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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

The diocese marches for life

Bishop and diocesan contingent participate in national march

BY DIANE FREEBY

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "I'm glad I'm here. ... I should have come before!"

Bishop John M. D'Arcy's face lit up as he smiled broadly while making his way along Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C., for the 2009 March for Life.

Bishop D'Arcy was among the hundreds of thousands of men, women and children who gathered in the nation's capital Jan. 22 to stand up for the unborn, while marking the infamous date when the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortion 36 years ago. This was Bishop D'Arcy's first time participating in the March for Life.

"I thank Fred and Lisa (Everett, co-directors of the Office of Family Life) for urging me to come," said Bishop D'Arcy as he stood shoulder to shoulder with young people from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. "Most exciting is the young people. Many young people came from all over the world, who through their whole lives will stand for the child who has no one except us. I'm very impressed with the number of bishops... the enthusiasm and the interest. The dedication to this cause is very moving. It's similar to World Youth Day, except pointed to one particular cause."

Turnout from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend was exceptionally high, with organizers estimating an all-time record of over 500 young people and their chaperones. The first diocesan trip took place in 1998, with the Catholic high schools taking over a few years later and organizing their own trips.



DIANE FREEBY

Bishop John M. D'Arcy joins with pro-life marchers from the Diocese and Fort Wayne-South Bend gather around the diocesan banner at the National March for Life in Washington, D.C. Jan. 22.

Fred Everett says the timing was right for an even stronger turnout.

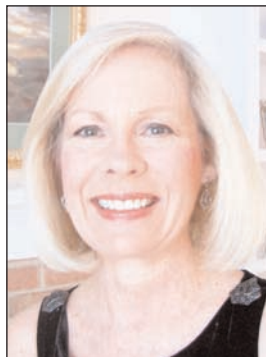
"This year, given the context of the election and the fact that some voices in the Catholic community saying the pro-life effort, at least legislatively and constitutionally, was over," explained Everett, "we

thought it was especially important ... to come out and say 'no it's not over,' and it won't be over as long as Christians take their vocations seriously, and they believe that everyone should have the right to life."

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TELLING OUR FAITH STORY

"When I joined the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil in 2006, I found the Sunday Mass to be a spiritual oasis in a troubled world. The Scriptures from the Bible come alive



when I hear the homilies from the pulpit. And most importantly, when I see the image of the suffering Christ on the cross and partake of the Eucharist, I am reminded of God's sacrifice for us and my responsibility to make small sacrifices to others through stewardship and love."

Karen Clifford, St. Pius X Parish, Granger
(and Today's Catholic contributor)

Bishop D'Arcy welcomes readers of Today's Catholic

A new beginning: A part of the new evangelization

With this edition, we begin something fresh and new. Christ told the apostles that they should, "set out into the deep." Pope John Paul II took this saying, and made it symbolic of spiritual renewal for the new millennium. It means taking a risk for Christ, and is rooted in the mission Christ has given to the church, to the apostles, and through them to the bishops who are their successors.

It is especially important that in this year of St. Paul, devoted to the greatest evangelizer and catechist who ever lived, that we try new methods of bringing Christ to others.

Paul undertook anything and everything so that the Gospel of Christ could be spread, and so that people would know Jesus Christ and him crucified. In one place, he recounts some of his hardships he undertook for the sake of the Gospel.

"Three times I have been shipwrecked; a night and a day I have been adrift at sea; on frequent journeys, in danger from rivers, danger from robbers, danger from my own people, danger from Gentiles, danger in the city, danger in the wilderness, danger at sea, danger from false brethren; in toil and hardship, through many a sleepless night, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure. And, apart from other things, there is the daily pressure upon me of my anxiety for all the churches. Who is weak and I am not weak? Who is made to fall, and I am not indignant?"
— 2 Cor 11:25-29

The new evangelization means that it is not only to far away countries, but is right here. Even in our best and most vital parishes — and there are many of them — there are a large number of people who do not go to church. With this issue, *Today's Catholic* will be placed in every home in the diocese.

WELCOME, PAGE 3

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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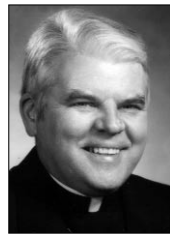
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comes original, signed letters about
issues affecting church life. Although
we cannot publish every letter we
receive, we strive to provide a balanced
representation of expressed opinions
and a variety of reflections on life in the
church. We will choose letters for publi-
cation based on reader interest, timeli-
ness and fairness. Readers may agree or
disagree with the letter writers' opin-
ions. Letters must not exceed 250
words. All letters must be signed and
include a phone number and address
for verification. We reserve the right to
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Church is blessed with reach of the Congregation of Holy Cross



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

A hidden gem

This past week, in concert with the feast day observed in honor of Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau, I continued some pas-
toral visitations of places cared for by the
Congregation of Holy Cross. This was sub-
sequent to offering Mass at St. Joseph
Parish, South Bend, in honor of Father
Moreau, friend of the Holy Cross
Congregation.

