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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Rallies mark abortion anniversary in Washington, diocese

BY CHAZ MUTH

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Thousands of pro-life marchers are expected to rally in Washington Jan. 22 to commemorate the 36th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion, just days after President-elect Barack Obama is inaugurated.

Abortion opponents also will hold multiple events in the nation's capital and throughout the U.S. the day before and the day of the official 2009 March for Life, as well as the following days.

The main event will begin with a noon rally on the National Mall, followed by a march along Constitution Avenue that will end at the U.S. Supreme Court. From there, participants are encouraged to meet with members of Congress to lobby on abortion-related issues.

"The first session of the 111th Congress will convene in January, with all newly elected members of the House and many newly elected members of the Senate," organizers of the march wrote on the official Web site, www.marchforlife.org. "We shall be a large group of Americans to bring our prayers and our important simple pro-life message to this new administration and new Congress."

With millions expected in Washington for inauguration events the week of Jan. 19 and the thousands of participants anticipated for the march and related

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CNS PHOTO/BOB ROLLER

Gina Heitkamp displays a sign while sitting on the shoulders of Ben Fortkamp during the 35th annual March for Life rally in Washington in 2008. People from across the nation will march and protest in Washington Jan. 22 to mark the 36th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision to legalize abortion.

'SILENT NIGHT' IN THE BURMESE LANGUAGE



On Christmas day, Bishop John M. D'Arcy celebrated Mass at MacDougal Chapel with Burmese Catholics. Bishop D'Arcy concelebrated Mass with Father Philip, a priest studying theology at the seminary in the Archdiocese of New York, and who speaks Burmese and English.

Diocese organizes postcard campaign opposing FOCA

Bishop John M. D'Arcy has affirmed a national postcard campaign at all parishes in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend on the weekend of Jan. 24-25 to oppose the proposed legislation, the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA). The diocesan campaign is coordinated by the Office of Family Life.

The diocese will provide to parishes strips of three postcards — two for the Indiana senators and one for the appropriate Congressional representative — that will be placed in the weekend's bulletin, as well some extra postcards to be available at the back of church. Parishioners are encouraged to mail the postcards to their legislators.

At their November 2008 general meeting, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops approved the "Fight FOCA Postcard Campaign." The campaign is cosponsored by the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment.

A release that was shared with all priests in the diocese explained why this postcard campaign is needed. FOCA, it said, is a radi-

cal piece of legislation that creates a fundamental right to abortion throughout the nine months of pregnancy. No governmental body at any level — federal, state or local — would be able to "deny or interfere with" this right, or to "discriminate" against its exercise" in the regulation or provision of benefits, services or information." For the first time, abortion would become an entitlement the government must fund and promote.

The release explained that FOCA goes far beyond the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade abortion decision of 1973. A broad range of laws currently allowed under Roe would be eliminated — informed consent laws; parental involvement laws; laws promoting maternal health; abortion clinic regulations; government programs and facilities that support childbirth and other health care without subsidizing abortion; conscience protection laws; laws prohibiting a particular abortion procedure (e.g., partial birth abortion); laws

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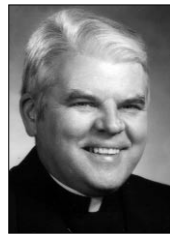
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Bishop D'Arcy plans to pray, march for the unborn in D.C.



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

A time of pilgrimage

For the first time, I will go to Washington to take part in the March for Life, which has taken place every year, since the Supreme Court struck down laws which had protected the unborn child in all 50 states.

I go to pray. My co-directors of Family Life and Pro-Life, Fred and Lisa Everett, who have worked with me over 20 years, said some weeks ago, "Bishop, if you go, more young people will come."

How could one refuse? Two days of prayer on behalf of life. It will begin on Jan. 21 at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, where there will be a Mass for thousands with many bishops concelebrating and young people present from all over the country.

The next morning, I have volunteered to hear confessions in the basilica. This will be followed by Mass in a large indoor stadium, and then a march, which we expect to be accompanied not only by people of our own four Catholic high schools, but also by students from our colleges and universities, with a large group from Notre Dame.

Because of anxiety about the attitude of the incoming administration on this critical issue, the march takes on a special signifi-

cance. Pope John Paul II always prayed for, and praised, and expected, a "culture of life." This culture includes people who work in pregnancy centers, like our Women's Care Center, which in all its centers, sees 10,000 young women a year. In the Fort Wayne center alone, 45 women come every day and receive kindness and pro-life counseling, as well as pregnancy testing, and encouragement to have the child.

They also receive clothing and nutritional advice and help, all done with love and respect. They are encouraged and motivated to see the doctor, so the baby is born healthy and strong. It is not convenient to take this overnight trip to Washington, but the bishop is a teacher; and this is a day of teaching on the dignity of every person, and the value of every life. I urge everyone to reread again the encyclical letter of Pope John Paul II, "The Gospel of Life."

This exhortation should resound with special force in the hearts of those members of the church who directly share, in different ways, in her mission as "teacher" of the truth. May it resound above all for us who are bishops: we are the first ones called to be untiring preachers of the Gospel of life. We are also entrusted with the task of ensuring that the doctrine which is once again being set forth in this encyclical is faithfully handed on in its integrity. We must use appropriate means to defend the faithful from all teaching which is contrary to it.

So, I go to Washington to teach, and to pray, and also to learn from our beloved young people.

A few days at home

Back now, to a busy January, after a few days in the home where I grew up, visiting my two sisters and their families, and the family of my deceased sister, Mary. Staying in the home of my dear parents, purchased by them over 60 years ago.

I have been reading a little book by Pope Benedict XVI, entitled "John Paul II, My Beloved Predecessor." Included is a talk, which he gave in the home town of Karol Wojtyla — Pope John Paul II.

He quotes the famous German poet, Goethe, who says that if you want to understand the soul of a poet, go to the country of his origin. The Holy Father says that those who wish to understand the life and ministry of John Paul II must come the city of his birth.

My home town, with its three-decker homes, is a place I find enriching to visit. It has changed a bit, but is still a town of immigrants. My parish church, sadly, is closed, and the great seminary mostly sold to a nearby university.

My dear friend, Father Tom McDonnell, an exemplary priest, whose columns on Catholic spirituality often grace this newspaper, as they did during Advent, is severely ill with cancer. Still, we were able to visit and go for a nice lunch. I made my confession to him and experienced again his intention to keep working for the Gospel through his writing, as long as God gives him strength.

You go to your home town to drink deeply of the beautiful people you knew there, many of them now gone to God, but some still living. The age of the homes and the familiarity of the place is restorative, in a way that is hard to understand. I think you learn in a new way, how present God was to you in the earliest stages of your life, how he guided you, put you in a certain place with a certain family and friends, and a certain culture, a place where you first learned to pray. A visit home, like the one I just experienced, draws one to acts of thanksgiving.

I will see you all next week.

Emotional Archbishop Vigneron returns home

BY JOE KOHN

DETROIT (CNS) — Applause and even some cheers filled the room as Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron was escorted in front of priests, church employees, media and Catholic school students at Sacred Heart Major Seminary to be introduced as the next shepherd of the Detroit Archdiocese.

Currently the bishop of Oakland, Calif., the Mount Clemens native was named Jan. 5 by Pope Benedict XVI to succeed Cardinal Adam J. Maida as the archbishop of Detroit, effective upon his installation Jan. 28.

"On this first day of my appointment as archbishop, my thoughts and prayers are particularly focused on the priests, the deacons and seminarians, the religious and the lay faithful I will serve here," said a visibly emotional Archbishop Vigneron during his introduction. "Because I am a son of this archdiocese, they have

long been dear to me. Now that I have become the spiritual father of this local church, I want them to know they are even dearer still."

Archbishop Vigneron, 60, will become the first head of the Detroit Archdiocese to have been ordained as a priest for the archdiocese. He grew up at Immaculate Conception Parish in Anchorville, now Ira Township, before attending Sacred Heart Seminary in Detroit and being ordained by Cardinal John Dearden in 1975.

At his introduction Jan. 5, he was flanked by Archdiocese of Detroit spokesman Ned McGrath and Cardinal Maida.

"We may be 175 years old, but we still know how to make history," said McGrath, referring to Detroit's current jubilee year and the historic nature of a native son being named the archbishop.

Before being named coadjutor bishop of Oakland in 2003, Archbishop Vigneron served as an associate pastor, a seminary professor, rector of Sacred Heart

Major Seminary, and an auxiliary bishop in the Archdiocese of Detroit.

Cardinal Maida, who ordained Archbishop Vigneron as a bishop in 1996, showed his support for his successor throughout the day, first in front of media, and later with priests and employees of the archdiocese.

"Both the Holy Spirit and the Holy Father know of Archbishop Vigneron's gifts and talents as well as the many needs that we have here in Detroit," said Cardinal Maida, who had submitted his letter of resignation to the Vatican in March 2005 upon his 75th birthday, as is required by church law. "Over the years, I have valued his friendship and come to appreciate his wisdom, pastoral sensitivity and loving care for all those in need. It is a great blessing to have him return back to us."

Because he had spent most of his life and ministry in the Archdiocese of Detroit, many in the church of Detroit are familiar

with the new archbishop, especially through Sacred Heart Major Seminary.

"He's a very intelligent man and a good teacher, but also with a pastoral heart," said Msgr. Charles Kosanke, current rector of SS. Cyril & Methodius Seminary in Orchard Lake.

Another contingent excited about the new archbishop was his own family. Archbishop Vigneron's parents and four of his five siblings still live in the archdiocese.

"We feel blessed, first of all, to have him back home," said Gary Vigneron, the new archbishop's brother. "We missed him while he was in California. We're a very close family."

He said his parents, now both in their 80s, were excited to hear the news about their son's appointment.

"He goes where the Spirit leads him, he always says. It's a really joyful day for all of us," said Gary Vigneron.

Today's Catholic delivery to all registered Catholic homes

On Feb. 1, *Today's Catholic* will be sent to the home of every registered Catholic in the Diocese Fort Wayne-South Bend. We are excited and humbled by this increase in circulation; however, we realize there will be several questions. We hope to answer some here:

• What if I still have remaining years on my subscription?

Your 2008 subscription will expire with the Jan. 27, 2009 issue. We realize that some renewed last year for more than one year, if that is the case we would suggest that you treat those prepaid years as a donation to the diocese.

• What if I purchased a gift subscription for someone?

If the recipient is a registered Catholic in the diocese he/she will receive the paper automatically starting Feb. 1, 2009. If the gift subscription was for longer than one year question one would apply.

If the recipient lives out of state, he/she will continue to receive the paper as a subscription and that subscription will have to be renewed and paid for

as in the past.

Today's Catholic will only be available to registered Catholics in the Diocese Fort Wayne-South Bend as a gift from Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

• What if I do not choose to use prepaid subscription years as a donation?

Please call our office, (260) 456-2824 and we will reimburse you for the remaining years. Reimbursements will only be made if the subscription was paid for more than one year (2008).

• If I live in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and I am not registered in a parish, can I purchase a subscription to *Today's Catholic*?

No, the only subscription program will involve those who reside outside the diocese. Anyone will be able to access the digital version online.

• If I am a registered Catholic in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend and spend my winters in a warmer climate will I still receive my paper?

Yes, your winter address is considered a temporary change of address. Please notify our office two weeks prior to your departure in order to receive your paper without interruption.

Being registered in your current parish is extremely important, as well as being registered in only one parish. Often people move and do not report the move to their previous parish consequently they are registered in two parishes. If this is the case you will most likely receive two papers. Please call our office at (260) 456-2824 and we will correct your information.

As Bishop D'Arcy wrote in "News & Notes" on Jan. 4, 2009, our newspaper is an instrument of evangelization and we ask God's blessing on this new effort.

LETTER FROM BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Bishop asks for prayers, penance on behalf of unborn, president-elect

My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This week we will observe two important days in the life of our nation.

First, on Jan. 20, the historic inauguration of our 44th president. It is a source of encouragement to all Americans that a man of African-American heritage will assume this high office. As followers of Christ and citizens of this great land, we are called to pray for him. The challenges which he faces are enormous, and I ask everyone on Inauguration Day, and on the days that follow, to ask God to give him the light and wisdom and courage, which he will need; and to pray, also, for our new Congress. Let us make this part of our daily prayer.

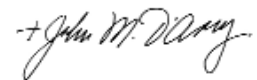
On Jan. 22, we will observe the anniversary of the infamous *Roe v. Wade* decision, which declared that the taking of the life of the unborn child is a constitutional right, effectively making abortion on demand a reality in our land.

This day has been designated by our bishops, as a day of prayer and penance on behalf of the unborn.

In his great encyclical, "The Gospel of Life," Pope John Paul II reminded us that, "Jesus himself, has shown us by his own example, that prayer and fasting are the first and most effective weapons against the forces of evil." The late Holy Father encouraged us to, "discover a new humility and courage to pray and fast, so that power from on high will break down the walls of both lies and deceit: the walls which conceal from the sight of so many of our brothers and sisters, the evil of practices and laws, which are hostile to life." Everyone can pray and do penance. Prayer and sacrifice arising from our hearts, like incense offered to God, constitutes a petition that more will come forward to protect the unborn child, change evil laws and transform the hearts of our elected leaders and of those who perform this terrible act.

I shall go to Washington to be a part of the culture of life and to encourage our young people.

With every best wish and prayer, I remain
Sincerely yours in our Lord,



Most Reverend John M. D'Arcy

More than two dozen US bishops could retire for age reasons in 2009

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Following the Jan. 5 retirements of 78-year-old Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit and Bishop John J. McRaith of Owensboro, Ky., up to 27 more U.S. bishops, including three cardinals, could retire because of age this year.

There are 16 active U.S. bishops, including three cardinals, who have already turned 75. Eleven more will celebrate their 75th birthday in 2009.

At age 75 bishops are requested to submit their resignation to the pope.

Cardinal Bernard F. Law, archpriest of St. Mary Major Basilica in Rome and a cardinal since 1985, turned 75 Nov. 4, 2006.

Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York, whose 75th birthday was April 2, 2007, also celebrated 50 years as a priest that year.

Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, a Baltimore native who marked his 75th birthday July 26, 2007, has been the Vatican's major peniten-

tiary since 2003.

The 13 other active U.S. bishops who are already 75 and the dates of their 75th birthday are:

- Bishop Manuel Batakian of the Eparchy of Our Lady of Nareg in New York for Armenian Catholics; Nov. 5, 2004.

- Auxiliary Bishop John M. Dougherty of Scranton, Pa.; April 29, 2007.

- Archbishop Elden F. Curtiss of Omaha, Neb.; June 16, 2007.

- Bishop James A. Murray of Kalamazoo, Mich.; July 5, 2007.

- Bishop James M. Moynihan of Syracuse, N.Y.; July 6, 2007.

- Bishop John M. D'Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind.; Aug. 18, 2007.

- Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes of New Orleans; Dec. 2, 2007.

- Bishop Arthur N. Tafoya of Pueblo, Colo.; March 2, 2008.

- Bishop Edward P. Cullen of Allentown, Pa.; March 15, 2008.

- Bishop William L. Higi of Lafayette, Ind.; Aug. 29, 2008.

- Bishop Bernard J. Harrington of Winona, Minn.; Sept. 6, 2008.

- Bishop Tomas A. Camacho of

Chalan Kanoa, Northern Marianas; Sept. 18, 2008.

- Auxiliary Bishop Robert P. Maginnis of Philadelphia; Dec. 22, 2008.

The 11 currently active bishops who will turn 75 in 2009 and their birthdays are:

- Auxiliary Bishop Francis X. Irwin of Boston, Jan. 9.

- Bishop Edmond Carmody of Corpus Christi, Texas, Jan. 12.

- Archbishop Alexander J. Brunett of Seattle, Jan. 17.

- Bishop Raymundo J. Pena of Brownsville, Texas, Feb. 19.

- Auxiliary Bishop Ignatius Wang of San Francisco, Feb. 27.

- Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., March 2.

- Bishop Patrick R. Cooney of Gaylord, Mich., March 10.

- Bishop Robert J. Hermann, apostolic administrator of St. Louis, Aug. 12.

- Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati, Aug. 12.

- Archbishop Eusebius J. Beltran of Oklahoma City, Aug. 31.

- Auxiliary Bishop Guy Sansaric of Brooklyn, N.Y., Oct. 6.

FOCA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

requiring that abortions only be performed by a licensed physician; and so on.

No other piece of legislation, the release said, would have such a destructive impact on society's ability to limit or regulate abortion. FOCA would impose an extreme abortion regimen on our country. Despite its misleading name, it would deprive the American people of the freedom they now have to set at least some limits on the abortion industry.

Pro-abortion groups, the release added, have been trying to pass FOCA since 1989. Now, the U.S. has a new Congress being more disposed than any in recent years to pass the bill and a new president who has said he will sign it into law.

FOCA embodies the public policy goals of pro-abortion

groups. These groups will promote the bill's passage directly, and also advance its agenda by working to reverse pro-life laws one at a time — for example, by overturning existing federal laws against funding and promoting abortion.

