



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Community gathers at vigils to pray for unborn

BY TOM UEBBING

SOUTH BEND — Catholics in the South Bend area marked the tragedy of the legalization of abortion and the staggering number of deaths at the 5:30 p.m. Mass and vigil at St. Matthew Cathedral Jan. 18. A similar prayer vigil was held at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne the same evening.

In his homily, Father Tom Foley, a visiting retired priest from the Archdiocese of Boston, asked the assembly to pray for our new president. He described the devastating effects the so-called Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) would have, which President Obama has promised to sign if it reaches his desk.

The Web site www.fightfoca.com says the legislation would rescind any state laws limiting abortion in any way such as parental consent for minors, informed consent for the mother, partial birth abortions and the requirement that only licensed physicians perform abortions. It would compel taxpayer funding of abortion and force faith-based hospitals and healthcare facilities to perform abortions.

Father Foley announced that to prevent the passage of FOCA, the American Catholic bishops are launching a postcard campaign the weekend of Jan. 24-25, asking the faithful to mail postcards provided at church to their senators and congressmen. He also announced

VIGILS, PAGE 3



TOM UEBBING

Bishop John M. D'Arcy leads a vigil prayer service following the 5:30 p.m. Mass at St. Matthew Co-cathedral in South Bend. The vigil included adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, hymns and special prayers.

Service is 'big' no matter how large the school

BY TIM JOHNSON

Catholic Schools Week will be celebrated Jan. 25-31 with a flurry of activities at schools and parishes across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

The logo for the observance displays the words "Celebrate Service" and hands reaching out, surrounding a globe. The "t" in the word celebrate is formed as a cross.

"Civic engagement is a hallmark of Catholic education," said Karen Ristau, president of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). "The majority of elementary and secondary schools participate in service projects ranging from collecting canned goods for the homeless to rebuilding schools in the hurricane-torn gulf, so it was natural that we choose service as a major theme."

Schools typically celebrate Catholic Schools Week with Masses, open houses and activities for students, administrators, faculty,

school staff, the community and families. Additionally this year many schools will undertake new service projects.

Service is something that is a focus at Catholic schools throughout the year. "We do service projects throughout the school year," says St. Joseph School, Monroeville, Principal Carolyn Kirkendall.

Their projects included monthly food collections for the local food bank, assisting Matthew 25 Central Clinic and the Women's Care Center. St. Joseph students also send care items to the troops and visit The Village of Heritage nursing home. There the students present musical programs, visit and play games with the residents. St. Joseph students also anticipate a Muscular Dystrophy Association Hop-a-thon.

At St. Mary of the Assumption School in Avilla, student council members are coordinating the Pint Size Heroes Blood Drive with the American Red Cross.

SERVICE, PAGE 14

POPE BENEDICT GREETES CHILD AFTER AUDIENCE



CNS PHOTO/CHRIS HELGREN, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI greets a child after his weekly general audience at the Vatican Jan. 14.

Catholic Schools and Service

Preparing citizens for heaven

Pages 10-21

Latin Mass

Bishop D'Arcy visits South Bend community

Page 3

Presidential proclamation

National Sanctity of Human Life Day

Page 4

Safe environment

Diocese gets a thumbs up

Page 9

When David became king

From beheadings, impalings, anointings

Page 24

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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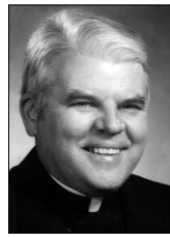
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Mass honors Holy Cross founder Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

A Holy Cross moment

It was a great joy to offer a votive Mass at St. Joseph Parish, South Bend, the oldest Catholic parish in that city founded by the great Holy Cross missionary, Edward Sorin, CSC, who was also the founder of Notre Dame, and to celebrate Mass with a chalice, which he used.

All Holy Cross parishes were given permission by the local bishop to celebrate a votive Mass in honor of their founder who has been declared "Blessed," the first step to canonization.

According to his biographer, Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau never intended to found a congregation but was a holy man, born in 1799 and lived in France at a time of great opposition to the church. It was after the French Revolution. In fact, I recalled the words of Pope Benedict XVI on the White House lawn on that lovely April day when he spoke of the difference between the French Revolution, which was anticlerical and anti-Catholic — and the American Revolution, which was not opposed to religion or the church. He saw this as significant, and that as a result, religion was respected in our civil culture.

It was not so for Moreau, but he set himself to do what must be done for the church to grow in such an anti-religious environment — teach catechism to the children and teach to both heart and mind — recruit priests and religious to bring the teaching of Christ to far away places like the new country of the United States of America and also Latin America and Africa and Asia. He also established parish missions. The image of the religious congregation he eventually established was that of the Holy Family.

This is the spirit certainly at St. Joseph Parish, South Bend, that of the family, and I admire very much the leadership there of Father John DeRiso, CSC. There were a large number of Holy Cross seminarians, candidates for the priesthood, and also a religious brother, Brother Dennis Meyers, CSC, and Sister Marjorie Lavis, CSC. Thus, all three branches of the Holy Cross foundations were present.

Father Moreau was a true father, and though he observed heavy penance for himself he did not ask that of others. He resisted the excessive strictness of Jansenism

and the narrowness of Gallicanism. Like Ignatius, he always felt the responsibility of staying close to the successor of Peter. This is the true spirit of Holy Cross. The family. Teaching the heart as well as the mind. A missionary spirit — both in the local parish and overseas. We can never fully grasp what they have given to this diocese, the great colleges and universities as well as parishes and hospitals. They have implanted the faith deeply. It was a privilege to observe this day with them at St. Joseph Parish, South Bend, in a full church.

More to come

As I put together these notes I am also preparing for a pastoral visit to Holy Cross College, the first of my visits this year to each of our Catholic institutions of higher learning, a responsibility I have based on "Ex Corde Ecclesiae" the great document of Pope John Paul II on Catholic universities.

Also this week through the invitation of Father Charles Lavelly, CSC, I will offer Mass at Holy Cross House, a beautiful institution on the campus of Notre Dame for the retired priests of Holy Cross.

from our diocese, Greg Eichman of Fort Wayne, I offered this Mass. I will do so again in Fort Wayne, for it is imperative that those who worship through this liturgy be united with their bishop and not be separated from the diocesan community. I was much impressed with the spirit of reverence and faith of the congregation and impressed also with Father George and the seminarian, Gregory Eichman, who helped me to prepare with such devotion and care. I gave holy Communion as I did 50 years ago with everyone kneeling and saying the prayer before each one: "Corpus Domini Nostri Jesu Christi custodiat animam tuam in vitam aeternam — Amen" ("May this body of our Lord Jesus Christ lead you into everlasting life).

At a nice reception, I met a number of graduate students from Notre Dame studying in the theology department and also some professors including Professor Sherin, an outstanding Latinist, and Professor Thomas Gordon Smith, a distinguished architect. I was off to St. Joseph for the Mass for Father Moreau. An extraordinary morning on a snow-filled Sunday in South Bend.

Many thanks to Father Leonard Chrobot, pastor of St. Patrick and St. Hedwig, for his presence at this Mass. In these two parishes, Mass is celebrated in Polish, Vietnamese, Latin and English.

Three wise men from the East

Father Michael Heintz is off on a short five-week sabbatical after achieving his doctorate in Patristic studies at Notre Dame. He is now seeking a similar level of accomplishment as a baseball umpire. Three of my

classmates, Msgr. Pete Martocchio, Father Tom Foley and Father Paul McPartland drove halfway across the country to fill in for two weeks. It was a joy to have soup and sandwich with them at St. Matthew's on Sunday night after a long day. I thank them for coming. Priests — 52 years — but still active every day. My kudos especially to Msgr. Lester who is present at St. Matthew's for the balance of the month. Although 89 years old, he celebrated five Masses on a previous weekend. That's too much for anyone, but this splendid priest never complains.

See you all next week.

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but this splendid priest never complains.

An earlier Mass

The Mass on Sunday at St. Joseph Parish was at 10 a.m., but I was up earlier in my gracious apartment with the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration high on a hill in Mishawaka overlooking Marian High School. I was off through a beautiful, snowy landscape to St. Patrick Parish, South Bend, where it was my privilege to offer what is now called the extraordinary form of the Roman rite. There was a crowd of 200 people. I think I have offered this Mass only once in the last 42 or 43 years. I was assisted by Father George Gabet, FSSP.

Father George is a native of our diocese and a graduate of Bishop Dwenger High School, where among many other things he was a fine football player. It was my privilege to ordain him some years ago at our Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception. This was the Mass that I said for the first nine or 10 years of my priesthood. I said afterwards I would probably get an A in Latin but a B minus in the ritual. With the help of Father George and a seminarian

Nation's religious heritage 'a strength, not a weakness,' President Obama says

BY MARK PATTISON

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The United States' multiple religious traditions are "a strength, not a weakness," said President Barack Obama Jan. 20 in his inaugural address.

"Our patchwork heritage is a strength, not a weakness," said the nation's 44th president.

"We are a nation of Christians and Muslims, Jews and Hindus — and nonbelievers," he continued.

"We are shaped by every language and culture, drawn from every end of this earth; and because we have tasted the bitter swill of Civil War and segregation, and emerged from that dark chapter stronger and more united," he said, "we cannot help but believe that the old hatreds shall someday pass; that the lines of tribe shall soon dissolve; that as the world grows smaller, our common humanity shall reveal itself; and that America must play its role in ushering in a new era of peace."

Obama acknowledged the challenges facing the country throughout his 2,400-word address, delivered before a teeming throng at the Capitol and stretching forth on the National Mall. It was believed to be the largest single gathering of people in Washington history.

"Our challenges may be new. The instruments with which we meet them may be new," Obama said. "But those values upon which our success depends — hard work and honesty, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity, loyalty and patriotism — these things are old. These things are true. They have been the quiet force of progress throughout our history."

So "what is demanded," the new president said, "is a return to these truths."

"What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility — a recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation and the world," he said.

These are duties "we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the



CNS PHOTO/JIM YOUNG, REUTERS

Barack Obama, with his wife Michelle at his side, takes the oath of office as the 44th president of the United States Jan. 20 in Washington. Obama has become the nation's first African-American president. He was sworn in by Chief Justice John Roberts.

spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task. This is the price and the promise of citizenship," he said.

"This is the source of our confidence — the knowledge that God calls on us to shape an uncertain destiny," he said.

Regarding the economy, "Obama said the situation "calls for action, bold and swift, and we will act — not only to create new jobs, but to lay a new foundation for growth."

"We will build the roads and bridges, the electric grids and digital lines that feed our commerce and bind us together," he continued. "We will restore science to its rightful place, and wield technology's wonders to raise health care's quality and lower its cost.

"We will harness the sun and the winds and the soil to fuel our cars and run our factories. And we will transform our schools and colleges and universities to meet the demands of a new age. All this we can do. And all this we will do," he said.

Obama said that "there are some who question the scale of our ambitions — who suggest that our system cannot tolerate too many big plans."

But "their memories are short," he said. "For they have forgotten what this country has already done, what free men and women can achieve when imagination is joined to common purpose, and necessity to courage."

Before the inauguration ceremony, Obama and then-Vice President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr. and their wives took part in a morning prayer service at St. John's Episcopal Church, across Lafayette Park from the White House. The sermon at the private service was delivered by Bishop T.D. Jakes, pastor of the Potter's House megachurch in Dallas and more recently a writer and producer of films, including "Not Easily Broken" and "Woman Thou Art Loosed."

Obama and Biden then went to the White House for a coffee with their predecessors, President George W. Bush and Vice President Richard B. Cheney.

The day before, both Obama and Biden joined volunteers in various service projects on the national observance of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. birthday holiday, which was designated as a national day of service.

to give and restore life from Adam and Eve down through the centuries to Christ, the "Resurrection and the life; the Way, the Truth and the Life; and the Bread of Life" who has "the words of eternal life."

Bishop D'Arcy led a period of silent prayer for any woman contemplating abortion or man involved in the decision. He interceded for those who have taken a life before birth that they might seek forgiveness, turn to Christ and have a change of heart leading to respect for life. He prayed for elected officials that God would enlighten their hearts and that those in the medical profession

would properly fulfill their vocation to save and preserve human life. Together everyone prayed the prayer for life addressed to Mary by Pope John Paul II in his encyclical "The Gospel of Life" ("Evangelium Vitae").

In an early announcement, St. Joseph County Right to Life Committee member Tony Stein informed *Today's Catholic* that their annual dinner will be Sept. 24 at South Bend's Century Center and will feature Dr. Alveda King, niece of the revered martyr of the Civil Rights Movement, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

LETTER FROM BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Catholic schools represent a great gift

Jan. 25, 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The Catholic Schools in our diocese have been a great blessing. Founded by St. Mother Theodore Guerin, and the holy and apostolic Msgr. Julian Benoit, they have represented a great gift.

For many years, it was religious — brothers, sisters and priests, but mostly sisters, who staffed our schools. Through them, the Gospel of Christ was implanted in many hearts.

Now our schools carry on, led mostly by lay people, but with a blessing still of a few religious.

The generosity of our people continues to make this great gift possible. I thank all of you, who through your generosity and prayers, keep our schools strong.

Above everything else, our Catholic schools must be places where our young people meet Jesus Christ. They are places of faith and learning. It is necessary that they be equal to or better than other schools in the academic area. In addition, their great gift is a place where the Gospel is preached, and taught, and believed in, and followed. They must continue to be places, also, where our young people learn to meet Jesus Christ among those in need. I thank all those who work to make our schools a blessing among us.

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

Most Reverend John M. D'Arcy

BISHOP CELEBRATES LATIN MASS



TOM UEBBING

Bishop John M. D'Arcy celebrated the Mass in the extraordinary form of the Latin rite Jan. 18 for members of the St. Mother Théodore Guérin Community and others at St. Patrick Church in South Bend. Membership in the community is formal and subsists as part of St. Patrick Parish, although anyone may attend this 7:45 a.m. Sunday Latin Mass. Father George Gabet, a priest from the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, is the chaplain for the 100 or so members of the St. Mother Théodore Guérin Community and ordinarily celebrates this Sunday Mass. Father Gabet fully participates in the presbyterate of the diocese.

VIGIL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the call of the American Catholic bishops for a day of prayer and fasting Thursday, Jan. 22, the anniversary of Roe v. Wade, which legalized abortion.

Bishop D'Arcy led the vigil following Mass, which included adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, Benediction, hymns and special prayers.

Each phrase of the Litany for Life recalled how God has worked

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 of 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 of 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.

Bush proclaims Jan. 18 National Sanctity of Human Life Day

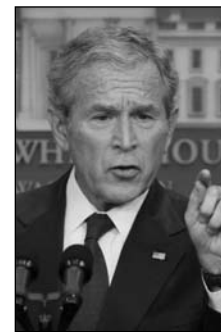
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Declaring that every life is "a gift from our Creator that is sacred, unique and worthy of protection," President George W. Bush proclaimed Jan. 18, the Sunday before the 36th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, as National Sanctity of Human Life Day.

On this day "our country recognizes that each person, including every person waiting to be born, has a special place and purpose in this world. We also underscore our dedication to heeding this message of conscience by speaking up for the weak and voiceless among us," he said in the proclamation issued Jan. 15.

Bush urged Americans "to recognize this day with appropriate ceremonies and to underscore our commitment to respecting and protecting the life and dignity of every human being."

On Jan. 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court handed down the Roe v. Wade decision, which legalized abortion, and the Doe v. Bolton decision, which lifted state restrictions on abortion.

In his proclamation, the president noted that his administration had been "committed to building a culture of life by vigorously promoting adoption and parental notification laws, opposing federal funding for abortions overseas,



CNS PHOTO/JASON REED, REUTERS

U.S. President George W. Bush speaks at what was expected to be his final press conference at the White House in Washington Jan. 12.

encouraging teen abstinence, and funding crisis pregnancy programs."

Bush also noted the pro-life legislation he signed into law during his presidency, such as the federal law to protect infants born alive after an attempted abortion or other procedure, the federal ban on partial-birth abortion and the Unborn Victims of Violence Act.

"We aspire to build a society in which every child is welcome in life and protected in law," he said in the proclamation. "We also encourage more of our fellow Americans to join our just and noble cause. History tells us that with a cause rooted in our deepest principles and appealing to the best instincts of our citizens, we will prevail."