First, I went to Holy Cross College as
part of my visitations to the colleges and
universities, which have graced this dio-
cese, some of them for over 160 years.

What is most evident at this small
Catholic college, located in the midst of a
great complex of Catholic higher education
in South Bend, is its Catholic identity.

It has also changed its educational iden-
tity. It is becoming more and more a four-
year college, and less and less a preparation
for another institution. I celebrated Mass at
noon time before a large group, mostly stu-
dents, and followed up with a visit with
Brother Richard Gilman, CSC, who is the
president. Most encouraging was a visit
with the theology department. It was inspir-
ing to learn that this is truly an international
institution. Because of the great outreach of
the brothers to many African countries, and
also to Latin America, as well as Asia, there
is a built-in link to the church around the
world, and visits to these missions and pas-
toral centers are now an essential part of
the education of these young people.

It is hard to mention anyone, lest some-
one be left out, but I need to pay tribute to
Bob Kloska, a member of the justly famed
Kloska family of St. Thomas Parish,
Elkhart. He is one of 15 children. Formerly
director of campus ministry for the college,
he is now vice president, in charge of
development. Bob's strong Catholic faith
and missionary spirit has had a substantial
overall effect. Many thanks to Brother
Richard Gilman, CSC; Dr. Tina Holland —
his assistant and senior vice president;
Father Mike Sullivan, CSC — chair of the
theology department; and many others.

This was a joyful event.

Holy Cross House

The next day, I completed this pastoral
tour by celebrating Mass at Holy Cross
House. This is the beautiful venue for
retired members of the Holy Cross
Congregation, priests and brothers, many of
whom have special needs. What a joy to
celebrate Mass with priests who have

served all over the world; in Nigeria,
Uganda, Bangladesh, Brazil, Haiti, Chile,
Mexico, Peru, Tanzania and many others. I
saw my old friend, Father Bob Hoffman,
CSC, who served in our diocese in St.
Patrick's Parish as pastor for many years. I
had lunch with Father Ted Hesburgh, so
well known and respected throughout the
world, over 92 years of age and living a full
priestly life even yet. We recalled the first
day I came to this diocese, when I had
lunch with him, and Father Ned Joyce,
CSC, along with Bishop William
McManus, my predecessor, and Father
Terry Place.

I also recall the day of our official visit
in June, and how we walked across the
campus and made a visit to the Blessed
Sacrament at the beautiful Alumni Hall
Chapel. I told about the Holy Cross semi-
narians with whom I had visited the previ-
ous Sunday and how several of them said it
was the presence of a priest in their resi-
dence, which was instrumental in their
choice of Holy Cross.

Another candidate, a Notre Dame gradu-
ate and an attorney, said at the meeting that
he had been drawn to Holy Cross through
the instrumentality of Father John
Coughlin, OFM, a professor of canon law
at Notre Dame, and especially by his class
on "Marriage, the Lord works in his own
way."

I also had lunch with the superior, Father
Charlie Kohlerman, CSC, along with Father
Hesburgh and Archbishop Charles Schleck,
CSC. Archbishop Schleck is an old and
dear friend, who was co-consecrator with
Archbishop Agostino Cacciavillan, for the
episcopal ordination of Father Daniel
Jenky, CSC, at St. Matthew's Cathedral
Parish. Archbishop Schleck held a very
great responsibility in Rome for the univer-
sal church. These days in South Bend
showed clearly the extraordinary reach of
Holy Cross, a missionary congregation
founded by a humble and holy parish priest
from Le Mans, France, whom the church
has declared blessed.

The March for Life

This was the first time I have attended
the March for Life in Washington. People
asked me afterwards what this experience
was. I said: inspiring and exhausting.

I arrived in Washington, a city still filled
with people from all over the world attend-
ing the inauguration of our new president.
After a short rest, I was on the way to the
Basilica of the National Shrine of the
Immaculate Conception. The church began
to fill up in mid-afternoon. Young people
everywhere — in the main aisle and the
side aisles, standing, sitting, kneeling.
There was an overflow in the crypt of the
church, and many bishops had Mass in sur-
rounding churches for the young people.
The ceremony took close to three hours. It
was very moving. Young people from all
over the country, many of them with their
priests. Women religious everywhere, espe-

cially the Sisters of Life, as well as the
Sisters of Charity, founded by Blessed
Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Up at six the next morning, and break-
fast with Fred and Lisa Everett and their
three children, who were my guides around
Washington. Off early to the Verizon
Center, to hear confessions. People have
asked me what was the most impressive
part of the trip, and I think maybe this was
it. A large restaurant in the upper reaches of
this huge auditorium, where professional
basketball and hockey teams played, was
open only for confessions. A huge line, and
when you went in, priests and a few bish-
ops everywhere hearing confessions. My
friend of 50 years, Archbishop Al Hughes,
was there ahead of me.