The Fight FOCA Postcard Campaign sends the message to Congress that the radical policies of FOCA are out of step with the most basic values of the American people and should not become a part of our nation's laws in any way, the release explained.

These postcards give parishioners, as individuals and as a body, an opportunity to give public witness to their belief in the sanctity of human life. In fact, through the Indiana Catholic Conference Web site, parishioners have the opportunity not only to stay informed about important issues on the state or federal level, but also to easily e-mail their representatives by simply entering their address on the Legislative Action Center page. The Indiana Catholic Conference Web site is www.indianacc.org.

Cardinal Laghi, former nuncio to U.S., dies at 86

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Italian Cardinal Pio Laghi, a former Vatican nuncio to the United States who tried to convince President George W. Bush not to invade Iraq in 2003, died Jan. 10 at the age of 86.

Cardinal Laghi had been suffering from a blood disorder, but told a conference just before Christmas that he thought the worst had passed. On that occasion, speaking by webcam from his Vatican apartment, he again expressed his deep disappointment that Bush did not heed Pope John Paul II's warnings about the possible consequences of the war in Iraq.

Those possibilities, the cardinal said, have now become realities: a drawn-out war, massive casualties, new tensions among Iraqi religious and ethnic groups, and greater Muslim hostility toward Christians.

Pope John Paul had sent Cardinal Laghi to Washington as his personal envoy to meet with Bush and to try to persuade him to avoid military action in Iraq. The cardinal later said he felt Bush and his aides had already made up their minds to invade the country and did not seem willing to listen to more input.

The president acted almost as if he were divinely inspired and "seemed to truly believe in a war of good against evil," Cardinal Laghi said.

At the Dec. 22 conference on



CNS FILE PHOTO

Italian Cardinal Pio Laghi, former Vatican nuncio to the United States who tried to convince President George W. Bush not to invade Iraq in 2003, died Jan. 10 at the age of 86. He is pictured in an undated photo.

the future of U.S.-Vatican relations, Cardinal Laghi said the Vatican was concerned about President-elect Barack Obama's positions on the family and on the unborn, but looked forward with hope to his presidency fostering more attention to the poor and easing violence around the globe.

He noted the "huge exodus" of Christians from Iraq and the "real persecution" of those who have remained in the country, and said it would not have

occurred if the war had been avoided.

In a telegram Jan. 12 offering his condolences to the cardinal's nieces and nephews, Pope Benedict XVI praised the cardinal for "long and generous service to the Holy See, particularly as papal representative in various countries and as prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education."

In a statement released by the White House Jan. 11, Bush offered his condolences to Pope Benedict and to all Catholics.

"Cardinal Laghi was a friend who, in his more than 60 years of service to the Catholic Church, worked tirelessly for peace and justice in our world," Bush said. "Cardinal Laghi always strove to unite people of all religions and promote reconciliation, religious freedom and tolerance."

Cardinal Angelo Sodano, dean of the College of Cardinals, was scheduled to preside over the cardinal's funeral Mass Jan. 13 in St. Peter's Basilica. Pope Benedict was to be present at the end of the Mass to deliver remarks and preside over the final commendation.

Cardinal Laghi's death leaves the College of Cardinals with 190 members, 116 of whom are under age 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a papal conclave.

Cardinal Laghi was a seasoned Vatican diplomat who spent a total of 17 years in the United States, first as an assistant to papal representatives in

the late 1950s, then as the Vatican representative. When the Vatican and the United States established full diplomatic relations in 1984, he was named the first apostolic nuncio.

In 1990, Pope John Paul named him head of the Congregation for Catholic Education, a position he held until his retirement in 1999.

But even in retirement he continued serving as Pope John Paul's personal envoy to troubled parts of the globe.

After renewed tensions between Israelis and Palestinians erupted in late 2000, Pope John Paul sent the cardinal to the Holy Land to try to convince Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian leader Yasser

Arafat to halt the violence and return to negotiations.

The Italian cardinal was known as an urbane diplomat with a ready wit who was fluent in English, Spanish and French, in addition to his native Italian. He was an avid player of racquetball, squash and tennis, which he reportedly used to play with President George H.W. Bush.

He entered the Vatican diplomatic service in 1952, six years after he was ordained a priest, and was named apostolic delegate in the United States in December 1980.

During his years in Washington he was also the Holy See's permanent observer to the

Organization of American States.

He played a mediating role in a number of difficult issues in the U.S. church, including widely publicized tensions between U.S. bishops and the Vatican in the mid-1980s, the Vatican's 1986 attempt to strip Seattle Archbishop Raymond E. Hunthausen of some areas of

pastoral authority, and a two-year controversy surrounding a group of nuns who signed an ad on abortion in *The New York Times* and were ordered by the Vatican to recant.

Pio Laghi was born May 21, 1922, in Castiglione, a small town in north-central Italy. When he entered the Vatican diplomatic corps in 1952, his first assignment was for two years at the Vatican

Embassy in Nicaragua.

After assignments as an assistant to Vatican diplomats in the United States and in India, in 1964 he returned to Rome to work at the Vatican Secretariat of State.

In 1969 he was made an archbishop and was appointed apostolic delegate in Jerusalem and Palestine. In 1971 he was given the additional post of papal nuncio to Cyprus, and in 1972 the job of apostolic visitor to Greece was added to his duties. In 1974, he moved to South America as nuncio to Argentina, a position he held until 1980.

Pope John Paul named him to the College of Cardinals in 1991.

"Cardinal Laghi was a friend who, in his more than 60 years of service to the Catholic Church, worked tirelessly for peace and justice in our world."

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Margarita Rodriguez: On a mission dear to her heart

Hispanic outreach coordinator works with the Office of Family Life

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — “The Hispanic community is like a diamond mine waiting for the miner to discover it and get it’s riches. We need to protect it.”

Margarita Rodriguez, who coordinates the newly created Hispanic Outreach for the Diocesan Office of Family Life, is excited to share her ministry with area parishes and knows there is much to be done.

“Our main responsibilities and most immediate goals for the Hispanic community are to share God’s plan for marriage with the retreats required by the diocese,” explains Rodriguez. “The specific dates are not yet confirmed, but they will be offered in April, May, September and October.”

Rodriguez is from Aguascalientes, Mexico, where she completed two years of business administration studies before moving to the United States and continuing her education at Indiana University-South Bend. She postponed those studies to give birth to her children, three of whom now attend grade school at Holy Cross with the two older children attend Marian High School. A busy wife and mother, Rodriguez is thankful for a job that is both family-friendly and a mission dear to her heart.

“The institution of marriage and the family is attacked in many ways,” says Rodriguez. “By defending life we are also supporting and defending the family. We will be providing education and information support, while renewing and reinforcing the teachings of the church with the theology of the body to strengthen marriage and parenthood.”

Rodriguez has a strong pro-life background, having taught and counseled young mothers facing crisis pregnancy in her community. Rodriguez says her time with the Women’s Care Center helps her in countless ways as she tackles her new job.

“The Women’s Care Center is one of those great places where you meet Jesus’ needs,” explains Rodriguez. “It’s where you get the great chance to defend life, and a daily chance to show Jesus’ unconditional love in so many ways to all people. It was there that I got to see closely the suffering of our community, especially how life and the family have been and continue to be under attack by the culture of death fed to us aggressively in so many ways. If it is because of lack of knowledge of God’s plan for our lives that we are suffering, then it is about time we do everything we can to counterattack evil by living truly God’s culture of life.”



DIANE FREEBY

Margarita Rodriguez is the Hispanic outreach coordinator for the diocesan Office of Family Life.

“It was at the Women’s Care Center that I felt a strong call to share everything I learned to defend life,” continues Rodriguez, who began her work at the care center as an instructor for the Spanish-speaking parenting classes. “It was also clear that the Spanish community doesn’t have all the resources, programs and support to battle this war. I realized we all need to know more to help, and what a great responsibility we share with our priests and bishops.”

In addition to teaching Natural

Family Planning (NFP) courses to area parishes, Rodriguez is committed to learning all she can so she can share that knowledge with the community. Pope John Paul II’s theology of the body is one of her most valued resources, and it is taught as part of every introductory NFP course the diocese offers. Rodriguez says Spanish-speaking NFP courses are currently scheduled for Jan. 31 at St. Adalbert’s in South Bend and Feb. 7 at St. Patrick’s in Fort Wayne.

“I do embrace it so much and feel this need to share it with peo-

ple, especially the connection between artificial contraception and pro-life issues.” Rodriguez continues, “The initial class is important because we give the facts and they finally understand why the church has always been against contraception. So far, people have been very receptive. Once they take the first class, nearly everyone signs up for the entire course.”

Project Gabriel is another ministry embraced by Hispanic outreach, and Rodriguez is involved in this parish-based effort.

“The Project Gabriel is an effort of our church to help the Lord and his Angel Gabriel in delivering God’s words of encouragement, hope and love to protect the unborn and support expectant mothers,” explains Rodriguez. “I’m a Gabriel angel. ... We provide the spiritual and emotional support needed by women in need. We want to be a source of

hope and love.”

Immigration issues remain an ongoing challenge for parish communities across the country and within the diocese. Through her work, Rodriguez hopes to address

some of those issues by sharing teachings of the church and the culture of life as they relate directly to the family.

Rodriguez realized as a diocese, we must first meet people’s most basic needs.

“So many people are alone, and they need people to show them Jesus’ unconditional love. That’s the first step,” she says. “As Mother Teresa of Calcutta said, the most terrible poverty is loneliness and the feeling of being unloved. I believe in person-to-person. Every person is

Christ for me, and since there is only one Jesus, that person is the one person in the world at that moment.”

“It was also clear that the Spanish community doesn’t have all the resources, programs and support to battle this war. I realized we all need to know more to help, and what a great responsibility we share with our priests and bishops.”

MARGARITA RODRIGUEZ

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San Francisco church, chancery vandalized with graffiti

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — Most Holy Redeemer Church in San Francisco and the administrative offices of the Archdiocese of San Francisco were vandalized in early January with graffiti critical of the church's support of Proposition 8, the California voter initiative that overturned last May's state Supreme Court ruling declaring that all couples have the right to marry regardless of sexual orientation. Mayor Gavin Newsom, although a prominent opponent of Proposition 8, condemned the weekend attack on Most Holy Redeemer as "cowardly and criminal." The San Francisco Police Department assigned the case to its hate crimes unit for investigation. A Most Holy Redeemer worker arrived at 6:15 a.m. Jan. 4 to find a wall near the entrance to the church defaced with a four-line message spray-painted in black: "Prop H8/Niederauer/Ratzinger/Where is the love?" Swastikas were scrawled on either side of the message. The references were to Archbishop George H. Niederauer of San Francisco and Pope Benedict XVI, the former Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger.

New Orleans Archdiocese gets police help to end parish occupations

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — The Archdiocese of New Orleans, with help from the New Orleans police, ended a 10-week occupation of two closed churches with the arrest of two people. Police gained entry into Our Lady of Good Counsel Church to ask parishioners to leave or face arrest Jan. 6. Two people were arrested and another, a cancer patient, was escorted home. About 12 blocks away at St. Henry Church, police charged one parishioner with criminal trespassing. New Orleans Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes made the decision Jan. 5 to request police intervention when it became apparent that the people occupying the closed churches would not leave after being asked to do so by archdiocesan officials. The archdiocese had changed the locks and secured Our Lady of Good Counsel Church Jan. 3 after asking one man to leave and not seeing anyone else on the church property. A few hours later, a group of former parishioners somehow regained access to the church. During a Jan. 3 press conference at the archdiocesan administration building, the archbishop said his decision to close Our Lady of Good Counsel was in response to safety issues uncovered during previous inspections.

USCCB VICE PRESIDENT VISITS WEST BANK HOME RUN BY MISSIONARIES



CNS PHOTO/ DEBBIE HILL

Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, visits with a child at a home run by the Missionaries of Charity in the West Bank city of Nablus Jan. 11. During his visit to the Holy Land, Bishop Kicanas offered prayers for the victims of violence, "especially for those who are suffering and experiencing so much fear in Gaza." An Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip, which began Dec. 27, was aimed at ending Hamas rocket strikes on Israel.

First Things founder Father Richard John Neuhaus dies from cancer

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Father Richard John Neuhaus, a former Lutheran minister who became a Catholic priest and a staunch defender of church teaching on abortion and other life issues, died Jan. 8. He was 72. Funeral plans were incomplete. The founder and editor in chief of the journal *First Things*, Father Neuhaus was hospitalized in New York after becoming ill Dec. 26 with a systemic infection, according to a message sent to e-mail contacts and posted on the magazine's Web site. He had been diagnosed with cancer in late November. Father Neuhaus, a native of Pembroke, Ontario, often was invited to lecture and participate in panel discussions on religion in the contemporary world. His views on abortion, stem-cell research, cloning and social issues contributed greatly to Catholic and other religious discourse on politics and society. He also regularly consulted with President George W. Bush on bioethical issues. In 2005 *Time* magazine named the priest one of the 25 most influential evangelicals in America. The magazine described him as having "a fair

amount of under-the-radar influence" within the Bush administration.

Gaza Strip resembles a concentration camp, says top Vatican official

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Gaza Strip increasingly is looking like "a big concentration camp" while egoism, hatred, poverty and injustice are fueling the continual slaughter in the Holy Land, said a top Vatican official. "We are seeing a continual massacre in the Holy Land where the overwhelming majority has nothing to do with the conflict but it is paying for the hatred of a few with their lives," said Cardinal Renato Martino, head of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, in a Jan. 7 interview in the Italian online newspaper *l'Espresso*. Israel's foreign ministry spokesman, Yigal Palmor, criticized Cardinal Martino's comments, saying they "seem to have come directly from Hamas propaganda" and did nothing "to help bring people closer to the truth and peace." By saying the Gaza Strip resembled a concentration camp, the cardinal was ignoring "the unspeakable crimes" committed by the Palestinian militant group

Hamas, he said in a Jan. 7 interview with Agence France-Presse. Palmor said Hamas "has derailed the peace process and has turned the Gaza Strip into a giant human shield."

Pope calls for Gaza peace talks, deplors violence in Congo

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As fighting continued in the Gaza Strip, Pope Benedict XVI urged Israelis and Palestinians to end the violent, armed clashes and start peace talks. "Hatred and the rejection of dialogue bring nothing but war," he said after reciting the Angelus Jan. 6 with pilgrims gathered in St. Peter's Square. "Today I would like to encourage the initiatives and efforts of all those who, having a heart of peace, are trying to help Israelis and Palestinians agree to sit down together and talk," he said. He prayed God would help sustain the dedicated efforts of these "courageous builders of peace." The pope also appealed for an end to the "inhumane brutality" unfolding in eastern Congo where some 20 children were abducted over the Christmas period by armed bandits who launched attacks against villages, leaving many people dead or injured. Caritas Congo

reported Dec. 29 that the children were abducted as child soldiers for the Lord's Resistance Army — a Ugandan rebel group. Caritas Congo is the local affiliate of the international Catholic umbrella group Caritas Internationalis.

Missouri pastor named bishop of Knoxville

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Msgr. Richard F. Stika, pastor of the Church of the Annunziata in Ladue, Mo., as bishop of Knoxville, Tenn. The appointment was announced in Washington Jan. 12 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop-designate Stika, 51, succeeds Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., who headed the Knoxville Diocese from 1999 to 2007. He will be ordained to the episcopacy March 19 at the Knoxville Convention Center by Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia. Among the many assignments Bishop-designate Stika has handled since his Dec. 14, 1985, ordination as a priest of the Archdiocese of St. Louis were secretary to then-St. Louis Archbishop Rigali, 1994-97; coordinator of the papal visit to the archdiocese, 1998-1999; and episcopal vicar for child and youth protection, 2004-09. "From the first moments of my ministry as a priest in St. Louis, I have always been grateful for the tremendous experiences I have witnessed of the goodness of God's people," he said in a statement on the Web site of the St. Louis Archdiocese.

Pope says world's future depends on ethical solutions to poverty, war

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Saying the future of the world was at stake, Pope Benedict XVI called for major new efforts to reduce global poverty, end regional conflicts and restore ethics to global financial systems. In an annual address to the diplomatic corps at the Vatican Jan. 8, the pope also appealed on behalf of Christian minorities in places like Iraq and India, urging governments to respond firmly to a recent increase in anti-Christian violence and discrimination. After delivering his speech in the ornate Sala Regia, the 81-year-old pontiff greeted the diplomats one by one and posed for group photos. Among the representatives was the U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, Mary Ann Glendon, who was leaving her post Jan. 19. The pope's speech, sometimes called his "state of the world" address, reviewed developments on several continents, from the refugee crisis in central Africa to the recent military offensive in the Gaza Strip. The pope decried terrorist attacks that have "sown death and destruction" in countries like Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Algeria, but also found hopeful signs in places like the Philippines, where the government and rebels have opened new negotiations.

USF announces Martin Luther King, Jr. events

FORT WAYNE — On Jan. 19, students, faculty, alumni and staff of the University of Saint Francis will host events and volunteer at various community and religious organizations in the Fort Wayne area to honor the life, ideas and values of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as part of an annual event, "Acting on the Dream."