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Coalition urges Obama to end U.S. torture practices

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Feeling the likelihood of success growing day by day, religious leaders renewed their efforts to press President Barack Obama to sign an executive order banning torture soon after he takes office.

Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, N.Y., chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, joined nearly three dozen leaders as part of the National Religious Campaign Against Torture in signing a letter to Obama's transition team Jan. 9. The letter urged the incoming president to make good on his oft-repeated campaign pledge to end the use of torture during the interrogation of prisoners.

The letter included a declaration of principles that calls for a single national standard that upholds basic human rights in the treatment of detainees by the military and intelligence communities.

"Both the Holy See and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops have taken a strong position against the violation of fundamental human rights including torture and genocide," Bishop Hubbard told Catholic News Service Jan. 13. "We believe, under any circumstances, this is cruel, inhumane and degrading treatment. Further, it's not in accord with the values and ideals we have as a society."

The Rev. Richard Killmer, the campaign's executive director, said the campaign wants to see Obama sign the executive order as soon as possible, thus putting an end to the interrogation policies of President George W. Bush's administration.

Representatives of the campaign, a coalition of more than 200 religious organizations, held a news conference Jan. 14 prior to meeting with members of Obama's transition team. The USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development was represented at the meeting.

"We are very grateful for the good things (Obama) has said but every day he doesn't do it, it's a continuation of (Bush) policies," Rev. Killmer told CNS Jan. 12. "Bad behavior has to stop."

In recent years the White House consistently has denied that Bush ever authorized the use of torture, but rather allowed the CIA to use other "coercive" interrogation techniques.

John Carr, executive director of the U.S. bishops' Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, who participated in the news conference, said in an interview that torturing detainees to gain information is never appropriate.

"In the end it's not about them (the prisoners and the information they can provide)," Carr said. "It's

about us, about whether we really value human life and dignity.

"While there's a debate about torture in the country, there's not a debate about it in Catholic social teaching. This is not something (the bishops' conference) discovered in the change of administrations. The church has been consistent and persistent in condemning torture," he said.

Joining in the news conference were the Rev. John Thomas, president and general minister of the United Church of Christ; Ingrid Matson, president of the Islamic Society of North America; Rabbi Rachel Kahn-Troster, director of education and outreach at Rabbis for Human Rights; and the Rev. Tyler Wigg-Stevenson, of Evangelicals for Human Rights.

Paralleling the call to ban torture is an effort by other religious groups seeking the closure of the U.S. military prison at the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where suspected terrorists have been held for seven years.

The 100 Days Campaign, organized by several Catholic Workers and other people of faith, began a 10-day fast Jan. 11 and scheduled a series of public events focusing on the moral issues surrounding the Guantanamo Bay prison. The campaign also was planning other events in Washington during the Obama administration's first 100 days in office with the goal of closing the prison.

A transition team adviser told Reuters that the president-elect was expected to sign an order to close the prison within a week of taking office.

During a Jan. 11 interview with ABC News, Obama confirmed he plans to close the prison, but he offered no timeline for doing so, citing the need to determine exactly where to house the 255 detainees who remain in custody.

"We are going to close Guantanamo and we are going to make sure that the procedures we set up are ones that abide by our Constitution," he said.

To focus wider attention on its call to the incoming administration, the National Religious Campaign Against Torture posted on its Web site a clock counting down the time to Obama's first full day as president, Jan. 21. Rev. Killmer said the clock will begin to count upward once Obama takes office indicating how long it takes for the new president to sign the order.

The clock is meant to encourage Obama "to do the right thing," Rev. Killmer said.

The campaign also has prepared a prayer for congregations, prayer groups and individuals to use until the executive order is issued. It is available online at www.tortureisamoralissue.org.

Vatican report: Most U.S. seminaries are generally healthy

BY CHAZ MUTH

WASHINGTON (CNS) — An apostolic visitation team concluded that U.S. Catholic seminaries and houses of priestly formation are generally healthy, but recommended a stronger focus on moral theology, increased oversight of seminarians and greater involvement of diocesan bishops in the formation process.

"This visitation has demonstrated that, since the 1990s, a greater sense of stability now prevails in the U.S. seminaries," the report said. "The appointment, over time, of rectors who are wise and faithful to the church has meant a gradual improvement, at least in the diocesan seminaries."

The report, sparked by the sexual abuse crisis that hit the U.S. church, concluded that seminaries appeared to have made improvements in the area of seminarian morality, most notably with regard to homosexual behavior.

"Of course, here and there some case or other of immorality — again, usually homosexual behavior — continues to show up," the report said. "However, in the main, the superiors now deal with these issues promptly and appropriately."

The report was dated Dec. 15 and signed by Cardinal Zenon Grocholewski, head of the Congregation for Catholic Education, which deals with seminaries. It was published on the Web site of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to coincide with National Vocation Awareness Week, which began Jan. 12.

The report said some seminaries need to examine how educators can ensure the good behavior of their students when they are off-campus as well as their access to emerging technology.

"Seminaries face extra challenges today, as compared to recent years," the report said. "Among these is how to monitor the students' use of the Internet." It recommended that seminaries and religious houses of priestly formation use Internet-filtering programs and restrict Internet use to public rooms within the seminary.

Bishops sometimes delegate too



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHERMITZ

Seminaryman Vincent Druding responds to a question during a canon law class at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, N.Y., in this file photo from Feb. 7. A Vatican-run apostolic visitation team of bishops and seminary personnel has concluded that U.S. Catholic seminaries and houses of priestly formation are generally healthy, but recommend a stronger focus on moral theology, increased oversight of seminarians and greater involvement of diocesan bishops in the formation process. Their report dated Dec. 15 was released by the Vatican in early January.

much responsibility for the acceptance of diocesan candidates to their vocation directors and other subordinates, the report said.

"This is unfortunate, as it is the bishop who will ultimately have to call, or not call, the candidate to orders," it said, recommending a more collaborative approach to the formation process.

Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations, said in a letter to U.S. bishops that it was "gratifying to read in the report that our seminaries are generally in a healthy condition that strongly promotes the formation of men for the sacred ministry in this country."

"The general conclusions of the visitation are positive," Cardinal O'Malley added. "I am sure that all bishops and religious superiors will take seriously the observations and recommendations of the congregation that will further strengthen our seminaries and houses of formation."

The plan to hold apostolic visitations to assess the quality of formation in seminaries arose in Rome at an April 2002 special meeting of the U.S. cardinals and

U.S. bishops' officials with top Vatican officials.

Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, now head of the Baltimore Archdiocese, was chosen to coordinate the visitation team, which included 117 bishops and seminary personnel. Archbishop O'Brien was rector of the Pontifical North American College, the U.S. seminary in Rome, from 1990 to 1994. For five years before that and two years after, he headed the New York archdiocesan seminary, St. Joseph's in Yonkers, N.Y.

Working in teams of three for smaller programs or four for the larger ones, the panels visited more than 200 U.S. seminaries and formation houses in 2005 and 2006. The visitations paid special attention to areas such as the quality of the seminarians' human and spiritual formation for living chastely and of their intellectual formation for faithfulness to church teachings, especially in the area of moral theology.

Editor's Note: The apostolic visitation report is available at www.usccb.org/cc/iv/final_report.pdf.

"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

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Don't reverse policies protecting unborn, cardinal urges Obama

WASHINGTON (CNS) — It would be “a terrible mistake” for President-elect Barack Obama to reverse current policies on embryonic stem-cell research, conscience protection and other life-related matters, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops told him in a new letter. Such actions “could introduce significant negative and divisive factors into our national life, at a time when we need to come together to address the serious challenges facing our people,” said Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago in a letter dated Jan. 16 and made public Jan. 19. The letter came less than a week after Cardinal George sent another letter to Obama, Vice President-elect Joseph Biden and each member of Congress outlining the bishops’ broad policy agenda as the new administration and Congress begin their work. “I expect that some want you to take executive action soon to reverse current policies against government-sponsored destruction of unborn human life,” Cardinal George said. “I urge you to consider that this could be a terrible mistake — morally, politically and in terms of advancing the solidarity and well-being of our nation’s people.”

United with Christ, people have nothing, no one to fear, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — While people lacking faith in God may dread numerous dangers and hostile forces in the world, those who are firmly united with Christ have nothing and no one to fear, Pope Benedict XVI said. Jesus Christ is above every form of domination and “he is the true Lord of the world,” the pope said Jan. 14 at his weekly general audience. With an estimated 4,000 people gathered inside the Paul VI hall, Pope Benedict continued his audience talks about the life and teaching of St. Paul, focusing on the theme of Christ as the head of the church and the universe. In his letters to the Colossians and to the Ephesians, St. Paul gives Christians an enormously positive and important message: that Christ is above “every form of power that might aim to humiliate the human being,” said the pope. He said St. Paul taught that Christ, as head of the church, is the leader and Lord of the Christian community and guides it with his example and teaching.

Catholic actor Montalban dies at 88; was voice for faith in career

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Catholic actor Ricardo Montalban, whose work in television and movies also included several Catholic projects, died Jan. 14 at

NEWS BRIEFS

U.S. SOLDIER HANDS IRAQI GIRL NEW SHOES



CNS PHOTO/ERIK DE CASTRO, REUTERS

A U.S. soldier with the 926th Engineer Brigade hands new tennis shoes to a girl during the reopening of Al-Magreib al-Araby primary school in Baghdad, Iraq, Jan. 15.

age 88 at his home in Los Angeles. He had been suffering from congestive heart failure. A family representative told the news media his funeral would be private. The Mexican-born Montalban — best known for his role as Mr. Roarke on TV’s “Fantasy Island,” which ran for six seasons, and for his commercials for the Chrysler Cordoba with its “soft Corinthian leather” and “crushed velour” — always credited his faith for helping him in Hollywood. Montalban won several awards for his contributions to the entertainment industry and the Catholic faith. He also won an Emmy for the 1978 TV movie “How the West Was Won.”

In her last school stop, first lady Laura Bush visits Catholic school

BETHESDA, Md. (CNS) — First lady Laura Bush, who has visited countless schools in the United States and foreign countries, made her last school visit Jan. 13 to Little Flower School, a Catholic school in the Washington suburb of Bethesda. “Today is my very last school visit while my husband is president,” she told the students, faculty and staff. “I wanted to end

my school visit with a terrific school like Little Flower.” Bush praised the school for receiving the U.S. Department of Education’s Blue Ribbon Schools Award last fall in recognition of its academic achievement. “That’s really a wonderful accomplishment,” she said. “Congratulations on being such smart kids.” Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl introduced Bush and noted the first lady was “no stranger to education and no stranger to our schools.” A year ago, Bush visited Holy Redeemer School in Washington. Both visits were to commemorate Catholic Schools Week, an annual observance which this year will be celebrated Jan. 25-31 with the theme: “Catholic Schools Celebrate Service.”

Actor Patrick McGoohan, 80, dies; was TV’s ‘Secret Agent,’ ‘Prisoner’

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Irish actor Patrick McGoohan, best known to television audiences for his title roles in the 1960s’ CBS drama series “Secret Agent” and “The Prisoner,” died Jan. 13 in Los Angeles. He was 80 years old. Funeral arrangements for the actor

were not announced. McGoohan, a Catholic, introduced himself as “Drake. John Drake” in the style of James Bond for the series “Secret Agent.” But that’s where the comparison ended. While the Bond character was — and remains — quite the womanizer, McGoohan said his faith made him resist having his Drake character fall into the same lifestyle as Bond.

Pope encourages Iran’s Catholics to persevere patiently

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI encouraged Iran’s tiny Catholic communities to be patient and persistent as they try to improve relations with the government and ensure a continued Christian presence in the Islamic republic. He also called on the “vast and beautiful country” to contribute to “the common good and peace among nations,” particularly in the Middle East. Iran’s four Armenian, Chaldean and Latin-rite Catholic bishops met the pope Jan. 16 at the end of their “ad limina” visits to report on the status of their dioceses. Pope Benedict said that in order to overcome some of the concrete diffi-

culties Iranian Catholics face, including providing enough priests to minister to the country’s scattered Catholic communities, “the establishment of a bilateral commission with your government is being considered.” Such a commission, he said, also could be a channel “to develop relations and mutual understanding between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Catholic Church.”

Church leaders reaffirm traditional family at meeting in Mexico

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Participants at the Sixth World Meeting of Families made impassioned defenses of the traditional family while rejecting allegations from protesters and local leftist politicians that the Catholic Church has been preaching exclusion. Speakers on the first day of the Jan. 14-18 meeting, which organizers say is being attended by more than 8,000 participants from more than 90 countries, emphasized the traditional definition of family — father, mother and children — while discarding suggestions that the institution be expanded to include homosexual couples. The meeting was organized by the Vatican’s Pontifical Council for the Family. “The church — we teach respect for marriage between a man and a woman because that is the foundation of the family,” Cardinal Norberto Rivera Carrera of Mexico City said during his opening remarks Jan. 14.

For 830 years, Apostolic Penitentiary has focused on forgiveness

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The crimes the Catholic Church considers to be most serious are investigated and punished by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, but the Vatican also has a specific office for helping the guilty find forgiveness and reconcile with God and the church. In matters related to the conscience of individual Catholics, the work of the Apostolic Penitentiary, headed by U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, is probably the most secret of any Vatican office. The Apostolic Penitentiary’s work is covered under the sacramental seal of confession. The low profile of the office combined with the seriousness of the sins brought to its attention probably explains why members of the media flocked to a Jan. 13-14 symposium on the history of the Apostolic Penitentiary and of the sacrament of penance. Cardinal Stafford told reporters Jan. 13 that the penitentiary deals with five specific cases: a man who directly participated in an abortion and later wants to enter the priesthood; priests who have broken the seal of confession; priests who have offered sacramental absolution to their own sexual partner; desecrating the Eucharist; and making an attempt on the life of the pope.

Local scholar attends historic inauguration

WASHINGTON, D.C. — This January, one outstanding university student from Roanoke, Haylee Eckert, will join other scholars from across the United States to take part in the inauguration of the 44th president of the United States. During the five-day program, the University Presidential Inaugural Conference (UPIC) will provide scholars with a deeper understanding of the history behind the electoral process and the rich traditions surrounding the presidential inauguration.

Eckert will have the opportunity to interact with a major presidential candidate, White House officials, congressional staff members, political experts and other VIPs. After the inauguration, she will attend the inaugural parade and attend a Black Tie Gala Inaugural Ball.

Eckert, a Bishop Luers High School graduate, is a freshman studying economics and business at Carthage College in Wisconsin. She was chosen as a scholar for her participation in the 2007 National Youth Leadership Forum held in Chicago. For additional information on the University Presidential Inaugural Conference, visit www.inauguralscholar.org.

Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home offers free bereavement programs and support groups

FORT WAYNE — Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home is offering several bereavement education programs and support groups, available for anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one.

Support groups offered are:

- **Adult Bereavement Support Group** — This ongoing support group is presented in conjunction with Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana and is led by Dar Richardson. The group meets on Mondays from 7-8:30 p.m. and the first and third Tuesday of every month from 2-3:30 p.m. at Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana, 6316 Mutual Dr. For more information call (260) 484-9560.

