bend viewing area, Sister Agnes simply is known as the "TV Mass Sister."

Not only did Sister Agnes agree to begin corresponding with Ken regularly, she later also worked-up the courage to accept

his invitation to accompany the University of Notre Dame Knights of Columbus and some students on their annual visit to provide a "feast for prisoners." Sister Agnes initially traveled with Holy Cross Father Thomas McNally, a priest residing at Our Lady of Fatima House on the Notre Dame campus.

Sister Agnes's first visit was quite rewarding socially, she said. They ate together, took pictures and she picked up two more pen pals. The visit was spiritually successful as well. Sister Agnes attended Mass and prayed with the St. Dismas group, some individually, and blessed an inmate and his rosary.

She also asked God that once each inmate had served the debt he owed society for his crimes, he would become a loving member of his family and a productive member of society.

And, it appears her prayers have been answered, at least in Ken's case. Less than a year after her initial visit to the Michigan City prison, Ken's lawyer began reviewing his case and found that there was a discrepancy in the sentencing. Instead of six terms of 10 years served consecutively, his six sentences should have been served concomitantly. Thus, after serving a total of 14 years behind bars, Ken was released by a judge who ruled that his sentence had been inappropriately



PHOTOS PROVIDED BY SISTER AGNES MARIE REGAN, OSF

**Sister Agnes Marie Regan, a Sister of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, Mishawaka, folds altar linens with Ken after the televised Nov. 16 Mass at WNDU-TV.**

administered by a judge who apparently was suffering from the initial stages of dementia.

Ken now resides in South Bend with another former inmate. Both men are attempting to readjust to living in a free society once again. Ken continues to participate in the TV Mass each Sunday, only now he attends in person assisting with the chores surrounding the setup and take-down of the Mass set.

Ken has his own vehicle and comes to the TV Mass on his own. Afterward he goes to Little Flower Parish where he is a parishioner. This month he will begin serving the parish community as a special minister of the Eucharist. He has volunteered, as well, to serve in other programs sponsored by the parish and happily is making friends who are lovingly supporting him as he continues his journey into pro-

ductive life outside the walls.

Ken always tells Sister Agnes Marie that everything good that has happened and is happening to him is the result of "knee mail," the growing relationship with God that Father David Link, Michigan City chaplain, and Father McNally helped him form when he had nothing but "time" to reflect on the direction of his life.

Sister Agnes sees to it that Ken receives a videotape of the TV Mass each Sunday for further reflection and study. This fall, however, she had to ask Ken if she could take back the previous Sunday's taped Mass because a priest could not be found to celebrate the Mass live the next Sunday, not by Sister Agnes or the diocesan Catholic Communications Office.

"It looked as though the only thing we could do was air a videotape from the previous Sunday," Sister Agnes said. When she told Ken why she needed the tape returned, he asked, "You need a priest? I'll get you one!" A single telephone call later, and it was arranged. Father McNally would preside at the TV Mass. "Talk about something going full circle," Sister Agnes exclaimed, "Imagine, my former prison pen pal provided a priest presider for Mass. That old proverb certainly holds true, 'God writes straight with crooked lines.'"



# Catholic high school philanthropists active in diocese

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

With arms outstretched for lifting boxes, raking leaves, sorting auction items, translating Spanish into English or offering information on fair trade practices, high school students from around the Fort Wayne-South Bend area are on the move. As an expression of giving back to their communities, these students are applying the Catholic concept of social justice by application and service to others.

On Oct. 25, Bishop Dwenger High School held its 13th annual Saints on the Move service project. According to the school's press release, over 400 families offered to help this year at nearly 150 sites throughout the Fort Wayne area with fall cleanup projects for the elderly and homebound, nursing homes and other social service organizations.

At St. Mary's Soup Kitchen in downtown Fort Wayne, Bishop Dwenger students helped parish volunteers set up for an evening fundraiser. According to Val Vorndran, fundraiser cochairman, the timing of the Saints on the Move service project was ideal.

"The fundraiser includes a dance, silent auction, 50/50 raffle and vendors who donate their time and services. All proceeds go to the soup kitchen. The kids are tremendous in helping us set up for this event," says Vorndran.

The proceeds help supply the kitchen, which often prepares 180 gallons of soup each day, five days a week. According to soup kitchen volunteer John Martin, in the month of September, 29,301 servings of soup were distributed.

Knowing his efforts for Saints on the Move make a difference in the lives of others, Bishop Dwenger sophomore Jesse Nix notes, "It always feels good to help out the community and those who are less fortunate."

Across the street at Ave Maria House, Bishop Dwenger sophomores Paul Klein and Alex



PHOTOS BY KAREN CLIFFORD

Emily VanDyck, senior at Bishop Luers High School, assists at the Fort Wayne Christ Child coat drive.

Wharton helped to spruce up the yard by raking leaves. Ave Maria House, owned and operated by St. Mary Parish, is a daytime drop-in shelter for homeless men and women from the Fort Wayne area. Dottie Carpenter, cochairman of the St. Mary's fundraiser, states that people can come there "to have a cup of coffee, shower, do laundry, or make calls to places of employment."

Two other Catholic high schools in the diocese have recently been involved with their town's Christ Child Society. According to its national mission statement, the Christ Child Society is "a charitable organization dedicated to serving at-risk children regardless of race or creed."

Bishop Luers Spanish IV students reached out to the Christ

Child Society to serve as interpreters during a coat drive of the Fort Wayne chapter. Rudy Trevino, a senior at Bishop Luers, "thought the whole program at Sacred Heart is awesome. On the day that I went, we gave out over 250 coats. It was unbelievable to know that a small group of people could help so much in just one morning. Not only is the program beneficial because families

being depleted. Moving a couple thousand coats would have taken our ladies days, with several more days to heal our ailing backs. We are very grateful for their ongoing support of the mission to help those less fortunate in this community."

Marian freshman Connor Burke, who assisted with unloading the boxes, emphasizes the need to offer assistance to those less fortunate. "Some people have crisis in their lives and need help to get going again."

The Catholic concept of social justice was on full display at Saint Joseph's High School's Fair Trade Café, held on Oct. 30. The Fair Trade Café is sponsored by Saint Joseph's SECO club, which stands for Social and Ecological Concerns Organization.

Kathy Kershner, SECO coordinator and teacher at Saint

Joseph's, says the club is built on the desire to live the church's teaching of the "seamless garment," a Catholic social teaching otherwise referred to as the consistent life ethic.

"As the acronym suggests, our concerns are very inclusive and far reaching. We are a social and environment justice group. We meet twice a week to discuss issues of justice that are of interest to the students. We do individual and group research into social and environmental matters and once educated, try to put our faith in action," Kershner stresses.

On Halloween, SECO members delivered boo grams, which are messages that have fair trade chocolate attached. According to literature from Equal Exchange, a Massachusetts worker cooperative, Fair Trade certification "prohibits the use of abusive child labor, and encourages the adoption of safer, chemical free farming methods."

Anna Ragland, SECO member states the paper that the boo gram messages are written on are from recycled shredded newspaper.

"You add water to the shredded newspaper, you sponge it out and it makes paper." So the concepts of fair trade and helping the environment are both publicized, Anna emphasizes.

"When students become aware of where their garments are produced or where their food is coming from, they often learn it is against their Catholic social teaching," Kershner notes. "By studying the root causes of these problems, we hope to change these structures and have a long term healthy society."



Ruth Liddell, freshman at Marian High School, unloads boxes of coats for the South Bend chapter of the Christ Child Society.

receive coats, hats and gloves, but is a prime example of how anyone can make a difference in the community."

Across the diocese in South Bend, six junior Civitans from Marian High School, along with Christ Child volunteers, unloaded approximately 250 boxes of coats at the former St. Patrick's School, the chapter's new residency. Jan Williams, vice president of clothing for the South Bend chapter of Christ Child, expresses the appreciation she has for the junior Civitans help.

"The teens that helped empty a semi load of new coats into our storage room were a real blessing. Together we were able to restock the second half of our coat inventory, which was rapidly



Melissa Medina serves Brendan Becht food from Saint Joseph's High School's Fair Trade Cafe.

## USF students experience a hint of homelessness

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — Living the Franciscan theme of fostering peace and justice, University of Saint Francis students experienced a taste of homelessness the night of Nov. 14.

From 8 p.m. to 8 a.m. about 12 students slept outside Padua Hall in cardboard box "shanty towns" in the cold November rain. The cardboard boxes are symbolic representations of what it's like to be homeless, according to Padua Hall

director and event organizer David Stamile. The event, he said, is intended to raise the question: "What would it really be like to be homeless?"

Members of the Fort Wayne community donated coats, hats and blankets, which the students later donated to a local homeless shelter. David Stamile, Padua Hall director and event organizer, said interacting with the homeless face-to-face was an important aspect of the event.

"(I hope they) have a greater awareness for where they are," he

said about the student participants. "They can see how blessed they are with the knowledge of how other people live."

Stamile said he views the sleep-out as both an internal and external example of living the Catholic, Franciscan faith. Inside the university community, he hopes students will become socially aware. And outside St. Francis, the public can learn by example.