Events on campus in which the public is invited to attend:

- Continental breakfast at 10 a.m. in the North Campus Foyer (2702 Spring St.);
- Opening prayer service at 10:30 a.m. at North Campus;
- Cards and crafts from 1-4 p.m., Trinity Dining Room on Spring Street. The cards will be sent to those in hospice care;
- Linus Project from 1-4 p.m., Trinity Dining Room. To make fleece blankets for seriously ill children in northeast Indiana.

Events off campus in which volunteers from USF will work from 1-4 p.m. at these locations:

- St. Vincent De Paul Thrift Store (1600 S. Calhoun St.): To organize clothing and pick up and deliver furniture;

- Lutheran Hospital Children's Wing (7950 W. Jefferson Blvd.): To play games with hospitalized children and their siblings;

- Vincent Village (2827 Holton Ave.): To stock and organize the pantry and clothing center, participate in home repair, organize the nursery and library and take family portraits;

- Children's Hope Hospitality House (7922 W. Jefferson Blvd.): To bake cookies and sanitize toys;

- NeighborLink Fort Wayne (locations to be determined): To help elderly or needy Fort Wayne residents with cleaning, painting, yard work, etc. This activity is part of a larger service organization that completes projects throughout the year;

- Center for Non-Violence (235 W. Creighton Ave.): To lend a hand where needed;

- Saint Anne Home and Retirement Community (1900 Randallia Dr.): To lend a hand where needed;

- Love Community Center (1331 E. Berry St.): To lend a hand where needed, organize and sort;

- Boys and Girls Club (2609 Fairfield Ave.): To lend a hand where needed.

For more information, contact Dr. Ann Hernandez at (260) 399-7700 ext. 8413 or ahernandez@sf.edu or Sister Anita Holzmer at (260) 399-7700 ext. 6705 or aholzmer@sf.edu. View the complete schedule of events on the Web site at www.sf.edu/mlk.

Vatican official Archbishop Marchetto to speak on care for migrants

NOTRE DAME — Archbishop Agostino Marchetto, secretary of the Vatican Pontifical Council for

AROUND THE DIOCESE

PRO-LIFE SUPPORT FOR SOUTH BEND CHOCOLATE CAFE



DIANE FREEBY

Pro-life supporters from around South Bend gathered at the South Bend Chocolate Cafe last Friday to show their support for owner Mark Tarner. Tarner received many complaints when it was learned that the League of Women Voters, who meet regularly at the cafe, planned to have a presentation given by Planned Parenthood. Tarner shared the concerns with league leaders, and it was agreed that they would move that meeting with Planned Parenthood to the South Bend County Public Library. Pictured are children and their parents who bought lunch at the South Bend Chocolate Cafe to show support for Tarner. From left to right are Cathy Ernst, Audrey Brammer, Mike Brammer, Ellen Brammer, Lisa Brammer, Monica Kloska, Margy Kloska and Meg Kloska.

the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People, will give a lecture Tuesday, Jan. 20, at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the University of Notre Dame's Hesburgh Center for International Studies.

Archbishop Marchetto is visiting the United States to promote the council's 2004 instruction, "Erga Migrantes Caritas Christi" ("Christ's Love for Migrants"), which holds Catholic communities responsible for extending hospitality to all migrant and itinerant people.

The archbishop, who has served as a Vatican diplomat for the last 40 years, often speaks on the pastoral care of international students at meetings with presidents and other senior administrators of Catholic colleges and universities. He emphasizes the important role such institutions play in providing hospitality and welcome, especially to Muslims, Jews and members of other Christian churches. Later this month he will give a keynote address on the subject at the annual meeting of the Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities in Washington, D.C.

Archbishop Marchetto's lecture is sponsored by the office of Notre Dame's president and is open to the public.

Painting and stained glass classes offered at the USF

FORT WAYNE — The School of Creative Arts at the University of Saint Francis (USF) will offer continuing education classes: "Introduction to Portrait Painting," "Introduction to Watercolor Painting" and "Introduction to Stained Glass" on weekends throughout the months of February, March and April in the Rolland Art Center off Leesburg Road.

The "Introduction to Portrait Painting" and "Introduction to Watercolor Painting" classes will be taught by Austin G. Pittman, a graduate of the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts in Philadelphia. Pittman is a classically trained artist who excels in portraiture and has extensive experience in the field.

"Introduction to Portrait

Painting" classes will be held over ten sessions on Saturday mornings, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. from Feb. 14 through April 25. The course will cost \$275 and does not include supplies. "Introduction to Watercolor" classes will be held over 10 sessions on Sunday afternoons, 1:30-4:30 p.m. from Feb. 15 through April 26. The course will cost \$275 and does not include supplies. No class sessions will be held over Easter weekend.

"Introduction to Stained Glass" is taught by practicing artist Rhonda Freeman, who has worked in glass for more than 30 years with expertise in hot glass, blown glass, leaded glass, foiled glass and mosaic. It will be held on five Sunday afternoons beginning Feb. 2 from 2-4:30 p.m. The course includes design principles, types and qualities of glass, basic cutting and construction techniques, and a final project — a finished 18x24-inch glass panel. All tools and glass will be provided for in-class use. The cost of the course is \$145, which includes supplies and instruction.

For more information, call

(260) 399-7700 ext. 8001.

Children invited to MLK Day activity

NOTRE DAME — The College Academy of Tutoring (CAT) program at Saint Mary's College has an opportunity for area children to learn more about the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. On Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Jan. 19, CAT will host an activity from 12:30-1:30 p.m. at the St. Joseph County Public Library's downtown South Bend branch. Many schools will not be in session that day due to the holiday.

Saint Mary's students will assist children in making crafts, including creating "dream clouds," and a college student will read kids a story about King and why he is remembered and honored. Two Citizen Scholar students at Saint Mary's College are coordinating the event.

"Around this time of year, there are many reasons that children may be off from school (winter break, snow days, etc.), but how often do they stop to think about why they have the day off?" considered Olivia Barzydlo Critchlow, director of the CAT program. "It is our goal to teach these children about Martin Luther King, Jr. and why we honor his work — truly making this day a day on instead of just a day off."

CAT currently serves three Title I South Bend schools — Coquillard, Warren and Lincoln Primary Centers. Saint Mary's students tutor at the schools in English, reading and mathematics and serve as teacher assistants in English as a new language (ENL) and special education classes. They also participate in the Read-to-a-Child program, where a volunteer reads with a student once a week for 30 minutes, and the Pen Pals program, where Saint Mary's students and students at one of the schools write each other for a semester and then meet.

The Citizen Scholar program is an initiative sponsored by The Midwest Campus Compact Citizen-Scholar Fellows Program.

Clarification

In the Jan. 11 feature of Jim Tighe, *Today's Catholic* would like to clarify the role of a permanent deacon in regards to the sacraments. In addition to reconciliation and Eucharist a deacon does not confer confirmation, holy orders or (the sacrament) anointing of the sick. He is an ordinary minister of the sacrament of baptism. According to the definition in the Catechism of the Catholic Church, "a deacon is a third degree of the hierarchy of the sacrament of holy orders, after bishop and priest. The deacon is ordained not to the priesthood, but for ministry and service. Deacons are ordained to assist the bishop and priests in the celebration of the divine mysteries, above all the Eucharist, in the distribution of holy Communion, in assisting at and blessing marriages, in the proclamation of the Gospel and preaching, in presiding over funerals, and in dedicating them-

REDEEMER RADIO CELEBRATES THIRD ANNIVERSARY



PROVIDED BY REDEEMER RADIO

Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio 1450 AM, in Fort Wayne, celebrated its third anniversary on the feast of Epiphany, Jan. 6. In the photo, emcee Bob Hartenstein is shown with Chris Langford, outgoing board chairman, being congratulated by the new board chairman, Mike Kelly. Father Mark Gurtner, an advisor to Redeemer Radio, is shown at the right. At the event, Father Gurtner spoke about the feast of the Epiphany. As the station embarks on a third year of Catholic programming, new shows have been added. Visit www.wlyv.com for a complete list of programs.

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ICC gears-up to bring pro-family agenda to statehouse

INDIANAPOLIS — A new year brings hope and challenges — a poignant reality especially for those heading back to the state capitol including a reenergized Gov. Mitch Daniels, a new group of 150 state lawmakers, 33 of whom are Catholic, and the ever-present Indiana Catholic Conference.

Each has goals they wish to accomplish, at times the means of which are contradictory. Yet, together the 150 members of the Indiana General Assembly at the very least must pass a new biennium state budget by the April 29 adjournment deadline and it must be approved by the governor before July 1, when it goes into effect.

The Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) has a different goal to accomplish — to protect families and children — and all underlying necessities to support families and children. This pro-life, pro-family agenda has taken many forms in the 40-plus years the ICC has been at work including efforts to ban embryonic stem-cell research and encourage adult stem-cell research in Indiana; reduce abortions; provide basic needs of the poor, disabled and elderly; limit and abolish the death penalty, improve immigration laws and protect the institution of marriage.

As in years past, the success of the ICC's legislative agenda this year will also be determined in part by 1) the willingness of the leadership in the House and Senate to have these bills heard in com-

mittee 2) a willingness of Catholic lawmakers to work in unison with the church's efforts; and 3) a willingness of Catholics in the pew to be engaged in the political process.

Rep. Patrick Bauer (D-South Bend), a practicing Catholic, was re-elected as the Speaker of the House. Sen. David Long (R-Fort Wayne) was re-elected President Pro Tempore in the Senate. These two men wield enormous influence given their leadership roles by serving as gatekeepers on legislation. Committee chairs also may decide the fate of any given bill even if it meets with approval of the House and Senate leaders.

Out of 150 members of the Indiana General Assembly 33 are Catholic. Ten are state senators including Sen. John Broden (D-South Bend); Sen. Joseph Zakas (R-Granger); Sen. Thomas Wyss (R-Fort Wayne). Twenty-three are members from the Indiana House of Representatives including Speaker of the House, Patrick Bauer (D-South Bend); Rep. David Niezgodski (D-South Bend); Rep. Ryan Dvorak (D-South Bend); Rep. Timothy Neese (R-Elkhart); Rep. Phil GiaQuinta (D-Fort Wayne); Rep. Matt Bell (R-Avilla).

There are 25 new faces of the 150 members who were elected in Nov. 2008, 17 in the House and eight in Senate. Three of the new faces are Catholic legislators Sen. Jean Leising (R-Oldenburg), a member of St. Louis Parish in

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

Batesville; Rep. Mark Messmer (R-Jasper), a member of Holy Family Parish in Jasper, and Rep. Ed DeLaney (D-Indianapolis), a member of St. Thomas Aquinas parish in Indianapolis. Democrats maintain a narrow (52-48) majority in the Indiana House Representatives. Republicans hold a (33-17) majority in the Senate.

"Much of the legislative work done by Indiana Catholic Conference this year will be overshadowed by the budget making process," said Glenn Tebbe, Indiana Catholic Conference executive director. "And because of the decreasing tax revenue available, agreeing on budget priorities will be difficult," Tebbe said. "Local government reform and property tax caps will be the other overriding issues."

To explore the ICC's new, online, public policy tool and join the ICC network go to the ICC Web page at www.indianacc.org and click "Legislative Action Center."

'Music in Divine Worship' topic of diocesan Liturgy Day on Feb. 7

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has announced it will study "Music in Divine Worship: Tradition and Today" at this year's Liturgy Day gathering to be held Saturday, Feb. 7, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 225 Gilliam Drive, Warsaw. The event is scheduled from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Highly respected director and composer Paul French, director of the William Ferris Chorale, a 24-voice professional choir in Chicago, as well as music director at Chicago's Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, will guide two liturgical sessions.

An overview of the United States Bishops' document "Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship" and its impact on the liturgy, with its implications for clergy, parish music directors and the worshipping community will be explored in the first session. Particular emphasis will be placed on the evolution of the document and how it can (and should) transform understanding of music in the liturgy.

Session two will take a serious look at Gregorian chant, a most ancient and perfect multicultural expression, and an ideal repertoire for both large and small parishes.

There will be opportunity for questions and answers following the presentations.

Liturgy Day is sponsored by the Office of Worship, with support of the Diocesan Music Committee. A registration fee of \$20 is required and must be received by Jan. 28. There will be no registrations at the door. Complete information and registration forms are available online at: www.diocesefwsb.org/WORSHIP and on page 9 of this week's *Today's Catholic*. You can also call (260) 399-1401. Refreshments will be available but lunch will not be provided.

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Snow day: Surrendering to a higher plan

The swirling snow and howling wind make a vivid demonstration of how swiftly the best-laid plans can be overturned.

Tonight was supposed to be the annual Capecchi ladies' dinner at a family-style Italian restaurant in St. Paul. We gather there to consume enormous quantities of pasta and conversation. We toast with wine to the blood that binds our friendships.

But Mother Nature had a different agenda, unleashing a blizzard that made a mockery of our plan. You thought it would be so easy to all meet at the same location on the same day? Ha!

Much as I looked forward to our gathering, its cancellation sparked a glee that harkens back to grade school and the unbri-dled ecstasy of a snow day.

Our days are splintered into intervals of activity, one locked beside another. So when a larger force wipes out the schedule, it brings a certain relief and bestows a rare gift: unallocated time. What a wonder! A million ways to spend the time! Where to begin? How to properly devour the surprise?

Humans, by nature, are planners. Every week we craft well-intentioned, neatly-laid, thoroughly-coordinated plans. Dinner plans, career goals. Romantic schemes, recreational ideas. Weekend plans, five-year plans.

We plot, we project, we anticipate.

There is nothing wrong with that impulse. God asks us to use our gifts to the fullest, to work hard and be deliberate about how we assign our energies and apply our talents.

But we cannot grow too attached to our plans. We must guard against the false notion that we possess control, that we're calling the shots. There is a larger force, a grander scheme.

This month's readings remind us of that bigger picture. Isaiah speaks to troubled people, Israelites whose plans for peace and prosperity were trampled. He tells them, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways," says the Lord. "As high as the heavens are above the earth, so high are my ways above your ways and my thoughts above your thoughts."

This message can be hard to hear because we like our plans; they are clear guideposts in an otherwise hazy future. But God's plans are higher — better, wiser, richer. They come from another realm, from the heart of our Creator, whose timing is perfect and whose wisdom is infinite.

Believing in God's plan and waiting on its fruition demands a mature faith. I saw that in my



TWENTY SOMETHING
BY CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

friend Wendy last summer. We had been discussing our eagerness to achieve certain goals. She had earned a master's degree in a specialized field and had been searching at length for a job in the industry.

One night she e-mailed me, "I have really come to accept that God has some kind of crazy plan for me, and I will find out what it is at some point."

Three months later Wendy landed her dream job. "Two years and three months of patience, prayer and faith have finally paid off," she e-mailed.

Wendy met a formidable challenge, releasing her own plan and trusting in God's master plan — long before it had been revealed to her. She set her uncertainty and impatience aside and, like Samuel, said, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."

God's plans always provide for us. In the darkest hour at our greatest need, he fulfills our deepest desires.

And so, as we gaze at that blank calendar and imagine 2009, let's remember the master planner and write our plans in pencil.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. E-mail her at christina@readchristina.com.

Is there a vocations crisis?

Articles about the shortage of priests and religious men and women in the church, particularly in Europe and North America, are common these days. Many international congregations like my own, the Sisters of the Holy Cross, are still getting new members, but in lands other than the United States.

Whenever I read or hear about this subject, I often think about an article I read several years ago that has really stuck with me. Dolores Lecky, a laywoman who wrote a column for Catholic newspapers, entitled her article, "What Vocation Crisis?"

Her main point was to challenge us to wake up and see all the baptized people who also have vocations in the church. By our baptism each of us is called to share in the mission of Jesus to reveal God's unconditional love and to spread God's reign on earth. It is not only the prerogative of members of religious orders and clergy.

Too often when we speak of vocations we limit that term to mean the call to ordained ministry and the consecrated life. Too often when we pray for vocations we ask God to inspire people to answer the call to be sisters, brothers and priests. Once in awhile we might include the call

to lay ministry in the church, but that is the exception.

Don't get me wrong. As a former vocation director for the Sisters of the Holy Cross I am all too acutely aware of the need for individuals who desire to give their entire lives to God and to the service of the church. The church benefits greatly from the witness of those who answer the call to ordained ministry and religious life. That need is great but it does not let the rest of God's people off the hook.

When we were baptized we were baptized into the death and resurrection of Christ and share in his priesthood. By baptism we become a part of his body. We are not called just to go to church. We are called to be church. All of us are called to holiness and service. Each of us has the right and the responsibility to serve in the name of Christ. It is not the task of a select few.

Every time we participate in Mass we are reminded of our Christian vocation when, at the final blessing, the celebrant commissions us to "go in peace to love and serve the Lord." Service is integral to the vocation of every Christian whether single, married, religious or ordained.

I believe it is possible to believe all the church's dogmas and follow all the rules and still



THE CUTTING EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

not live our baptismal call. Religion without love and service is empty.