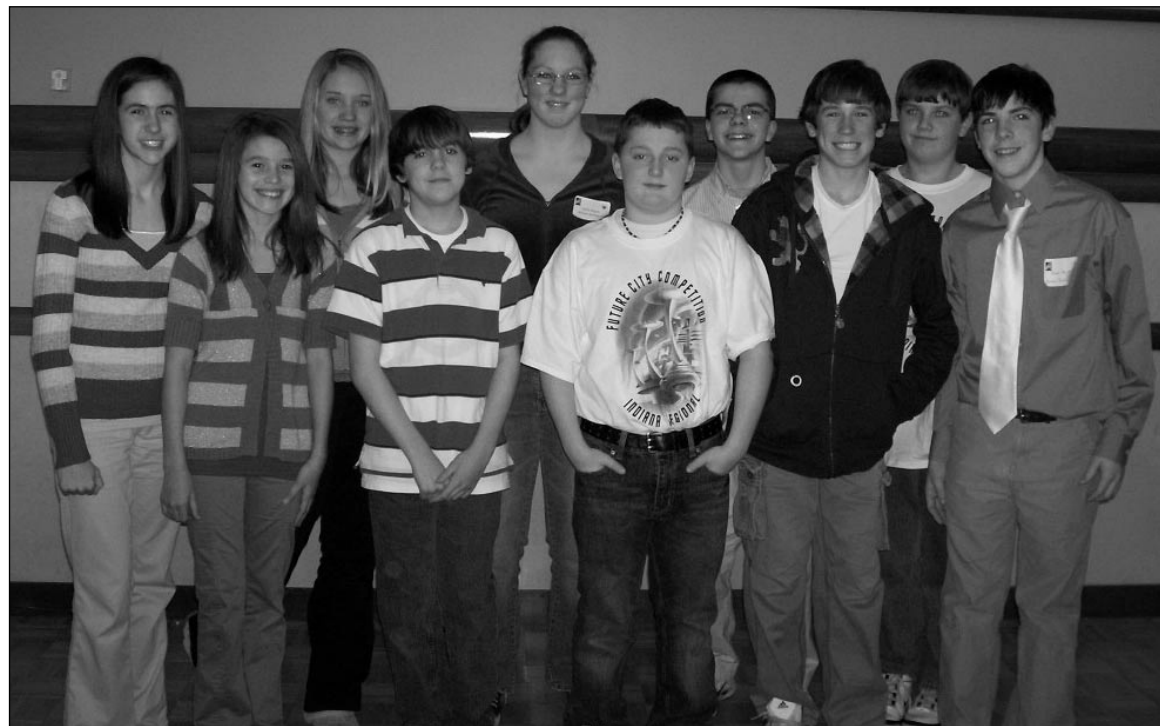
- **Hope in the Mourning Widows Support Group** — This group, led by Kay Cozad, is for women who have lost a spouse and meets on the first and third Thursday of each month from 7-8:30 p.m. at Visiting Nurse & Hospice Home, 5910 Homestead Rd. For more information call (260) 435-3222.

- **Bereavement Education Series** — Each of the following Saturday programs, presented at First Presbyterian Church, 300 W. Wayne St., begins at 9 a.m. with a light breakfast and concludes at 11:30 a.m.

Feb. 7 — “Learning to Live

AROUND THE DIOCESE

FUTURE CITY TEAMS FROM THE DIOCESE RECOGNIZED



TESS STEFFEN

St. Bavo, Mishawaka, and St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, had teams that were selected as top 6 finalists in the 2009 Indiana Future City regional competition at Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne. The teams were challenged to design a city that conserves, recycles and reuses water. Each team was required to do extensive research and to present this city in front of a panel of judges. This competition was supported by area professional engineering organizations and businesses and was held during National Engineers Week. The team from St. Bavo, Mishawaka, (in stripes) included students, from left, Caitlin Pethick, Sara Tordi, Colleen Huntsberger and Ryan O'Neil; and the team from St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, included students Julia Hayes, Anthony Hartle, Nick Steffen, David Shank, Nathan Grabner and Sean McManus.

After the Death of a Spouse,” presented by Kay Cozad

March 21 — “Understanding Your Grief,” presented by Dar Richardson

April 18 — “Memories: Healing From Within and Reaching for Joy,” presented by Ken Prather.

Notre Dame professor instrumental in Catholic-Jewish relations dies

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. Catholic leaders are mourning the loss of Rabbi Michael Alan Signer, an important figure in Jewish-Catholic relations and a professor at the University of Notre Dame who died Jan. 10 after a long battle with pancreatic cancer.

Rabbi Signer was the Abrams professor of Jewish thought and culture and director of Notre Dame's Holocaust Project, whose research focused on various aspects of Jewish-Christian relations, Michael Garvey, a spokesman for the university, told Catholic News Service Jan. 12. “I would say his influence on Catholic-Jewish rela-

tions in the United States was of great importance,” said Father James Massa, executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs. “As a scholar of ancient Christian texts and as a teacher for a generation of students at Notre Dame, Michael brought a wealth of erudition and critical insight to the Catholic Church's dialogue with Judaism.”

Edith Stein conference hosted by Notre Dame

NOTRE DAME — The fourth annual Edith Stein Project, to be hosted at the University of Notre Dame on Feb. 13-14, is a conference for students, women and men to participate in the task of building a coherent philosophical foundation for a “new feminism” and for authentic love in the modern world. The conference is entitled, “Love: What Hurts and What Works — Engaging Self, Society and God.”

Edith Stein, the patron saint of the conference, was a German philosopher who died a martyr in the gas chambers of Auschwitz.

Her philosophical writings address the distinct role women play in society, the undeniable, nurturing female character, and the vocation to motherhood.

The emphasis of the conference will be on human relationships and what damages them, including a wide array of topics like sexual assault, pornography, domestic violence and how authentic love can positively transform lives.

Saint Mary's College hosts symposium on St. Thomas Aquinas

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary's College will host its 12th annual Symposium on St. Thomas Aquinas Wednesday, Jan. 28, at 7 p.m. in the Student Center Lounge. The event is free and open to the public. A reception will follow the lecture.

This year's speaker is Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame. His lecture, titled “Faith, Inquiry and Community,” will cover aspects of Aquinas's legacy and the significance that legacy has

for Catholic colleges and universities in the 21st century. Father Jenkins is a professor of philosophy and author of the book, “Knowledge and Faith in Thomas Aquinas.”

The symposium is held each year on the feast of St. Thomas Aquinas and is sponsored by the Joyce McMahon Hank Aquinas Chair in Catholic Theology, held by Dr. Joseph Incandela, professor of religious studies and associate dean of faculty at Saint Mary's College. For more information on the event, contact Celia Fallon in the associate dean of faculty's office at (574) 284-4584.

St. Pius X School enrollment begins

GRANGER — St. Pius X School, 52553 Fir Rd., will host an open house on Sunday, Jan. 25, from 1-3 p.m., as a kickoff to Catholic Schools Week in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The school opened in August in the new Parish Education Center and is the first Catholic school to be added to the region since the early 1960s. St. Pius School currently serves 441 students preschool through eighth grade with 44 staff and faculty members.

Prospective students and their families, as well as current school families, are invited to attend the open house. The faculty will be on hand to answer questions, and tours of the facility will be available. Information and registration materials can be picked up at the event.

Registration for current students will continue through Jan. 23. New student enrollment for parishioners will begin Jan. 26. Registration will open to the public beginning Feb. 2.

For more information contact Shirley Koloszar at (574) 272-4935, ext. 113 or skoloszar@stpious.net.

Holy Cross College named an NAIA “Champions of Character” institution

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross College was recently selected to be an NAIA Champions of Character institution. The college shares the NAIA dedication to high standards and believes that athletics are an integral part of the college experience and important to a student's development of mind, body and spirit.

The Champions of Character mission aligns well with Holy Cross College's. “It's our goal to encourage the development of character values that will help students be more productive, considerate and compassionate members of society. Some of these values include a sense of respect, social and personal responsibility, servant leadership and sportsmanship,” said Nathan Walker, athletics director at Holy Cross. As a Champions of Character institution, Holy Cross College has proven that it understands and implements these values, not only in the athletic department, but throughout the

Pro-life, immigration bills return to Indiana General Assembly for winter session

INDIANAPOLIS — They're back. Bills of previous years commonly return to the Indiana General Assembly for another chance at becoming a permanent fixture in the Indiana Code of laws. It takes patience and diligence on the part of supporters. This year is no different for many familiar bills are returning for yet another go around at becoming law including pro-life and immigration legislation.

Of the 1,000 bills which have been filed to date, the Indiana Catholic Conference (ICC) is following 100 of them. Roughly 1,500 bills are expected to be introduced this year.

The bills to date cover a wide range of issues, but the most notable issue areas for the ICC include legislation to strengthen informed consent laws, ban the death penalty for mentally ill individuals, change immigration laws and help lower income families.

In past years, the Indiana Catholic Conference supported two measures in the area of abortion, which return again this year. Sen. Patricia Miller (R-Indianapolis), a nurse by profession and a pro-life advocate, has a bill to strengthen informed consent laws by requiring the information a woman receives before an abortion to be in writing. Her bill, Senate Bill (SB) 90, also requires that physician must inform the pregnant woman about medical evidence of the

fetus feeling pain during an abortion. It requires that 18 hours prior to a woman getting an abortion that she receive information concerning the availability of adoptions options; physical risks of having an abortion; and that physical life begins at fertilization.

Another bill authored by Sen. Miller, SB 89, requires physicians performing abortions to obtain hospital privileges in the county where the abortion is performed or a nearby county for the purpose of follow-up treatment for a woman who has had an abortion. And the measure requires the physician to notify the patient of the hospital locations where the patient can receive follow-up care. It also makes abortion physicians more accountable for the abortions they perform and provide better after care for the woman.

Another familiar bill the ICC has supported in years past is a measure to prohibit a person who is found to be mentally ill from receiving a death sentence. Sen. Karen Tallian (D-Portage), an opponent of the death penalty, has a bill, SB 22, which would establish a procedure for determining if a person on trial for murder is mentally ill. The bill prohibits those individuals determined as mentally ill to be sentenced to death.

Immigration reform bills also returning from previous legislative sessions include a bill, SB

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

580, authored by Sen. Mike Delph (R-Carmel), who has been the major proponent of punishing undocumented immigrants, which would penalize employers who knowingly hire undocumented workers. The bill provides three strikes and you're out of business. It creates greater penalties for driving without a valid license. It prohibits state entities from contracting undocumented workers.

Also returning this year is a bill which increases the earned income tax credit (EITC) for low income working families. Rep. John Day (D-Indianapolis) a member of Holy Cross Parish in Indianapolis has succeeded in previous years in raising the EITC for working families. The EITC bill, House Bill 1026, authored by Day and co-authored by Rep. Michael Murphy (R-Indianapolis), a member of St. Jude Parish in Indianapolis, would increase the amount of the Indiana earned income tax credit from 9 percent to 10 percent of the federal earned income tax credit thus allowing lower

income families to be exempt from income tax. It raises the income level at which taxes are collected. The effect of the bill would be for working families to keep more income in their pocket to support their families.

Once a bill is filed and read for the first time, it is assigned to a House or Senate committee. It is up to, Sen. David C. Long (R-Fort Wayne), the President Pro Tempore in Senate and the committee chair where the bill is assigned, to determine if the bill will get a hearing. In the House, Rep. Patrick Bauer (D-South Bend), Speaker of the House, and the committee chair in the House will determine which House bills get hearings.

The committee hearing process allows the bill's author to explain the intent of the legislation and allows for public comment, critique and testimony in support for or opposition to the proposed bill. It is at this time that committee members weigh the pros and cons of a bill and take a committee vote. If a bill passes committee with a majority vote, it goes to the House or Senate floor for second reading and voice vote.

Important bills being monitored by the ICC

- Bills by the numbers
- 24 Social justice bills
- 22 Education bills
- 19 Pro-life bills
- 13 Immigration bills
- 7 Church, religious institution bills
- 4 Government reform bills

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."

New tabernacle consecrated

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

SOUTH BEND — St. Joseph Parish, the oldest parish in the city of South Bend, celebrated Masses on Jan. 18, in honor of Blessed Basil Moreau, whose congregation has staffed the parish since it was founded in 1853.

"Because of the many years of service that Holy Cross priests, brothers and sisters have offered in this diocese at colleges and universities, in parishes and outreach to the poor, and because Blessed Moreau's feast day is on Jan. 20," said Holy Cross Father John DeRiso, pastor, "Bishop D'Arcy has given permission to celebrate the votive Mass in honor of Blessed Basil Moreau at all the liturgies on Jan. 18."

To help with this celebration during the parish's sesquicentennial year, Bishop John M. D'Arcy presided at the 10 a.m. Mass and consecrated its new tabernacle.

In his homily Bishop D'Arcy characterized Blessed Basil, a French priest who founded the Congregations of Holy Cross, as a man whose asset was that "he loved God and understood the meaning of the cross." He was hard on himself but always kind to others.

Moreau understood suffering and chose to share in the cross of Christ, the cross of love. Even when his own community rejected him, he continued to serve by preaching at parish missions. He lived the words, "Ave crux. Spes unica," which means, "Hail the cross, our one hope."

After the general intercessions, Bishop D'Arcy consecrated the new tabernacle with a blessing. Referring to the blessing of the new tabernacle, longtime parishioner, Mary Sparks said, "It is wonderful because the tabernacle is visible and you know right away that this is a Catholic Church."



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Keeping our children safe

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — In recent years, the Catholic community across the country and around the world was shocked and disheartened when allegations were made concerning the sexual abuse of minor children by Catholic clergy. As the church addressed this issue and worked to restore trust and hope for healing, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) set forth a charter to guide all U.S. dioceses in establishing an environment in which all children would be safe.

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, a comprehensive set of procedures established by the U.S. bishops in 2002, consists of 17 articles and includes guidelines for reconciliation, healing, accountability and prevention of future acts of abuse.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, under Bishop John M. D'Arcy, has complied with this charter since its inception and through the Office of Catechesis developed a unique program that has been implemented across the area. Currently the Office of Safe Environment is responsible for support of the program.

Cathie Cicchiello, coordinator of the safe environment office, first became acquainted with the screening process as a classroom volunteer at her child's school, and, in March of 2007, accepted the position offered by Bishop D'Arcy to coordinate the safe environment annual audit.

"I started to see the pieces of the program from the other side," she says, adding that each diocesan parish and school is involved in screenings and education for staff and volunteers who work directly with children.

One component of her position is to coordinate and support the efforts of the screeners at each of the parishes and schools in the diocese, who are responsible for facilitating the criminal background checks on all adults who apply to work or volunteer with children. This is in compliance with Article

13 of the charter.

Most parishes and schools utilize an appointed screener, usually the secretary, director of religious education or principal of the school, but larger parishes and schools require two for the hundreds of screenings that take place each year.

Applying for employment or to volunteer within the diocese requires two to four criminal background checks followed by reference checks.

This time-consuming work requires patience and much paperwork, reports Cicchiello, adding, "I want to applaud the background screeners. They do a boatload of work. It's challenging work... not an easy job."

When a criminal conviction is discovered, the screener reports it to the pastor or principal. With the support of the Office of Safe Environment, when the offense is not of a violent or sexual nature the acceptance of the applicant is left up to the pastoral discretion of the hiring staff.

Article 12 speaks to the maintenance of the safe environment program and the education and training of children, young adults, parents, educators, staff, volunteers, clergy and others. Following positive completion of the background and reference checks, the applicant is required to participate in two educational activities. A manual offering guidelines for interaction with children and reporting suspected child abuse is available as well as a 25-minute video, titled "Safe Environment Training," developed by the diocese. An annual educational event has also been implemented for all students, preschool through eighth grade, in religious education and the Catholic schools, and their teachers, catechists, counselors and others. Titled "The Good Boundaries Script," the 25-minute presentation is offered to children and adults in age-appropriate versions.

All screenings and participation in educational activities are documented by each parish or school screener and reported to Cicchiello and her trusted assistant Kathi

Santay, at the Office of Safe Environment. They are then responsible to tally and report each category total for the annual audit chart required by the USCCB.

"Last year in June of '08, we submitted a document for the fifth audit. And we received our fifth compliance rating," says Cicchiello confidently, adding that she feels compelled every year to tell people that they passed the audit.

The program requires many hands and much paperwork, but is a good start to creating a safe environment for all Catholic children. Cicchiello says, "The program is only six years old and we're learning how to create and implement programs to keep kids safe. The church is going beyond and making amends."

For more information on the charter visit www.usccb.org/ocyp.


A look at safe environment

ARTICLE 12

Dioceses/eparchies are to maintain "safe environment" programs which the diocesan/eparchial bishop deems to be in accord with Catholic moral principles. They are to be conducted cooperatively with parents, civil authorities, educators and community organizations to provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, volunteers, and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children and young people. Dioceses/eparchies are to make clear to clergy and all members of the community the standards of conduct for clergy and other persons in positions of trust with regard to children.

ARTICLE 13

Dioceses/eparchies are to evaluate the background of all incardinated and non-incardinated priests and deacons who are engaged in ecclesiastical ministry in the diocese/eparchy and of all diocesan/eparchial and parish/school or other paid personnel and volunteers whose duties include ongoing, unsupervised contact with minors. Specifically, they are to utilize the resources of law enforcement and other community agencies. In addition, they are to employ adequate screening and evaluative techniques in deciding the fitness of candidates for ordination (cf. United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Program of Priestly Formation [fifth Edition], 2006, no. 39).