Raising awareness about the existence of the local homeless community is one of the first steps to solving the problem, Stamile

said. In his observations, he has found that in the city of Fort Wayne the underprivileged seem to be isolated to the southern and eastern parts.

The problem is that "you can go around town and never be aware of the homeless," he said.

Michael Bechill, a USF graduate and last year's event coordinator, echoed Stamile's comment about the need for awareness.

"The best (way to make a difference) is talk," the student suggested. "Often people ignore things right in front of their eyes

because it is easy to turn the other way. This event proves that people care, and everyone can make a difference."

National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week is Nov. 16-22, and students at colleges and universities, including the University of Dayton, have similar efforts planned.

For more information about how you can help combat homelessness, visit [www.nationalhomeless.org](http://www.nationalhomeless.org).



# Siblings witness charity firsthand in Africa

BY KAY COZAD

NEW HAVEN — Charity is a well-practiced virtue in the Dennis and Mary Tippmann family. These St. John the Baptist parishioners have raised 11 children to be well-rounded and faithful citizens. For years it has been a common practice for the family to donate time, talent and treasure to both local and international charities.

Following the untimely death of son Charlie in 1993, the family formed the Charlie Tippmann Foundation into which the remaining children pooled their funds. Each year a local church or charity was designated to benefit from the proceeds of the foundation. The Tippmann family has been a faithful benefactor of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) for over a decade and recently the children, through the foundation, have supported a special CRS project.

Brad, the oldest at 29, says, "We've donated the money to the Children Behind Project for about two years." This project, he says, facilitated by CRS and partners, is an effort to support orphans and vulnerable children in Africa who have been left behind by the death of one or both parents from AIDS.

With the abundant blessings provided by the family business, Tippmann Industrial Products, Inc., where some of the children, all Bishop Dwenger High School graduates, now work, dad Dennis wanted his children to see firsthand where their money is going.

So on Sept. 14, five of the siblings, Brad, David, Nick, Anna and Max, packed their bags and after 24 hours of travel landed for their nine-day tour of Kenya and Uganda. Traveling in Kenya the group visited project sites, hospitals, orphanages and individual homes.

"It was interesting to see the simple homes ... huts. They had an hour-long hike to get water. Gardens were their main source of food and income," says Anna, who adds, "People were extremely grateful. They were glad to have someone actually helping."

CRS facilitates programs recruiting volunteers from the local churches and communities there, reports Brad, who adds, "They are the most efficient in getting help to where it's needed."

David reports that CRS provides "a constant supply of food for the children." They also assist with educational supplies, uniforms and transportation, as well as providing medical supplies for antiretroviral therapy for those currently suffering from HIV.

"The objective is to give a quality of life," he says, adding, "The community workers are those from local villages who help raise the kids. One mom donates time at school to watch over 10 kids." Some of the children there, who are orphaned, are HIV positive themselves.



PROVIDED BY THE TIPPMMAN FAMILY

At the St. Camillus compound, from left, are Jim Lund, vice president of charitable giving, Anna, Ken MacLean, the man in charge of Nairobi, Max, Brad, Nick and Dave Tippmann.

According to the Tippmanns, 25 percent of the population of Kenya has HIV, with 50 percent of the population in some of the communities afflicted with AIDS. "To get tested willingly is a big deal there," they say. Uganda has reduced the incidence of HIV/AIDS to 6 percent through education and assistance.

Another program that inspired the Tippmanns is a microfinance program offering education on finances and business. "The program helped the community pool their money so they could help each other," they report. "It is a huge success."

But the real success, the Tippmanns say, is how the programs effect change in the communities and in families. "They (CRS) are good stewards," says Brad, adding "They are the experts on helping. They give food and clothes, which are corporal works of mercy, but they get them to be self sufficient too." He told of a 58-year-old woman who was proud of her work through the program that had her selling her own garden-grown produce to support the 11 children in her care.

The trip overseas was the first for all five of the Tippmanns, who returned home with a renewed sense of appreciation.

Anna says, "It was an inspiration to see the poverty of the people. Some had lost everything, yet they were so hopeful." Brad agrees, saying, "No matter how bad things are,

there's always hope. You can pray your way through. Compared to what they do daily, we've got it really good."

The kids, they concluded, were the best part of the trip. "They were so excited to see us and would run up and take our hands. They were very playful," says the group, who visited St. Camillus orphanage in Karunga. The children numbered 600 in the orphanage, with many more living within the community in homes of friends and relatives. It is reported that these children who were orphaned due to the AIDS epidemic in the country are being raised by older siblings, relatives or community members. One woman the Tippmanns met was raising eight children from a different family.

Ken MacLean, CRS Kenya country representative, says of the Tippmanns involvement with CRS, "The donation from the Tippmanns is critical to our program because without resources we cannot enact social change and help some of the world's poorest people. Their visit itself is so important because it breathes life into the word 'solidarity.'"

CRS Uganda country representative Jack Norman agrees, saying, "Support from families like the Tippmanns is critical for Catholic Relief Services' work in the field. ... With individual donors, CRS can support more targeted programs and address gaps in specific geographic or sectoral areas."

Why go overseas to witness such hardships? Nick says, "I talked to CRS and they told me how we've helped and I wanted to see." Anna adds, "You hear the numbers but when you go over you can put a face to it."

David traveled because his father asked him to go and learn. "Once it's seen first hand, it can't be ignored. It's our fellow man suffering, part of Christ's family. It doesn't take much to help."

Brad reflects, "I knew my family has been blessed many ways through the business and life in general. Going over there ... helped open my eyes and helped me appreciate more of what I have. I want to work a little harder to give a little more."

CRS is the official overseas relief and development agency of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and serves the poor and vulnerable in countries like Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and the United States. According to their Web site 94 percent of funding goes directly into their programs. The overseas outreach offers programs in agriculture, education, health, microfinance, food security and more in an attempt to work with communities and churches to promote self-reliance among those they serve.

For information on Catholic Relief Services visit [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org).

## Work for Saint Joe, a gift to help someone in need

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — "I just wouldn't be able to complete it by myself. I'm not the gardener I once was," said 78-year-old South Bend resident Chester Denby.

Denby's eyes twinkled as he invited the group of sophomore boys from Saint Joseph's High School to his home, and into his life. The students were there to do yard work as part of the 2008 "Work for Saint Joe" effort. They left Denby's yard with a pile of leaves and weeds by the curb, and a new appreciation for what a gift it truly is to be able to help someone in need.

Denby, a WWII veteran who was widowed 15 years ago, lives with and cares for his 51-year-old son, Michael. Michael suffered injuries at birth and doesn't walk or talk. He communicates with his eyes and the tone of his voice. And his eyes light up when Denby brings visitors in to say hello.

"I think those boys we had

there today were really touched by what they experienced," said Debbie Foy, a mother who's been involved with Work for Saint Joe for the past 12 years. "We may not hear about it, but it made an impact."

Adam Lewiecki, 15, said after meeting Michael, he was inspired by Denby, and how he cares for his disabled son.

"It was great to be able to work for someone who really needed it," said Lewiecki, whose group spent an hour raking up leaves and pulling weeds from Denby's backyard before stopping in for a visit.

This community outreach began first as a neighborhood walk, with students getting sponsors to raise money for Saint Joseph's High School. According to this year's coordinator Pam Mahlie, that changed when one student saw a greater need.

"That student wrote an essay in class," Mahlie recalled, "saying we should help people in the neighborhoods, not just walk through them."



DIANE FREEBY

South Bend resident Chester Denby grins as Saint Joseph's High School sophomores Will O'Callaghan and Adam Lewiecki go after the weeds in his garden.

"Walk for Saint Joe" was born, and, last Sunday, over 500 students and about 100 parents participated. Parents served as drivers and chaperones, and supervised the kids as they worked together at homes and businesses throughout South Bend.

"It's a very humbling experience," said Mahlie. "We thank God that we have a chance to serve others, particularly the elderly and physically and mentally disabled who need our help."

The students, with all their youthful enthusiasm, seem to get a lot more out of the experience

than a few service hours. Senior Molly Ryal says she's participated all four years at Saint Joseph's.

"It's really great!" she exclaimed. "In the morning, when you wake up and realize you have a lot of work ahead of you, it's a little hard. But then you get going and you know people really appreciate it."

Foy says she appreciates the chance for students and parents to work together to help the community.

"It's all about getting out there and doing something for others," said Foy. "That's why we send our kids to Saint Joe. That's what we want to teach them."

For his part, Denby said he just enjoyed having the kids take care of a little yard work and come meet his son.

"I'm extremely appreciative and grateful to them for taking their time to help me out," said Denby. "It's a wonderful gift!"



# Before voter registration issues, CCHD had cut off ACORN funds

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR

BALTIMORE (CNS) — The Catholic Campaign for Human Development cut off funding earlier this year to the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, known as ACORN, for reasons unrelated to the organization's current troubles over voter registration and partisan politics, reported the chairman of the U.S. bishops' subcommittee on CCHD.

In a report to the bishops Nov. 11 during their annual fall meeting in Baltimore, Auxiliary Bishop Roger P. Morin of New Orleans explained that CCHD, the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program that funds community development programs around the country, this summer suspended \$1.13 million in previously authorized grants to ACORN affiliates.

No new applications from ACORN for the coming year were approved, he added.