Perhaps it would be good to take time out and do some serious reflection on how we respond to our Christian vocation. How seriously do we take and live the Gospel message of Jesus? He was less concerned about rules and ritual than about reaching out to sinners and those in need. If each of us truly lived the vocation we received at baptism, think of what a wonderful world this would be. The church does need more priests and religious, but it also needs everyone else in the pews. That is the only way we are going to fulfill the mission of Christ.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department. mlavonis@cscsisters.org.

"My Return to the Catholic Church"



In November 2006, Francis Beckwith, a philosophy professor at Baylor University, was elected president of the 4,200 member Evangelical Theological society. Nearly six months later he resigned his post, days after he had been received into full communion with the Catholic Church.

Although he was baptized and confirmed Catholic and attended Catholic elementary and high school, Professor Beckwith left the Church as a teenager and became an Evangelical Protestant. In his talk, he will tell the story of his journey from Catholicism to Protestantism and back. He will explain why he left the Church and eventually returned after over 30 years. A reception with refreshments will follow.

MEET Dr. BECKWITH at ST. MATTHEW CATHEDRAL

1701 Miami Street - South Bend

Wednesday, January 28, 2009 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.

LITURGY DAY 2009

"Music in Divine Worship: Tradition & Today"
With Paul French

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An ideal repertoire for parishes large and small

February 7, 2009

8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church
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Registration Deadline is January 28, 2009

All Registrations and payments must be received in the Office of Worship by that date.

No money will be accepted at the door.

Registration Form for Liturgy Day 2009

Name: _____

Address: _____

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Registration Fee: \$20.00

Payment Must Be Enclosed With Registration

Make your check payable to

"Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend"

Please return this form by Jan. 28, 2009 to:

Office of Worship, Attn: Liturgy Day

P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46801

CAN YOU HEAR ME NOW?

Women 'Silent No More' about abortion

BY LISA EVERETT

Pope John Paul II once described God's mercy as his ability to draw good out of evil. In his 1995 encyclical "Evangelium Vitae" (on the "Gospel of Life"), the late Holy Father addressed tender words of mercy and hope to women who have had an abortion:

"I would now like to say a special word to women who have had an abortion. The church is aware of the many factors which may have influenced your decision, and she does not doubt that in many cases it was a painful and even shattering decision. The wound in your heart may not yet have healed. Certainly what happened was and remains terribly wrong. But do not give in to discouragement and do not lose hope. Try rather to understand what happened and face it honestly. If you have not already done so, give yourselves over with humility and trust to repentance. The Father of mercies is ready to give you his forgiveness and his peace in the sacrament of reconciliation. You will come to understand that nothing is definitively lost and you will also be able to ask forgiveness from your child, who is now living in the Lord. With the friendly and expert help and advice of other people, and as a result of your own painful experience, you can be among the most eloquent defenders of everyone's right to life. Through your commitment to life, whether by accepting the birth of other children or by welcoming and caring for those most in need of someone to be close to them, you will become promoters of a new way of looking at human life." — No. 99.

The Silent No More Awareness Campaign offers convincing proof of Pope John Paul II's claim that women who have healed from the excruciating experience of abortion and its aftermath are among the most eloquent and effective defenders of human life. The campaign was co-founded in 2003 by two women, Georgette Fourney, president of Anglicans for Life, and Janet Morana, executive director of Priests for Life, who met through the Pro-Life Religious Council.

Morana recounts what led to

the founding of this joint project: "When the pro-life movement was moving towards the sad 30th memorial of Roe v. Wade back in 2003, people were beginning to look ahead in pro-life leader meetings and grapple with the question, 'What is the movement's response after 30 years of abortion?'"

"At the spring meeting of the council in 2002, Georgette and I looked at each other and said, 'The movement has to have a woman's response.' Georgette herself is post-abortive, and I knew that. And she said, 'You know Janet, I'm convinced that after all these years of abortion, there's got to be more women who have had abortions and are willing to speak up and say The National Organization of Women and Planned Parenthood and NARAL, they don't speak for us.' And I said, 'I am, too.' From that we developed the concept of the campaign.

"I think the power is in the testimonies. I think the power is in watching a person get up, who has been healed, who has been redeemed, who feels the love and mercy of the Lord again, but feels compelled to come forward and speak to reach those people who are still locked in the sin and the shame of abortion. The hope of the campaign is its three goals: one, to reach people who are locked in that sin and shame of abortion. They think it's an unforgivable sin, they think there's no hope. To reach them and say, 'Yes, there's hope.' Two, to reach a girl who is maybe considering having an abortion, to say, 'Hey, listen to these girls, they've gone down that road, they know it's a dead end.' And maybe they'll listen. And finally, to reach the people who are sitting in the pews. There are so many people who are in church today that somehow think that women need abortion. You know, we would rid this whole world of abortion if every person who said they profess Jesus Christ would stand up and say, 'We're not going to tolerate abortion anymore in our culture.' And so our hope is that if those people who are caught in that mushy middle of culture with abortion, hear the stories of women, they'll say, 'Ah, abortion isn't good for women. And they don't need abortion, it's not good.' We all have to be ambas-

sadors of this message."

A particularly prominent ambassador of the message has been Jennifer O'Neill, former actress and cover girl, who serves as the national spokeswoman for the Silent No More Awareness Campaign — www.silentnomore-awareness.org. Having authored the book, "You're Not Alone: Healing Through God's Grace After Abortion," Jennifer feels blessed to be able to minister to other women in this way: "This campaign creates a safe place for women to break their silence about the pain of abortion. It is an honor to speak the truth and let others know they're not alone."

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



Diocese offers post-abortion support services

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has launched a new initiative, Healing Hearts, to provide post-abortion support services to women and men.

The Women's Care Center will serve as the entry point of the program, providing a dedicated phone line (1-877-908-2341) as well as a counselor trained in post-abortion support on each side of the diocese.

The South Bend area counselor is Ellen Sommers, (574) 234-0363.

The Fort Wayne area counselor is Barb Budzon, (260) 424-9377.

After the initial assessment provided by one of the above counselors, the participant will be referred as necessary to a specially trained therapist and/or priest by Mary Glowaski, who is currently serving as the diocesan coordinator for this ministry. She may be contacted at (260) 744-3682.

Rachel's Vineyard retreats in northwest Indiana

This weekend retreat program for women and men who have experienced an abortion seeks to facilitate the process of emotional and spiritual healing through a series of guided meditations on Scripture. It offers participants a supportive and confidential environment in which to express and release the painful emotions associated with the abortion and begin the process of reconciliation with oneself, with the lost child and with God. For more information, go to the national Web site at www.rachelsvineyard.org.

In northwest Indiana, Rachel's Vineyard retreat weekends are offered through Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Gary. The next retreat will take place on April 24-26.

Professor Carter Snead discusses pro-life issues in 2009

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — Since 2005, O. Carter Snead has been a law professor at the University of Notre Dame, specializing in the relationship between bioethics and law. During the first term of George W. Bush, Professor Snead was general counsel for the President's Council on Bioethics. Last year he was appointed to represent the U.S. government at the Council of Europe's Steering Committee on Bioethics. Recently, he was named to a four-year term on UNESCO's International Bioethics Committee. He is recognized as a worldwide expert on bioethics.

Today's Catholic asked Professor Snead to discuss pro-life challenges that may likely occur under the new president and new Congress.

"Barack Obama's record is extremely unambiguously in favor of abortion and embryo-destructive research, including cloning," Snead said. Obama even opposes parental consent and informed consent, Snead continued and would de-fund pro-life pregnancy crisis centers, as well as reverse funding for alternative sources of stem cells.

"In his own right, he has to be the most extreme pro-abortion president we've ever seen," Snead said, adding that leadership in the Congress also is extremely pro-abortion, dooming any potential pro-life bills.

One of his first concerns is passage of the Freedom of

Choice Act (FOCA), a bill that would nullify all federal and state limitations on abortion, including the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act. With Democrats in control of the Senate, House and White House, Snead says passage of FOCA is much more likely.

"The reason it wasn't passed in previous years, was because at least one segment of government had enough pro-life strength that it could prevent it from happening," said Snead "The people I know in Washington who work closely with these things are very concerned about it."

Snead believes that FOCA is actually meant to overturn the 1992 Supreme Court decision *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*. The *Planned Parenthood* decision, though unfavorable, Snead said, at least limited the damage of *Roe* by redefining the right to abortion as a protected liberty, not a fundamental right. This point has serious implication for how strictly courts will consider limits on abortion, for with issues deemed to be a "fundamental right," he said, courts have been very active in striking down any limits put on that right.

Conscience protection for health-care providers, both individuals and institutions, also is in danger, Snead continued. Presently, relatively good safeguards are in place for conscience protection through various riders to different federal laws. And recently new rules have been issued by Health and Human Services to reinforce conscience protection.



CNS PHOTO BY BOB ROLLER

O. Carter Snead, then-general counsel for the President's Council on Bioethics, addresses the audience during a conference on stem-cell research at The Catholic University of America Oct. 5, 2004, in this archive photo.

"But if FOCA sweeps those things away, it's not at all clear to me what protection a pro-life physician or other health-care provider would have, even Catholic hospitals," Snead said.

"If they try to use federal dollars as a threat to compel Catholic hospitals to perform abortions or do other immoral things, we'll see Catholic hospitals will close down, and the people who will be most affected by that are the millions of poor people who are cared for by Catholic healthcare."

Snead fully expects President-

elect Obama to overturn all executive branch actions that the Bush administration took to protect the culture of life, such as restrictions on federal funding for research that destroyed human embryos and limiting funding for overseas projects that were involved with funding or promoting abortion. Some of Obama's financial and foreign policy team appointments look moderate, Snead said, but the president-elect is staffing his domestic policy side with people who are "very, very strong advocates for abortion," Snead said.

This influence would be international, too, Snead pointed out. For the past eight years, he said, the U.S. government has been "a force for the culture of life on matters of bioethics" at intergovernmental meetings.

"In many cases, we've emboldened and created momentum for other smaller countries — Latin American countries and African countries in particular, along with working with the Holy See — to try to promote a culture of life and resist efforts to degrade human life with biotechnology. I saw that no matter how unpopular the U.S. government or its policies or its president were with the (United Nations) member states, the U.S. government was taken seriously and was extremely influential."

With the new U.S. administration changing that policy 180

degrees, Snead said, "Those pro-life countries — those small Latin American countries and African nations — are going to have a lot harder time resisting the forces of the embryo-destructive bioethics industry. It will be very bad."

Snead also is concerned about judicial appointments of activist judges, who might find a whole host of new constitutional rights, such as rights to use biotechnology to shape human embryos; a sweeping right to federal funding of abortion; or a constitutional right to physician-assisted suicide.

"There's a lot the courts can do with the life issues," Snead warned.

So, is there anything the average pro-life citizen can do about this situation? Snead said that in Indiana, there are several pro-life Democratic congressmen. It takes a lot of courage to be pro-life in the Democratic party these days, Snead said, so they should be supported for their pro-life stand.

At the same time, he said, voters have to hold the congressmen accountable and work closely with them "to make sure they're motivated and energized and engaged in fighting these things," Snead said. "Those pro-life Democrats need to make coalitions with pro-life Republicans and work as hard as they can to stop some of this stuff."

Allen County Right to Life 35th Annual Rally and March for Life

Rally at 12 Noon, Saturday, January 24, 2009,
at the Scottish Rite Center
March through downtown
Fort Wayne at 1:00 pm



Shawn graduated from Texas A&M University and is now the director of Coalition for Life, a pro-life organization in Texas. He helped create the national 40 Days for Life campaign, which in 2008 reached 139 cities across the country, including Fort Wayne. In addition, he has hosted and produced a nationally broadcast television special called *Being Human*, highlighting everyday people who have taken a stand for life.



A Silent No More Awareness Event will follow immediately after the March at the Federal Building.

The National Silent No More Awareness Campaign is an effort to raise awareness about the physical, emotional, and spiritual pain women and men experience after abortion and to let them know where help is available.

Contact Julie Brown for more information about the Silent No More Event at (260) 463-7142.



OPEN HOUSE following the 35th annual MARCH FOR LIFE
January 24, 2009
Downtown Fort Wayne

Open House from 1PM to 4PM
Warm up with Hot Tea/Coffee or
Hot Chocolate

www.archangelinstitute.org

"Sharing the Gospel of Life from Fort Wayne's former abortion clinic."



Please Come Pray with us

1PM Monday thru Wednesday Ecumenical

1PM Thursdays—The Rosary

1PM Fridays—The Chaplet of the Divine Mercy

Hurting from an Abortion? There is Hope and Healing through Jesus Christ our Lord. Call us for a confidential discussion with a fellow wounded woman or man.

260.423.1771

800.399.4620

ArchAngel Institute, Inc
827 Webster Street
Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Local angels triumph over culture of death

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — The fall of 2008 saw some interesting changes on downtown's Webster Street. The building adjacent to the Women's Care Center that for 28 years housed the local abortion facility is now filled with angels. Archangels that is.

The Archangel Institute, a new not-for-profit organization created to advance and support the pro-life movement, now occupies the space where once thousands of unborn babies were aborted. Dedicated to three archangels, Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, today the building is considered a house of hope and healing that offers daily counseling for post-abortive women and men.

Founder and executive director Bryan Brown says for him the institute brings closure to a decades-long battle with the culture of death. A longtime pro-life activist, Brown recalls the turbulent 70s and 80s when he and hundreds of other pro-life citizens rallied, marched and prayed for life on the same walks that surround the Archangel Institute. Then one event changed his life forever.

"I was sued for trespassing at the clinic. ... They took everything from me," says Brown, who lost his job, his wife and his home. Steadfast to the pro-life cause, Brown moved to Kansas, became a lawyer and found his home in the Catholic faith.



KAY COZAD

Bryan Brown, founder and executive director of the Archangel Institute stands before the sign welcoming visitors to the building located at 827 Webster St. The institute that offers a post-abortion healing and prayer ministry is housed in the former abortion facility.

"If it hadn't been for the pro-life movement, I wouldn't have found the Catholic Church," he says of his 1994 conversion.

After 18 years in Kansas, Brown returned to Fort Wayne in March of 2007 to participate in the March for Life that walked the same sidewalks he was arrested on two decades earlier. To his amazement, the former abortion clinic

was no longer in service and the building was for sale. Following much prayer and discussion with wife Ann, who he met in Kansas in the pro-life movement, and other colleagues, the building was purchased.

The move to Fort Wayne has not been easy for the Browns and their five children. With limited resources and much hard work and

Without life,
other civil rights
are meaningless.

**MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD PARISH
FORT WAYNE**

The Parishioners of Saint Matthew Cathedral support the clear and consistent teaching of the Judaeo-Christian Tradition regarding the sanctity of human life and the obligation of believers to defend the most vulnerable members of society.



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

Isaiah 1.17

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

Didache 2 (c.110 AD)



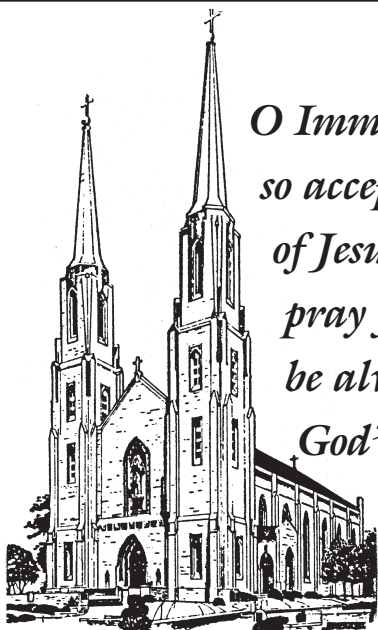
Rev. Michael Heintz

Rev. André Léveillé, CSC

Miss Mary Ann Retseck, Principal

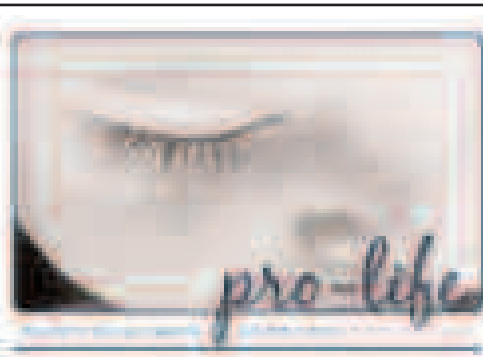
Mr. Scott Steiner, CCD Director

Mrs. Lisa Marino, RCIA Director



*O Immaculate Mary,
so accepting of the birth
of Jesus and God's will,
pray for us. May we
be always open to
God's generous gift
of human life.*

**Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception
FORT WAYNE**



Life is...
a precious gift from God.
Treasure and respect it!

St. Anthony de Padua
SOUTH BEND



As a people of
God, may we pray
for an end to
abortion.

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

OUR LADY OF GOOD HOPE PARISH
Fort Wayne
Joins with the Church throughout the world in
praying for the good and life of the unborn.

**Life is too
precious,
do not
destroy it.
Life is life...
fight for it!**

Mother Teresa



**St. John
the Baptist**
New Haven

dedication the building that for so long had been used for the culture of death was renovated and dedicated to "the three archangels and the Lord."