Sisters — members of fairly new con-
gregations, most of them new to me, many
from the eastern part of our country,
accompanied the young people to the
priests. I thought it was like bringing them
to Christ, which it really was. I heard con-
fessions for about an hour and a half.

Then a beautiful Mass before 25,000
people. I was so proud that we had over
200 young people, probably the largest in
the history of this event, from our diocese.
There was also a very substantial group
from the University of Notre Dame. While
I met some of them, I was not able to link
up with this contingent. We will do better
next time. A long wait then, maybe two
hours — the most tiring part of the trip, and
then a walk to Capitol Hill and the
Supreme Court.

Our South Bend students had a very
wonderful visit with Congressman
Donnelly who assured them of his opposi-
tion to the Freedom of Choice Act, and told
of the strategy to be used in opposing it.

A sense of vitality

The culture of life is not extinguished; I
think it burns brighter than ever. How mov-
ing to see so many young people, tired after
coming across the country by bus, but alert
to this most basic human right — the right
to life. I was able to slip away at the end of
the march, and get home to Fort Wayne late
in the evening.

The end of a very inspiring two days

Many thanks to all those who joined in
the postcard campaign. With the help of
everyone and the blessing of the good
Lord, the Freedom of Choice Act will not
become the law of the land. We have had
an overwhelming response to this initiative
with requests for more cards. Please send
yours in if you have not already done so.

I will see you all next week.

Pro-Obama Catholics urged to send postcard opposing his abortion view

BY NANCY FRAZIER O'BRIEN

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The national pro-life postcard campaign being conducted in parishes throughout the country is a way for Catholics who supported Barack Obama for president to tell him if they did so despite, not because of, the new president's stand on abortion, according to officials of the U.S. bishops' pro-life office.

"Many Catholics voted for Obama despite his position on abortion, and they have an obligation to say 'This is not why I voted for you,'" said Richard M. Doerflinger, associate director of the Office of Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"I describe this as their penance," he added in remarks at a Jan. 22 briefing with the Catholic press in Washington.

Deirdre A. McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications in the pro-life office, said it is important for Catholics to tell Obama, "If I voted for you, this (abortion) is not what I voted for."

Such follow-up and feedback is an "ongoing responsibility" of all voters, she added. "You don't just cast your vote and hope for the best. You call the best from our elected officials."

According to polling, 54 percent of the Catholic electorate voted for Obama, who has consistently spoken out in favor of keeping abortion legal.

On Jan. 22, the 36th anniversary of the Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* decision

legalizing abortion, Obama reiterated his position that he is committed to protecting women's "right to choose" and called for both sides to work toward common ground to find ways to reduce the number of abortions.

The postcard campaign, coordinated by the USCCB pro-life office and the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, began in mid-January and was expected to continue for three or four weeks. It asks members of Congress to oppose the proposed Freedom of Choice Act "or any similar measure, and retain laws against federal funding and promotion of abortion."

"At this time of serious national challenges, Americans should unite to serve the good of all, born and unborn," the postcards say.

The Freedom of Choice Act, which as of Jan. 23 had not been introduced in the 111th Congress,



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Loretta Fleming prepares to ship boxes of pro-life literature, used in a postcard campaign against the Freedom of Choice Act, at the office of the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment in Washington Jan. 26. Staff in the office were shipping boxes of postcards to dioceses and others as part of a national campaign against FOCA.

would put into place "the most extreme abortion license that we could possibly have," said Philadelphia Cardinal Justin Rigali, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, at the briefing.

At weekend Masses around the country, Catholics are being asked to sign and mail postcards to each of their two U.S. senators and to their representative. The cost of postage is being handled

vide contraceptives; or end funding of abstinence-only education programs.

According to a handout at the briefing, other proposals that could come before this Congress include FOCA, which would revoke most pro-life laws at the state and federal level; a contraceptive mandate for all private health plans; a requirement that all hospitals receiving federal funds offer "emergency contraception" to all rape victims; and expanded funding for domestic and foreign family planning programs.

Obama also signed executive orders overturning the Mexico City policy barring federal funds to organizations that pro-

in different ways in different places; some parishes or Knights of Columbus councils are subsidizing the cost, while others are asking parishioners to pay for the postage themselves.