ACORN has been under scrutiny in the last few months, most

visibly for problems with its voter registration efforts. ACORN's voter registration programs in several states are being investigated after some of its workers were found to have made up names on registration forms. The false names were discovered before the forms were turned in to government entities.

But Bishop Morin explained that the CCHD action followed the revelation June 2 that Dale Rathke, the brother of ACORN founder Wade Rathke, had embezzled nearly \$1 million from the organization and its affiliates in 1999 and 2000.

Dale Rathke stepped down from his position with the national organization in June when the matter became public; no charges were filed against him.

That revelation "raised questions about transparency and governance of ACORN," Bishop Morin told the bishops. CCHD commissioned a forensic audit to determine whether any of the church's funds had been stolen or used inappropriately. The final

report of the auditors is still pending, but he said the work so far has concluded that "our funds were not involved with those embezzled at the national office."

Though financial accounting at the national level of ACORN was apparently flawed, the bishop said CCHD funds for local programs did reach the intended recipients.

Nevertheless, Bishop Morin said, "we thought it important" to remove ACORN affiliates from CCHD funding.

At a press conference following the session with the bishops, Bishop Morin said ACORN's organization is so complex that "we couldn't feel assured that we could vet all of (the individual affiliates) to work with them."

CCHD grants to ACORN affiliates have in the past funded local programs to create job opportunities and to combat low wages and crime, he said. Recent projects to receive CCHD funds included programs to improve housing opportunities for the poor and raise funds for Hurricane Katrina relief.

# CCHD helps give people tools to get out of poverty

BY BRITNEY SEEGER

FORT WAYNE — The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) is the national program in the Catholic Church with the goal of eliminating poverty and bringing about social justice in the United States. Its mission is to address the root causes of poverty in America. This organization was brought to life in 1969 by the U.S. Catholic Bishops and their ideas of empowerment and social justice for the poor have been adapted by many dioceses in the United States including our

own diocese of Fort Wayne/South Bend.

Every year in November on the Sunday before Thanksgiving, churches throughout the

United States take up a collection to benefit the efforts of CCHD. Some of the money that is collected stays right here in our diocese, and the rest of it goes to the national office for larger national grants.

CCHD carefully monitors funded organizations throughout the country. Each organization must meet certain requirements in order to apply for the grant from CCHD. Some of these requirements are: conforming to the moral and social teachings of the Catholic Church, demonstrating the intention to eliminate the root causes of poverty, and people living in poverty must have the dominant voice in the organization. These are some of the stipulations that the organization must follow in order to be considered for a grant. The organizations in our area that have received these grants are TAP and Vincent Village.

Brian Stevens, a grant representative from the national headquar-

ters, visited some of these organizations our diocese as part of the monitoring process back in September. TAP, a community organizing group based at St. Adalbert's in South Bend is a very diverse group because there are people from many different denominations that are all coming together for a common purpose. The members of TAP are working together on issues such as making the schools a better place for their children and racial discrimination. It is inspiring to see all these people of different faiths and walks of life coming together and working toward a common goal.

Vincent Village is also a CCHD funded project based in Fort Wayne. This organization offers affordable transitional housing for homeless families in the

The national collection is Sunday, Nov. 23.

area. Since Vincent Village opened in December of 1989, they have served over 590 families and developed additional programs to meet the needs of homeless families with children. Strong families build strong communities. Not only is Vincent Village changing the lives of families, but they are also transforming the community around them.

Through these organizations, as well as others in the community, the grant from CCHD is making a positive influence on the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The national collection is coming up on Sunday, Nov. 23. Prayerfully consider giving a gift that makes a difference in the community. There is an old saying, "If you give a child a fish, you feed him for a day. If you teach a child to fish, you feed him for life." CCHD helps give people the tools they need to get out of poverty, not just address their temporary needs.

## CCHD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

out of our shelter into housing and affordable furnishings for low-income families. At the same time we are providing employment opportunities for the homeless," Helmke said. "It's kind of a neat place."

The economic downturn has impacted Vincent Village. "We're getting it from both ends, more homeless families needing help and less funding," Helmke said. "We're really struggling to make ends meet. ..."

Vincent Village has been forced to cut its workforce. They recently went to an automated phone service to cut expenses. Helmke said she would welcome volunteers to work the front desk. The families in the shelter are used to just having someone to talk to. Often these volunteers just have to be good listeners and provide encouragement for the families in the shelter.

The financial crisis has also impacted those who donate stocks to nonprofits as stock values plummet. Helmke encouraged people to examine their favorite charities and include a charity that helps with basic needs — provides food, offers shelter — and make that a part of their tithe. Besides monetary help, there are other material needs — towels and linens, hygiene products such as deodorants, cleaning supplies and disinfectants. These are items that Vincent Village offers in a welcome basket that its families can take with them when they transition out of the shelter.

"We always, always, need diapers," Helmke said. "Sixty-eight percent of the people coming through our door at the homeless shelter are children — babies and children — or pregnant moms."

Readers may wonder where the 50 people on the waiting lists are living. Helmke said they are either at the YWCA Shelter for Victims

of Violence or at the Interfaith Hospitality Network. Some may be staying with family, friends or acquaintances who may not necessarily want them, but, because there are children involved, do not want them in the streets. Helmke noted that whole way of living is really hard on kids who are keenly aware when people don't want them around. "It's devastating to their self esteem," she said.

"Families hide their homelessness," Helmke added. "They have all these fears that their kids are going to be taken away ... and their kids would be taken away if they were on the streets. We have a duty to protect children. That's why they stay with whoever they can stay with. Sometimes it's a dangerous situation. ..."

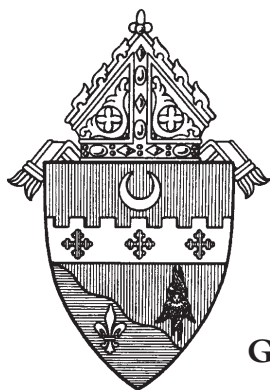
In May, Helmke expects a new family mentoring program to be initiated through Leadership Fort Wayne. "We're looking for families to mentor families," she said. "We want families to role model

positive family interaction and relationships ... and be "support to a family in Vincent House, not just while they are at the shelter, but maybe create a long-standing relationship, something that is rare for the homeless," Helmke said.

"Poverty in America is a huge issue now," Helmke noted. "We're looking at a whole new population of poor who have never been poor before."

Those who grew up in poverty, "know how to survive," Helmke said, whereas those who have lost their job at a factory, find themselves engulfed in credit card debt, or are about to have their homes foreclosed, often have no idea how to get their needs met.

**Want to help?** Contribute to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development or visit the Vincent Village Web site at [www.vincentvillage.org](http://www.vincentvillage.org) to contact them directly.



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## EDITORIAL

## Let us be thankful

In a recent weekday Gospel (Lk 17:11-19), an otherwise unnamed leper returns to Jesus after having been healed by his power, returns to offer thanks to Jesus. The Lord indicates that it is his faith — expressed in both worship (he falls to his knees) and gratitude — that has saved him. This leper was a Samaritan, the consummate “outsider.”

Worship, the adoration and praise of almighty God, and thanksgiving (the Greek term is “eucharistia”) are constitutive of the act of faith. Perhaps too often we think of faith in terms of its intellectual or fiducial dimensions (knowing and trusting God) and these are certainly essential dimensions of the act of faith. But the Gospel makes it clear that worship and gratitude are also essential dimensions of faith. Far too often our “faith” lacks the fullness of such worship and gratitude.

It's not that God “needs” our worship — God is not needy of anything from us. It's that we do. That is, worship radically shapes the one who prays — it is transformative. Those who live in personal communion with God in Christ cannot but be changed by that experience.

St. Irenaeus held that the primal sin of humanity was ingratitude to God. He saw Adam and Eve as children growing up in Eden, impatient with and ungrateful for God's plan to bring them up, as it were. Perhaps we need to think more deeply about how grateful we are for all that God has done for us.

As the financial crisis continues and looms even more threateningly, perhaps we have put far too much stock in the promise of prosperity to meet our deepest needs and make us happy. The teaching of the New Testament about wealth is that it's dangerous — not in itself — but in its capacity to create in us a false sense of independence and security, when in fact the truth of the matter is that God alone, as St. Augustine knew from his own experience, is the one who can calm our restless heart and meet our deepest need.

As a nation, this week we stop to offer thanks. Catholics, in fact, do this not only on a particular Thursday in November each year, but daily at the altar of sacrifice, where Christ's love and mercy are made present and he gives himself to us so that we might give ourselves more to him. To be a Catholic is to be shaped and shaped dramatically by the Eucharist, not merely occasionally but (and this is true whether one has the opportunity to attend daily Mass or not) daily, not just seasonally, but at all times. Perhaps you might think of attending Mass on Thanksgiving Day in your parish, as you stop to recall what God, in his great mercy, has done for you and to give him thanks and praise.

## An unseen guest

It is refreshing and spontaneous, the way family members and guests come forth with their personal reasons for genuine thanksgiving. As each person takes from the passing turkey platter, they seem to give something back by mentioning a blessing that has come their way.

This year, it would be appropriate to give thanks at the festive table for an unseen guest, a seminarian, in your midst.