The refurbished building is laid out like a church, says Brown, with five stations of prayer. The chocolate brown walls are replete with meaningful religious artwork donated by local supporters, prayers and crucifixes. Each of the three former procedure rooms where the abortions actually took place have been cleaned and painted. The stained floors have been replaced and two of the three sinks and cabinets have been removed. The third sink remains, says Brown, in the counseling room dedicated to Archangel Raphael as a constant reminder of the pain and heartache that transpired in that space.

The Michael Room is dedicated to litigation and litigation support. "This is where the interface with government takes place," says Brown. The Gabriel Room houses the communication and applied technology division of the organization where the institute's Web site and newsletter are maintained. Recording equipment there will produce testimonies and documentaries of post-abortive women and men who have found healing through the grace of God and the work of counselors like Retta Kohrman.

Kohrman mans the institute as administrative director and lends her heartfelt counseling expertise five days a week, in the Raphael Room. Counseling for post-abortion grief is available Monday through Friday on a walk-in or

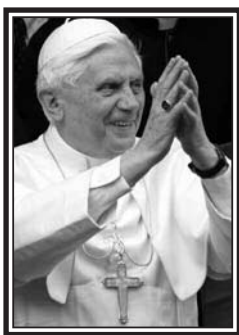
appointment basis. Also available at the institute are one-on-one mentoring, post-abortion retreats, books and handout resources and referrals to clergy.

The institute dedicated by Pastor Wendell Brane in May of 2007, opened in September and blessed by Bishop John M. D'Arcy in August of 2008 is a place of Christian activism. But even more, it is a house of prayer and has been an ecumenical project from the start, says Brown. "I wanted to come back and open the building to all religious affiliations."

In addition to the outreach efforts, daily prayer supports the cause set forth by the institute. Prayers from the Orthodox tradition, evangelical intercessory prayer, hymns, the rosary and Chaplet of Divine Mercy all encourage those involved to reach out to those in pain and defend faith and family.

As Bryan Brown steps down as director to allow the institute to take wing, he says, "I started this battle with the culture of death 20 years ago and now I can sit in the former abortion clinic to pray for their deliverance. It gave me personal closure to set up this house of healing. I'm praying it is a beacon of hope for women of post-abortion."

Archangel Institute is located at 827 Webster St. For more information call (260) 423-1771 or (800) 399-4620, or visit www.archangelinstitute.org.



Along with our Holy Father
Pope Benedict XVI
the people of
Queen of Peace Parish in Mishawaka
pray that all will respect life.

We have liberty, but liberty only makes us free when we obey the great laws of the universe. To be really free, to be civilized, we must not only exercise our right to choose, but we must choose only that which is the right choice, and the right choice is always the choice of life.

ST. STANISLAUS KOSTKA PARISH
NEW CARLISLE



The nearer a soul
is truly united to
God, the more its
sensibilities are

increased to every
being of His Creation; much more
to those whom it is bound to
love by the tenderest and most
endearing ties.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON CHURCH
FORT WAYNE



**Pray for
a True Respect
for All Life**

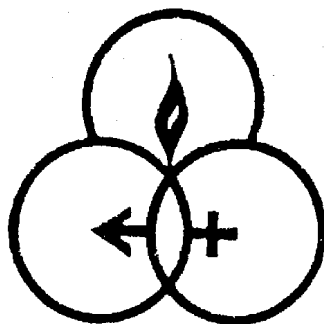
**ST. MICHAEL
THE ARCHANGEL
PARISH**
Waterloo

Support the Dignity of Human Life



*Life is
a Miracle*

St. Charles
Borromeo Church
FORT WAYNE



HUMAN LIFE IS SACRED

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

Genesis 1:27



Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Parish
SOUTH BEND

New Notre Dame Fund supports on campus Right-to-Life

NOTRE DAME — A new fund that has the potential to have a substantial impact on right-to-life activities at the University of Notre Dame was created in September by the Center of Ethics and Culture. The Notre Dame Fund to Protect Human Life is focusing its efforts on the support of human life in its earliest stages.

The University of Notre Dame student Right-to-Life club is active and effective. This fund will assist in the Right-to-Life club and other efforts to encourage a culture of life in the community and to assist in raising enough money each year to fund its full slate of activities.

The Center of Ethics and Culture have set forth a list of proposed objectives for the Notre Dame Fund to Protect Human Life that will be examined for feasibility. They are:

- Financially support the student Right-to-Life club for funds beyond what they can raise from club activities, donations and university support;
- Financially support student, faculty and administration participation in the January March for Life in Washington, D.C.;
- Election year faculty panel discussion, held in October;
- Printed right-to-life promotional and education literature;
- Four student/faculty dinner/lecture series each year;

- Faculty research projects on right-to-life matters;
- Student research projects on right-to-life matters;
- Begin preparations for proposed graduate program;
- Institute annual Medal of Life Award to recognize individual right-to-life achievement;
- Institute project to get right-to-life focus included in freshman orientation program;
- Upgrade crosses for annual right-to-life cemetery to include football weekend placement;
- Institute daily rosary for life at a prominent place on campus;
- Move for increased right-to-life assignments in summer service projects;
- Initiate a well promoted Mass for life each October in the basilica;
- Aggressive, prominently place right-to-life advertising program on campus;
- Periodic right-to-life newsletter publicizing activities of the fund programs;
- Initiate a program to encourage and process right-to-life

activity ideas from students, parents and alumni;

- Other projects consistent with the stated objectives of the fund.

One of the objectives currently being considered is an annual Right-to-Life Award. This annual award would recognize a person who, through personal effort and commitment, has made a significant positive and public impact on right-to-life issues in the United States, with criteria for receiving the award including activities and achievements primarily in the area of beginning of life issues.

The award would be sponsored and administered by the Center for Ethics and Culture, with the award recipient selection made by the committee that administrates the fund.

The Notre Dame Fund to Protect Human Life has been specifically designed to fund activities that will complete the circle of sanctity of life commitment, which is central to the Catholic character of the University of Notre Dame.

This fund will assist in the Right-to-Life club and other efforts to encourage a culture of life in the community ...

Before I formed you
in the womb I knew you,
and before you were born
I consecrated you; I have appointed
you a prophet to the nations.

Jeremiah 1:5

ST. PETER PARISH - ST. MARY PARISH
FORT WAYNE

“THE CONFLICT is between a culture that affirms, cherishes, and celebrates the gift of life, and a culture that seeks to declare entire groups of human beings - the unborn, the terminally ill, the handicapped, and others considered ‘unuseful’ to be outside the boundaries of legal protection”

-Pope John Paul II

ST. LOUIS BESANCON • ST. ROSE MONROEVILLE

Since 1973, over 48 million babies have died by abortion. It's time to stop the violence!

Pray to end abortion.

Join us at the rally in Washington, D.C.

St. Mary of the Assumption
DECATUR
and St. Joseph School



DEFEND LIFE
from beginning to end,

through
Prayer • Charity • Education
St. Bernard Parish
WABASH

RESPECT LIFE

“The gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus’ message...it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity; as ‘good news’ to the people of every age and culture.”

-Pope John Paul II

St. Patrick Church
ARCOLA



Our parish is dedicated to

*The Mother of Our Saviour
The Star of Hope
The Comfort of the Afflicted*

And the one chosen to guide us through the sorrows of life, including the agony brought about by abortion.

Queen of Peace, be with us.

SAINT MARY PARISH - HUNTINGTON



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

LITTLE FLOWER PARISH

54191 N. IRONWOOD DRIVE - SOUTH BEND

Christ Child Society: Lending a hand to moms who choose life

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — One of the many beautiful memories of the 2008 Christmas season will be the generosity of so many people despite a time of economic uncertainty and increased need.

Since the opening of the Women's Care Center on Webster Street in January 2004 and on Inwood Drive in January 2007, the Fort Wayne chapter of the Christ Child Society (CCS) has worked tirelessly to serve their clients.

Given the struggling financial times for countless families in our area, the number of clients seen by centers like those in Fort Wayne has increased dramatically. Now, besides the young mother in a crisis pregnancy, the center also may serve the families where one or both parents have lost a job or no longer have medical insurance.

"The need for donations is greater than ever" explain Christ Child Crib Club Co-chairs Dee Dee Dahm and Bev McArdle.

On behalf of the Christ Child Society, Dahm wants to extend a sincere thank you to all of the organizations who gave in any way this Christmas and ask that they carry the momentum into the upcoming year.

Staffing and funding the Crib Club clothing store at both locations of the Women's Care Center is just one of the major projects of the Christ Child Society. These centers provide their clients services like parenting classes and prenatal care while the Crib Club offers a place to "purchase" brand new clothing, diapers and wipes.

A record number of 81,396 diapers went out the door in 2008. Coupons are used as the means of payment. Clients can earn coupons in a variety of ways throughout their pregnancy and long after by attending services provided at the centers or at qualifying agencies who offer everything from English courses, sewing and cooking classes to well-baby checkups. One

dozen diapers costs one coupon, while a baby bed requires 20 coupons.

To meet the growing demand in the Fort Wayne area, the Inwood Drive location increased from offering hours of operation two nights per week during parenting classes to four times per week in 2008.

"We may see 20 to 25 clients on Monday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m. now and as many as 60 to 70 clients on Fridays," reports Dahm.

She adds, "In August, when our organization opened shopping to the Burmese refugees and throughout the year as we served more Hispanic and Somalian families, our demand for the most needed items — diapers and wipes — more than doubled."

McArdle feels the outlook for 2009 shows a continued increase in the number of diapers, wipes and other items needed at the Crib Club. She encourages groups to remember these needs year-round and is most thankful for groups like the ladies from Roanoke who spend one day a month knitting hats and mittens for Christ Child. There is also the "Red Hatters" from Fort Wayne and eighth-grade confirmation classes who choose the needs of the CCS as their projects.

An amazed McArdle notes that donations for the past year were a record high. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne was "absolutely outstanding this season with their giving trees and grade school baby showers." In addition, the religious education program has a current goal of collecting one month's supply of diapers — that equates to 4,500.

Parish members and school groups from St. Charles, St. Jude, cathedral, St. Aloysius, St. Louis Besancon, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, St. Rose, Our Lady of Good Hope, St. John — Fort Wayne and New Haven — and Bishop Dwenger students were also most generous.

Most Precious Blood students



PROVIDED BY ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SCOUTS

The St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne, Girl Scouts made fleece blankets as a gift to the the Christ Child Crib Club at the Women's Care Center in Fort Wayne. These centers provide their clients services like parenting classes and prenatal care while the Crib Club offers a place to "purchase" brand new clothing, diapers and wipes and other items.

brought diapers from their drive, while the eighth graders spent a morning helping tie dozen bundles for the store. And the eighth-grade group and Girl Scouts from St. Vincent have similarly helped by tying the fleece blankets. More great efforts came from St. Peter and Queen of Angels who did fall showers in conjunction with right-to-life.

One of the final donations from 2008 parish giving trees was just made by Father Cyril Fernandes and the members of St. Patrick, Arcola. When dropping off their donations, Father Fernandes encourages those involved to take a tour of the Women's Care Center giving them a firsthand view of how their support is put to use.

Newly elected CCS President Lisa Didier, enlightens, "The spe-

cial union between Christ Child Society and the Women's Care Center helps us as Catholics provide what Pope John Paul II referred to as a culture of life, a culture of love." When asked to comment on the unprecedented amount of donations for 2008, Didier marvels, "It only proves, without a doubt, that God does provide."

Other good works

The Christ Child Society of Fort Wayne has many other countless ways they serve the needy children in our community. Although many of their fundraisers require volunteers to log endless hours of their free time, this non-profit organization really makes things happen through their out-

reach programs.

In 2008, over 350 gift bags were distributed to mothers of newborns in need at our local hospitals. These layettes are filled with blankets, clothing, diapers and a host of baby supplies. Christ Child funded hundreds of backpacks to be provided to children in Allen County facing crisis situations. Local school children also received a record nearly 2,400 brand new coats, hats and gloves through the "Coats for Kids" program this winter season.

Similarly, Christ Child volunteers sponsor an annual Christmas party for foster children and tutor students. In addition to the Women's Care Center and Fort Wayne area hospitals, the CCS also serves and supports many local organizations such as: Fort Wayne Community Schools, East Allen County Schools, Fort Wayne Lutheran and Catholic schools, CANI, Catholic Charities, Children's Cottage, Daybreak, Lutheran Social Services, SCAN/Healthy Families, Three Rivers Literacy Alliance, Genesis Outreach, Turnstone, Martin Lutheran King Montessori School and Vincent House.

To fund these numerous projects the Fort Wayne chapter holds several different fundraisers throughout each year. These include a hugely successful summer garage sale, a fall Notre Dame ticket raffle, a holiday cookie walk, "Celebrity Wait Night" and a women's golf outing.

For more information about the Christ Child Society, in Fort Wayne, call (260) 424-3624. The society may be contacted at (574) 271-0199 or (574) 288-6028 or visit their Web site at www.christchildsb.org.

"THE COMMANDMENT
'You shall not kill!'
always requires respecting and promoting human life, from its beginning to its natural end."

John Paul II



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL CHURCH
FORT WAYNE



Pope John Paul II

SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH - FORT WAYNE



Why can't we love them all?

St. Joseph Parish
ROANOKE

St. Catherine Parish
NIX SETTLEMENT



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

JEREMIAH 1:5

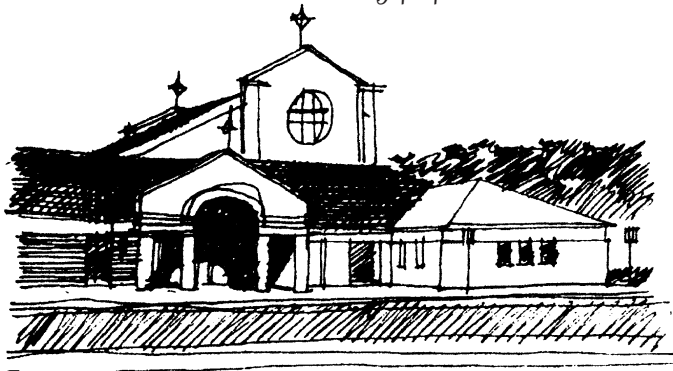


The St. Joseph Parish family stands in loving support of **life** in all its stages, from conception to natural death.

St. JOSEPH
CATHOLIC CHURCH

Est. 1853 • Corner of Hill & LaSalle in downtown South Bend • www.stjoeeparish.com

Respect life for *what* it is,
a gift from The Creator.



SAINT PIUS X PARISH • GRANGER, INDIANA



In the name of God, in whose image everyone is made, may we love, cherish, and protect human life from conception to the hour of natural death!

"Holy Mary, mother of the author of life, pray for us. Amen"



St. Michael Parish
PLYMOUTH

Birth-control pill is linked to male infertility, says Vatican paper

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The birth-control pill is causing "devastating" environmental damage and plays a role in rising male infertility rates, said the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*.

"We have sufficient evidence to argue that one of the considerable factors contributing to male infertility in the West — with its ever

decreasing numbers of spermatozoa in men — is environmental pollution caused by the byproducts of the pill" released in human waste, the article said.

Pedro Jose Maria Simon Castellvi, president of the Vatican-based World Federation of Catholic Medical Associations, wrote the article that appeared in the paper's Jan. 4 edition.

The pill has created "devastating ecological effects from tons of

hormones being released into the environment for years," the article said.

According to news reports, scientists worldwide have found sexual abnormalities in fish and other water-dwelling creatures that have been exposed to sewage contaminated with synthetic estrogens and other hormones like those used in the pill.

Some European studies have blamed increased male infertility and poor reproductive health on environmental causes, especially estrogenlike chemicals found in pesticides, plastic food containers, shampoos, cosmetics and other products.

The newspaper article said that, with such clear evidence of the adverse impact the pill's use has on the environment, manufacturers should offer more information about the ecological effects of the use of these synthetic hormones.

The article was based on a 100-page document published by the World Federation of Catholic Medical Associations to commemorate last year's 40th anniversary of the encyclical "Humanae Vitae" ("Of Human Life").

Titled "Forty Years of Humanae Vitae From a Medical Perspective," the document examines the consequences of men and women distancing themselves "from the fundamental concept of the encyclical and choosing to favor artificial contraception."

Much of the public is unaware that the contraceptive pill also acts as an abortifacient because it affects an embryo's ability to implant successfully, the article said.

The pill's function is usually described as suppressing ovulation, but in many cases, it said, the synthetic hormones in the pill create conditions that impede implantation and, therefore, are "abortive since they expel the small human embryo."

**Acknowledge
God's Sovereignty
Over All Life--
Respect and
Defend Life!**



SAINT MARTIN DE PORRES CHURCH
SYRACUSE, INDIANA



*It was you who created
My inmost self, and put
Me together in my
Mother's womb; for all
These mysteries I thank you;
For the wonder of myself, for
The wonder of your works.*

Psalm 139, 13-14

CORPUS CHRISTI CHURCH
SOUTH BEND

**without
LIFE
other
human rights
are meaningless.**

St. Monica Church
MISHAWAKA

Supporting a culture of life

Sacred Heart Parish
Notre Dame



**God's Greatest
Gift of All**

**St. Bavo Parish
Mishawaka**

Four out of five adults surveyed...