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SERVICE

• What is Catholic Schools Week?

Catholic Schools Week is an annual national celebration of the important role that Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the country play in providing a values-added education for America's young people. Catholic schools are proud of their educational network that emphasizes intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical and social values in their students. Catholic Schools Week is a key part of the yearlong National Marketing Campaign For Catholic Schools.

• When is Catholic Schools Week 2009?

Catholic Schools Week begins the last Sunday in January. This year it is Jan. 25-31.

• What is the theme of CSW?

The theme is: "Catholic Schools Celebrate Service."

• What does Catholic Schools Week celebrate?

Catholic Schools Week celebrates education that goes beyond preparation for a secular life — it is education that prepares students for a Christian life. CSW also celebrates the high standards of excellence and the quality of the education available to all students in Catholic elementary and secondary schools across the U.S.

• What is the purpose of Catholic Schools Week celebrations?

The purpose of Catholic Schools Week is to build community awareness of, and involvement in, Catholic schools throughout the country. During this week, many dioceses and schools encourage parents to take full advantage of the benefits of local Catholic schools by enrolling their children in those schools. CSW also is an occasion for schools to interest citizens in volunteering their time and talents to the local Catholic schools.

• How long has Catholic Schools Week been around?

The Catholic Schools Week celebration became an annual event in 1974. 2009 is the 36th annual event. The first national Catholic Schools Week slogan was "Different Where It Counts — Message, Community, Service."

Theme underscores commitment Catholic education has to service

BY FATHER STEVE KEMPINGER, CSC

Catholic Schools Week is the annual celebration of Catholic education and its contribution to the church and our nation. During this week, we focus on the important role of Catholic schools in providing a faith-centered education for young people and good citizens that will make the world a better place.

This year's theme "Celebrate Service," underscores the great commitment Catholic education has to service. Our goal in Catholic schools is to educate the whole child. Catholic schools instill in our students a lifelong commitment to serving others. We provide them with opportunities to serve and equip them with the tools they need to fulfill their vocation in life as people dedicated to Christ.

It is has been a trend in recent years for all schools both public and private to require some form of volunteer hours as part of their curriculum. Catholic schools have traditionally connected service hours in their preparation for their reception of the sacrament of confirmation.

But it does not start there. The entire school operates as service community. From our daily prayers for those in need to collecting food for local food pantries to clothes for other children, are all forms of service. Students are instructed from the beginning to follow Christ who came to serve others.

As we grow up, our parents teach us and guide us in how we are to behave. We learn how to say, "please" and "thank you." We learn how to brush our teeth and wash our hands. At first, we have to be reminded over and over to do what we have been taught. The hope is that they become a habit in our life. As we grow up they become second nature and most of time we do not even think about it we just do it.

The same can be said for developing a conscience that is "service" oriented. At first we might respond to a requirement of "service" hours with "Why do I have to do this?" or "Is this really necessary?" But once started, the requirement will become a Christian habit.

When I was a principal at Christ the King School, we did have service hours requirements for our junior high students. Seventh graders worked in parish activities and eighth-grade students worked with programs outside of the parish. Mrs. Esch, the middle school religion teacher, had the students write reflection papers on their experiences. It was always with great pride that she would share them with me. They always reflected tremendous growth over the year. The students "eyes" were opened to the needs of the parish and local community. The greatest lesson that they learned was that they can make a difference. One student can make a difference.

From these middle school experiences, the student carries these important lessons of life to high school. The works and service that our high school students carry out are nothing but miraculous. The tools that our

students have gathered in their Catholic school experience will become part of their adult life. The habit has been formed and will be integrated into their Christian life.

This brings to mind another point that we wish to "Celebrate Service" in our Catholic Schools. That is our vocation. We have already stated that our Catholic schools prepare us for life by giving our students the tools they will need. God gives each of us gifts and talents for us to use for building his kingdom on earth.

When our students go forth and provide service in their parish and community, they are exposed to a world in need and through experience find their God-given gifts, which will help with the need. Not only does service become a habit but also one's vocation in life can be discovered. Through reflection and prayer, our students hear God's call and they answer with a confident "yes."

"Celebrating Service" is not just for our students but also to all those who make Catholic schools possible. Our teachers and administrators are committed to provide an education that strengthens our students in mind, heart and soul. Teachers and administrators provide a great service by using their gifts for Catholic schools. They have felt God's call and answered by dedicating their lives to their vocation. Many pass by opportunities where they would be more financially comfortable knowing the rewards they receive by service in our schools are measured in a different way.

Parents also have reason to "Celebrate Service." They have made the choice to send their children to Catholic schools for different reasons. Whatever these reasons might be they also participate by sacrificing in many ways. Service for others always involves some form of sacrifice. But parents know that by this sacrifice a great reward will benefit their child and the future they will have as a Christian adult.

I end with a quote from the founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, the religious order that I am blessed to be a part. Blessed Father Basil Moreau stated in one of his circular letters to the congregation that "We shall always place education side by side with instruction; the mind will not be cultivated at the expense of the heart. While we prepare useful citizens for society, we shall likewise do our utmost to prepare citizens for heaven."

"Celebrating Service" is a wonderful time for our diocese to celebrate who we are what we do as we continue to "prepare citizens for heaven."

Holy Cross Father Stephen Kempinger is the superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

St. Jude students reap stewardship benefits

BY DEB WAGNER

FORT WAYNE — St. Jude Parish has long been known for two things — its stewardship and its socioeconomic affluence. While its economic status has changed to what some have characterized as mostly inner city, culturally diverse and blue-collar with the movement of some people to suburban areas, their commitment to stewardship now includes focus on the good character of its youth today.

Sister Kathleen Marie Knueven, SND, is principal of the school and says, "I believe it is important to promote lifelong stewardship and the grateful sharing of the gifts of time, talent and treasure among our students at St. Jude. We cannot wait until adulthood to respond with gratitude that everything we have is given to us by God. Through service and projects we teach our students the importance of good stewardship and the joy of being a cheerful giver."

The students' efforts are also helping the environment. Some students made snowmen from mayonnaise jars for holiday decorating and gift-giving. Others have hosted garage sales and engaged in bottle and can recycling.

Pat Rupley is an eighth grader who has put a lot of time into this eighth-grade stewardship project. He says, "Everybody is working really hard on this project collecting bottles and cans from other

people." Cans have been collected weekly in the school courtyard and then taken to a recycling center by a parent volunteer.

Students have hosted garage sales in October and Nelson's Port-A-Pit chicken from a grocery store parking lot in the blustery cold and freezing rain of winter were an absolute hit. The eighth graders were out in the weather to serve those lined up to get a taste once only thought reserved for the summer months. The students did not seem to mind the weather. They were just happy to be working together.

"Even though it was cold and pouring down rain, selling Nelson's chicken with my friends was a fun experience. I can't wait until we go to Chicago together!" said Bri Campbell who joined almost two dozen other classmates that day.

Following the tragedies of Sept. 11, 2001 all class trips at St. Jude Parish were officially canceled, yet class trips often still took place after school was out for the summer and was only available to those who could afford it.

Julianne Toenges, a St. Jude

parishioner and parent wanted to bring back the class trip during the school year as an educational opportunity in which every eighth-grade student could participate. And what if a student was unable to help with this stewardship project for any number of reasons?

She said, "We are a class. We need to work as a whole and some are able to do more than others.

We are a team." This is another valuable life lesson from stewardship.

Because of the willingness of students to participate in such stewardship projects, all of the St. Jude eighth grade will be boarding a bus with their teachers and chaperones in March for an educational day long tour of downtown Chicago.

Students will hear about the great Chicago fire of 1871 and historic Holy Name Cathedral from their teachers before touring the latter. The students will view Chicago from atop the Sears Tower, visit the Museum of Science and Industry and enjoy having lunch and dinner together before returning to Fort Wayne later in the evening.

We cannot wait until adulthood to respond with gratitude that everything we have is given to us by God.

SISTER KATHLEEN MARIE KNUEVEN, SND



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St. Jude School principal positive about future

BY DENISE FEDOROW

SOUTH BEND — Stephen Donndelinger, principal of St. Jude School in South Bend, has seen some changes since he assumed his position three years ago — some of those changes were already in the works and some he initiated — and he knows more changes are to come, but he looks at that as a positive thing.

Because of the decision to close nearby St. Mary's School, a number of St. Mary's students were already enrolled at St. Jude's when he took over as principal in the fall of 2006. Since then, a decision was also made to merge Sacred Heart, Lakeville, with St. Jude's to form one large parish named St. Catherine of Sienna.

A new Catherine of Sienna Church will reportedly be built to accommodate the larger parish. A committee has been formed to study possible sites for the church, but whether a new school will be built is unknown at this time and Donndelinger said even if that decision were to be made it would take a number of years for that to happen.

"The idea that a new school will pop up as soon as a new church is built is probably not realistic," Donndelinger said.

In the meantime, a vacated St. Jude Church and rectory would give the school some much-needed space to expand into.

"People ask why we don't have a preschool — there's no room," he said.

The principal also cited a lack of an official teacher's lounge and space for health resources, band and choir and a larger gym.

"If a new church is built nearby, but not on site, it gives us the ability to utilize that space — to me that's an exciting prospect."

Whether the school changes its name to St. Catherine's and

when is also up in the air, but Donndelinger said, "No matter what the name is, what's important is what the school stands for and provides its students."

Donndelinger graduated Notre Dame in 2000 and spent a couple of years working with children in the Juvenile Justice Center and taught in the South Bend school system. He also taught fourth grade at St. Monica School in Mishawaka. He was accepted into the ACE Master Program at the University of Notre Dame. When the principal position opened at his home parish, he applied.

This year, St. Jude has 165 students enrolled in grades kindergarten through eighth grade. The principal said his "comfort zone" would be 180-220 students to sustain the school and keep the quality of education and support for students.

Advantages and programs

Donndelinger said one of the advantages of attending St. Jude School, especially for south sides, is it's the most centrally located school. Ensuring that every student, even those with disabilities is supported is "extremely important to us," he said. St. Jude has a full time resource teacher plus an assistant a couple of days a week.

Donndelinger put several programs into place at the school, including a mentor program. Students are matched with adults in an after-school program, and Donndelinger said that extra attention makes a huge difference in the student's performance. He's excited that six Marian High School students will be joining the mentor program. The principal himself, along with a math teacher met with a small group of students helping to build their algebra skills.



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St. Jude School Principal Stephen Donndelinger is pleased with the positive strides and programs available for his students and looks forward to what the future will bring for the school.



Dick Schulz teaches seventh grade.

ISTEP scores remain consistently high at St. Jude's, and Donndelinger is a proponent of looking beyond the actual scores and determining where improvements can be made.

Elective programs for students in grades 5-8 have been implemented for 45 minutes before lunch. On Mondays and Wednesdays there are academic electives including: Spanish, faith and service, gifted opportunity, Scripture study, and, for fifth graders, a study skills-study habits elective, and, for eighth graders, there's a personal finance and economics elective.

On Tuesdays and Thursdays there are fine arts electives



Diane Verleye teaches fourth grade.

including band, liturgical choir, dance and drama, art and technology, yoga and keyboarding. On Fridays there are recreational electives including a second physical education class, French and a very popular knitting class.

Donndelinger called this elective program one of his proudest and said each elective is tied to the curriculum in some way. He said he was given the opportunity to have a very broad education and the ability to explore different areas and wants to give that same opportunity to his students.

He said the school is working to bring the elective program to the lower grades. They currently offer Spanish and will be bring-

ing chess to the younger students. "It goes along with our mission statement to encourage life-long learning," he said.

The school also has a good technology infrastructure with wireless access throughout the building and three Smart Boards.

Future growth

Donndelinger said there's a big effort to extend the school's outreach and one avenue is connecting with the alumni base. He also believes a healthy kindergarten class is the key to future enrollment growth.

"Future enrollment is built from the bottom up," he said. And this year, St. Jude's has the largest kindergarten class in five years.

He said the fastest growing student base is nontraditional students — those coming from public schools and other Christian denominations. He said they baptized 12 new people in the parish this past year that were students or family of these nontraditional students.

"That's the first time I've seen that significant degree of Catholic school as an instrument of evangelization," he said.

Donndelinger believes to have a successful Catholic school you have to provide an environment where children can develop his or her "spiritual, academic and social potential for success as lifelong learners," as the school's mission statement declares. The principal keeps that mission foremost in his mind.

St. Jude School has several fun activities planned for Catholic Schools Week, including a special luncheon, and days when students can dress in certain styles as decided by the student council. For more information about the school, visit the Web site at www.stjudeschool.net.



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Legacy Auction set in support of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School

FORT WAYNE — The St. Joseph-St Elizabeth School Home and School Association is planning for the 5th Annual Legacy Auction scheduled for Saturday, Jan. 24. The casually elegant event begins with cocktails and silent auction at 6:30 p.m., with dinner catered by Catablu at 7:30. The live auction will begin at 8:30. The theme for this year's event is "Celebrating our Children" and will take place at St. Elizabeth Seton School, 10700 Aboite Center Rd.

Items up for bid are a \$2,500 gift certificate from Bussick Orthodontist, items from Peg Perego and Vera Bradley and gift certificates from many local businesses. Also on display will be art work and photos from each classroom from preschool through eighth grade.

Tickets are \$30 per person. A cash bar will be available. To purchase tickets call Norine Martin at (260) 436 1983 or the school office at (260) 432 4001.

The Legacy Auction kicks off the celebration of Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 24-31. Other events scheduled for Catholic Schools Week include Masses at St. Joseph Parish on Brooklyn Ave. and St. Elizabeth Seton Parish, a talent show and an open house on Jan. 28 at both campuses.

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SERVICE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

St. Mary Principal Kathy Garlitz says: "Members send letters to all school families, make flyers for the community and advertise in the church bulletin as well as our sending parish bulletins to solicit blood donations for the Red Cross at a time and date in our school hall.

"Students also work at the blood drive with both the registration of donors and in the canteen, which they help supply with food and drink contributions.

"One student council member," Garlitz adds, "dresses as P.D. Platelet, the mascot for the drive, and entertains both the students and the donors the day of the drive."

At St. Bernard School in Wabash, Theresa Carroll, principal, reports that the school kicks off Catholic Schools Week with A Day in the Life of Jesus.

"The students will participate in activities that Jesus would have as a child," Carroll says. "They will

work with Hebrew words and Scriptures the way Jesus would have learned them. We hope to also have a carpenter presentation."

She adds, "Other events taking place during the week are a book drive, a service project planning period and Fun Football Friday. Our Pre-K learns the letter 'F' by doing all sorts of football activities. They color a football helmet, do the football shuffle and eat football game day food."

St. John the Baptist School in New Haven has a service project planned for each grade level throughout the year. The sixth and eighth grades help at The Franciscan Center. Seventh graders volunteered as victims for the Allen County Emergency Response Teams. The fifth grade sings at Harborside nursing home. The fourth grade collects food for the Community Harvest Food Bank. The third grade sings in the choir at weekend Masses. The second grade makes cards for parish shut-ins. The first grade makes special cards and decorations for a nursing home. And the kindergarten and pre kindergarten children make bird feeders.

St. John Principal Jan Comito adds that the entire school community donates food for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, brings in Christmas gifts for needy families, has freewill collections for various charities, and prays for the unborn at the the abortion facility.

At Queen of Angels School in Fort Wayne, Principal Marsha Jordan reports that each grade has at least three service projects and "service is something that is a continual focus."

Highlighted projects include collecting pennies by the kindergartners and first grade for clean water at the Queen of Angels' sister parish, St. Clare, in Haiti.

"Over the last five or six years, we have collected several thousand dollars," Jordan says. The two grades also send books to students in Namibia as part of a Peace Corps project.

The students collect food to replenish the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry in the school. They are also involved in visiting with residents at St. Anne Home and Retirement Center and making cards for nursing home residents and shut-ins.

Students at Most Precious

Blood will celebrate service this week by working with children at local hospitals. Principal Ali Bergman reports the varsity cheerleaders came up with the idea after they collected toys to be distributed at Parkview and Lutheran hospitals. In March, they plan a walk-a-thon to collect money for Riley Hospital in Indianapolis.