There is real optimism for vocations to the priesthood. Currently, there are 15 young men preparing for priesthood in our diocese. Six of them are on the undergraduate level at Immaculate Heart of Mary Seminary in Winona, Minn., situated on the campus of Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. Nine of them are in the graduate level of study at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio.

The power of prayer is responsible for this increase; through the practical and visible form it takes such as the presentations observed at some parishes of a “vocation chalice” or “vocation crucifix” brought forth at Sunday Mass by a family that has had the chalice in their home for a week and has offered daily prayers for vocations.

Another example is the “called by name” program of the Serra Clubs; asking Catholics to forward names of young men who may be prospective seminarians.

There are also the Andrew Dinners. Sponsored by the Vocation Office, these get-togethers present an opportunity for those who might be candidates for the priesthood to spend an evening with seminarians, the bishop and vocation director for a general discussion on seminary life and its ultimate purpose.

Add to this the intercessions at Mass, silent rosaries by many, with devotions in convents before the Blessed Sacrament and there is a woven tapestry of prayer; answered prayer, personified by young men alert and eager to be in our midst, in our schools and in the vineyard of Jesus Christ.

**Today's Catholic editorial board** consists of Ann Carey, Kay Cozad, Fred and Lisa Everett, Father Mark Gurtner, Father Michael Heintz, Tim Johnson, Vince LaBarbera and Mark Weber.

# COMMENTARY

TODAY'S CATHOLIC welcomes letters from readers. All letters must be 250 words or less, signed and include a phone number and address for verification. Today's Catholic reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Address letters to: Today's Catholic • P.O. Box 11169 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46856-1169 or e-mail to: editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org

## The Franciscan Center prepares for 'Turkey Tuesday'

Believe it or not, the 2008 holidays are quickly approaching and The Franciscan Center is preparing for “Turkey Tuesday” on Nov. 25. The Tuesday before Thanksgiving, people line up starting at 5 a.m. and fill our parking lot hoping to receive a turkey or ham to share with their family for the holiday.

Last year we served 770 families from 9-11 a.m. This year, there is an even higher demand and we are anticipating 1,200 families. We are hoping that by the miracle of God's grace working through our generous donors, each family will walk away with something.

If your family or business would like to be a part of this great event of giving, we would very much appreciate your donation. You can send a donation, call in a donation, or drop off turkeys. Our mailing address is The Franciscan Center, P.O. Box 10303, Fort Wayne, IN 46851-0303. Our phone number is (260) 744-3977, and our dropoff location is 4643 Gaywood Dr., Fort Wayne, IN 46806.

Sally Ley  
The Franciscan Center  
Fort Wayne

## Thank you for walk-a-thon support

Mary Keefer, principal of Bishop Luers, joins students and staff in thanking those who supported the 27th Annual Walk-a-thon on Oct. 3. The students worked hard to get their pledges and countless parents volunteered their time and talents for the day. The walk-a-thon not only raised money for the school, but also taught Bishop Luers' students what it means to give of yourself to help others. Prayers were greatly appreciated as the goal of \$47,000 was reached. Bishop Luers staff and students could not have accomplished this without the support of the generous community. Thank you for supporting Bishop Luers High School.

Mary Keefer, Principal  
Bishop Luers High School  
Fort Wayne

## Combined classes works

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has announced recommendations for three school mergers. In an article in the *Today's Catholic*, the superintendent of schools for the diocese stated “our schools in this region operating with classes combined because there are not enough students to support one class per grade, students miss out on the academic and spiritual community that Catholic education strives for.” (Oct. 26, 2008)

There seems to be a misconception about schools with classrooms that share two grades or combined classrooms. One unfamiliar with the idea of having two grades in one classroom taught by one teacher may misunderstand the fulfillment of an

education a child would receive in this setting. Subjects such as religion, reading, math and language arts are taught to the specific grade level. Science, social studies and writing are taught as a whole group with both grades learning the same material.

Since the students are sharing the same teacher every two years, one year the students receive sixth grade level social studies and fifth grade level science. The next year the students receive the opposite, fifth grade level social studies and sixth grade level science. After two years, the children receive the same education as others in a single grade classroom.

One may think that with two grades in a classroom, the education or learning material may be reduced to accommodate for two levels. This is not the case. A combined classroom also teaches the five or more subjects a day but while the students have work time in class, the teacher is working with the other grade in another subject area. These students may have homework at the end of the day, but they are still receiving the full education for which their parents pay.

In fact the children are receiving more individual attention from the teacher because there is a low number of students in the classroom. The one-on-one time is used to help any struggling student understand the new concepts. If there is any complaint about small class sizes, the realization is there is not a child left behind in confusion.

Students are not “missing out” on an academic or spiritual education at smaller schools where teachers have more interaction with the students. There is no denying the success of education when looking at above average ISTEP+ scores at these smaller schools. I hope this clarification can clear up any misconceptions of a classroom with two grades. We need to continue to live up to our reputation as Catholic schools that provide individual attention to our students.

Amy Smith,  
Decatur

## Closing small schools is unwarranted

The recent recommendation to close some of our outlying small schools is unwarranted.

Since these south side schools are not currently in a financial crisis, nor have they become a burden on the diocese, the committee's main concern should be the quality of education and our ability to evangelize.

Have we forgotten what happened when three south side schools were merged into Benoit Academy in 1994? Their merged enrollment was 320 students. Since then, enrollment declined and 56 students were enrolled for the 08/09 school year and they closed. Not all of those students stayed in Catholic schools. What happened to those 264-plus students? How are we evangelizing to them and their families? How can we as Christians do what we are called to do and make a difference in our

community if we're pushing people away?

Speaking specifically about St. Aloysius, we, the parents and parishioners, are willing to do what it takes to keep our doors open. Our enrollment has remained fairly steady. We haven't grown in large numbers, not because we are unattractive to the community, but because we are a small school from a small town. This is what parents who move out here to raise their families want.

Being small or having split classes does not prevent us from providing excellent academics. Just check our ISTEP scores. Also, split classes can be beneficial. This is the foundation of Montessori schools, it is a proven and beneficial method of teaching and learning.

Taking away our Catholic presence in rural areas is not what we are called to do. Mission work is not profitable, but it is our calling. If we close these schools, it is just a matter of time before our small communities stop looking for Catholic education.

Jennifer Simerman  
Fort Wayne

## Proposed closing of St. Aloysius School is ill-advised

While contemplating change for any organization, only two objectives should be considered, the potential correction of some existing deficiency or the achievement of some higher good. The recommendation of the diocesan committee to merge St. Aloysius School with St. Therese School accomplishes neither of these goals, specifically in relation to St. Aloysius.

There is no current deficiency in St. Aloysius School. Enrollment has increased in recent years, albeit slowly, due to the socio-economic status of the area. Financial obligations are being met and that will continue to be the case. Spiritual and academic metrics are being achieved, or exceeded, as evidenced by the continued adherence to the faith by the graduates, the ISTEP scores, etc.

The experience of over 132 years of outstanding accomplishment by the school has shown that multi-grade classes are not a deterrent to student development — spiritually, academically or socially. In fact, just the opposite has been the experience.

If there is nothing to be corrected, and nothing is to be gained, by implementing the recommendation, the question has to be asked, why do it? If the merger is made, fewer students from the area will receive a Catholic education, fewer students will go on to Bishop Luers High School, and much long-lasting parish angst and wrath will ensue. Such action would be a direct affront to those many parish families, priests, nuns and teachers who have supported this great school for well over a century.

We respectfully urge the diocese to drop the consideration of this ill-founded and illogical recommendation.

Connor Loesch  
Fort Wayne



# Keeping Christ in Christmas

As we sit in Thanksgiving this holiday season, thanking God for all that we have and all that we are, it is truly the time to ponder the true meaning of Christmas.

There are those in our society who seem to be going out of their way to destroy all things that have a religious significance, especially religious symbols such as a Nativity scene. We must ask God to help change the hearts and souls of those in society looking to destroy our faith with actions that fit their own agenda. We must keep Christmas and the birth of Jesus synonymous, not separate. It's not about the quantity of boxes under a Christmas tree. It's about love and God is love.

With all the distractions of the election and the state of the economy, the sobering truth is we are not in control of our destiny and many of our Catholic families are living in fear and uncertainty; families that need our reassurance.

We must rely on our faith and that our God will see us through all of our hardships. We must prayerfully remember that the spirit of Christmas will enter our homes as we celebrate the birth of



## THE INDIANA KNIGHTS

BY BOB HARTENSTEIN

Christ; a birth that brings families together in harmony, peace and love. It's a time of sharing our faith and giving the gift of Jesus to someone in need. It's a time of hope to those living in desperation. The gift of Jesus is the greatest gift mankind has ever received.

Members of the Indiana Knights of Columbus will continue to defend and express the true meaning of Christmas beginning the first Tuesday of December with the annual "Light Up For Christ" celebration. Many councils throughout our state will be lighting up Nativity scenes and Christmas trees, caroling, collecting clothing and food, or doing whatever they can to keep "Christ in Christmas" — foremost in our thoughts. Charity is the first lesson of the order of the Knights of Columbus. In that spirit, Indiana Knights reach out to others in need in many ways, hopefully as a posi-

tive example of Catholic love.