Millions of sets of the three postcards have already been ordered, and orders were continuing to come in, according to the pro-life officials.

"The idea is to have a real presence in congressional mailboxes early in the session," McQuade said.

Congress was expected to take up various appropriations bills in the weeks ahead. Those measures could delete or alter the Hyde amendment and other riders prohibiting federal funding of abortion; eliminate conscience clauses protecting health care providers' rights not to participate in abortions and allowing Catholic health plans to participate in the federal employees' health benefits program without having to pro-

mote or perform abortions overseas; expand funding of stem-cell research involving the destruction of human embryos; and limit conscience protections in health care.

At a separate briefing Jan. 22 at the National Press Club, the president of the National Right to Life Committee said that under the Obama administration "we can expect a radical agenda" that will cause the number of abortions "to increase dramatically." "The stakes have never been higher, but our resolve and determination to protect unborn children and help their mothers has never been stronger," said Wanda Franz.

David N. O'Steen, NRLC executive director, urged the new Congress not to "mistake the good fortune of Democrats, who were in the right place when voters blamed the economic turmoil on the party in the White House, with a vote in favor of abortion."

Evangelization today is a multimedia endeavor

Today's Catholic is a publication with the purpose to provide Catholic evangelization to the people of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. People receive their diocesan news through streams of different means today. Many still prefer the traditional print product, but in this age of digital technology, some prefer to get their Catholic news from the Internet.

The 83-year-old history of *Today's Catholic* dates back to Bishop John F. Noll, who founded *Our Sunday Visitor* in Huntington as a parish priest at St. Mary Church. His mission for the diocesan newspaper holds steadfast today: to acquaint readers with important Catholic happenings of the week over the entire world; to give instruction of the faith that is intelligible and interesting; to furnish readers with the answer to charges made against the church, often called to attention by neighbors or fellow workmen; to point out the falsity and unsound philosophy of many things read or heard in the secular media; to prepare the faithful for observance of the church feasts and festivals; and to provide news from the diocesan bishop. Through the years, the diocesan newspaper has changed names — *Our Sunday Visitor*, *The Harmonizer*, *Today's Catholic* — but the message remains the same: to bring the Catholic faith into your home every week.

And at *Today's Catholic*, we make an effort to meet people at multiple levels and through various distribution means. For example ...

- *Today's Catholic* newspaper has always been a print and mailed publication right to readers' mailboxes. This remains the primary distribution means unless you choose the following ...

- Receive an electronic version of *Today's Catholic* as a PDF file each week in your e-mail. Each page of the PDF looks exactly as the print publication, and is e-mailed on Wednesday, a day before the hard copy is delivered. If a Web or e-mail address is listed in the publication, chances are likely that the address is hyperlinked. You may click and go right to an advertiser's Web site, or get more information about a diocesan event on the diocesan Web site. A word to note, the PDF files work best if you have a high-speed (DSL, Fios, cable) connection to the Internet. A dial-up Internet connection could be cumbersome with a 3 to 5 MB download.

- The most recent PDF of the newspaper will be available on the diocesan Web site, www.diocesefwsb.org. For those who are not registered at a Catholic parish and still would like to see *Today's Catholic*, visit the Web site for a free download.

- The Web site, www.diocesefwsb.org/TODAY will have highlight stories, some additional photos, late-breaking news, links to the Indiana Catholic Conference, more comprehensive movie reviews, Catholic News Service updates, our book of the month blog page, etc.

- Today's Catholic Podcast is a 15-minute audio newscast assembled from each of the paper's 47 issues. It can be heard on the Web site or downloaded for free on iTunes. It's good for those "on the go" or who want to listen as they exercise, run errands, etc.

- Redeemer Radio — Catholic Radio 1450 AM — carries the *Today's Catholic* Podcast every Sunday at 1:45 p.m.

WELCOME

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Thus, some people will experience for the first time the great vitality of this local church. They will meet, on a regular basis, Pope Benedict XVI and their own bishop.

They will meet our young people, and learn of our educational efforts.

They will see the teaching of the church on the great questions of the day.

They will be helped to respond with the word of God to a culture, which is often inimical to the call of Christ.

This initiative came from our priests. Beginning with this edition, our newspaper — which has gone to about 15,000 homes — will now go to nearly 53,000 households.

The question arises as to how it will be paid for. We hope there will be an increase in advertising. We also intend to insert an envelope twice a year, and we believe people will contribute this way.

It is with great joy that we begin this new effort. May God grant it that it will be a blessing on our diocese.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,

+ John M. D'Arcy

Most Reverend John M. D'Arcy

Obama reverses Mexico City policy

BY CHAZ MUTH

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pro-life activists quickly denounced President Barack Obama's Jan. 23 signature on an executive order reversing the Mexico City policy, a move that clears the way for the federal government to provide aid to programs that promote or perform abortion overseas.