BY DEIRDRE A. MCQUADE

Year in and year out, regardless of the administration or party in power, thousands of people journey to Washington, D.C. each Jan. 22 for the March for Life. These pilgrims — along with millions across the country at local events — witness to the dignity of human life, protest the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision, and pray for an end to abortion. Why has the pro-life witness remained so strong 36 years after Roe legalized abortion on demand?

A major reason is that Roe v. Wade does not represent the views of the vast majority of Americans. In fact, it reflects the personal position of only 9 percent of U.S. adults, and most Americans would ban abortion altogether or limit its scope.

Public opinion doesn't make

something right or wrong. Direct attacks on innocent persons at any stage of life are fundamentally wrong and never justifiable. Catholics should give witness to the inviolable dignity of human life even if we stand alone. But polling continues to show that we are far from alone in rejecting the legal and moral distortions of Roe.

In December, the Pro-Life Secretariat at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops commissioned a nationwide survey of 2,341 U.S. adults representing the general public. Conducted online by one of the nation's top pollsters, the poll found that four out of five surveyed (82 percent) think abortion should be illegal or restricted in some way.

Nearly half (49 percent) support extensive restrictions: 11 percent think abortion should be illegal under all circumstances, and another 38 percent would restrict abortion to the narrow cir-

cumstances of life endangerment, rape or incest — reasons that account for less than 2 percent of all abortions.

An additional 33 percent think abortion should be legal for any reason, but would limit it to either the first three or first six months of pregnancy. When added to the 49 percent above, this produces a total of 82 percent wanting to limit the legality of abortion. That's four out of five surveyed.

A mere 9 percent said abortion should be legal for any reason at any time during pregnancy. The remaining 9 percent declined to answer the question.

These findings are remarkable. Fewer than one in 10 Americans support legal abortion for any reason at any time during pregnancy.

But that is the current extreme state of the abortion license under Roe v. Wade and its companion case, Doe v. Bolton.

If you don't know Doe, then you don't know Roe. Our abortion law is so extreme partly due to Doe's overly broad definition of

"health" as applied to Roe's requirement that laws against late-term abortions must have a health exception. According to Doe v. Bolton, maternal health includes "all factors — physical,


emotional, psychological, familial and the woman's age — relevant to the well-being of the patient." The "health" exception swallows the rule. Thus, except for a very specific ban on the partial-birth abortion procedure, there are no meaningful abortion restrictions in our country.

In solidarity with expectant mothers and their children, born and unborn, the pro-life movement will continue to witness, pray and protest for those who have no voice of their own. Visit www.usccb.org/prolife/prayervigil for ways to join us on the 2009 Day of Prayer and Penance for Life.

Deirdre A. McQuade is assistant director for Policy & Communications at the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.


A mere 9 percent said
abortion should be legal
for any reason at any time
during pregnancy.

LIFE
†
...IS GOD'S GIFT TO US.
What we do with it
is our gift to God.
Respect Life
In all its stages.
HOLY FAMILY PARISH
SOUTH BEND




*All things
bright and beautiful
all things
great and small,
all things
wise and wonderful,
the Lord God
made them all.*

St. Adalbert Parish
St. Casimir Parish
South Bend



*"Only a higher moral vision
can motivate the choice for life...
and the values underlying that vision
will greatly depend on whether the
nation continues to honor and revere
the family as the basic unit of society."*
-Pope John Paul II

St. Joseph Parish
Garrett



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

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

St. John the Evangelist Parish - Goshen
Rev. Christopher Smith, Pastor

St. Mary of the Annunciation Parish - Bristol
Rev. Robert Van Kempen, Pastor

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish - Elkhart
Rev. William Sullivan, Pastor

St. Vincent de Paul Parish - Elkhart
Rev. Philip DeVolder, Pastor

EDITORIAL

Abortion: The primary threat to civil rights

This Tuesday, Jan. 20, we will witness the historic inauguration of the first African-American president of the United States. While it may seem to many that this event signals the ultimate success of the Civil Rights Movement, two days later, on Jan. 22, we will mark the 36th anniversary of the infamous Supreme Court decision of *Roe v. Wade*. It was this decision that removed all legal protection from unborn human beings and which continues to have a disproportionately lethal effect on the African-American community in particular.

Consider these shocking facts from the Web site www.blackgenocide.org, founded by a black Baptist pastor, Rev. Clenard H. Childress. Between 1882 and 1968, 3,446 African-Americans were lynched in the United States. This is a number of blacks which is surpassed in less than three days by abortion. A black baby is five times more likely to be aborted than a white baby in our country, and 3 out of 5 pregnant African-American women abort their children — over 13 million since 1973. This tragic statistic prompted Rev. Childress to observe that, in our nation, the most dangerous place for a black person to be is in the womb of his mother.

While the Civil Rights Movement has certainly attained many laudable goals, the scourge of abortion and its disproportionate effect on the African-American community is a continuing roadblock to the achievement of equality under the law. A fundamental equality is the cornerstone, not only of the Civil Rights Movement, but of a just society.

This past fall during his address at the St. Joseph County Right to Life dinner, Rev. Childress acknowledged that while the Baptist Church led the way during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, it is the Catholic Church that today has taken the torch and is leading the way in the battle to restore legal protection of the right to life to all people of all colors. We should be proud to belong to such a church and make sure to do our part to build a culture of life where every child, born and unborn, is cherished.

Abortion v. conscience

On Dec. 18 of last year, the Bush administration issued final regulations protecting health-care providers' conscience rights. While federal laws protecting health-care institutions and professionals from having to perform or refer for abortions have been on the books for decades, ignorance of these laws, as well as growing hostility by some professional groups to rights of conscience, have made them necessary. A few examples of this hostility over the past few years:

- The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists issued an opinion asserting that it is unethical for obstetrician-gynecologists to decline to provide or refer for abortions or sterilizations.

- The American Civil Liberties Union has developed a report and advocacy kit aimed at requiring all hospitals, including Catholic hospitals, to provide abortions.

- NARAL Pro-Choice America claims that conscience clauses are "dangerous for women's health" and label them as "refusal clauses." They want to force doctors to perform or refer for abortions.

The Obama administration and the new Congress will be under great pressure from these groups to push a pro-abortion agenda that will make abortion a federally-funded entitlement and that will strip health-care institutions and professionals of their conscience rights.

Cardinal Justin Rigali, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, has challenged those who describe themselves as "pro-choice" to demonstrate their true convictions: "Do they agree with most Americans that abortion is a moral concern? Do they at least hold that 'freedom of choice' must belong to everyone, including those who have deep moral concerns in this area? Or is the 'pro-choice' label a misleading mask for an agenda of actively promoting and even imposing morally controversial procedures on those who conscientiously hold different views? Reactions to efforts to reaffirm and implement laws on conscience protection may provide an answer."

Perilously, the future of Catholic health care in the United States may likely depend on that answer. As we mark the 36th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, we are reminded once again that a house divided against itself cannot stand. Either it must become all one thing or all the other. Abortion cannot simultaneously be a fundamental good and a fundamental evil. The agendas of the new Obama administration and of the new Congress, as well as the public reaction to them, will likely make a deep impression on just what kind of country we are to become. Stay tuned.

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

COMMENTARY

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

Broken hearted

Why would you choose an immodest picture of the Blessed Virgin Mary (in the Dec. 21, 2008 cover of *Today's Catholic*)? She would never wear this dress. She is crying because of today's fashions. Don't insult Mary directly in her sacred images.

Is this a Catholic paper? "Father forgive them. They know not what they are doing."

Bob and Carolyn Butler
Monroeville

Icy metaphors

In the book of Romans, Paul tells us that God reveals himself through nature. After a recent ice storm I was noticing the beauty in the icy trees. They were so beautiful. When the sun shines on ice, it is though they are diamonds — such a beautiful sight, especially if you are sitting in a nice warm house looking out a window. But if you were one of the 70,000 houses without electricity, or one who fell on the ice and broke something, or left to clean up all the branches that broke off from the weight of the ice, you didn't feel quite that way.

As I was pondering on it all, I had a thought (okay, so maybe the Holy Spirit got through to me just then). Ice is like sin. Sin is so alluring, beautiful as the icy diamonds in the trees. It would be so much easier to resist sin if it wasn't so appealing, so fun. We are tempted to sin, the allure of the forbidden attracting us. But after we are snagged, we realize how dangerous it is. Maybe we just landed on our rear, so to speak, and then got in to safety. But sometimes we let the beauty of sin draw us in until we are in danger of losing our souls.

Do you suppose that the more we draw closer to our Lord, the more that sin will look like the dead, ugly tree branches such that we are no longer drawn to them and the danger that lurks behind the sin?

Then I desire to spend more time in prayer drawing closer to my Lord. I can tell you the ice doesn't feel so good when you land on it.

Marti Trout
Fort Wayne

Sign petition to fight FOCA

I am writing about the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA), because President-elect Obama has promised to sign this as soon as he is president. If women are deciding not to have an abortion because of what they learn from these laws, this is their right. FOCA would reverse all the common sense laws that most of our 50 states have passed such as:

- Bans on partial birth abortion, which is the killing of a baby that is

partially born, all but the head. Scissors are jabbed into the baby's skull, while the baby is alive and kicking. The baby jerks in pain. The baby's brains are then sucked out of his or her head. The skull collapses and the dead baby is delivered. This would commonly be done during the second trimester and sometimes the third trimester. Brenda Pratt Shafer, a nurse who briefly worked at an abortion clinic, witnessed this procedure and has said the baby's legs and arms are moving until the brains are sucked out.

- Requirements that women are given information about the risks of getting an abortion. Why would anyone want to reverse this? Any sane person would want to know the risks of a surgical procedure that he or she is considering.

- Only licensed physicians can perform abortions. Who would want an under-qualified person to perform a surgical procedure on them?

- Parents must be informed and give consent to their minor daughter's abortion. Any minor needs a parent's consent to have a surgical procedure performed. Abortion should be no different.

FOCA would erase these laws and prevent states from enacting similar protective measures in the future. Please go to www.FightFOCA.com to electronically sign the petition to stop this madness. Most of the information I have provided was taken from this Web site. Please pass this information on to anyone you know. If you do not have an e-mail address, you can ask someone you know to enter your name with their e-mail address.

Chris Passino
Churubusco

Finds yoga article disturbing

I am writing to you to express how disturbing I found the article in your paper advocating yoga as an acceptable practice for Catholics. Yoga is in fact antithetical to Christianity (as it's roots are in Hindu pantheism, God is not Creator but an impersonal energy source) and should never be taught that it is just a form of "physical exercise" or a "complement" to a Catholic's prayer life. Clare McGrathe Merkle, director of The Cross and the Veil Web site, was for many years a New Age "healer" and Kriya yoga practitioner until, through the many prayers of her sister, was able to finally comprehend the truth about New Age practices, yoga in particular.

She writes, "The core philosophy of yoga is a belief in the law of karma, reincarnation, potential for self healing, enlightenment without external aid (ie, no Savior need apply) and finally ultimate withdrawal from the world which is

deemed to be an illusion."

The Vatican has many documents concerning New Age mysticism and why Catholics should stay away from such practices. Among these are "Jesus Christ the Bearer of the Water of Life" and a 1989 "Letter to Bishops on some aspects of Christian Meditation."

While I believe the average Catholic who goes to a yoga class with mat and water bottle in hand is not looking for ways to worship false gods, these types of New Age practices do lend themselves as portals for demonic activity to overtake an unsuspecting soul. The yoga poses themselves are devised as worship poses. One cannot "opt out of" false worship; the devil takes it very seriously.

I believe that this paper has a responsibility to its Catholic readers to present authentic Catholic teaching on this issue and I look forward to an article in the future that presents this New Age practice in the right Catholic context.

Mary MacDonell
South Bend

Report the news

I find the quality of *Today's Catholic* to be equal to the secular media, most notably *The New York Times*. What should be news is interspersed with editorializing. The best example would be the article written on page 4 of Sept. 7, 2008, which headlined that "Barack Obama invokes American spirit, echoes 'Faithful Citizenship' themes."

The Jan. 4, 2009 week's articles glorify Obama and seek for the "hope" that he'll "change" his mind about the promises that he made to Planned Parenthood that he is totally supportive of abortion — anywhere, anyhow, with the support of federal funding and without parental notification. Now we count Catholic congressmen and feel that we, therefore, can get the attention of the president elect who said he is for abortion and that he'll choose his Supreme Court justices according to the litmus test of their support for abortion. He voted against Justices Roberts and Alitto.

If our Catholic congressmen profess their beliefs modeled on theology according to Nancy Pelosi, how does this help? So vice president elect Joe Biden is Catholic, but he expresses a tainted interpretation of Catholic values. What good is that?

Give me the news. Don't editorialize and try to support the candidate that you helped to elect and then hope he'll change his mind about his promises.

Fran Holmes
Granger

Editor's note: *Today's Catholic* does not endorse political candidates.

Life is precious at any stage

The death of a loved one at any stage of life brings the burden of grief to those left behind both near and far. Grieving a loss from a beloved grandparent to a precious child is a natural part of life. And though there is an undercurrent in our culture today of disbelief, grieving the loss of an aborted child is as real as any grief can be.

Many women and men suffer in silence with the aftermath of abortion. So common a practice since the 1973 Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision to legalize abortion that many are lulled by media and sometimes even friends and family into a sense of complacency about the emotional and spiritual consequences of the act.

My experience in grief work has taught me that taking the time to really listen to the story behind the fateful decision reveals the myriad of events and influences

that cry out for understanding and forgiveness.

Sylvia recalls her abortion 16 years after the devastating event. "I was young and had nothing. My parents and boyfriend assured me that it was in my best interest. But I wanted my baby." Under immense pressure from her family, Sylvia finally had the abortion. She admits being in denial for several years, a common response to the trauma of abortion. "I had trouble with anxiety attacks and couldn't maintain a real relationship. But until I talked about my abortion I couldn't see the connection," she says.

The silent burden Sylvia carried for years was weighted with shame, guilt, anger and anxiety. "I was so angry at my folks. How could I forgive them for forcing me into aborting my baby? But I had the most trouble forgiving myself," she says.

So many women feel that they

have committed the unforgivable sin. But as author Holly Francis writes in "5 Steps Toward Post-abortion Healing," — "No sin is ever too big for the mercy and forgiveness of God." Forgiving self and others is a long and difficult process. But as with all grief with guidance and support there is hope for healing and new life. Counseling and mentoring ministries for post-abortion women and men have become

HOPE IN THE MOURNING

KAY COZAD

HOPE, PAGE 20

Openness to God's call brings redemption



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Second Sunday in ordinary time Jn 1:35-42

The First Book of Samuel is the source of the first reading for this weekend. Originally, First and Second Samuel were one volume. At some point in history, an editor divided them into the two volumes, and two volumes appear in Bible translations today.

As the title of these books implies, the central figure is Samuel, a prophet active centuries before Christ.

Prophets were high revered throughout the history of the chosen people. They were seen as God's special representatives, but also personally very holy and devoted to God. At times, prophets resisted their callings initially. Such was the case of the great prophets Isaiah, Ezekiel and Jeremiah. However, after all was said and done, they accommodated themselves to God's will and accepted the call to be prophets.

These figures were admired because the call to be a prophet was seen precisely as a call, as a call from God.

In this weekend's reading, God calls Samuel. It occurs according to God's plan. Samuel is open to hearing God, indeed ready to hear God, but Samuel

cannot hurry the divine plan.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians supplies the second reading for this weekend. Many of the Pauline writings have their luster in their clear revelation of the bond between true believers and Jesus. Jesus was the son of God, but also human, in a mystery theologians call the Incarnation.

Truly committed Christians, in faith and baptism, are inseparably bound to Jesus, both in a shared human nature, but also in the divine life given believers by Christ.

This supernatural bond, the very keystone of personal salvation, requires Christians not only to be of spiritual faithfulness, but bodily faithfulness as well. They must not allow themselves to fall into carnal sin.

Instructing the Christian Corinthians in this fact seems for some to be excessive for Paul. However, it should be remembered, Corinth was known near and far as a virtual capital of immorality and vice.

St. John's Gospel furnishes the last reading. It is a story about the decision to follow Jesus by Simon, later known as Peter, and Simon's brother, Andrew. In the story, Jesus intrigues Andrew and Simon. They follow Jesus. Yet, the Lord invites them to be apostles.

They recognize Jesus as messiah. Jesus calls Peter to a new life, even giving him a new name, Cephas, that is often translated as Peter.

Reflection

The church, in the majesty and glory of its liturgy, called us all to celebrate the birth of Christ at Christmas, revealing to us that Jesus was the son of Mary, there-

fore a human, as she was only human despite her unique holiness and singular place in the divine plan of redemption.

Two weeks later, it celebrated the feast of the Epiphany, revealing then to us the fact that Jesus, born in Bethlehem, was divine, the son of God, and that redemption is God's gift for all people.