Indiana Knights of Columbus State Deputy Stephan Ziembra wishes all a very blessed Christmas and encourages all councils to spread the tradition of "Lighting Up For Christmas," to keep Christ in Christmas.

Ziembra asks, "What better way to celebrate and spread the Christmas spirit than to invite another practicing Catholic gentleman to join our order this holiday season as a gift to him and his family?" Every man who joins the ranks of the Knights of Columbus strengthens the foundation of that parish community, and if your parish doesn't have a Knights of Columbus council, ask your parish priest to help get one started.

**Bob Hartenstein** is the director of communications for the Indiana Knights of Columbus.

# Christ the King will never leave us



## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### Christ the King Mt 25:31-4c

This weekend closes the church's liturgical year of 2008. Next week, a new year will begin with the First Sunday of Advent. Closing the year means that the church has led us through 12 months of careful instruction about Jesus.

The feast of Christ the King joyfully summarizes the lessons of the past year. The Lord is king! He reigns! He lives!

The first reading comes from the ancient Book of Ezekiel. In this reading, God speaks in the first person, promising protection of the flock, in other words the people of God. He is the shepherd, seeking the lost, caring for the injured, rescuing the imperiled. Also, God will distinguish between the sheep and others who assume other identities because of their voluntary unfaithfulness.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians provides the second reading. This selection is a proclamation of the resurrection, and of the role of the Lord as Redeemer of humankind. He is the risen Lord, the first of those who will rise to everlasting life. Those who will follow Jesus in being raised from the dead are "those who belong" to Christ, in other words, those persons who have admitted God, through

Jesus, into their lives, and who have received from the Lord the gift of grace, eternal life and strength.

The reading frankly admits that at work in the world are forces hostile to God. These forces cannot be dismissed as insignificant. However, they are by no means omnipotent. In and through Jesus, the power and life of God will endure. God will triumph over all evil. No one bound to God should fear the powers of evil, although all must resist these powers.

For its final reading on this great feast, the church offers us a passage from St. Matthew's Gospel. It looks ahead, to the day when God's glory will overwhelm the world, to the day when Jesus will return in majesty and glory.

This expectation was a favorite theme in the early church, in the community that surrounded and prompted the formation of the Gospels.

The reading repeats the description given in Ezekiel. In Ezekiel, God, the shepherd, separates the sheep from the goats, the good from the unfaithful. In this reading from Matthew, Jesus promises a final judgment, that will separate the faithful from the sinful.

Beautifully in this reading, the Lord defines who will be judged as faithful, and who will be seen as unfaithful. The faithful will not be those who only give lip-service to their belief in God, but those who, in the model of Jesus, give themselves to care for the troubled and the distressed, who bring relief and hope to others.

### Reflection

Sixty years ago, the parents of the current British monarch enjoyed the people's highest

esteem because of their uncompromising commitment to the well being of the nation.

At the height of the German blitz, or bombing, of London and other major cities in the United Kingdom, the rumor spread that the royal family, as well as the government, would flee the country.

One day, arriving on the scene of a horrendous bombing attack, Queen Elizabeth, the wife of King George VI, and mother of Elizabeth II, was confronted with the question of whether or not she and her husband would send their young daughters to Canada. Moreover, would she and the king flee?

Elizabeth, better known later as the Queen Mother, answered, "My daughters will not leave without me. I shall not leave without the king. And, the king? The king will never, never leave you!"

If we are truly Christians, come what may, Christ the King will never, never leave us. He will bring us to glory of heaven after the wars of earth are ended.

## READINGS

**Sunday:** Ez 34:11-12, 15-17 Ps 23:1-3, 5-6 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28 Mt 25:31-46

**Monday:** Rv 14:1-3, 4b-5 Ps 24:1b-4b, 5-6 Lk 21:1-4

**Tuesday:** Rv 14:14-19 Ps 96:10-13 Lk 21:5-11

**Wednesday:** Rv 15:1-4 Ps 98:1-3b, 7-9 Lk 21:12-19

**Thursday:** Rv 18:1-2, 21-23; 19:1-3, 9a Ps 100:1b-5 Lk 21:20-28

**Friday:** Rv 20:1-4, 11-21:2 Ps 84:3-6a, 8a Lk 21:29-33

**Saturday:** Rv 22:1-7 Ps 95:1-7b Lk 21:34-36

## CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

In November, the church commemorates the Basilicas of Ss. Peter and Paul. This quiz looks the lesser known of these two.

- Which St. Paul is associated with this basilica?**
  - St. Paul, the 13th pope after Peter
  - St. Paul, the apostle to the gentiles
  - St. Paul Scotia, first martyr in Scotland
- Why was the site chosen for this basilica?**
  - It was cheap and there was a realty slump.
  - We do not know.
  - The site was associated traditionally with the death of Paul.
- Tradition holds that Paul was beheaded. Why was he not crucified like Jesus and Peter?**
  - He was not tall enough to be able to fit on a standard cross.
  - He was a rabbi so was exempt from pagan executions.
  - He was a Roman citizen and so exempt from crucifixion.
- This basilica is sometimes known as "without the walls" — why?**
  - The faithful kept chipping away souvenirs so the walls vanished.
  - Due to the excellent climate colonnade, not walls, were used.
  - It was outside the walls of Rome.
- Who ordered the site examined?**
  - Constantine
  - Pope Sixtus VI
  - Gregory the Great
- Who consecrated the basilica that was built there?**
  - Constantine
  - Pope Sylvester
  - Pope Tweedy
- When was this?**
  - the second century
  - the third century
  - the fourth century
- The basilica was added by later churchmen, often for prestige, but these practical items were added in the 9th century:**
  - swimming pools
  - defensive walls
  - dungeons
- Why were these necessary?**
  - Italy more and more was prone to wars and invasions.
  - The monks had complained about the lack of recreation facilities.
  - The church had to lock men up to force them to become priests.
- As with most buildings added to over a long period of time, the architecture reflects different styles. The basilica has all but this in its décor:**
  - Gothic references
  - Byzantine style
  - Eire Nua "Ogham" calligraphy
- Attention was gradually diverted from St. Paul's Basilica by the building of this:**
  - The Basilica of St. Peter
  - The Roman Forum
  - The Cathedral of The Cathars
- After the basilica was destroyed in a fire it was**
  - rebuilt to match the newer basilicas.
  - rebuilt to duplicate what had been there, as much as possible.
  - left as a ruin and a testimony to the futility of Italian nationalism.
- At the site today there is an active**
  - Benedictine monastery
  - Muslim community
  - volcano, the only one in central Italy
- Archeologists working at the site in recent times believe they discovered this:**
  - the oldest Neanderthal Christian
  - the tomb of St. Paul
  - the Holy Grail
- Today the site is**
  - a shambles, testimony to the more powerful draw of St. Peter's
  - a secularly administered building run by the "sons of the Wolf"
  - an active church and popular pilgrimage/tourist center

### ANSWER:

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

# What is the posture for the Our Father in Mass?

**A lot of people hold hands during the Our Father, some assume a similar posture as the priest, and some fold their hands. Is there a norm on this? Anonymous**

This is a common liturgical question, especially since practices and opinions on this matter vary dramatically. Actually, there is no norm as to what posture the laity should adopt during the Lord's Prayer at Mass. The "General Instruction of the Roman Missal" (the official instruction manual for the Mass) is silent on this particular issue. As such, besides the commonly accepted praying gesture of folded hands, there may be some legitimate room for variety — but only insofar as the practice does not contradict local regulations or disrupt the prayerfulness of the Mass.

The posture of outstretched arms is called the "orans" position, and was a common sign of praise and adoration in the early church. During the development of the Roman Catholic liturgy, this posture became closely associated with the intercessory role of the

priest on behalf of the people.

The recent appearance of uplifted hands among the congregation probably originated in charismatic communities, but has since gained wider use. If it is done, individuals should be careful not to obscure the unique role of the ordained presider. It may be helpful to consider that even in concelebrated Masses, only the principal celebrant (not all the priests) maintains the "orans" posture while "Deliver us, Lord, from every evil ..." is prayed.

The practice of holding hands is also very widespread. It is a devotional practice that can be very beautiful, and many families do so as part of their domestic piety during prayer. It might make sense if couples, families, or close-knit groups wish to hold hands during the Lord's Prayer at Mass; but those who do this must guard against three things.

First, this posture should not be mandated or broadly encouraged for the entire congregation.

Holding hands can be harmless if conducted with dignity and if nobody is pressured into it. Those

## THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

who hold hands must recognize and respect that many are uncomfortable with such an intimate posture, which often requires a strong sense of personal familiarity.

A natural aversion is also particularly strong during cold and flu season. In addition, mandating this posture would be an inappropriate injection of piety into the liturgy.

Second, this practice should never detract from filial adoration of God, which is a focal point of the Our Father and of the entire Mass. The end of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is devoted to the Lord's Prayer, and No. 2781 says this: "When we pray to the Father, we are in communion with

him and with his Son, Jesus Christ. Then we know and recognize him with an ever new sense of wonder. The first phrase of the Our Father is a blessing of adoration before it is a supplication. For it is the glory of God that we should recognize him as 'Father,' the true God." Therefore, the liturgical recitation of the Our Father must not be self-centered, or otherwise distract from what should be a humble disposition before the Father's transcendence. It is not primarily about us, but about God.