The Associated Press reported late in the afternoon that Obama signed an executive order reversing the ban that was first instituted by President Ronald Reagan in 1984.

Obama signed the order with no fanfare and with no news media in the room, a marked contrast to signings of executive orders earlier in the week.

"What a terrible way to begin a new administration, with an abortion business bailout that will exploit women in developing countries for political ends," said Charmaine Yoest, president of Americans United for Life Action, a Washington-based pro-life activist organization. "We should not export the tragedy of abortion to other nations, and we certainly shouldn't do so via the hard-earned dollars of American taxpayers."

The policy banned U.S. taxpayer money, usually in the form of funds from the U.S. Agency for International Development, from going to international family planning groups that either offer abortions or provide information, counseling or referrals about abortion.

A federal law known as the Hyde amendment prohibits U.S. funding from being used directly to provide abortions.

The Mexico City policy was established in 1984, reversed by President Bill Clinton in 1993 and re-established under President George W. Bush in 2001. Clinton and Bush each took their actions on Jan. 22, the anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark 1973 decisions of *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton* that recognized abortion

as a constitutional right and overturned state laws against abortion.

The policy has been called the "global gag rule" by its opponents, because it prohibits taxpayer funding for groups that even talk about abortion if there is an unplanned pregnancy, and is known as the Mexico City policy because it was unveiled at a U.N. conference there in 1984.

Many people expected Obama, like Clinton and Bush, to sign the executive order Jan. 22, when thousands of pro-life marchers were protesting U.S. abortion policy, but he decided to wait a day.

"I see that as a sign of respect to the Catholics and other pro-life activists," said Thomas P. Melady, a former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, who wanted to see the Mexico City policy remain intact.

"We're concerned this can only be the tip of the iceberg for President Obama's abortion policy. This should strengthen our resolve" for the pro-life cause.

DEIRDRE A. MCQUADE

"It says something about his style and the courtesy he extended to those of us participating in the March for Life," Melady told Catholic News Service Jan. 23. "It says he is concerned about the other point of view, which is a good foundation for finding common ground."

Not everyone saw Obama's waiting a day after the pro-life observance as a sign of respect.

"If he respected the pro-life cause, he wouldn't have signed this order at all," said Deirdre A. McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office of Pro-Life Activities.

"We're concerned this can only be the tip of the iceberg for

President Obama's abortion policy. This should strengthen our resolve" for the pro-life cause, she said.

The executive order will not fund abortions directly, McQuade said, but it will indirectly provide financial resources to perform the procedures.

"Since these organizations will be getting U.S. funding, it will free them up to use money they would have had to spend elsewhere on abortions," she said.

According to a fact sheet provided by Third Way, a Washington-based nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank, more than 99 percent of the estimated 536,000 women who die each year from pregnancy-related causes live in developing countries.

Third Way argues that, if family planning needs were met for all women in the developing world who do not have access to contraception, pregnancy-related deaths would drop by 25 percent to 35 percent.

Pro-life activists call those statistics a smoke screen to promote an abortion agenda.

"Here we have a black president taking money from the taxpayers in a time of economic crisis and giving it to organizations — many of which are anti-Catholic — so they can spend it on killing nonwhite babies in Third World nations," said Bill Donohue, president of the New York-based Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights.

"This move is a significant step backward in respecting the sovereignty of nations, in empowering women and in protecting the unborn," said Denise Burke, vice president of legal affairs for Americans United for Life Action.

"Pro-abortion organizations like the International Planned Parenthood Federation are actively working to impose radically pro-abortion laws on developing nations, showing no regard for the will of the people in these countries," she said.



JUDY BRADFORD

Archbishop Marchetto, at right, chats after his lecture with the Father Bob Pelton, a fellow with the Kellogg Institute at the University of Notre Dame.

Church must welcome migrants says Vatican's Archbishop Marchetto

BY JUDY BRADFORD

NOTRE DAME — Sure, you can go online and read about the Vatican's view on pastoral care for immigrants.

But Rome came to the University of Notre Dame recently, to give students and anyone else interested in the subject more of a firsthand experience.

Archbishop Agostino Marchetto admitted that his title is rather long: Secretary of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for the Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant People.

But the Vatican's view on migrants is rather short: "integration, not assimilation."

"To use the words of your new president, Barack Obama, 'fruit salad is not marmalade,' Marchetto said. "It is important that our churches be in community in their mission for and with migrants."

The church must respect all rites, including the Latin Rite and the Eastern Rite, and all human rights in its efforts to spread the Gospel, he said.