So, the church, with the greatest joy and hope, has told us about the Lord. He is the Savior of the world! He is one of us, the Son of Mary.

The church has told us that we are being touched by God's grace. God loves us. God calls us. He offers us eternal life in Christ.

Now, the church asks us in these readings to consider how personally we shall respond to these marvelous realities. What does Christ truly mean to each of us?

How should we respond to God? St. Paul gives very concrete advice. Samuel, Peter and Andrew are examples. We must follow Christ. There is no other way to true life and peace.

READINGS

Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19 Ps 40:2, 4, 7-10 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20 Jn 1:35-42

Monday: Heb 5:1-10 Ps 110:1-4 Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20 Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17 Ps 110:1-4 Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: Heb 7:25-8:6 Ps 40:7-10, 17 Mk 3:7-12

Friday: Heb 8:6-13 Ps 85:8, 10-14 Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14 Ps 47:2-3, 6-9 Mk 3:20-21

CATEQUIZEM

By Dominic Camplisson

In January, the church remembers St. Hilary of Poitiers.

1. St. Hilary was a bishop of the church and was the fourth of these named:
a. Doctors of the Church b. Popes c. Saints

2. He was from Poitiers; in what modern country is that?
a. Italy
b. France
c. Spain

3. When was he active?
a. the fourth century
b. the 14th century
c. the 24th century

4. While some details about his life are vague, his family was likely
a. Greek b. acrobats c. pagan

5. According to some unreliable sources, he had a daughter with this magical name
a. Abra
b. Hey Presto
c. Bah Humbug

6. Perhaps surprisingly for a bishop, he was not this until he was an adult:
a. Married
b. Converted to Catholicism
c. Recognized as a Hanif (Holy Man)

7. He was chosen as bishop of his home town and immediately opposed this:
a. The papacy
b. The process for choosing bishops
c. The Arian heresy

8. One of the proponents of that movement was actually the bishop of Arles, with this pagan sounding name:
a. Satanus b. Saturninus c. Satyrus

9. Denounced by his opponents, Hilary was exiled by:
a. The emperor Constantine
b. Emperor Julian the Apostate
c. Emperor Constantius

10. Not bitter, he actually composed works showing how the heretics were:
a. All riff raff
b. Wrong, but not always intentionally or incorrigibly so
c. Unknowingly influenced by Islam

11. Hilary was so conciliatory; he was even criticized by this splendidly named Bishop of Cagliari
a. Episcopopus b. Papias c. Lucifer

12. Hilary made little headway at one of these, held in the city of Seleucia:
a. Tort trial
b. Council
c. Inquisition

13. Bizarrely the Eastern bishops, in demanding Hilary's expulsion, enabled him to triumphantly
a. become the first Western Patriarch of the East
b. return to his own city of Poitiers
c. win the debate by miming since he did not speak Greek

14. Hilary, by powers of persuasion, had some success against heresy, including the removal of the aforementioned
a. Bishop of Arles
b. Simon the Mohair wearer
c. Pope Benedict III

15. His relics
a. were reportedly burned by Protestants during the reformation.
b. are on display in the Church of Santé Hilaire in Poitiers.
c. are in Notre Dame de Paris, buried under the tomb of Quasimodo.

ANSWERS:

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

'A future pregnancy would be too risky..'

Various medical conditions can affect a woman's ability to carry a pregnancy, and at times even threaten her and her child's life. Some of these conditions include pulmonary hypertension, Marfan's syndrome and certain congenital problems with the aorta. When a doctor informs a woman that she cannot become pregnant in the future without serious consequences to herself and her baby, having her tubes tied might seem to be the most appropriate response. Some would further argue that since the sterilization would be for "medical reasons," it would be an "indirect sterilization" and therefore morally acceptable.

Yet in point of fact, a tubal ligation to avoid a future pregnancy would not be an indirect sterilization at all. An indirect sterilization is a procedure that in treating an existing medical problem brings about an unintended loss of fertility in the process. For example, when a patient with cancer receives radiation and

chemotherapy, a secondary and unintended effect may be sterility. Or when a man is battling testicular cancer, he may undergo surgical removal of the testes in order to fight the disease, with the undesired consequence that he will become sterile. Indirect sterilizations are morally permissible whenever there is a serious pathology involved, and when the contraceptive effects are unintended.

When a woman suffering from pulmonary hypertension chooses to tie her tubes, however, that tubal ligation does not address or cure her hypertension; she is, therefore, opting for a direct sterilization. When a man chooses a vasectomy because he is worried about transmitting a faulty gene to his offspring, he is, likewise, opting for a direct sterilization. A direct sterilization is morally unacceptable because it involves the decision to directly mutilate a healthy system of the body, one that is functioning normally and properly, for the sake of a contraceptive end.

Such violations are commonplace today. In the United States, an estimated 700,000 women undergo surgical tubal ligations each year, and about 600,000 men undergo surgical vasectomies.

Vasectomies and tubal ligations do not treat any actually existing ailment or pathology. When a woman ties her tubes to render any future sexual acts infertile, she is choosing to mutilate a key faculty of her own body because she and/or her husband do not wish to practice periodic abstinence to avoid a potentially dangerous pregnancy. A tubal ligation under these circumstances would not, in fact, be for medical reasons, but instead, for reasons of marital convenience.

We have a duty to respect the integrity and totality of our own bodies, and cutting healthy fallopian tubes in a woman's body is never a morally defensible medical decision.

One of the key errors in thinking that stands behind the decision for surgical sterilization is

the belief that men and women should not really be expected to have control or dominion over their sexual drives and impulses. So many today seem to have renounced the project of pursuing self-mastery within the domain of sexuality.

While it is clear that we cannot survive without food or water, it is false to assume, as our culture seems to do, that we cannot survive without sexual gratification. Sex is not necessary for individual survival, nor indispensable for a healthy and fulfilled personal life. For a single person, in fact, a healthy and fulfilled personal life will depend on the proper ordering of the sexual faculties through the self-discipline of abstinence, and an attendant growth in virtue. This holds true in marriage as well, where spouses must pursue the discipline of sexual self-restraint at various times if the marriage relationship is to grow and flourish. They may have to practice such discipline under conditions of military deployment, work-related absences, and chronic or acute illnesses.

Whenever there may be legitimate reasons to avoid a pregnancy, as in the case of a serious threat to the life of the mother or child, married couples will be called upon to practice a similar self-discipline, by averting only to those means of avoiding pregnancy that properly respect the gift of their sexuality and their respective masculinity and femininity.

Practically speaking, this will entail choosing periodic abstinence during the known fertile



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

BY FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

times of the woman's cycle as a means of avoiding a pregnancy. In the past few decades, the techniques of Natural Family Planning have become quite sophisticated and precise in their ability to determine when a woman is fertile. Married couples can use this information to limit sexual intercourse to infertile periods, and practice abstinence during fertile periods, when serious reasons warrant it.

Respecting marital sexuality in this way, and refusing to compromise our sexual faculties through vasectomies or tubal ligations, promotes important personal virtues within marriage and properly respects the God-given and life-giving designs of our own bodies.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org

Incarnation and present circumstances

The Gospel reading for the vigil Mass of Christmas Eve is the genealogy of Jesus according to Matthew: a terror to priests and deacons with poor Hebrew pronunciation and a bore to most congregants. Once, it was a string of "begats", now, it's a catalogue of strange names with which most Catholics are unfamiliar. Why would the church appoint such an odd Gospel reading on Christmas?

Matthew's point, in his time, was to locate Jesus within one stream of the Jewish messianic expectation: the belief that the Promised One of God would be a descendant of David. Thus there's all that begetting, from Abraham to David, from David to the Exile, and from the Exile to St. Joseph. Jesus, Matthew is telling his readers, is the fulfillment of both the covenant with Abraham and the promises made to David. Which point was, I suspect, clear to the Jewish communities of the first century for whom Matthew wrote; it's not, perhaps, self-evidently important to 21st-century Christians, most of whom are gentiles.

No, were I to have preached recently on Matthew's genealogy, I'd have pointed out that its most interesting feature is that it isn't air-brushed. At the risk of blasphemy, and to take an example from the contemporary "art" of spin-control, this is a "narrative" that includes Bill Ayers, Tony Rezko, Jeremiah Wright and Rod Blagojevich, rather than air-brushing them out of the picture. To be sure, Matthew's genealogy has patriarchs, heroes, psalmists and saintly men and women; but it also includes scoundrels, idolaters, apostates, vicious kings, inept

kings, and foreigners. Jesus is "located" amidst the very mixed bag that proceeds from Abraham, our father in faith. Why?

Because Matthew is determined to underscore the realism of the Incarnation. The coming of the Son of God is not magic. And it's not sugar-coated. The Son, in the power of the Spirit, will fulfill the Father's covenantal promises despite every obstacle that human weakness and wickedness can throw into the path of the divine fidelity. Moreover, in writing to his Jewish-Christian readers (and to potential converts to Christianity from the tribe of Abraham), Matthew takes pains to highlight Ruth, the Moabite woman whose fidelity to her Jewish mother-in-law becomes one of the instruments by which God's messianic promise to Israel is fulfilled. In doing so, Matthew helps prepare his Jewish-Christian readers for two revolutionary ideas: that the new covenant in Jesus is universal in character, and that the gentiles, the wild branches grafted onto the tree of Israel, are full inheritors of the promises to Abraham.

Matthew's brutal honesty about the messy history of the messianic line is more than a matter of authorial honesty; Matthew refuses to engage in spin-control to make an important theological point. That point — face the facts squarely; God is in charge, and God will ultimately prevail — speaks as much to us as it did to the first century. Which brings me back to Ayers, Blagojevich and the rest.

In the weeks after Nov. 4, some Catholics have taken an apocalyptic view of the period ahead, seeing in President-elect Obama a



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

man with whom serious Catholics can do no serious business. Others have taken the precise opposite tack, arguing that the church has to "stay in play," that Catholics must "find common ground" with the new administration, that "we have to talk with these people," even if that means muting some of the church's core issues and fudging its sacramental discipline. Neither of these approaches strikes me as satisfactory.

I'm all for talking with everyone. But in this instance, when certain issues at stake are of fundamental moral gravity, and the interlocutors respond primarily to power rather than reason, I believe that, after the initial amenities, the conversation has to begin by the church and its leaders defining some non-negotiables — and pointing out, politely but directly, the consequences that will follow if, for example, the new administration signs off on a federal override of state laws providing conscience-clause protections for Catholic health care professionals.

The realism at the root of Christian faith demands no less. St. Matthew would have understood that.

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

HOPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

more common in the last decade and essential to this complicated grief work. Trained counselors and priests offer compassion and forgiveness through interaction and reconciliation.

Project Rachel, founded in 1984 by Victoria Thorn in Milwaukee, is the Catholic Church's healing ministry that operates as a network of professional counselors and priests, all trained to provide one-on-one spiritual and psychological care for those who are suffering because of an abortion.

Much of the recovery of post-abortion grief revolves around recognizing and accepting responsibility for the act. Because the bond between mother and baby was broken during the abortion healing may require the realization that the baby was a viable human being. Some therapies ask that the baby be named and imagined. Memorializing the infant with ceremony such as candle lighting or attending a

special Mass offers a semblance of peace.

Grief over the loss of a child never known brings its own set of "what if" questions. Post-abortive women many times experience deep seated guilt especially around the anniversary of the abortion or the approximate date of birth.

Sylvia says, "I have no fond memories to cherish of my baby. And I am responsible for that. This year my child would have been 16. Think of all that he and I would have experienced by now." Sylvia has found a place to grieve her loss in a local post-abortive support group and says, "The one thing I've learned is that healing takes time but you don't have to grieve alone."

Kay Cozad is a certified grief educator and the news editor/writer of *Today's Catholic* newspaper. She is also the author of "Prayer Book for Widows," Our Sunday Visitor, 2004.

THE SCRIPTURE SEARCH WILL RETURN NEXT WEEK

Sports

CYO resumes basketball action in 2009

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) action resumed with league play on Saturday, Jan. 10. At the Hessen Cassel site, Hessen Cassel boys and girls were both victorious over the teams from St. Therese in Blue League competition.

St. Aloysius, the defending league champs and 2008 tournament runner-ups to Huntington Catholic, were idle for the first week, but will face Hessen Cassel on Saturday, Jan. 17, in a Blue League battle. Over the Christmas break, the Gator girls won a feeder tournament beating the young Squires, 35-24, for the championship. In early January, St. Aloysius won another six-team tournament at Bethlehem Lutheran.

In his 23rd season with CYO, Coach Bud Sorg hopes for a winning season again for 2008-2009. "We have good shooters and experienced girls on this team," Sorg reported. Out for a few weeks after double knee surgery, assistants Blane Sorg and Doyle Freiburger are filling in for Sorg. St. Aloysius has a 2-0 league record so far this season. Additionally, at the preseason Queen of Angels Invitational, the Gators finished a strong second

to Gold League powerhouse St. Jude, losing twice to the Eagles by just a total of four points. The combined Gator roster of five eighth graders and three seventh graders are led in scoring most games by Maria Zaremba and Heather Sterrett. However, Sorg explains, "All of our girls can contribute and play well together."

Boys

St. Charles (7) 18; St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth (7) 30 — Robertson 12, Morken 12
St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, 54; St. Therese, 18 — Palmer 7, Castleman 12, Knapke 12
St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth (8) 39; Decatur (8) 27 — Hams 19, Kohne 8

Girls

St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, 27; St. Therese, 21 — Schaadt 12, An. Trevino 10

Coaches are encouraged to e-mail scores to mmcastleman@aol.com.

DOUBLE-DOUBLE BASKETBALL TROUBLE FOR USF IN 100-69 RAKING OF MAPLE LEAFS No mercy. After three straight losses to NAIA rated teams, the University of Saint Francis (USF) vented its frustration with a 100-69 win at Hutzell Athletic Center over Goshen College on Jan. 7. Six Lady Cougars scored in double figures and Jamika Banks and Vini Dawson racked up double doubles for USF. As of Jan. 8, USF was 9-9 overall, 2-2 in Mid-Central College Conference play.

Luers claims title to the Battle of the Bishops Bowling Contest

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — The coveted "Battle of the Bishops" bowling (BOBB) trophy ended up on the south side of town this year as the Bishop Luers Knights earned bragging rights by winning two out of three matches over the Bishop Dwenger Saints at Thunder Bowl on Dec. 18.

Both of the Fort Wayne diocesan high schools are part of an 18-team Fort Wayne High School Bowling Conference club, which began their season the first week of November.

The conference consists of schools in northeast Indiana and uses six different bowling alleys in the Fort Wayne area for their matches including Thunder Bowl, Village Bowl, Georgetown, Crazy Pinz Entertainment Center, Pro Bowl West and Wayne Recreation Center.

The schools are participating in a 10-week schedule, which will culminate with sectional, regional, semi-state and state competition during the Saturdays in February. The state final match will be housed in Indianapolis. Each team match consists of five varsity boys, five varsity girls and five junior varsity boys or girls per school going head to head in a two-game format to determine a winner.

Rich Sarrazin, conference coordinator and head coach at Bishop Dwenger High School, reports that the format used for the matches is a no handicap scratch competition that continues thru the season until a winner is crowned conference champ.



PROVIDED BY THE FORT WAYNE HIGH SCHOOL BOWLING CONFERENCE CLUB

The coveted "Battle of the Bishops" bowling (BOBB) trophy ended up on the south side of town this year as the Bishop Luers Knights earned bragging rights by winning two out of three matches over the Bishop Dwenger Saints at Thunder Bowl on Dec. 18.

Head coach for the victors from Bishop Luers is Tom Heonard. A complete listing of both teams' rosters can be found at www.fortwaynebowling.com by clicking the high school link.

Scores were the following:

- Boys Varsity — Bishop Dwenger 1119-1146 for a total of 2,265; Bishop Luers 823-841 for a total of 1,664
- Girls Varsity — Bishop Dwenger 635-656 for a total of 1,291; Bishop Luers 703-733 for a total of 1,436
- Junior Varsity (mixed genders) — Bishop Dwenger 697-713 for a total of 1,410; Bishop Luers 790-815 for a total of 1,605

Pace heats up for ICCL basketball last weekend

SOUTH BEND — Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) hardwood boys basketball action consumed two days last weekend as the regular season barrels down to just three more weekends.

In Saturday's boys' varsity action, St. Joseph, Mishawaka, beat St. Jude, 47-21, as Michael Whitfield, with 29 points — the high scorer of the weekend, and Vinnie Ravotto, with 10 points, paced the winners.

Christ the King scored a victory over St. Anthony, 38-35, with Matthew Royeca scoring 11 points for the victors.

Our Lady of Hungary beat St. Monica, 28-26. Jalem Holland had a game high 12 points for Our Lady. Patrick Hunsberger

tossed in 11 points for St. Monica.

Corpus Christi defeated St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart, 31-28. Ray Kowajski of Corpus Christi and Peter Murphy of St. Thomas each had 11 points.

Queen of Peace beat St. John the Baptist, 48-19. Nick Johnson, with 14 points, and Adam Janowiak, with 13 points, paced Queen of Peace. Max Romans scored 11 points for the St. John team.