Third, it would be misguided to hold hands during the Our Father if it is meant to promote a sense of unity or community that is allegedly lacking in the liturgy. Not only can this easily become superficial or devolve into a worldly understanding of solidarity, but the principle source of unity should always be the liturgy itself — especially the Eucharist and the reception of holy Communion. We are preparing to enter into real communion with God while asking him to "keep us free from sin," so that we may more perfectly live our adoption as his sons and

daughters in the bond that is the body of Christ. Our goal is elevation into the community of saints.

Similar concerns apply to the orderly carrying out of the sign of peace afterwards — the ritual action should express that this is the peace of Christ and not a haphazard social greeting. Also, dramatic efforts to stretch arms across aisles are really not in keeping with the decorum of the sacred liturgy, or with the focus of the Lord's Prayer.

So, although many practices are not explicitly forbidden, any extra actions or postures during the Lord's Prayer must ultimately be evaluated according to whether they keep intact the integrity and reverence that are so fundamental to the Mass.

**Brian MacMichael**, director of the diocesan Office of Worship, answered this week's question.

# The two Americas

By the dawn's early light on Nov. 5, two distinct Americas hove into view. The two Americas are not defined by conventional economic, ethnic or religious categories; it's not rich America vs. poor America, black America vs. white America, or Catholic America vs. Protestant America. No, what this year's election cycle clarified decisively is that the great public fissure in these United States is between the culture of life and the culture of death.

In 1995, when Pope John Paul II introduced the phrase "culture of death" in the encyclical "Evangelium Vitae" ("The Gospel of Life"), more than a few commentators coughed politely and tried to suggest, if gently, that this terminology was a bit over-the-top — too dramatic, too confrontational, incapable of being heard by those it was intended to persuade. Thirteen years later, it is obvious that the critics were wrong and John Paul the Great was right. The pope saw more clearly into the future, thanks to his insight into the forces at work beneath the surface of the present. Now those forces are plainly in view, and the results are clear for all with eyes to see:

The people of the United States have elected the most radically pro-abortion presidential candidate in American history, and by the largest popular vote percentage garnered by a Democrat since Lyndon B. Johnson.

The people of the State of Washington have adopted, in a landslide, an act permitting the euthanizing of the sick, elderly and burdensome under the Orwellian rubrics of "death with dignity" and "physician-assisted suicide."

The people of California have exercised their sovereign will to prevent the parents of minors from being notified if their daughter intends to have an abortion — although you may be quite certain that said parents would be consulted before said minor's school nurse administered an aspirin tablet.

And the people of Michigan have decided to authorize a wholesale slaughter of human embryos for research purposes — at precisely the moment that embryonic stem-cell research has lost much of its scientific luster, thanks to developments in the reprogramming of adult stem cells.

Culture of death, indeed.

What is to be done?

The first order of business at the national level is to prevent the new Congress from passing the federal Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA), an explicit attempt to destroy every state-based pro-life legal achievement of the past three decades. If prevention is impossible and FOCA is enacted, then it must be vigorously challenged in the federal courts. The stakes are very, very high: in addition to facilitating a greater slaughter of the innocents, FOCA, by eliminating state conscience-clause protections for pro-life health care professionals, would create a situation in which the Catholic health care system as we know it would cease to exist, within a decade at most.

Then we come to adult catechesis. This year, the pro-abortion candidate carried every state in what Maggie Gallagher calls the "Decadent Catholic Corridor" — the Northeast and the older parts of the Midwest. Too many Catholics there are still voting the way their grandparents did, and because that's what their grandparents did. This tribal voting has



GEORGE WEIGEL

## THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

been described by some bishops as immoral; it is certainly stupid, and it must be challenged by adult education. That includes effective use of the pulpit to unsettle settled patterns of mindlessness. This year, a gratifying number of bishops began to accept the responsibilities of their teaching office; so, now, must parish pastors.

We need more persuasive ideas and language in the fight against euthanasia. Yes, the good guys were outspent in Washington State by orders of magnitude — and that should cause serious examinations of conscience among Catholic philanthropies and individuals of means. But, as in the debate over embryo-destructive stem-cell research, the culture of life has yet to develop a language that trumps the invocation of "compassion" when that's misused by the culture of death.

And we need prayer — lots of it. Some demons require special powers to exorcize. As of Nov. 5, it is clear that certain of them have taken up residence in the United States of America.

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

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH

By Patricia Kasten

Gospel for November 23, 2008

Matthew 25:31-46

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading, Cycle A, about the final judgment and good deeds done for others. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SON OF MAN	GLORY	SEPARATE
SHEPHERD	GOATS	HIS LEFT
FATHER	PREPARED	HUNGRY
FOOD	THIRSTY	STRANGER
PRISON	VISITED ME	RIGHTEOUS
ANSWER	LORD	ETERNAL FIRE
NO FOOD	PUNISHMENT	LIFE

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A D O O F P A I F P S R  
T Y O I R E W S N A T D  
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# Sports

**BISHOP DWENGER RECEIVES ACCOLADES IN INDIANA STATE CHEER COMPETITION** Bishop Dwenger High School's cheerleaders have received several accolades from the Nov. 8 Indiana State High School Cheer Competition at New Castle High School. The Bishop Dwenger varsity squad took first place, gold, in the varsity 3-A division. The Bishop Dwenger junior varsity squad took second place in the junior varsity division. The Bishop Dwenger freshmen squad took third place in the freshmen division. The girls and the coaches work year-round on their routines.

## New Haven team takes CYO-ICCL runner-up diocesan playoff game title

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — The chilling winds of winter howled and voiced their fury Nov. 9 as three important football games were to be played, the diocesan playoffs of the Inter-City Catholic League-Catholic Youth Organization (ICCL/CYO) Championship pitted the runner-up game and the ICCL B-team final. The ICCL/CYO diocesan championship game, which saw Mishawaka Catholic beat Sts. JATS (Sts. Joseph-Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Aloysius, St. Therese), 32-0, was the only one-sided contest of the day and was covered in the Nov. 16 *Today's Catholic*.

The first game of the day was a little closer as the host St. Anthony/St. Joseph Panthers welcomed the St. John the Baptist, New Haven, Raiders.

The seesaw battle started with a 1-yard run by Mike Favorite of the Panthers to make the score 6-0 after one quarter of play.

During a blocked punt attempt, Dillon Carey scooped up the ball and rambled 17 yards to even the score for the visiting Raiders.

The Panther's Frankie Karczewski got into the book by stumbling one yard for a touchdown that was capped off by a Dylan Dominello two-point kick to make the score at intermission, 14-6.

St. John was not calling it quits as quarterback Jacob Britton hit Carey for a 23-yard touchdown strike, Britton added a one-point conversion to make the score 14-13.

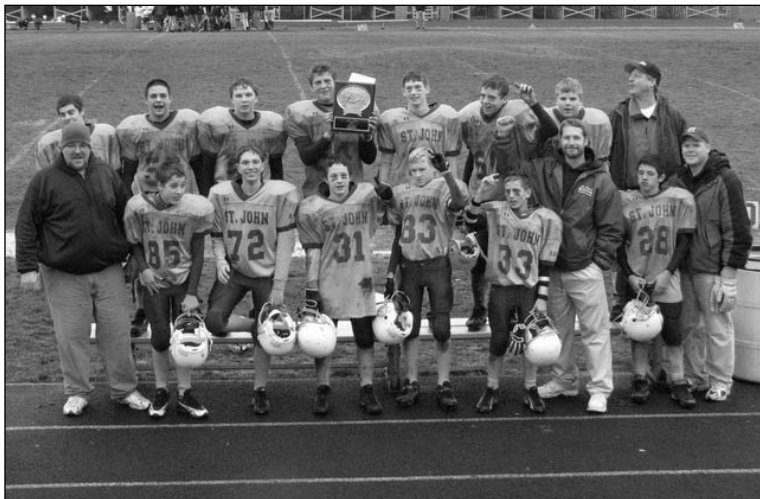
The Raiders were not finished; Adam McCarthy scampered 51 yards to pay dirt and added a two-point kick of his own to make the score 21-14, Raiders.

With less than two minutes remaining in the ball game, Karczewski connected with a 43-yard pass to Connor Hodges for a touchdown and Dominello kicked a two-point conversion to send the Panther faithful into a spirited cheer as their team went up 22-21.

Just moments later, the hearts of the Panthers were crushed as McCarthy lined up and booted a 27-yard field goal with 30 seconds on the clock to give the battle weary Raiders a come from behind triumphant victory, 24-22.

### B-Team championship

The ICCL B-Team Championship came down to contrasting teams, the St. Anthony/St. Joseph Panthers who had never won a title and the



**New Haven's St. John the Baptist CYO football team won the runner-up diocesan championship against South Bend's ICCL runner-up champion, St. Anthony/St. Joseph. The New Haven team is shown, top, and winning the trophy.**

five-time defending champion Holy Cross/Christ the King Crusaders.

The undefeated Panthers had given the Crusaders their only loss during the regular season by a single point and both teams had held their opponents scoreless in the playoffs, the stage was set on a cold and windy day for a perfect game to end the season.