Activities for Catholic Schools Week at Holy Family School in South Bend include an open house in addition to an academic and book fair. Stump the Teacher is slated Monday, bingo on Tuesday, an inspirational movie on Thursday, a teachers vs. eighth grade volleyball game, acts of kindness throughout the week and a grandparents or special guest Mass on Friday.

At St. Matthew School in South Bend, the Young Vincentians play an active role in serving the poor and lonely in the Michiana area. Their biggest mission is to keep the food pantry clean and full. They hold food drives, stock the pantry shelves and clean the pantry.

The 68 Young Vincentians from St. Matthew begin each year by filling 100 backpacks for foster children in the Michiana area with

small gifts, personal care items and snacks — donated by parishioners. They also participate in the St. Vincent de Paul blanket drive and sock drive. They participate in Eric's Promise each Lenten season, fill Easter baskets and Walk for the Homeless each April. The Young Vincentians make lap blankets, small holiday gifts and write letters to shut-in at St. Matthew Cathedral Parish.

At Our Lady of Hungary School in South Bend, teacher Maureen Rousseve took students Christmas caroling at a local nursing home. The choir members delivered Christmas card and drawings to each resident. The artwork was made by every student in the school.

Melissa Jay of Our Lady of Hungary School, says, "The songs, cards and drawings brought smiles to the eyes of the residents. Hugs were given."

At St. Louis Besancon Academy, New Haven, Principal Cheryl Layton says, "... Besides adopting a family of four from the Christmas Bureau — with only 61 students — and collecting diapers for the Christ Child Society, we collected items to send to soldiers on a ship in Iraq.

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Martha Lewallen, principal of St. Anthony, retires

BY JUDY BRADFORD

SOUTH BEND — Martha Lewallen's face lights up when she recalls a lunchroom scene, seven years ago, when eighth graders swarmed, like bugs, around a wheelchair-bound classmate of theirs.

"One of the parents had built a special lunch table because the ones that we had didn't work out for her," she explained, "and so many students were eager to sit next to her, at her special table."

For Lewallen, that memory clearly represents the spirit of community and cooperation at St. Anthony de Padua School, where she has served as principal for the past 22 years. It's a memory she will cherish as she prepares for her retirement at the end of this school year.

"I'm very proud of the community here, and how we pull together to help each and learn from each other, and be more inclusive."

When Lewallen started teaching seventh and eighth graders at St. Anthony's in 1982, there were no accommodations for disabled students.

Now there's an elevator, and



JUDY BRADFORD

Martha Lewallen, St. Anthony de Padua School principal, reads to first-graders recently. She plans to retire at the end of the school year.

teachers who can easily adapt to the needs of the disabled.

"When we have students who are out of the mainstream, it challenges us as a faculty. But they have also helped us as much as we have helped them," she says.

Lewallen wasn't even thinking about being an administrator back in 1987 when the late Father

Robert Yast, then pastor at St. Anthony Church, asked her to be principal.

"I had had some leadership opportunities, like doing the class scheduling, and being a team leader or running the patrol program here. But I liked working with the kids," says Lewallen.

However, she felt called to be an administrator, partly because Father Yast needed someone. His original plans to appoint an associate pastor fell through because the diocese desperately needed that pastor as a priest. "They couldn't spare a priest, so he asked me," she said.

There have been a lot of

changes since then. In addition to welcoming disabled students, the school has also welcomed Hispanic and black students, bringing the minority population to 18 percent. "When I came here in 1982, there was one minority student out of 435. It's just so wonderful to see students sharing crayons and even their lunches. I'm very proud of our diverse student body."

The student body has grown smaller, particularly due to the opening last year of the St. Pius X School in Granger.

Sixty-five of St. Anthony's students transferred there.

"We all knew we would be impacted, because those families were already members of the St. Pius Parish. I can't blame them for transferring their children there, because it's a shorter distance to drive to school and all the after-school activities."

St. Anthony's student K-8 student body, which now stands at 300, is even more closer-knit now, and probably has more middle-class and lower middle-class families. She says that as she retires, the school's staff, faculty and parents will continue to face challenges.

"We can't protect children from everything, and parents have to help us with that. Parents need to remember that they are the first teachers, and remember to set a good example."

The faculty remains strong, she says, partly because many of them are older and have experienced so many changes together.

"We have gone through the birth of our own children, raising those children, seeing our kids get married and also taking care of our own parents together. These are life stages that strengthen a group of people."

Donna Hemmerlein, a fourth-grade teacher who served as assistant principal for 10 years until last year, agrees. But she adds that Lewallen has been at the center of that strength.

"We're all family, and she's responsible for that. She's improved our faith development and fostered a Christian community that operates on mutual respect."

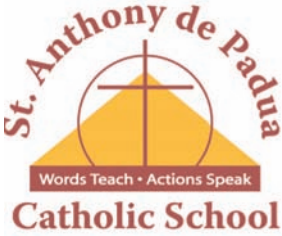
"Also, her work day didn't stop at the end of the school day. She often worked evenings. She has always challenged us, and we've always wanted to do our best for her."

The search for Lewallen's replacement has begun, and includes a survey of school parents asking them what they would like in a new principal.

Meanwhile, Lewallen, who has taught in many American cities including Milwaukee, DeMoines, Redondo Beach, Calif. and St. Joseph, Mich., plans to stay in South Bend with her husband James, an accountant with AMJ Accounting.

After a few months' break, during which she plans to travel, she wants to work with the elderly, either as a volunteer or in a paid position, and also volunteer with the Christ Child Society.

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Catholic school teachers gather for the Institute of Catechetical Formation

BY DANIELLE ABRIL

Each year, all of the diocesan Catholic school teachers gather for a day of personal and professional ongoing formation from many local talented catechetical experts, most of whom have received their theological formation because of a generous grant from Our Sunday Visitor. This event, sponsored by the diocesan Office of Catechesis, is known as the Institute of Catechetical Formation for Teachers. It is a unique opportunity for the over 900 teachers of the diocesan Catholic schools to learn more about their faith so that they in turn are better equipped to hand on the faith to children in the

diocese.

This annual event takes place in two locations, one event in the Fort Wayne end of the diocese and one in South Bend. This year the event will take place in Mishawaka at Marian High School on Feb. 27 and in Fort Wayne at Bishop Dwenger High School on March 13. The day will begin at 8 a.m. with morning refreshments and end at 12:15 p.m. The event will include a keynote presentation, Mass celebrated by Bishop John M. D'Arcy, and a variety of workshop options for the teachers to attend. Ordinarily there are two sessions of workshops; however,

this year, Bishop D'Arcy is celebrating Mass. His homily is his opportunity to speak to the entire body of Catholic school teachers nurturing their faith as their shepherd and chief catechist of the diocese.

The keynote speaker will be Daniel S. Mulhall, a highly respected catechetical expert with national renown. He has been actively engaged in catechetical ministry for over 30 years on the parish, diocesan and national levels. From 1998 to 2007, Mulhall worked for the U.S. Conference of Catholic

ICF, PAGE 20

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EVENT DETAILS

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6:00pm

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Catholic Schools Week
January 25 - 31, 2009

The gift of faith nurtured in Catholic schools

BY SISTER JANE CAREW

Recently a newly hired teacher, Tyler McAtee at Bishop Luers High School, expressed his admiration for the strong level of Catholic identity permeating the school. Tyler, a graduate of Christendom College and well-formed in philosophy and theology, is grateful to be teaching in this environment.

The Office of Catechesis has worked very closely with the Office of Catholic Schools these past 22 years. This longterm collaboration has been the fruit of Bishop John M. D'Arcy's vision from the time he came to the diocese. Different dioceses have different models.

Bishop D'Arcy's model has been strong encouragement that these two offices work together to foster the growth in knowledge and love of the Catholic faith, enriching the lives of many teachers and students.

Two years after I came, Bishop D'Arcy approached me with a grant of \$230,000 saying he wanted high school religious teachers and directors of religious education to obtain masters degrees in theology so as to teach the faith with knowledge and conviction. This generous grant came from Our Sunday Visitor.

In 1990 the University of Dayton came into the diocese each semester to teach a course which met over three weekends. Thirteen years later the University of Notre Dame wanted to reach out to the local church. We were pleased to have this within our diocese, so we have talented and dedicated catechists from both universities.

Nineteen years later, we give thanks for continued grant funding from Our Sunday Visitor, and, with over 65 graduates and 20 still pursuing their degrees, the diocese has been very blessed. The highest concentration of graduates is in the four high schools. Collectively there are 33 teachers of religion, four of whom are engaged in campus ministry.

Over the years, the growth in

the quality and substance of high school coursework is very impressive. The University of Saint Francis is presently in dialogue with Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Luers because students who go on to attend Saint Francis and take the introductory course in theology already know the material. The hope is that students from these two high schools will receive three college credits as an elective and subsequently take two other more advanced courses in theology. Certainly this is a testament to the excellence of the theology in our four high schools.

More Catholic elementary schools have fulltime teachers of religion for grades 6, 7 and 8. Some of these people are Cindy Esch at Christ the King, Debbie Feece at Holy Family, Diane Klee at Holy Cross and Edwardo Sequenza at St. Adalbert. It is our hope that this trend will continue to develop.

The various programs that have been provided for Catholic schools over the years have been Institute Days of Faith Formation in both Fort Wayne and South Bend. Initially these were held in fall and spring.

Later the fall event was replaced by specialized workshops, gathering teachers of one grade level to focus on the con-

tent taught and the Emmaus Committees, which provided catechetical and spiritual enrichment.

In the past six years the Catholic Educator Program has provided a two-week course in early June in both Fort Wayne and South Bend. Topics have been the creed, morality and sacraments. Taught by gifted high school religion teachers, this program has been attended by about 280 teachers. It consistently receives high praise as teachers learn catechetical methodology and experience a deepening of love for their Catholic faith.

The result of these endeavors enhances the Catholic identity of schools. A great delight for all to experience is the excellent results of yearly ACRE (Assessment of Catholic Religious Education). Given each year in March to grades 5, 8, 9 and 12th levels, collectively the diocesan Catholic schools score well above the national average. Individual schools score 10, 15 and 20 points above the national average.

Dr. John Convey from the education department of Catholic University of America is working with the National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) to compile a book on ACRE. Because our grade 8 students in 2005 were amongst the highest in

the country, the diocese has been asked to compile a manuscript describing our catechetical formation program.

Newly revised curriculum guidelines, preschool to grade 8, are the present enhancement project. These are based on the 2005 United States National Catechetical Directory. The initial response from teachers is very positive. The revised curriculums are designed to continue the formation of the teacher, identify and develop the content for each grade level and enhance the understanding and vocabulary of children and youth. The completion of this major endeavor will assure the strengthening of faith formation for many years to come.

Thanks to the dedicated principals, teachers and Bishop

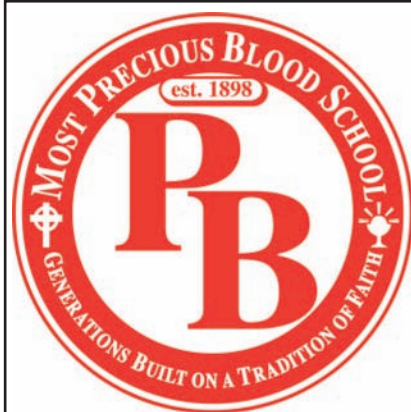
D'Arcy's early visioning, the Catholic schools in this diocese are implementing and experiencing the vision of the catechetical renewal begun at Vatican II, which has unfolded over the past 40 years.

Our newly-hired Tyler McAtee at Bishop Luers exemplify many teachers and schools who delight in knowing they are in a truly Catholic learning environment and successfully handing on the faith.

Sister Jane Carew is the co-director of the Office of Catechesis.

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Student feels Saint Joseph High School offers spirit of Christ

BY MONICA MURPHY

SOUTH BEND — I was a little overwhelmed as I drove up to the parking lot of Saint Joseph's High School for my first day of school. Though a little excited, the butterflies never left my stomach. I was just about to embark on a new chapter of my life, and the journey that awaited me was something that I could hardly imagine for myself.

My new principal, Susan Richter, stood outside and greeted me with a warm and heartfelt smile, "Welcome to Saint Joseph High School; we are glad to

have you." Her uplifting smile reassured me that my time here would be a huge blessing.

My call to service and faith began at Saint Joe where I was introduced to endless opportunities to become involved and to find my calling in life. Now that I am a senior and look back on my years here, I have been tremendously blessed to have been able to go to such a wonderful school.

I believe that one of the biggest reasons why I have dedicated so much time to Saint Joe is because it is like a second home, and because I love being at this school. Every day is a

new journey.

Parents who have children in eighth grade will ask, "Monica, how have you liked Saint Joe?" I respond by saying that I absolutely love it and could not imagine myself going anywhere else.

At Saint Joe we are all one family, together growing in love and faith, helping one another to reach ambitious dreams. The teachers have challenged me to be the best person that I can be. In and outside of the classroom, I have wonderful relationships with my teachers and look up to them as role models and essential guides for my life. Their sacrifice and commitment to Catholic education is truly a blessing and this has made me more appreciative over the past four years.

The dedication of faith, excellence and service is exemplified at Saint Joe. Over the years I have seen conversions, deeper relationships with the Lord, and have noticed the chapel full of students during their lunch hour. The school spirit and the number of students involved in community service amazes me and makes me overjoyed. Most of my peers are proud of where they go to school.

The greatest memory that I have at Saint Joe is that of Principal Richter, who is a true



MONICA MURPHY

inspiration and light for all of the Saint Joe family. She is a big reason why Saint Joseph's High School is what it is today. Her kindness, love, compassion, faith, determination, hard work, commitment and selflessness are beyond explanation. Her passion is Saint Joseph's High School. Her sacrifice sheds light. Her grace evokes change. She is the disciple living out Christ's message.

She always gives her time to the teachers, faculty and students. I remember last year when my math class was having a study session at the Martin's grocery store, and she was there shopping. She saw us and put her cart aside and joined us at our table. I remember last

spring, right before a group of us left for Medjugorje, when she joined us for Mass in our chapel and also greeted us on our return late the following Saturday night. In the Saint Joe Spirit, she cheers the sports teams on and is always present at our plays and musicals. She is dedicated and loves this school and community.

It is people like Richter, who provide hope for the future, whose hard work and endless gifts shine throughout the community. Even though she is faced with new challenges every day, she overcomes them and keeps envisioning unimaginable goals.

How fortunate am I to have had a great education at Saint Joe? Very. I have a lot to be thankful for. When I leave for college next year, I am going to miss Saint Joe, but I can look back and smile remembering the experience that I had and all of those whom I have met.

Catholic education is a wonderful blessing, this community is a blessing; and our educators are a blessing. Saint Joe continues to live out its mission and will keep succeeding in all areas. We are Saint Joe. We stand proud.

Monica Murphy is a senior at Saint Joseph's High School.



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Dwenger student rallies school for Ugandan children

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — Think globally, act locally. Bishop Dwenger senior Jenna Roy has certainly embraced that mantra in and outside the classroom. Roy, 18, has been instrumental in making her classmates more socially aware.

For the past two years Roy has rallied behind the “Invisible Children” movement. This non-profit group was founded by American filmmakers who brought the plight of Ugandan children to life with their film “Invisible Children: Rough Cut.”

According to the group’s Web site, www.invisiblechildren.com, “the war in northern Uganda has been called the most neglected humanitarian emergency in the world today. For the past 23 years, the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA) and the Government of Uganda (GoU) have been waging a war that has left nearly 2 million innocent civilians caught in the middle.

With dwindling support for their cause and heightened government offensives, the LRA has resorted to abducting children and indoctrinating them with their radical views, the Web site claims. It is estimated that more than 90 percent of the LRA’s troops were abducted as children.

Consequently, thousands of Ugandan children are kidnapped in the middle of the night by the LRA, instilling fear in those left behind. Those who can leave their village do so in the middle of the night. Their dangerous journey has been referred to as the “night commute.”

The Ugandan government has

attempted to intervene to little avail. Thousands of people have been evicted from their homes and relocated to overcrowded camps in hopes of providing protection. But over a decade later roughly one million individuals still live in these camps and struggle to survive among the effects of abject poverty, rampant disease and near-certain starvation, according to the Web site.