Marchetto lectured at the university's Hesburgh Center for International Studies to promote the council's 2004 instruction, "Erga Migrantes Caritas Christi" ("Christ's Love for Migrants"), which holds Catholic communities responsible for extending hospitality to all migrant and itinerant people.

In Indiana, that includes roughly 45,000 undocumented or "illegal" immigrants, mostly from Mexico.

Churches here must create a "culture of welcome," in the words of John Paul II, and struggle to find their way through the controversies that swirl around the immigration issue, most notably competition for jobs and resources, Marchetto said.

"The most important task of the church is evangelization, and it

must continue to have as its mission to preach the Gospel. We see migration as 'development,' an opportunity for dialogue.

"The church has a vision for the global community, and it wants to accompany people in their everyday life, and especially when they are pushed out of their own countries.

"There is consideration for what migrants can contribute to an understanding of universal peace.

"Certainly, there is competition for jobs," he added, "and it will create animosity and xenophobia. But (local churches) will have to find their way."

Marchetto said America, and especially its border states, must hope for comprehensive legislation that will serve as a guide through sticky immigration issues.

Keeping families together is one of the church's primary concerns, he said. When people are forced to cross borders for economic or political reasons, they often leave parts of their families behind. Family instability leads to more poverty, particularly for women and children.

Another concern is the number of Catholics in Mexico who are attracted to Protestantism once they get here.

Marchetto gave a history of the Vatican's concern for immigrants, beginning in 1964 with an international congress on the pastoral care of "nomads."

But he said he hoped America, especially with its new president, is able to find its own way through the issues. Meanwhile, the church must be concerned with both their survival and their spirituality.

"I am very glad that the bishops of America and the bishops of Mexico are in conversation. (Ideally), the local church of arrival will get help from the church of origin so that the integration of migrants goes smoothly, taking into account their personalities, their spiritualities and their idiosyncrasies."



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Pope lifts excommunications of Lefebvrite bishops

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has lifted the excommunication of four bishops ordained against papal orders in 1988 by the late French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre. The move was considered a major concession to the archbishop's traditionalist followers.

The Vatican said the decree removing the excommunication, signed Jan. 21 and made public three days later, marked an important step toward full communion with the Society of St. Pius X, founded by Archbishop Lefebvre in 1970.

It said some questions remain unresolved with the society, including its future status and that of its priests, and that these issues would be the subject of further talks.

"The Holy Father was motivated in this decision by the hope that complete reconciliation and full communion may be reached as soon as possible," a Vatican statement said.

The head of the Swiss-based society, Bishop Bernard Fellay, had requested the removal of the excommunication in a letter Dec. 15. Bishop Fellay wrote that he and the three other bishops illicitly ordained in 1988 were determined to remain Catholic and accepted the teachings of Pope Benedict "with filial spirit."

The Vatican said the pope had responded positively to the request in order to promote "the unity in charity of the universal church and succeed in removing the scandal of division."

In a letter published after the Vatican announcement, Bishop Fellay said his society was eager to begin talks with the Vatican about the causes of the "unprecedented crisis" shaking the church.

"During these discussions with the Roman authorities we want to examine the deep causes of the present situation and, by bringing the appropriate remedy, achieve a lasting restoration of the church," he said.

The decree removing the excommunications, issued by the Congregation for Bishops, underlined the hope that this step would be followed by full communion and that all members of the Society of St. Pius X would demonstrate "true fidelity and true acknowledgment of the magisterium and the authority of the pope."

The move came after one of the illicitly ordained bishops, British-born Bishop Richard Williamson, provoked Jewish protests with assertions that the Holocaust was exaggerated and that no Jews died in Nazi gas chambers. He spoke in a TV interview recorded last November but aired in mid-January.

The Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, said emphatically that the Vatican did not share Bishop Williamson's views, but that it was a completely separate issue from the lifting of the excommunication.

"Saying a person is not excommunicated is not the same as saying one shares all his ideas or statements," Father Lombardi said.

The removal of the excommunication was a key condition of the Society of St. Pius X in its on-again, off-again talks with the Vatican over reconciliation. In 2007 the pope granted another of the society's requests, widening the possibility for use of the Tridentine rite, the form of the Mass used before the Second Vatican Council.