The battle lines were drawn, the Panthers jumped out with a 30-yard jolt by Oliver Page and a

scoring run by Chris Lippert to make the score 12-0.

The Holy Cross/ Christ the King team would not go down without a fight, Peter Rymysza scored a touchdown to close the gap and keep the hopes of the Crusader faithful alive.

All doubt was extinguished as Page again burst for an 18-yard jaunt to cap the scoring and the championship for the Panthers, final score 19-6.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST



PROVIDED BY THE EMENTHISER FAMILY

**This archive photo from 1999 shows Ementhiser front row, far left, with her St. Louis-St. Rose Twins team.**

## Ementhiser earns volleyball scholarship

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

MONROEVILLE — Haley Ementhiser began her volleyball career as a third grader in the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) league at St. Louis Academy. As a high school senior, Ementhiser's big vertical leap and commanding jump serve have earned a full-ride college scholarship to Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne (IPFW).

Throughout her years as a St. Louis-St. Rose Twin, Ementhiser was given a strong foundation from dedicated coaches.

"My grade school coaches tried to keep things fun and gave me an early love for the game. I'll always remember our pre-season practices at the park and getting ice cream at the Whippy Dip at the end of the year," recalls Ementhiser.

Ementhiser capped off her high school career leading her Woodlan High School Lady

Warriors in kills and aces this fall and was named to the all-Allen County Athletic Conference team as well as the Academic All-Conference squad. Ranked in the top 10 percent of her class, the senior standout also participated in track and basketball at Woodlan High School and the Fort Wayne Volleyball Club circuit for the past two years.

Ementhiser has had a lifetime goal of playing volleyball at the college level. She is excited to start with a new team at IPFW and travel around the country playing the game she loves. The 5-foot, 10-inch Ementhiser plans to major in elementary education.

Wearing No.1 on the court, Ementhiser is eighth in her family of 10. The daughter of Greg and Sandy Ementhiser, rural Monroeville, Haley has eight brothers and one sister and has been a lifelong member of St. Louis-Besancon Parish, in rural New Haven, where she participates in St. John the Baptist's KLS Youth Group.

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# Singing Irish priests ink recording deal with U.S. company

BY BETH GRIFFIN

NEW YORK (CNS) — Three tenors, who also happen to be diocesan priests from Northern Ireland, have been signed to a recording contract with the RCA Victor label of Sony BMG for 1 million euros (US \$1.27 million).

They are the Priests and their debut album, titled "The Priests," is scheduled to go on sale Nov. 18.

The Priests sing sacred music, including "Panis Angelicus" and "Ave Maria." Their album was recorded, in part, in St. Peter's Basilica in Rome, during a break from their pastoral duties. Each priest is associated with a parish in the Diocese of Down and Connor.

Their arrangement with Sony BMG acknowledges the priority of their priestly duties. Their share of the proceeds will be used for their parishes and to support retired priests.

Father Eugene O'Hagan, his brother Father Martin O'Hagan and Father David Delargy spoke to Catholic News Service in New York Oct. 21 at the end of a promotional tour for their album.

The three began singing together in high school, where their schoolmates called them "Holy Holy Holy" because of their shared goal to enter the priesthood.

They continued singing together while they studied at the diocesan seminary, St. Malachy's College in Belfast, and took voice lessons from renowned teacher Frank Capper. When the trio attended the Irish College in



CNS PHOTO/DAVID BAILEY, COURTESY RCA

**Father David Delargy, Father Martin O'Hagan and his brother Father Eugene O'Hagan form the Priests singing group. The three tenors, who are diocesan priests from Northern Ireland, have signed a recording contract with the RCA Victor label of Sony BMG worth 1 million euros (US \$1.27 million). They are pictured in an undated publicity photo.**

Rome, Father Eugene O'Hagan continued voice lessons and the three priests sang on many occasions, including a Mass celebrated by the late Pope John Paul II.

The priests, all in their 40s, said they were inspired by Pope John Paul to spread the Gospel in new ways.

In a blog about their experiences in Rome, Father Eugene O'Hagan wrote: "This has been a privileged time for us in many unexpected

ways. We are, each of us, mindful of the exhortation of the late Pope John Paul II to 'put out into the deep' where, leaving the security of the familiar shoreline, we may have the chance of helping those at risk of being swept along by perilous currents and tides, mindful to avoid being caught up in them ourselves. This is a challenge made to every follower of Christ in every era and no less urgent in today's modern world."

Father Eugene O'Hagan said Bishop Noel Treanor of Down and Connor "is delighted that he has three priests putting the diocese on the map." He said Bishop Treanor's predecessor, Bishop Patrick Walsh, "was happy to endorse us. He knew we'd been singing since our seminary years."

While in New York the Priests sang at a private Sony BMG reception held in their honor at Providence, a New York nightclub, which was the Manhattan Baptist Church from the 1920s to the 1960s. Its cathedral ceiling, arched windows and exposed beams are still intact.

The acoustics in the place are so good it was the home of Media Sound Studios in the 1970s and 1980s, hosting recording sessions for Jimi Hendrix, Billy Joel, John Lennon, the Rolling Stones, James Taylor and other legendary rock performers.

The Priests, wearing clerical garb and standing with their hands at their sides, sang five songs from a small unadorned platform. The cover art for their album, a Celtic cross on a white background, was projected on the windows on either side of the stage. They were accompanied by pianist Danny O'Neill.

Their performance was introduced by Nick Raphael, managing director of Sony's Epic Records. "This is not a religious project. It's a project of passion," he said. "These guys are passionate about what they do."

Richard Palmese, executive vice president for promotion for

RCA Music Group, said that as an executive he is "excited about the great music and the vocal talents of our three artists."

"As a Catholic I'm proud to be able to support their ministry," he said. "It's a celebration of popular spiritual music and a celebration of the priesthood. The priests are bringing a message to millions through the ministry of song."

Palmese continued, "These are hit songs, spiritual classics we've grown up with, songs that we cherish. It's a very worthy product commercially and spiritually. We need evangelism in these times."

He acknowledged the Priests is not a typical group for RCA and joked that its members were the first artists in his more than 30 years in the business that he can promote without going to confession.

Father Delargy said the three priests were grateful for the encouragement of their confreres, whom he described as "a very strong fraternity of priests. They are delighted for us and very supportive."

The O'Hagan brothers added that their 93-year-old father was "over-the-moon" happy for them and convinced that their recently deceased mother "is having words with God" to assure their success.

**Editor's Note:** The Priests' Web site, [www.ThePriests.com](http://www.ThePriests.com), has samples of their music and an interactive blog.

## Free trial courses offered by Ancilla College

DONALDSON — Ancilla College announced plans to continue the We Believe in You program for spring 2009.

Designed for prospective students 21-years and older who have never attended college, We Believe in You allows a student to take up to three credit hours free of charge. In addition, all students in the program will have an academic advisor to assist them with all aspects of attending college for the first time, including the registration process, filing a financial aid application and determining their education opportunities.

"We have seen the program grow over the past couple of years with more people participating and earning college credits at Ancilla," said Erin Alonzo, director of admissions. "Some students have come to us just to take one class and others have continued with their pursuit to an associate degree. It is great to see someone take advantage of this opportunity and take a free class and go back to their employer and demonstrate their new skills."

All classes will be offered on the Donaldson campus so there is a greater variety of options for students to take. Alonzo also stressed that students will be able to have their college transcripts once they have finished the course.

For more information on We Believe in You, please contact the Ancilla College Admissions Office at (574) 936-8898.

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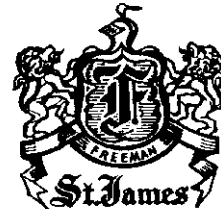
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# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

## MISC. HAPPENINGS

### Ham and turkey dinner

New Haven — St. Louis Besancon, 15535 Lincoln Highway East, will have a ham and turkey dinner on Sunday, Nov. 23, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. A complete holiday meal will be served along with raffles, silent auction and country craft store. Cost is \$7 for adults, \$5 for ages 5-13 and under 5 free.

### Holiday home party expo

New Haven — St. Louis Academy HASA will have a home party expo Saturday, Nov. 29, from 3-6 p.m. and Sunday Nov. 30, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parish hall. Vendors include Longaberger, Gold Canyon, Pampered Chef, Premier Designs, designer purses, Beauty Control, Mary Kay, Creative Memories, Home Interiors, Tupperware and more. Admission is free. Call (260) 749-5815 for more information.

### Catholic/Lutheran Advent Vespers Service

Fort Wayne — An Avent Vespers Service will be held at St. Matthew Lutheran Church, 2305 Goshen Rd., Sunday, Nov. 30, at 5 p.m. Refreshments and fellowship will follow the service.

### Christmas party and Corporate Communion planned

South Bend — The Daughters of Isabella, Notre Dame Circle 572, will hold a Christmas party on Monday, Dec. 1, at 1 p.m. at the Waterford Estates Lodge, State Rd. 933 N. For reservations call (574) 287-1487 by Nov. 24. A Corporate Communion is planned for Sunday, Dec. 7, at the 9 a.m. Mass at St. Anthony

Church at Ironwood and Jefferson streets. Breakfast will follow at Allie's Cafe, 2323 Mishawaka Ave.