Roy first became active in the moment when she and two other Bishop Dwenger students participated in a national public awareness stunt, Global Night Commute, in Chicago. On April 28, 2006, more than 80,000 people took a stand by lying down in 126 cities across the United States. People walked for miles to their city centers and slept in the streets to make a visual call to end night commuting in northern Uganda.

In Chicago, Roy said she and the 16,000 participants slept in cardboard boxes in a parking lot in solidarity with the night commuters. They fasted all day, with water and saltines as they only nourishment.

“It was the craziest experience,” she said. “I’ve never been so happy to get water and crackers.”

Roy said it was beautiful to see people united under a common goal. And she has channeled that energy into local efforts.

It started with a documentary that transformed her high school. Roy was responsible for bringing the traveling tour bus to Bishop Dwenger. Last fall as part of the tour, the junior and senior class viewed a screening of “Go,” which details the progress of various

organizations in Uganda. In fact, since the film’s release, night commuting has ended for the children of northern Uganda.

Roy said the film was a unifying force in her school, as it “broke down social barriers.”

“It didn’t matter who you hung out with ... it was really neat how much (my peers) got out of it,” she said.

Students were eager to rally behind the cause and before long they had organized several fundraising events. As part of the Schools for Schools program, Better World Books has partnered with schools nationally, including Bishop Dwenger, to support the Invisible Children’s cause. The company will buy used books and donate the profits to programs that promote literacy internationally.

The students also collect money in the lunchroom and gather recycling materials, which produce a small return for the cause. Roy said the Social Justice Club is also working to sell handmade bracelets which represent a Ugandan child’s personal struggle. The accompanying video puts a face to the tragedy, Roy said.

Roy said her journey with the cause has shed some light on her possible career goals. She hopes to study international studies at an East Coast university and do humanitarian work at some point. Roy will get a glimpse of her possible career this summer, when she teaches English in Ghana.

For information about Invisible Children’s Cause, visit www.invisiblechildren.com.

Let the FAFSA help family get cash for college

Here’s a great New Year’s resolution for every family with a college-bound student: Complete and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 10.

Filing the FAFSA is a must-do to qualify for most federal grants and loans, resources provided by the state of Indiana, and support provided by college and universities. There is no cost to apply; it never hurts to try; it is the only way students can know their full financial aid eligibility.

Many Hoosiers miss the opportunity to receive financial aid simply because they do not take the time to complete their FAFSA. There is money out there to help pay for college, but students have to take an important step and apply for it.

To be considered for the most state aid options, the U.S. Department of Education must receive the FAFSA no later than March 10. Filing the FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov is the easiest and fastest way of completing the form accurately and on time.

To help raise awareness of the importance of FAFSA completion, Learn More Indiana is asking caring adults like you to join Indiana’s College Success Coalition and help Hoosiers put their hands on cash for college by promoting the following:

- College Goal Sunday, Feb. 15 at 2 p.m., provides free assistance at 36 locations throughout Indiana for students and parents filling out the FAFSA. Hoosiers can submit their FAFSA online at any site. For more information, visit www.collegegoalsunday.org or call 1-800-992-2076

- Learn More Indiana offers online step-by-step instructions on how to fill out the FAFSA. In addition, Hoosiers can order a free publication, Indiana’s Guide to Paying for College: Step-by-

Step Tips To Help High School Seniors Apply for Financial Aid, by calling 1-800-992-2076 or visiting www.learnmoreindiana.org

- FAFSA Friday is an additional push for families needing assistance with filling out the FAFSA prior to the March 10 deadline. On Friday, Feb. 27, Learn More Indiana will connect Hoosiers to financial aid advisors through a statewide webinar. Students, counselors, teachers and parents can view the presentation and chat with financial aid advisors by logging onto www.learnmoreindiana.org/FAFSAFriday between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.-9 p.m.

When Hoosiers agree to do a little, they end up doing a lot to help students get to and through college. Join Indiana’s College Success Coalition at www.learnmoreindiana.org/coalition.

Show them the money

- 69 percent of first-generation college students believe they can’t afford college

- 65 percent say they need financial aid information

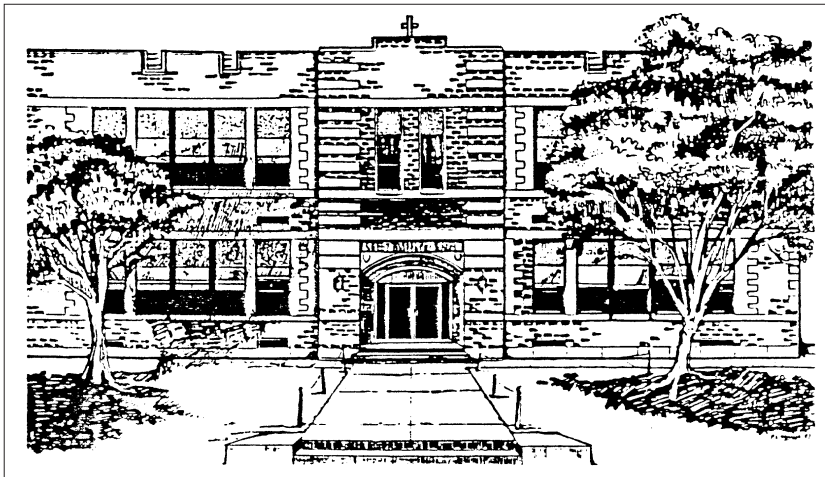
- 69 percent don’t know the difference between need-based and merit-based financial aid

There is good news: Millions of dollars are available to help Hoosiers pay for college. Make sure students you know submit the FAFSA by the March 10 deadline.

Learn More Indiana is a partnership of the Indiana Commission for Higher Education, the Indiana Department of Education, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development and the State Student Assistance Commission of Indiana all working together to provide information that supports learning.

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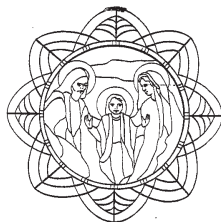
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ICF

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Bishops in the department of education. He now serves as the national catechetical advisor for RCL Benziger, a well known publisher of catechetical materials.

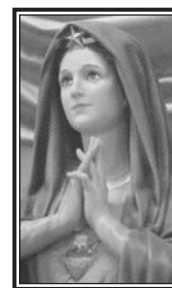
His keynote, entitled "Evangelizing a Changing Culture," will look at the principles of catechesis as discussed in the U.S. bishops' document the "National Directory for Catechesis." Mulhall will discuss how to be successful in an evangelizing catechesis — a catechesis that helps students to fall in love with Christ and his church as they grow in knowledge of the faith.

After Mass, teachers will attend a workshop chosen during preregistration. The nearly 20 workshops offered give the teachers a wide variety of options intended to provide intellectual and spiritual enrichment and to meet the formation needs of each individual teacher.

Although designed to be a day of religious formation, teachers who instruct students in sciences other than theology should not be disappointed with the workshop topics, as many are specifically aimed to promote the teaching of Catholic culture across the curriculum.

A few workshop topics include: "Run so as to Win" Conscience Formation; An Introduction to the Theology of the Body; What Jesus has to say

Our Lady of Hungary School

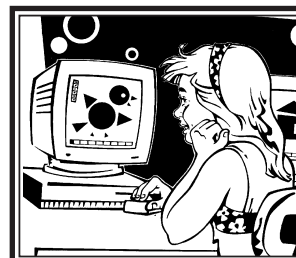


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to Teenagers Today; Engaging the Culture: Modern Media and Catechesis; and several workshops intended to familiarize the teachers with the Revised Catechetical Curriculum Guidelines created by the Office of Catechesis to ensure a organic and systematic teaching of the faith to all children in the diocese.

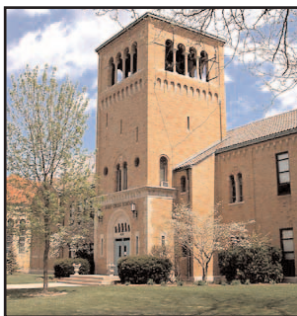
Presenters include many of the individuals who have received their masters in theology either from the University of Dayton or the University of Notre Dame and have become a leaven of faith formation for the diocese. Presenters include diocesan priests, directors of religious education, religion teachers from the four local Catholic High Schools, pastoral ministers and other catechetical experts from the area.

This event is also a celebration of the many skilled teachers that instruct the youth of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Because of each teacher's dedication to quality education, the diocese can boast of above average scores on the National

Catholic Education Association's (NCEA) Assessment of Catechesis Religious Education (ACRE). During this week's celebration of Catholic Schools, parents and students are encouraged not to forget to thank the teachers for their hard work and dedication to their job and to their own ongoing formation at events like the Institute of Catechetical Formation for Teachers.

Danielle Abril is the liaison to Catholic elementary schools in the diocesan Office of Catechesis.

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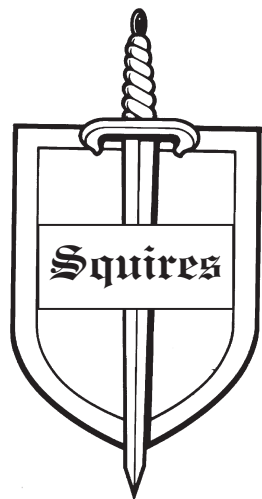
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EDITORIAL

Linking service to the Catholic faith

This week, schools across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend will be celebrating Catholic Schools Week. This year's theme focuses on service, "Celebrate Service."

"Civic engagement is a hallmark of Catholic education," said Karen Ristau, president of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA). "The majority of elementary and secondary schools participate in service projects ranging from collecting canned goods for the homeless to rebuilding schools in the hurricane-torn gulf, so it was natural that we choose service as a major theme."

Schools typically celebrate Catholic Schools Week with Masses, open houses and activities for students, families, administrators, faculty, school staff and the community.

During Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the United States in April 2008, Catholic youths were asked to pledge hours of community service to honor the pope's 81st birthday. The NCEA reports that more than 2 million hours of service were pledged by the end of the campaign.

As we have seen in recent weeks of *Today's Catholic*, our schools are involved in fundraisers, often assisting the Women's Care Center, the poor, the homeless and those who lack food.

Service goes beyond the elementary and high schools. Even our Catholic colleges and universities are very involved with service. Students at Saint Mary's College were reading to children and presented a program on the message of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan. 19. University of Saint Francis students scattered throughout Fort Wayne that same day as a day of service to the community: organizing clothing at the St. Vincent de Paul Store; assisting at Vincent Village; meeting with residents at Saint Anne Home and Retirement Community, etc.

Catholic Schools Week is a joint project of NCEA and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

A lifelong journey

One of the "unsuspecting" benefits of our Catholic schools is that catechism extends beyond the child. Oftentimes the parents are catechized too. This can be done when parents look over a child's religion piece, when the school sends home a share the Scripture-of-the-week or through daily conversation.

But the school also entrenches the Catholic family into the church family, when the family is open to it. There are organizations like Home and School Association, school board, marketing, coffee and doughnuts and festival committees drawing parents into the school community. Children serving Mass and other liturgical events, participation in church choirs, proclaiming or lecturing at children's Masses perhaps draw the parents into participation of parish life and the possibility of attending a weekday Mass.

In this week's story about St. Jude School in South Bend, Principal Stephen Donndelinger exclaims how several non-Catholic students at their school brought their families into the faith. Not only is this occurring in our urban schools, this evangelization is also taking place at our rural schools. For example, of the six RCIA candidates this year at St. Aloysius, Yoder, half of them have a connection with the school. It was the school community that brought them into the faith.

And in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, where the ACRE test is administered in our schools and parishes, the diocese ranks high nationally in teaching the faith to our children. We commend the religious education teachers and the Office of Catechesis.

Whether our children are in Catholic schools or in the religious education program, we all have an opportunity to evangelize — to welcome new people to our faith, to invite a fallen-away member of our faith back to the church or to simply be there as a source of comfort or support for someone struggling with the faith.

Some may worry that they would provide incorrect information. But there are resources — "The Catechism of the Catholic Church," the "U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults," classes at our parishes and throughout the diocese, even Catholic publications such as *Today's Catholic* — to help keep us abreast of church teaching and answer some questions.

In a nutshell, growing in our faith is a lifelong journey. It does not end in eighth or 12th grade at a Catholic school or parish religious education class. Our faith journey is dynamic. Different questions and issues arise at different points in our lives. Please renew your faith, renew your knowledge of the teaching of the church, and keep abreast of the hope-filled answers the Catholic Church offers for all.

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

Need to oppose FOCA legislation

When running for office President Obama promised Planned Parenthood, "The first thing I will do as president is to sign the Freedom of Choice Act — FOCA." FOCA is a biased act as it favors one group who strongly push for the destruction of the preborn and it disregards the many who support life. FOCA will put into law a woman's so called "right" to kill her preborn child, negate current state laws that afford some protection to the unborn, such as parental notification, and force hospitals, doctors, nurses and health-care workers to promote and perform abortions against their consciences.

FOCA will prove a disaster for our country since it means government sanctioned killing of future citizens and its consequent obliterating of respect for human life. Instead of the government protecting its citizens, it will be in the business of obliterating them.

We urgently need to contact members of Congress requesting them to oppose so evil a piece of legislation.

Margaret Hunkeler, SFO
South Bend

Clarifying abortion

In the 2008 hit movie, "Juno," the teenage title character seduces her boyfriend and becomes pregnant. Realizing that she is in no position to become a parent, she decides to have an abortion. On her way to the abortion clinic, her pro-life friend tells her that her unborn baby already has fingerprints. Shocked to learn that she has a live human being in her womb, Juno decides to give birth and put her baby up for adoption. In a few short scenes the movie clarifies a controversy that has been raging for almost 40 years.

Most of those who want unrestricted, elective abortion to remain the law of the land simply ignore the reality of life in the womb. Others, such as the United States Supreme Court and President-elect Barack Obama, delude themselves into believing that an unborn embryo or fetus is "not really" a human being — in spite of hard, scientific facts to the contrary.

Science tells us that each unique, individual life begins at conception when a male sperm unites with a female egg. From then on, all that is needed for it to mature is time, oxygen, nutrition — and a safe environment. But the Supreme Court insists that "no one knows" when human life begins and Obama says flippantly that the question is "beyond his pay grade."

Since Jan. 22, 1973, when the Supreme Court decreed abortion on demand become law in the United States, an estimated 50 million tiny

human beings have been destroyed by elective abortions. In the past several years individual states have managed to enact a few common sense rules to help protect women and the unborn, individual and parental rights. But Obama and the Democratic Party have threatened to undo even those minimal protections by enacting the Freedom of Choice Act.

Please, contact your elected officials, we must not let that happen.

Ed and Rita Linder
Decatur

Postcards against FOCA

In response to Sister Angeline Walczyk's letter on President-elect Obama's ban on torture, I wish that the sister would have the same concern for our new president's promise to issue an executive order to allow government funding of embryonic stem-cell research and his campaign promise to sign the Freedom of Choice Act. It would be nice if the concern for terrorists would also be extended to unborn babies, which are being killed at the rate of 4,000 per day in this country.

We now have the prospect of our new president reinstating one of the worst forms of torture there is in the procedure of partial-birth abortion, which the Supreme Court banned and Congress upheld under the Bush administration. All gains in the pro-life arena that have been made over the past 36 years would be ended.

Father Frank Pavone, Priests for Life, at the Pro-Life Conference in Ann Arbor, Mich., last weekend told of seeing a sign on a Florida beach that said we are not allowed to crush the eggs of sea turtles because they are federally protected. How sad we live in a country where the eggs of sea turtles are protected but not unborn babies.

Let's all ensure that President Obama knows that the American people wish to end the dismemberment and killing of unborn babies by signing and mailing the postcards that will be distributed at Catholic churches throughout our nation this month regarding the Freedom of Choice Act and restore our adherence to God's laws.

Marianne Dunne
Fort Wayne

Poor attempt to establish a true correlation

I must respond to the Jan. 18 article regarding the Vatican's study linking the birth-control pill to infertility in men. I thought it was a pretty poor attempt to establish a true correlation.

Now before I get vilified, let me state that I am a practicing Catholic and hold zero sympathies for birth-

control supporters. I believe all human life is sacred and a gift from God.