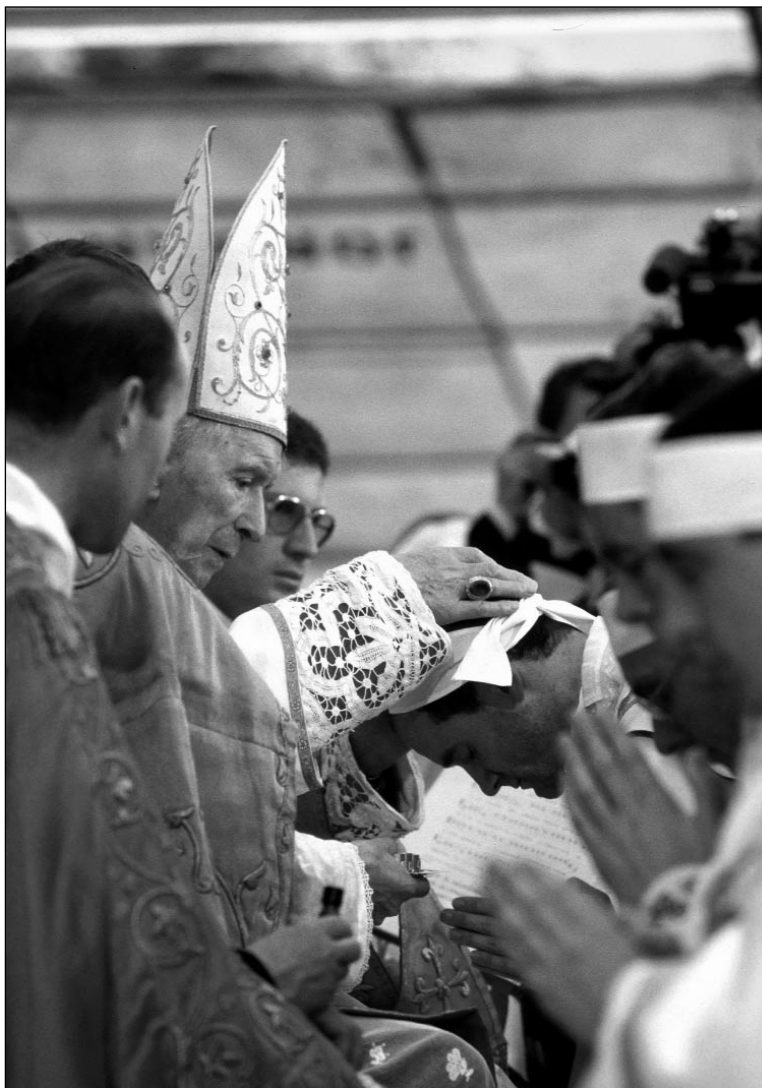
Archbishop Lefebvre rejected several important teachings of the Second Vatican Council, including those related to religious liberty, ecumenism and liturgy. The Vatican statements did not mention the council's teachings, and Father Lombardi had no comment on whether the society was asked to adhere to them.

The Vatican action came the day before the 50th anniversary of Pope John XXIII's announcement of the Second Vatican Council. Father Lombardi said it would be wrong to see the lifting of the excommunication as a rejection of Vatican II.

"On the contrary, I think it is a beautiful thing that the council is no longer considered an element of division, but as an element in which every member of the church can meet," he said.

In addition to Bishops Fellay and Williamson, the decree removed the excommunication of French Bishop Bernard Tissier de Mallerais and Argentine Bishop Alphonso de Galarreta. The Vatican said in 1988 that Archbishop Lefebvre and the bishops he ordained had incurred automatic excommunication for defying papal orders against the ordination.

Bishop Fellay called the pope's action a "unilateral, benevolent and courageous act" and described



CNS PHOTO/CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre presides at the 1988 ordinations of Bishops Richard Williamson, Bernard Tissier de Mallerais, Bernard Fellay and Alphonso de Galarreta in Econe, Switzerland. Archbishop Lefebvre and the four new bishops were excommunicated after participating in the ordination that had been forbidden by Pope John Paul II. Archbishop Lefebvre, who died in 1991, founded the Society of St. Pius X.

it as a victory for Catholic traditionalists worldwide. But he said he had made clear to the Vatican that the society still has problems with Vatican II.

He said, quoting from his Dec. 15 letter: "We are ready to write the creed with our own blood, to sign the anti-modernist oath, the profession of faith of Pius IV, we accept and make our own all the councils up to the Second Vatican Council, about which we express some reservations."

Bishop Fellay added in his communique that "we are convinced that we remain faithful to the line of conduct initiated by our founder, Archbishop Marcel

Lefebvre, whose reputation we hope to soon see restored."

In a separate letter written Jan. 21, Bishop Fellay commented on Bishop Williamson's comments about the Holocaust, saying the bishop had spoken for himself, not the society. Bishop Fellay complained that the interviewer had introduced the topic "with the obvious intention of misrepresenting and maligning the activity of our religious society."

Cardinal Andre Vingt-Trois of Paris, president of the French bishops' conference, welcomed Pope Benedict's action as a "gesture of mercy and openness for strengthening church unity." France is

home to nearly half of the 200,000 members of the Society of St. Pius X.