### Blood drive

Yoder — A blood drive will be Sunday, Dec. 14, at St. Aloysius Parish gym from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

### Ten Thousand Villages offers volunteer training for holiday help

South Bend — Ten Thousand Villages, 214 W. Cleveland Rd., will offer volunteer training Tuesday, Nov. 25, from 2-4 p.m. Ten Thousand Villages is a non-profit fair trade gift store supporting artisans in 36 developing and under developed countries. Duties may include telling artisan stories, stocking shelves, dusting and assisting customers. Call (574) 277-4900 for information.

### Advent day of recollection

Fort Wayne — St. Vincent de Paul Parish will offer "A Journey Through Advent," a day of recollection Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Spiritual Center. Lunch will be potluck style. A free-will offering will be taken to cover materials. Bring a pen/pencil and Bible. To register call (260) 490-9571.

### St. Nicholas Day party

South Bend — A St. Nicholas Day (Mikolaj) party will be Friday, Dec. 5, at St. Casimir Parish at 6:30 p.m. in the annex at the corner of Dunham and Webster streets. A traditional Polish meal will be served, including homemade pierogi, noodles, beef and coffee cake. Polish and English Christmas carols will be sung and there will

be a visit from St. Nicholas. Tickets can be purchased at the parish office by calling (574) 287-9551. The cost is \$6 for adults and \$3 for children, ages 5-12.

### St. Augustine offers greenery

South Bend — St. Augustine Parish will have a greenery sale Saturday, Dec. 6, from 9-10 a.m. Order wreaths, \$17; swags, \$13; Advent centerpieces, \$26 or garland, \$16, by Nov. 30 to Mary Filbert at (574) 234-7992.

## FUNDRAISERS

### Pancake breakfast helps support Women's Care Center

Fort Wayne — The St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Knights of Columbus on U.S. 27 S, are having a pancake, egg and whole hog sausage breakfast and bake sale Sunday, Dec. 14, from 8 a.m. to noon. A free-will offering will be taken to support the Woman's Care Center. Bake sale proceeds will benefit the food pantry.

### Knights plan spaghetti dinner

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Nov. 21, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$7, children (5-12) \$3. Carry-out available.

### Turkey bingo

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth HASA will have Turkey bingo Sunday, Nov. 23, at St. Elizabeth's school cafeteria from 1-3 p.m. Food, family and fun includes bingo prizes of Scrip certificates, cash and frozen turkeys.

## REST IN PEACE

### Columbia City

Catherine Gatchell, 83, St. Paul of the Cross

### Elkhart

Jeanne R. Longbrake, 66, St. Thomas the Apostle

Dorothy L. Bedell, 86, St. Thomas the Apostle

### Fort Wayne

Mary Ellen Furge, 70, Most Precious Blood

Delores I. Zink, 89, Our Lady of Good Hope

Robert J. Hensler, Sr., 83, St. Charles Borromeo

Jack Richardson, 83, St. Mary

Donald J. Craighead, Sr., 94, St. Jude

Edward A. LaRocque, 83, St. Charles Borromeo

Catherine T. Hesley, 84, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

### Mishawaka

Lillian C. Solfronk, 96, Queen of Peace

Maxine S. Weber, 87, Queen of Peace

Richard R. Martens, 85, St. Monica

Alice E. Pritts, 96, St. Joseph

Sister M. Grace Clemens, OSF, 77, St. Francis Convent

### New Haven

Harold A. Oberley, 88, St. Louis-Besancon

### South Bend

Benjamin S. Gasko, 84, St. Casimir

Evelyn B. Kovatch, 87, Our Lady of Hungary

Cheryl A. Rucano, 56, Corpus Christi

Richard Trzaskowski, 68, Holy Family

Agnes M. Zieger, 98, St. Anthony de Padua

Janet M. Hojara, 77, Holy Cross

Maxine Scherman, 90, Corpus Christi

Karen A. Sloma, 59, Christ the King

John L. Borich, 66, Holy Family

Mary E. Denslow, 92, St. Matthew Cathedral

### Yoder

Samuel C. Dampman, 73, St. Aloysius,

### Cookie walk announced

Fort Wayne — The Christ Child Society will have a cookie walk

Saturday, Nov. 22, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish hall.



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# Bishops approve blessing service for children in the womb

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

BALTIMORE (CNS) — To fill a gap in existing prayer books, the U.S. bishops Nov. 11 overwhelmingly approved a liturgical service in English and Spanish for blessing children in the womb.

Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., praised the new blessing as “a tangible way to witness pastorally and sacramentally to the life of the unborn child” and said it could also serve as an opportunity for parishes to bring together expectant couples for mutual support.

Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer of San Angelo, Texas, said the document could present “a great catechetical moment for all of us.” He said he hoped it might lead the bishops to declare an annual day of prayer for the unborn in the future.

The document required the approval of two-thirds of the Latin-rite members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and must be sent to the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments for “recognition,” or confirmation. The English-language version was approved 223-1 and the Spanish-language version 224-0.

Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli of Paterson, N.J., chairman of the bishops' Committee on Divine Worship, introduced the document Nov. 10, the first day of the USCCB fall general assembly in Baltimore.



A basket containing prayer cards for expectant parents sits next to a baptismal font at St. Gerard Majella Church in Port Jefferson Station, N.Y., Nov. 2. The U.S. bishops will vote on a new service to bless a child in the womb during their fall meeting in Baltimore.

CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHEMITZ

He said the blessing, which had been approved both by his committee and by the Committee on Pro-Life Activities, “was prepared to support the parents awaiting the birth of their child, to encourage in the parish prayers for and recognition of the precious gift of the child in the womb, and to foster

respect for human life within society.”

The blessing can be used in the context of a Mass or outside a Mass, and for an individual mother, a couple or a group of expectant parents.

Bishop Serratelli said the pro-life committee had received

requests from “a number of dioceses” for such a document.

The blessing includes intercessions “for our government and civic leaders that they may perform their duties with justice and compassion while respecting the gift of human life” and “for a safe and healthy pregnancy for all

expectant mothers and for a safe delivery for their children.”

It also expresses concern “for children who are unwanted, unloved, abandoned or abused, that the Lord will inspire his people to protect and care for them.”

If used as a blessing outside Mass, the service includes introductory prayers, Scripture readings, intercessions, the actual blessing of the mother and child, and a concluding rite.

“May almighty God, who has created new life, now bless the child in your womb,” the blessing says. “The Lord has brought you the joy of motherhood: May he bless you with a safe and healthy pregnancy. You thank the Lord today for the gift of your child: May he bring you and your child one day to share in the unending joys of heaven.”

There are also optional prayers for fathers, for families and for the parish community.

Once approved by the Vatican, the blessing will be included in future editions of the Book of Blessings when that liturgical text is revised.

But Bishop Earl A. Boyea of Lansing, Mich., asked that consideration be given to putting the blessing also in the book “Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers” so that it could be used in other than church services.

“It could be useful to those marching outside abortion clinics, to bless the mothers and children inside,” he said.

## Breast cancer patient is ‘brewing for a cure’

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — It's all a matter of perspective for Kim Richards.

Richards, an active mother of two and co-owner of the Higher Grounds coffee shops in the Fort Wayne area, was diagnosed in July with an aggressive form of breast cancer.

But her outlook remains positive.

Now faced with a great sense of uncertainty, she said death isn't something to fear.

“I get to go to a better place if that happens,” she said.

Shortly after her 38th birthday on July 14, Richards found a lump on her breast. Following a doctor's visit, sonogram, mammogram and

biopsy, it was clear cancer was a possibility. Richards then spent, as she described it, “the longest three days” waiting for the results.

With no family history, youth and being a non-smoker, she seemed an unlikely victim. But cancer is blind, she soon found out. Within a few week's time, she had lost a breast, had two tumors removed and was diagnosed with Triple Negative Cancer, a rare form of the disease with a 30-percent cure rate.

Time seemed to be moving at an alarming speed. “Everything was moving so fast,” she said. “It caused me to slow down.”

Still, there are days rife with introspection.

“Sometimes I sit and think, ‘I can't believe I have cancer.’”

Richards said.

Richards said a healthy dose of realism coupled with faith is what gets her through the day.

“I'm preparing for the odds. ... It's in God's hands,” she said. “Whatever happens ... it's gonna happen.”

But what she does have control over, she said, is making people more aware of the disease.

“No one is exempt from the disease,” she said. But you can pray for more research and a cure, she noted.

Currently Richards is undergoing chemotherapy and remaining optimistic about her prognosis.

In the meantime, she has set up an online journal to further raise awareness and share her journey: [www.caringbridge.org/visit/kimrichards](http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/kimrichards). This is



PROVIDED BY THE RICHARDS FAMILY

In this family photo, Kim poses with daughter Morgan, husband John and daughter Macy.

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a medium for friends and family to share their love and support during the long road ahead.

Support Kim by purchasing and wearing a “Brewing for a Cure” T-shirt available at Higher Grounds shops at St. Joe Village, Dupont and Midtowne Village locations. A

portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Triple Negative Cancer Research Foundation. To check out all the Higher Grounds locations and order a “Brewing for a Cure” T-shirt, go to [www.highergroundsonline.com](http://www.highergroundsonline.com).