But the way this piece was put together was a sensational and desperate act of trying to make Birth-control the source of all evil. Take for example the focal point of the scientist's studies: Sexual abnormalities were found in fish that had been exposed to sewage contaminated with synthetic estrogens used in the pill. Well, I sure as heck am not a fish, and I definitely won't be eating sewage. So there's one case debunking the male infertility/birth control argument.

Next, the article itself strayed from the original subject and confessed that it was in fact chemicals in the environment that could have come from the pill, (or countless other sources) which are really the contributing variable to infertility. Basically, it was never the birth-control pill alone that had anything to do with male infertility.

I feel this paper should stop scaring it's readers with radical headlines; and to publish the studies as they are written. Allow the public to think for themselves and form their conscience. I was very disappointed by this misleading propaganda but mainly saddened that the Vatican allowed it to be released.

Paul J. Federspiel
Fort Wayne

'A person is a person, no matter how small'

President Obama has retraced Lincoln's historic 1861 journey to the White House. As Obama's election is a triumph of racial equality and opportunity it is "altogether fitting and proper" for him to do so. At the time Lincoln made his way to the capital, African slaves were counted as three-fifths of a person for the purpose of determining a state's number of congressmen. Otherwise they were non-persons under the law — mere property.

Right now American babies in the womb have zero rights and are non-persons under the law. Even a nine month gestated baby in the womb can be killed at the mother's visit to the abortionist.

Since every person you ever see including yourself started life as a one cell zygote and since no two persons in the history of the world have ever been alike, to kill a being that is human in any stage of development is to kill a human being, all sophistry about personhood aside.

I appeal to President Obama to step back from his campaign promise to strengthen and expand abortion rights and to recognize the humanity and personhood of every child in the womb. "A person is a person, no matter how small."

Tom Uebbing
South Bend

U.S.-Vatican relations mark anniversary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican and the United States quietly celebrated a silver anniversary in mid-January, marking 25 years of formal diplomatic relations.

The U.S. Embassy to the Holy See observed the event with a symposium and a dinner, where about 50 guests raised their glasses in a toast to a milestone that today seems inevitable, but once seemed unthinkable.

The U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, Mary Ann Glendon, who was to leave her post six days later to return to a teaching job at Harvard, drew appreciative laughter at the dinner when she read from an 1865 letter that described Rome as the perfect listening post.

At that time, the secretary of the U.S. legation to the Papal States wrote to his superiors in Washington and asked for a bigger budget so he could give “small but frequent entertainments” to other diplomats and the monsignors

heading Vatican departments.

“European diplomacy is carried on by dinners and parties — you gather information this way to be obtained in no other manner,” he wrote.

A glance around the embassy’s banquet tables found clerical and diplomatic guests nodding in assent.

But if the idea of having a full-time ambassador stationed at the Vatican seems like a no-brainer, that hasn’t always been the case. In 1984, President Ronald Reagan’s decision to move from an on-again, off-again “personal envoy” to full-fledged diplomatic relations was controversial, to say the least.

Baptists, Seventh-day Adventists and Protestant organizations criticized the move. Complaints came from Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and even the National Council of Churches. The late Rev. Jerry Falwell, who headed the

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

Moral Majority movement, reacted by asking how long it would be before a similar request came from Mecca, the chief holy city of Islam.

And of course, lawsuits were filed, although they were eventually dismissed.

The traditional argument against U.S.-Vatican relations was that the Vatican — technically, the “Holy See” — was first and foremost a church, not a state, and

LETTER, PAGE 20

The Lord reaches to us in mercy and love



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Mk 1:14-20

The Book of Jonah is the source for the first reading. Jonah was not the author. The author is unknown. Scholars believe that the Book of Jonah was written sometime after the Babylonian Exile of the Jews.

This reading speaks of Jonah’s visit to Nineveh, the capital of the Assyrian Empire, located roughly in the region of modern Syria. He went there, at God’s command, to call the people to conversion.

The Jews who first heard this reading would have had a definite mindset about Nineveh and its inhabitants. By the time that this book was written, foreigners already had subjected God’s people time and again to conquests. Of all these conquerors, none was more brutal than the Assyrians.

As a result, the Jews regarded Assyrians as utterly evil, not just as threats to the Jewish population, and even as fearful threats, but as powerful instruments very able of upsetting the worship of the One God of Israel.

Nineveh was the capital of Assyria, the heart of this godless and inhumane empire.

Yet, Jonah succeeds in converting the people of the city. The

message is clear. Anyone, even someone with the hardest heart, can repent. And also, God wants all people to repent.

This weekend’s second reading is from the First Epistle to the Corinthians. Paul had a challenge in leading the Corinthian Christians to a fully devout Christian life. The city was what Nineveh was imagined to have been. Corinth was depraved, utterly engulfed in paganism and wickedness.

St. Paul calls upon the Christians of Corinth to remember that time passes quickly, and that life is short. They have before them two options. The first is life in Jesus, a life that is everlasting, but it requires fidelity to the Gospel and the Gospel’s values. The other option is eternal death, awaiting those who spurn the Gospel.

In this comparison, Paul obviously urges the Corinthians to be holy.

The Gospel of Mark provides the last reading. It is the story of the Lord’s calling of Andrew, Simon Peter, James and John to be apostles.

All the early Christians found stories of the Twelve especially important. It was from the apostles that the Gospel of Jesus came, going far and wide. The apostles were the links with Jesus. Therefore, it was vital to assure and present their credentials. The credentials, of course, were that they had been called by Christ, had heard the message of Christ, and had remained loyal to Christ.

Some would say that the Apostles mentioned in this reading were not the best candidates. They were simple men. Yet, Jesus called them, and they responded in the affirmative.

Reflection

The church called us to celebrate the birth of Christ. Two weeks later it led us to the celebration of the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord. A day later, it offered us the feast of the Lord’s baptism by John in the Jordan River.

All these celebrations, among the greatest of the church’s year of worship, taught critical lessons about Jesus. He is human, the Son of Mary. He is the Son of God. He is the Savior, assuming our sins, even though Jesus was without sin.

Now, the church moves into the process of asking us to respond. It tells us that Jesus called certain persons for particular roles. He calls us. Whatever the role, the keystone must be faithfulness to the Gospel.

No one is too sinful to be beyond redemption, if merely they sincerely choose to be redeemed. To an extent, we all live in Nineveh. Yet the Lord reaches to us in mercy and love.

It is to our advantage to respond affirmatively. Death is the other option. The choice belongs to us.

READINGS

Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10 Ps 25:4-9
1 Cor 7:29-31 Mk 1:14-20

Monday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 PPs 96:1-3 Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10 Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 10-11 Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: Heb 10:11-18 Ps 110:1-4 Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: Heb 10:19-25 Ps 24:1-4a, 5-6 Mk 4:21-25

Friday: Heb 10:32-39 Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40 Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 (Ps) Lk 1:69-75 Mk 4:35-41

CATEQUIZEM

By Dominic Camplisson

In the liturgical calendar, January sees the first week in ordinary time after Christmas. This quiz looks at ordinary things.

- Several rather involved speculations about Adam and Eve revolve around whether they had these rather mundane features, common to humans who are born.
 - ears
 - navel
 - fingerprints
- The patriarchs were notable for this married state, which was ordinary for them, but later forbidden to Jews and Christians and most people (with the notable exception of Muslims and for a time Mormons)
 - Contracting child marriages with girls under 21
 - Polyandry
 - Polygamy (polygyny)
- David, the greatest king of the Israelites, had this rather common background
 - child prophet
 - shepherd
 - cook
- The average Palestinian Jew in Jesus’ time spoke most likely Aramaic, but also sometimes some of this, the ordinary language of many of the people of the East
 - Greek (koine)
 - Latin
 - Etruscan
- Jesus chose followers who had fairly mundane occupations. Amongst these was this fisherman:
 - Paul
 - Peter
 - Kipperbang
- Jesus’ cloak, intriguingly for one who preached poverty, was not ordinary because it was
 - brown
 - silk
 - seamless
- Despite the barbarity described in Scripture, crucifixion was a fairly ordinary type of execution, reserved for
 - religious maniacs
 - Romans
 - Non-Romans
- These fierce imperialists, mentioned in the Old Testament, probably invented crucifixion, and regarded mass deportations and flaying alive as ordinary means of control
 - The Assyrians
 - The Jebusites
 - The Pharisees
- An ordinary in the Catholic Church usually (not always) refers to a
 - sacrament
 - convert
 - bishop
- Although theoretically a greater range of men can become pope, the man selected is ordinarily a:
 - former abbot
 - cardinal
 - personal prelate
- Up until the election of John Paul II, they were also (or for several centuries) ordinarily
 - native Latin speakers
 - Greek Catholics
 - Italian
- Latin gradually replaced the Greek language in the Western church; why?
 - Latin was the official language of the church before Constantine.
 - Latin was the ordinary language of most people in the West.
 - Latin was ordinarily easier to write because of the simpler numbering system.
- In the Eastern Catholic (and Orthodox) churches these sacraments (mysteries) are ordinarily received one after the other on the same occasion:
 - Baptism, Eucharist, confirmation/chrisation
 - Extreme unction, viaticum, confession
 - Holy orders, ordination, laicization
- Although Masses are ordinarily said in the local languages, Benedict XVI made it easier for many communities to use this language as a routine offering:
 - Etruscan
 - Latin
 - Greek (Old Church Slavonic)
- One key difference between Western (Roman) Catholic priests and Eastern priest (including some Eastern Catholic priests) is that Eastern priest can ordinarily
 - be married before they are ordained.
 - be celibate when ordained and later married.
 - can be ordained as bishops even if married.

ANSWERS:

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

The men of Judah anointed David king

How did David get to be the king of Israel after Saul?

Saul, the first king of Israel, was battling the Philistines at Mount Gilboa, a mountain ridge that rises to 1,667 feet above sea level, in 1004 B.C. Three of Saul's sons — Jonathan, Abinadab and Malchishua — were killed. Saul himself was seriously wounded, and he fell upon his own sword. The Philistines cut off Saul's head, stripped him of his armor and placed it in the pagan temple of Astarte and then impaled Saul's body and those of his sons on the wall of Bet Shean, a town near the mountain, 16 miles south of the Sea of Galilee on the banks of the river Harod.

After Saul's death, men from Jabesh-gilead, on the other side of the Jordan, walked for two hours at night and removed the bodies of Saul and his sons from the walls of Bet Shean and brought them to Jabesh where they cremated them. Then they took their bones and buried them under the tamarisk tree in Jabesh. This land is a

rolling plateau watered by many streams and a good rainfall giving it a fertile soil for pasture.

These men of Jabesh were grateful to Saul for he had delivered their city from the threat of the king of Ammon. Later on David translated the bodies of Saul and his sons to a grave in the land of Benjamin, for Saul was a man of Benjamin and his royal residence was at Gibeah.

Father McKenzie says that Gibeah lies four miles north of the old city of Jerusalem. Here you can see a strong stone citadel, 169 x 114 feet, with double casemated walls and bastions dating from the time of Saul. The citadel was destroyed by fire, probably by the Philistines. Two hundred years later, a tower was built over the remains of the citadel.

When David heard of the death of Saul and his sons, he chanted an elegy: "Tell it not in Gath, herald it not in the streets of Ashkelon, lest the Philistine maidens rejoice."

David was a close friend of Saul's son Jonathan, so he sung: "I grieve for you my brother. Most



FATHER RICHARD HIRE

HIRE HISTORY

dear have you been to me."

David then went to Hebron where the men of Judah anointed him king of the Judahites. Hebron is 23 miles outside of Jerusalem. Here is the cave of Machpelah where Abraham buried his wife Sarah. Also buried here are Abraham, Isaac, Rebecca, Jacob and Leah. David lived in Hebron for 7-1/2 years with his wives. Here you can see the shrine built over the cave of Machpelah and the Sultan's Pool where David executed the murderers of Ishbaal, Saul's last son.

Not only was Saul's last son Ishbaal murdered, but Abner, the commander of Saul's army was

murdered by Joab, and the two bandit chieftains of Ishbaal were done away with by David, so now David was the only candidate for the monarchy of Israel.

Eventually all the tribes of Israel came to David in Hebron and anointed him king of all Israel. David was 30 years old when he

became king and he reigned for 40 years. Eventually David captured the city of Jerusalem, brought the Ark of the Covenant there and made it his royal residence.

Father Richard Hire is pastor of St. Martin de Porres Parish, Syracuse.

Placing a phone call to God

Imagine calling up your best friend on the phone — whether that is your spouse, your boyfriend or girlfriend, or your best bud — and putting that person on speakerphone all day.

Whenever the urge hits you, you simply speak, that person hears you, and you engage in a free-flowing conversation.

Every Catholic, at some point in his or her life, has tried to establish that open line of communication with God. As the saying goes, if I had a nickel for every time I tried to form an open line of communication to God, I would be halfway home to the ultimate destination by now.

But it's tough. We get so caught up in our work most days that we don't have time to talk to God, or rather, we place a greater emphasis on other things in our lives. We've got to get this done, call this client, pound out this agreement and contest this ruling. People are getting under your skin and trying to take the bread from your table every day. How am I supposed to maintain an open conversation with God?

I've tried it hundreds of times, and usually on that day, it works pretty well. You find humor in a confrontation because you realize that the issue under debate is not that big of a deal in the grand scheme of things.

You smile when the car pulls out in front of you, forcing you to drop your speed to 20 miles per hour because, after all, what is the big deal? Just apply the brakes, take a deep breath, enjoy the song on the radio and wait your turn.

You handle the extra 10 minutes it takes to get your food at the restaurant because you realize there are people in the world who

are a whole lot hungrier than you are, particularly since you had two cheeseburgers at lunch and a bag of M&M peanuts during your mid-afternoon break.

You will survive.

Invariably, however, something comes up that prompts you to take your focus away from the conversation with God. You stay up late that night, get a restless night's sleep, and head into the next day a bit groggier and grumpier than you've been in days. Suddenly, your focus on that open conversation with God wanes, and you forget to "place the phone call" that day.

The next thing you know, days have gone by without conversing with God, and now you're back in the rut that most people are in. You're just existing instead of relishing the incredible blessings that God has bestowed upon you.

Wouldn't it be great if every time something good happened to us during the day, we would take two seconds to simply say, "Thank you for the blessing." And wouldn't it be great that if every time something not quite as fortunate happened to us during the course of the day, we would take two seconds to simply say, "I accept your will. I will deal with it in a positive manner."

Even better, wouldn't be great if we didn't need a reason to stop during the day and simply say, "I'm thinking of you."

Most human beings are inclined to place that phone call when we need God's help. This past spring, as our Mishawaka Marian baseball team was making an incredible journey to the state championship game, we experienced all the emotions that come with pressure-packed athletic competition. I found myself speaking



BY TIM PRISTER

FROM THE SIDELINES

quite frequently to God, asking him to stay with me and provide me with a calm and uncluttered mind so as to give our players the best chance for success. With each errant throw or booted ground ball, I uttered, "Your will be done." It had an incredibly calming effect during some awfully nervous moments.

But why can't I have such an open line of communication when I don't need help? Funny how, some two months later with the season safely tucked away in the records books, I wasn't asking him to "stay with me" during the day. Why? Well, probably because I didn't need anything.

It is good to know, however, that God is not a scorekeeper. He's not sitting up there saying, "You've forgotten about me again! I'll show you!" God just wants us to keep fighting, to keep striving and to keep placing that phone call.

No, we don't dial the number as often as we should. But when he answers, he's going to say, "I'm glad you called."

And that will be your most important call of the day.

Tim Prister is a 1978 graduate of Marian High School and a 1982 graduate from the University of Notre Dame.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for January 25, 2009

Matthew 2:1-12

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: Jesus begins his ministry and mission. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

JOHN	ARRESTED	JESUS
TIME	BELIEVE	PASSED
THE SEA	HE SAW	SIMON
HIS BROTHER	ANDREW	INTO THE SEA
NETS	A LITTLE	FARTHER
JAMES	ZEBEDEE	BOAT
MENDING	CALLED THEM	FATHER

THE TIME HAS COME

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

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LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

should not be privileged by a diplomatic presence.

President Franklin Roosevelt appointed the first envoy to the Vatican just before World War II. But when President Harry Truman tried to appoint a successor in 1951, he met with a storm of protest, and the post went vacant for nearly 20 years. Reagan's decision to elevate the position to ambassador was considered a courageous one that might cost him politically.