St. Joseph, South Bend,

defeated Holy Family, 32-18. Dylan Hensley of Holy Family had 14 points in the loss.

St. Pius X beat St. Michael, Plymouth, 39-13, as

St. Pius' Greenan Sullivan had 12 points, and Denton Gillis had 10 points in the win.

Holy Cross narrowly edged St. Matthew, 37-36, with Michael Madden scoring 16 points for the winners. Pat Quinn tossed in 13 points for St. Matthew.

Christ the King beat St. Matthew, 39-23, as varsity

games continued Sunday, Jan. 11. Ryan Wobbe and Connor Edmonds each had 10 points for Christ the King.

St. Pius X beat St. Jude, 39-30. Greenan Sullivan paced St. Pius with 11 points.

Corpus Christi beat St. Joseph, South Bend, 29-22. Tommy Favorite of St. Joseph had 12 points in the cause. Tim McNamara of Corpus Christi also had 12 points.

Queen of Peace defeated Our Lady of Hungary, 49-43, as Queen of Peace's Adam Janowiak tossed in 19 points, and Nick Johnson tossed in another 18 points. Dominic Sanders had 19 points for Our Lady.

St. Thomas beat Holy Family,

35-42. St. Thomas's Andrew Shafer had 13 points, and Zack Sailor had 12 points. Dylan Hensley had 12 points for Holy Family.

St. Monica defeated St. John the Baptist, 49-16, with St. Monica's Patrick Hunsberger tossing in 11 points.

In other games, Holy Cross defeated St. Anthony, 30-26. And with the scoring barrage of Michael Whitfield's 15 points for a victory, St. Joseph Mishawaka defeated St. Michael, 40-19.





MOVIE CAPSULES

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

"Bride Wars" (Fox 2000/Regency)

Amiable if predictable romantic bauble about longtime devoted pals (Kate Hudson and Anne Hathaway, both in good comic form), who have dreamt since childhood of June weddings at New York's Plaza Hotel, but then, as adults, have a falling-out just before their much-anticipated nuptials there, after which each sets out to sabotage the other. With the significant moral reservation that both gals are shown to be cohabiting with their fiancés, director Gary Winick's fitfully amusing "chick flick" otherwise

has no significant sex or language issues, and there are, at least, some worthy if pat messages of lasting friendship and sensible priorities. Premarital

situations and some mildly suggestive dancing. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-III — adults, though it's acceptable for older teens. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG.

"The Black Balloon" (NeoClassics)

Moving Australian film about a teenager (Rhys Wakefield) settling into a new neighborhood with his pregnant mother (Toni Collette) and army officer father (Erik Thomson) and caring for his autistic brother (Luke Ward) with the help of a sympathetic girlfriend (Gemma Ward). First-time feature director Elissa Down's semiautobiographical story is well-acted and conveys a strong pro-family message and compassionate view of the disabled. Some crass expressions, brief domestic violence, a few expletives including a single use of profanity and of the F-word, mild sexual elements with innuendo and a birth control reference, and some scatological elements; acceptable for older teens. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classifica-

tion is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

"Defiance" (Paramount Vantage)

This is a well-acted and lengthy but ultimately worthy history lesson about the Bielski brothers (Daniel Craig, Liev Schreiber and Jamie Bell), Jewish farmers who chose not to be victimized by the Nazis, who sheltered hundreds of Jews, taking them to safety in the forests of Eastern Europe during World War II, and who violently fought off the Germans. Director and co-writer Edward Zwick keeps the story moving considering the three-year time span, but the brothers' heroism here is shown to be marred by several morally unacceptable instances of senseless slaughter. Sporadic violence, vigilante killing, rough language, mild sexuality and a rape reference. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R.

Catholic News Agency presents 2009 Liturgical Calendar

Catholics wanting to stay in tune with the liturgical rhythms of the Church will now be able to do so with Catholic News Agency's exclusive liturgical calendar.

Launched Jan. 7, the new resource includes the full daily readings, the saint of the day, the week of the Psalter for those praying the Liturgy of the Hours and the liturgical colors for each day. The calendar is the first of its kind online and currently runs until November 2009.

CNA's Liturgical Calendar, "offers Catholics around the world the opportunity to pray with the universal Church," explained CNA Editor David Uebbing. "It also gives them the chance for a daily encounter with God in His Word."

The Liturgical Calendar is free of charge to readers and may be republished or reprinted with proper credit to CNA.

The new calendar is available at: www.catholicnewsagency.com/calendar.php.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

FUNDRAISERS

Pancakes and sausage for breakfast
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 9460 will have a pancake and sausage breakfast Sunday, Feb. 1, at the St. Therese Parish Hall from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. A freewill donation will be accepted.

Spaghetti dinner planned
Angola — St. Anthony of Padua Parish will have a spaghetti dinner Wednesday, Jan. 21, from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are: adult \$5, children 12 and under \$3 and children 2 and under free. Dinner includes garlic toast, dessert and beverage. All proceeds benefit the St. Anthony of Padua Church building fund.

Boy Scouts sponsor spaghetti dinner
Fort Wayne — A spaghetti dinner will be held Saturday, Jan. 24, from 5-7 p.m. at the Queen of Angels Activities Center, 1500 W. State Blvd. Tickets are adults \$7, seniors (60+) \$5, K-8 students: \$5, pre-school free and family \$25 and will be sold after Masses.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Jan. 16, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$7, children (5-12) \$3. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, garlic toast and coffee. Carry-out available.

Casino night supports men's club
Fort Wayne — St. Vincent de Paul's men club will have a casino night Saturday, Jan. 31, from 5:30-11 p.m. at the parish hall. Notre Dame football players featured. Tickets are \$15 pre-sale or \$20 at the door and include food by the Window Garden. Refreshments available. Must be 21. Contact Todd Martin at toddm@cse-nh.com for tickets.

Tenderloin and chili supper
Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council #4511 will be hosting a tenderloin and chili supper on Friday, Jan. 23, from 4:30-7 p.m. at the Knights Hall on Bell Drive. Tickets are \$6 for adults, \$3 for children ages 6-12. Menu consists of chili, tenderloin sandwich, crackers and drink. Proceeds will be used for seminarian support.

Mystery dinner theatre
Fort Wayne — St. Joseph Hessen Cassel will have a mystery dinner theatre Saturday, Jan. 31, at the parish hall beginning with hors d'oeuvres at 6 p.m. Tickets for \$25 include appetizers, dinner and performance. Call (260) 639-3169 for information.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Right to Life March
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus will hold their annual Right to Life March and meeting Sunday, Jan. 25, from 2-4 p.m. at the council 553 headquarters on Hill Street. A short march from the council to St. Joseph Parish on Hill Street will be followed by a prayer service. Back at the council, Notre Dame law professor Carter Snead, a leading expert on pro-life and bioethical issues, will speak outlining the upcoming legal and political challenges in bioethics and pro-life principles. All faith communities are welcome. Free of charge. For information, contact Bill Schmitt at (574) 232-6777.

Looking for a clothes dryer
Fort Wayne — St. Mary Parish, is looking for a clothes dryer for its Ave Maria House at 432 Madison St., adjacent to the church. The Ave Maria House serves as a welcoming space during the day for the homeless walking the streets. Anyone who can help with the appliance is asked to call Dottie Carpenter, manager, at (260) 424-3355.

Day of reflection
Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent Wednesday, Jan. 28, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "The Master Weaver." Bring your Bible. The cost of the day is \$15 and includes lunch. Register by Friday, Jan. 23, to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

Allen County Right to Life March
Fort Wayne — The annual rally and march for life will be Saturday, Jan. 24, at noon at the Scottish Rite Theatre. The march will follow at 1 p.m.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father Tony Steinacker will celebrate the holy hour Tuesday, Jan. 20, at MacDougal Chapel at 7:15 p.m. Father Tony is associate pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Parish.

Open house planned each month
Fort Wayne — The Third Order of St. Francis Fraternity will have an open house on the third Sunday of each month at the University of Saint Francis Campus Ministry Office. For information call Barbara Klutz at (260) 486-8797.

Saints Alive! taking registrations
Fort Wayne — The Bishop Dwenger Saints Alive! Dinner and Auction will be Friday, Feb. 27. Call (260) 496-4801 to make reservations.

REST IN PEACE

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| Avilla Donald C. Cass, 83, St. Mary of the Assumption | Mary Margaret Porowski, 83, St. Pius X | Agnes H. Brainerd, 85, Basilica of the Sacred Heart |
| Fort Wayne Claude M. Bobilya, Jr., 85, St. Jude | Richard Rupchock, 45, St. Pius X | South Bend Rita M. Cassidy, 93, St. Joseph |
| Rosalind M. Reed, 88, St. Jude | Mishawaka Lynn M. Bertman, 60, St. Joseph | Elizabeth F. Kolber, 95, Holy Family |
| Joann M. Kirkhoff, Most Precious Blood | Priscilla E. Schenck, 85, St. Monica | Pam S. Knefely, 55, St. John the Baptist |
| Jerome C. Riester, 90, Queen of Angels | Estelle J. Duarte, 84, St. Bavo | Alice J. Cherrone, 81, St. Adalbert |
| Mark Sanders, 68, St. Jude | Rene C. DeLoof, 83, St. Bavo | Kenneth G. Noble, Sr., 77, Corpus Christi |
| Thelma A. Lorenz, 100, Most Precious Blood | Notre Dame Mary A. Bartholomew, 101, Basilica of the Sacred Heart | Thomas S. Owsianowski, 77, St. Patrick |
| Lewis M. Frisinger, 84, Most Precious Blood | Brother Alexius Adam, CSC, 83, Our Lady of the Cross Chapel | Ronald S. Samulski, 72, Holy Family |
| Dean L. Zirkle, 71, St. Jude | Betty June Lord, All Souls Chapel | Sister Mary Vincent Gawel, CSSF, 75, Presentation of the Virgin Mary Chapel, Livonia, Mich. Sister served at St. Stanislaus, St. Hyacinth and St. Adalbert, South Bend. |
| Granger Gregg A. Dunlap, 50, St. Pius X | Father Robert L. Plasker, CSC, 78, Basilica of the Sacred Heart | |

Youth Mass and talk offered
New Haven — St. John the Baptist, St. Rose and St. Louis Besancon will have a youth Mass at 6 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 18, at St. Louis Besancon Church. Following Mass there will be a high school program on Pope John Paul II's theology of the body for teens presented by the diocesan youth director, Cindy Black. This program discusses God's plan for human relationships. Dinner is included. This is a free event.

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LIFE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

activities, organizers said it will be a "crazy week" in the nation's capital.

The theme of this year's march is "Remember — The Life Principles Mean 'Equal Care' With No Exceptions," meaning the intentional killing of even one unborn human is never justified or necessary, the Web site said.

Organizers are also stressing that the U.S. must provide equal care for both a pregnant mother and her unborn child.

The National Prayer Vigil for Life will begin with a 7 p.m. Mass Jan. 21 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and conclude with a 7:30 a.m. liturgy Jan. 22. Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, will celebrate the evening Mass and Bishop Paul S. Loverde of Arlington, Va., will be the principal celebrant for the morning Mass.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy will join youths and young adults, most traveling by bus, from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. In last week's issue of *Today's Catholic*, the diocese announced that Bishop D'Arcy will concelebrate the Vigil for Life Mass at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington on the evening of Jan. 21, and the youth rally and Mass at the Verizon Center the next morning at the Verizon Center before the actual march. Plans are for the diocesan contingent to meet on the Washington Mall and march together behind the diocesan banner with Bishop D'Arcy.

For the first time since the all-night vigil has been held, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops will direct people who won't fit into the basilica for the events to similar Masses within walking distance, said Deirdre A. McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications for the USCCB's Office of Pro-Life Activities.

"We estimate that 12,000 people were at the vigil last year," McQuade told Catholic News Service Jan. 5. "If we have such a crowd this year, we may not be able to accommodate everyone in the basilica. So, we're making sure they have a place to worship close by. We want everyone to have an opportunity to participate."

Earlier on Jan. 21 the Sisters of Life will host an afternoon of prayerful remembrance and intercession at the Crypt Church of the basilica from 1-4 p.m. to allow men and women whose lives have been affected by abortion to pray and seek God's healing and forgiveness, McQuade said.

Several other events will take place in Washington to mark the anniversary of the Supreme Court's 1973 decision.

From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Jan. 21 the Cardinal O'Connor Conference on Life will be held at Georgetown University in Washington; the conference is intended to educate college and high school students.

On the morning of the annual March for Life, the Washington Archdiocese expects more than 20,000 Catholic teens and young adults from all over the U.S. to attend its youth rally at the Verizon Center, Washington's largest sports arena, from 7:30-11:30 a.m., with a 10 a.m. Mass celebrated by Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl.

The Filipino Family Fund and Culture of Life Foundation will host the third annual "Champions for Family" awards reception Jan. 22 at the Phoenix Park Hotel in Washington. Honorees include U.S. Rep. Joseph R. Pitts, R-Pa.; Dr. Rene Bullecer, who heads Human Life International in the Philippines; and Father Jerome Magat, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Arlington, Va., and founder of the Guadalupe Free Clinic, a free medical clinic for the poor.

On Jan. 23 the American Life League will hold a conference from 7:30 a.m.-3 p.m. at the Liaison Capitol Hill Hotel in Washington, followed by a 6 p.m. concert sponsored by Students for Life of America and featuring Barlow Girl and Laura Ingraham.

Speakers at the conference will include Judie Brown, American Life League president; Catholic political commentator and sometime candidate Alan Keyes; and David Bereit, director of the nationwide 40 Days for Life campaign that combines prayer, fasting, vigils and community outreach in 204 U.S. cities and 49 states, said Marie Hahnenberg, project director for the Jan. 21-23 "training and activism week" sponsored by the American Life League in Washington.

"David Bereit is a hero in the pro-life movement," Hahnenberg said in a statement. "His dedication to ending abortion through regular, peaceful presence outside of Planned Parenthood facilities and other abortion clinics has sparked a passion in thousands of people for protecting and defending the pre-born."

EWTN Global Catholic Network will offer viewers coverage of both Washington, D.C.'s March for Life and San Francisco's Walk for Life. Coverage of the Jan. 22 events will include live Masses, walking processions, rallies, interviews, panel discussion and speeches from pro-lifers around the country. There will also be several pro-life programs scheduled Jan. 20-22.

Local pro-life events:

- The 2009 Vigil for Life Masses will take place at both cathedrals in Fort Wayne and South Bend on Jan. 18.

At the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, the Mass will begin at 5 p.m. and the main celebrant will be Father Robert Schulte.

At St. Matthew Cathedral, the Mass will begin at 5:30 p.m. and the main celebrant will be Msgr. William Lester.

These Masses mark the 36th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade* and will be followed by an hour of adoration before the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction.

- The South Bend area Knights of Columbus will hold their annual Right to Life March and Meeting on Sunday, Jan. 25, from 2-4 p.m. at the Council 553 headquarters on Hill Street at Washington Street. The gathering begins with a short march from the council to St. Joseph Parish on Hill Street at 2 p.m., followed by a prayer service. Back at the council, Notre Dame law professor Carter Snead, a leading expert on pro-life and bioethical issues, will be speaking on the upcoming legal and political challenges to pro-life principles. The event is free of charge and all faith communities are welcome. For more information, contact Bill Schmitt at (574) 232-6777.

- In Fort Wayne, the Allen County Right to Life 35th Annual Rally and March for Life will be at 12 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 24, beginning at the Scottish Rite Center. David Bereit, the national campaign director who led the 40 Days for Life campaign, will be the guest speaker. The march will be held at 1 p.m. through downtown Fort Wayne to the Federal Building.

Tim Johnson contributed to this article

POPE BAPTIZES INFANTS AT LITURGY



CNS PHOTO/MAURIZIO BRAMBATTI/POOL VIA REUTERS

In an annual liturgy, Pope Benedict XVI baptized 13 infants in the Sistine Chapel at the Vatican Jan. 11 and emphasized the duty of parents and godparents to educate them in the faith. The pope defended the practice of infant baptism, saying it acts as a "bridge" between human beings and God, and helps lead children along the path of grace. In his sermon, the pope said parents should consider children not as their personal property to be shaped according to their own ideas and desires, but as free children of God who need to be educated in order to make the right choices in life.

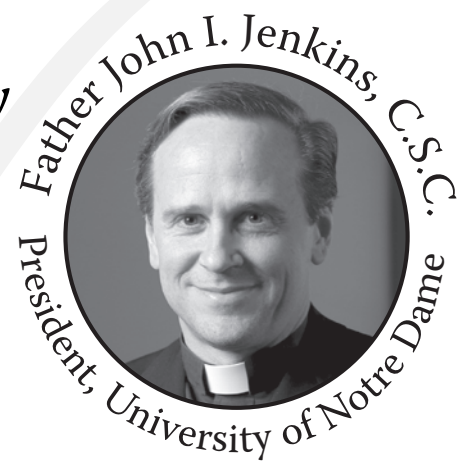
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