It wasn't long before most of the criticism faded. One big reason was that under Pope John Paul II, who was a strong critic of East European communism, U.S. and Vatican interests were seen to coincide.

It wasn't just a matter of moral support, but information-sharing

as well. At one crucial moment in history, a few hours after a papal meeting with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in 1989, the Vatican told the United States in a confidential assessment that Gorbachev could be trusted as a genuine reformer.

The late pope's high profile as a defender of human rights and human dignity, along with his frequent trips to the United States, also made the Vatican seem more like a natural ally and less like a foreign planet.

After the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, the Vatican's qualified support for a U.S. military response in Afghanistan had embassy employees handing out pins with the U.S. and Vatican flags.

Today, the United States has one of the biggest and most active embassies to the Holy See and has launched cooperative projects with the Vatican in areas like human trafficking and religious freedom.

Sports

COUGARS NO. 4 IN NAIA FOOTBALL POST SEASON TOP 25 After spending the last five weeks at No. 3 in the NAIA Top 25, the University of Saint Francis placed fourth in the NAIA post season ratings. In their 11th season, coach Kevin Donley's Cougars won 12 straight games, but lost to the eventual NAIA FCS champion for the sixth consecutive year at the University of Sioux Falls, S.D. on Dec. 6, 24-6. This is the sixth consecutive season USF has finished in the Top 5 and eighth time in the last nine seasons USF finished in the Top 10.

Two days of basketball sizzles the ICCL hardwoods

SOUTH BEND — Despite the frigid temperatures outdoors, indoors the hardwoods were sizzling. With just two more week-ends of regular-season play, Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) boys varsity basketball continues to heat up.

And varsity basketball action filled a double-roster of activity last weekend with games Jan. 17-18.

Andrew Schafer of St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart, led the way of all Saturday's top scorers with 25 points to defeat Holy Cross, 44-38. Patrick Connors of Holy Cross had 19 points.

Christ the King edged St. Joseph, South Bend, 39-35, as the Kings' Ryan Wobbe tossed in 14 points in this overtime win. Tommy Favorite of St. Joseph had 20 points in the loss.

St. Joseph, Mishawaka, upset St. John the Baptist, 54-7, with Vince Ravotto leading the winners with 16 points.

St. Monica's Patrick Hunsberger tossed in 10 points to lead his team in a win, 29-8, over St. Michael of Plymouth.

Queen of Peace of Mishawaka beat St. Jude 44-25, as Nick Johnson paced the winners with 16 points. Neal Dowling had 13 points for St. Jude.

Holy Family's Dillon Hensley lead his team with 15 points to defeat St. Anthony, 23-14.

St. Pius X, Granger, defeated Our Lady of Hungary, 46-39. St. Pius was led by Andrew Costello with 13 points. Dominique

Sanders had 13 points for Our Lady.

And Corpus Christi edged St. Matthew, 27-24, as Ray Kowalski led the winning team with 10 points.

It took triple overtime in this Jan. 18 thriller for St. Thomas to edge out St. Anthony, 39-33, for a victory. St. Thomas was led by Frank Iavaganilio with 18 points and Peter Murphy with 12 points. St. Anthony's A. Pozivilko had 10 points.

In other games played Jan. 18, Michael Whitfield paced St. Joseph of Mishawaka with 35 points — making him Sunday's top scorer of the day — to lead his team to a 44-25 victory over St. Monica.

St. Joseph, South Bend, defeated St. Matthew, 35-25. Tommy Favorite of St. Joseph had 20 points. Pat Guinn had 12 points for St. Matthew.

Queen of Peace beat St. Pius X, 54-46, as Adam Jankowiak led Queen of Peace with 16 points, and Greenan Sullivan had 12 points for St. Pius X.

In a narrow win, Corpus Christi beat Christ the King, 34-33. Ray Kowalski led the winners with 22 points. Connor Edmonds had 17 points for Christ the King.

Despite Neal Dowling's 22 points for St. Jude, Our Lady of Hungary claimed a victory, 43-35.

St. Michael defeated St. John the Baptist, 44-25, with the help of Davis Payne's 14-point contribution. Connor Zakowski of St. John scored 10 points.



St. John Eagles soar onward through CYO basketball season

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — During the month of December, St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, kicked off their Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) season with a 35-34 victory over St. Joseph, Decatur. Jaquell Cooper and Thomas Starks led the Eagles with 13 points apiece. Matt Williamson, John Fink, Nick Burrell and Brandon Dock each scored two and David Shank added one for the Eagles.

Next on the schedule, St. John beat St. Vincent 47-31. The Eagles were led in scoring again by Cooper with 16, followed by Dock with eight, Starks seven and Williamson five. Jack Sturm and Braxton Randolph each scored three, John Fink and Nick Burrell added two apiece and Zach Soehngen scored one.

Before the break, St. John bested St. Charles, 40-33. Shank and Williamson led the Eagles with 10 points apiece, followed by Fink with eight and Cooper six. Starks, Burrell and Dock each added a bucket in the win over the Cardinals.

Finally, in the "battle of the St. Johns," the Eagles lost to New Haven by just three points as league action resumed for the Eagles last weekend in a hard-fought battle, 38-41. Cooper and Williamson each had 14 points in the loss.

Coach Tom Starks reported, "It was a great game between two well-matched teams."

Starks added, "The Raiders' big man (Weston Painter) has great size and great knowledge of the game. We'll do something different if we face them again."

With 14 seconds left in the game, the Eagles trailed, 38-39.

The Eagles fouled Raider Jake Britton, who made both free throws for the final score.

Now 3-1 in conference action and 5-4 overall, the Eagles have 13 players on their eighth-grade roster. This season, the team is adjusting to the merging with Benoit Academy.

Starks understands, "They were used to a different style of play that they were very successful at. We have to be patient with each other. I see improvement every game and every practice."

Starks feels the Gold League is very evenly matched this season. He summarized, "There is no huge standout team dominating the league. In my opinion, any team could beat another on any given day; the victor will be the one who comes to play."

Also working to develop the quick Eagles and get them ready for the next level are Dan Sink, John Shank and Chris Erb.

In Blue League CYO hoops action at the St. Aloysius site on Saturday, Jan. 17, the St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Squires boys remained undefeated in league play beating the host Gators. In the girls' matchup, the Lady Gators also kept their record perfect in

conference games downing Hessen Cassel. In the Precious Blood vs. St. Therese pairings, St. Therese girls and Precious Blood boys were victorious.

Boys

St. Joseph Hessen Cassel, 43; St. Aloysius, 31 — Knapke 19, Thiele 12

Precious Blood, 41; St. Therese 34 — Hamel 19, Calvon 15

St. John, New Haven, 41; St. John, Fort Wayne 38 — Cooper, Williamson 14, Painter 16

Girls

St. Aloysius, 36; St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, 19 — Knapke 9, Zaremba 21

St. Therese, 41; Precious Blood, 22 — An. Trevino 14, Haley 10

Fifth and sixth grade

St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel hosted a winter tournament and won both the boys and the girls' championships. The St. Louis-St. Rose Twins were the boys' runner-ups while the St. Joe Decatur girls took second-place honors.

KNIGHTS' FREETHROW WINNERS



PROVIDED BY THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DISTRICT 15

The Knights of Columbus District 15 held their Annual Free Throw Contest at St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Yoder Sunday, Jan. 18, in the school activity center. Pictured, left to right, front row, are the winners Samantha Voors, Hanna Smith, Rachel Philips and Mariah Hoger; back row, Kevin Schueler, Tayor Melcher, Jake Castleman and Brent Hormann.

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Warmly recommended book observes the inner sanctum of Pope John Paul II's life

BY YORK YOUNG

There's a saying in the church about previous popes: "There's nothing deader than a dead pope."

That may sound heartless, but the life of the church marches on, and the continuance of the papacy forces Catholics, and the world at large, to focus on the new pontiff after his election in the weeks following the death of his predecessor.

Pope John Paul II may be bucking that trend, ever so slightly. To be sure, his successor, Pope Benedict XVI, has done what new pontiffs do in the modern era. He has set forth some teaching (see his encyclicals "Deus Caritas Est" and "Spe Salvi" for his look at charity and hope), been a visible inspirational presence to many in limited world travel, met several world leaders, and commented on wars and other tragic news in the world when needed.

But Pope John Paul had gained quite a following in his years in Peter's Chair — for many reasons, not the least of which was his 26-year reign (third longest on record) and a status that some compared to a "rock star." His intellect and compassion are two other obvious

reasons, but the early days of his papacy set the tone, when, as a 58-year-old Pole, he was placed before the world as the leader of the largest religion in the world and displayed an enthusiasm and joy that shocked people.

Books on Pope John Paul have continued to be published in the three years since his death, some might say at a prodigious rate. Many of these may be an attempt to capitalize on his iconic status, but there are some heartfelt tomes being produced, some with unique angles.

All of which brings us to "Pope John Paul II: An Intimate Life," by Caroline Pigozzi (Faith Works, \$21.99), a French journalist. Her take is that through determination, some coincidence and possibly Providence, she was able to observe the inner sanctum of Pope John Paul's life and became more than an acquaintance, conversing

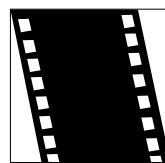
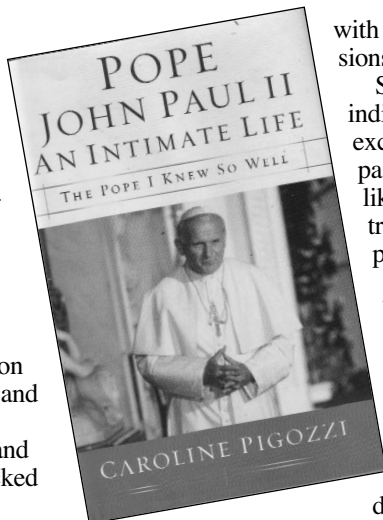
with him on many occasions.

Some of her details indicate her access was exceptional, while other passages make it seem like she's a school girl trespassing on school property after hours.

Because of that, the book is uneven, but her affection and sympathy for both the pope and what he stood for makes up for much of it. Traveling with the papal retinue is discussed, and if you've not read or heard what that is like, than there is some fresh material here for you.

Pigozzi is strongest when she discusses how Pope John Paul overcame his physical debilitations and set a spiritual example during those trials that explains much of why some are calling for sainthood for him already. Believing all his work was for the greater glory of God and his kingdom, there is little wonder that, today, many have already tagged him with the appellation John Paul the Great.

Pigozzi clearly believes he was great, and appears to have written this book so that you may believe that as well. Warmly recommended.



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.

"Hotel for Dogs" (Dreamworks/Nickelodeon)

Wholesomely enjoyable canine caper in which an orphaned brother and sister (Jake T. Austin and Emma Roberts) shelter their dog, along with a motley group of strays, in an abandoned hotel, outwitting their neglectful foster parents (Lisa Kudrow and Kevin Dillon) and causing complications for their genuinely caring social worker (Don Cheadle). Director Thor Freudenthal's cuddly adaptation of Lois Duncan's 1971 children's book, his feature debut, sees the affectionate siblings working together and with friends to care for their expanding pack and improvising a part-human, part-animal surrogate family. A couple of crass words. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is

PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

"Paul Blart: Mall Cop" (Columbia)

Largely good-natured slapstick comedy relies on the physicality of Kevin James, who, in addition to co-writing the script, portrays the titular plus-size security guard defending a New Jersey mall from a pack of acrobatic thieves on the busiest shopping day of the year. Because the loveably hapless hero embodies numerous qualities infrequently championed on-screen nowadays — including chivalry, diligence and honesty — any moderately untoward moments in director Steve Carr's effort are eclipsed by a positive message concerning respect for those not usually deemed successful or attractive, particularly those who don't fit the ideal body mold in our looks-conscious society. Frequent violence of a slapstick nature, some suggestive humor, several instances of crude and crass language, and one sequence involving alcohol use. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

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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.

Pancake breakfast and open house
Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood School, 1515 Barthold St., will have an open house and pancake breakfast Sunday, Jan. 25, from 9 a.m. to noon. Adults \$6, children ages 3-12 \$3 and families are \$15. The parish will also host Winter fest, an adult-only party on Saturday, Jan. 24, from 9 a.m. to 11 p.m. Euchre, blackjack, Texas Hold 'em and bowling will be ongoing throughout the day. Refreshments will be available. Call (260) 424-5535 for more information and to sign up your five member bowling team for the 9-pin, no tap bowling tournament.

Percentage of sales helps St. Vincent de Paul Society
South Bend — St. Vincent dePaul Society will host an all day fundraiser from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. at Max & Erma's Restaurant, 4340 N. Main St. in Mishawaka, on Wednesday, Jan. 28. Twenty percent of all sales

that day will be donated to St. Vincent de Paul upon presentation of a special token by the patron. Tokens can be picked up at the St. Vincent de Paul offices at 3408 Ardmore, or from any Vincentian. Call for more information or tokens at (574) 251-4906 or (574) 234-6000 ext. 112.

St. Jude HASA dance and silent auction
Fort Wayne — St. Jude will have a dance and silent auction Saturday, Jan. 31, at 8 p.m. in the church basement. Tickets are available at the parish office from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. or by calling (260) 484-6609. Tickets are \$12 per person in advance or \$15 at the door. School tuition raffle tickets also available for \$50 each. Winner announced at silent auction. (Do not need to be present to win.)

All family rosary
Fort Wayne — The all family rosary will be recited Sunday, Jan. 25, at MacDougal Chapel from 3:30-4:30 p.m. The inten-

tion is for all families especially those families with difficulties.

Casino bus trip announced
Fort Wayne — A Hoosier Park Casino bus trip sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will be Wednesday, Jan. 28. Bus leaves at 8 a.m. and returns at 6 p.m. Price is \$25, which includes buffet and new club member credits. For reservations call (260) 493-1914.

Concert at St. Joseph
Bluffton — Tajci's "I Do Believe" concert will be Sunday, Feb. 8, at 2 p.m. at St. Joseph Church, 1300 N. Main St. A freewill donation will be accepted. Babysitting available and food and fellowship will follow.

REST IN PEACE

Auburn

Joan LeRoy, 67, Immaculate Conception

Bristol

Bernice L. Albaugh, 96, St. Mary of the Assumption

Elkhart

Helen E. Sailor, 88, St. Thomas the Apostle

Fort Wayne

Pedro Colazo, 18, St. Joseph

Regina H. Morris, 89, St. Jude

Josephine Minnick, 91, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Ruth E. Jehl, 79, St. Charles

Eugene F. Miller, 84, Queen of Angels

Garrett

Agnes M. Hollis, 92, St. Joseph

Granger

George Rojics, 93, St. Pius X

Mishawaka

Fernanda G. Pierardt, 83, St. Bavo

Raymond A. Lambert, 88, St. Bavo

New Haven

Kevin J. Gfell, 29, St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame

Sister M. Wilfrida Peabody, CSC, 84, Our Lady of Loretto

Rome City

Richard C. Holmes, 76, St. Gasper Del Bufalo

South Bend

Jane M. Cholasinski, 97, St. Adalbert

Edward J. Dudzinski, 83, St. Matthew Cathedral

Dorothy D. Conrad, St. Anthony

Olga T. Hoffer, 87, St. Matthew Cathedral

Katherine M. Jones, 59, Little Flower

Jerome J. Deka, 79, St. Stanislaus

Jerry E. Lewis, 72, Christ the King

Sister Mary Rosanne Krzesicki, CSSF, 82, Presentation of the Virgin Mary Chapel, Livonia, Mich. Sister served at St. Adalbert, South Bend.

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.



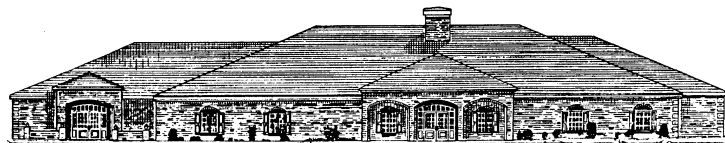
A Silent No More Awareness Event will follow immediately after the March at the Federal Building.

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.



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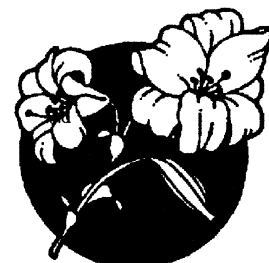
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