However, the cardinal rejected suggestions the move would make it easier for Catholics "to be Catholic while making selections in church teaching, doctrine and church tradition."

"I rejoice every time the church is able to suspend a penalty — it's an opportunity, an open door allowing Christians to rediscover the fullness of communion with the church," he told the archdiocesan Notre Dame Radio Jan. 24. "People who, for the most part, present themselves sincerely as defenders of tradition also give themselves a magisterial power to distinguish good from bad tradition. But such an act of discernment can only be an act of the church, not of some particular group within the church."

French Cardinal Jean-Pierre Ricard of Bourdeaux said Pope Benedict knew "the drama a schism represents in the church" and wished to "go as far as he could in extending his hand." Cardinal Ricard is a member of the Pontifical Commission "Ecclesia Dei," which oversees the reconciliation of Lefebvrite Catholics with the church.

"The lifting of the excommunication isn't the end but the beginning of a process of dialogue," Cardinal Ricard said in a Jan. 24 statement. "It doesn't regulate two fundamental questions: the juridical structure of the St. Pius X fraternity in the church and an agreement on dogmatic and ecclesiological questions. But it opens a path to travel together, which will doubtless be long and demand better mutual knowledge and esteem."

Some French Catholics have criticized Vatican policy toward the society. In 2006, Catholics and bishops from eastern France protested the creation of the Good Shepherd Institute in the Archdiocese of Bourdeaux for receiving traditionalists. Protesters also said they feared church unity could be damaged by relaxing restrictions on the Tridentine Mass.

Contributing to this story was Jonathan Luxmoore in Poland.

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Pope tells young people to continue to defend life at all stages

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although he was not physically present, Pope Benedict XVI's greeting added to the excitement of the more than 20,000 young people at a youth rally and Mass for life Jan. 22 at the Verizon Center sports arena in Washington. Young people came from across the United States and from throughout the Washington area. The rally and Mass, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Washington, precedes the annual March for Life, which marks the date of the Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion. When Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl, the main celebrant for the Mass, introduced the apostolic nuncio to the United States, Archbishop Pietro Sambi, the crowd responded with a long standing ovation that cascaded through the arena as the pope's representative smiled and waved. Archbishop Sambi read the message from the pope to the Verizon crowd. The pontiff said he was "deeply grateful to all who take part in this outstanding annual witness to the Gospel of life, and to the many others who support them by fasting and prayer."

Senate urged to include unborn, immigrants in children's health plan

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program should cover pregnant mothers and their unborn children, as well as legal immigrants who have not yet been in the country for five years, the head of the U.S. bishops' domestic policy committee told senators. Bishop William F. Murphy of Rockville Centre, N.Y., chairman of the bishops' Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, also said in a letter to senators that SCHIP plans at the state and federal levels must not "promote or fund abortion or ignore parental rights to secure needed health care for their children in ways that do not violate their moral or religious convictions." The bishop wrote to members of the Senate Jan. 14, the day the House of Representatives passed SCHIP legislation that includes legal immigrant children and pregnant women who are legal immigrants. The letter was made public just before the Senate began consideration of the legislation Jan. 26.

Groups applaud Obama's decision to end torture

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Presidential executive orders to ban torture and close the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, are just the first steps in an effort to assure that torture never again becomes part of American policy, said religious and human rights workers. Organizations such as the

NEWS BRIEFS

NUNS CHEER DURING PRO-LIFE MASS FOR YOUTHS



CNS PHOTO/GREGORY A. SHERMITZ

Members of the Sisters of Life cheer at the beginning of a pro-life youth Mass at the Verizon Center in Washington Jan. 22. Young people from across the nation packed the arena for the events held in advance of the annual March for Life.

National Religious Campaign Against Torture, which has partnered with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, planned to work toward getting the restrictions outlined in the Jan. 22 orders signed by President Barack Obama adopted into law. "Our goal is to make sure this dark chapter never repeats itself in American history," said the Rev. Richard Killmer, the campaign's executive director. Bishop Howard J. Hubbard of Albany, N.Y., chairman of the bishops' Committee on International Justice and Peace, welcomed the order to ban torture Jan. 22, saying in a statement that the president's action will "help restore the moral and legal standing of the United States in the world." Bishop Hubbard said, "A ban on torture says much about us, who we are, what we believe about human life and dignity and how we act as a nation."

Pope's Africa trip includes encounters with bishops, youths, disabled

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On his first trip to Africa, Pope Benedict XVI will meet with the continent's bishops, visit a church-run center for the disabled in Cameroon and address young people in a stadium in Angola, the Vatican said. The trip March 17-23 will focus on preparations for the Synod of Bishops for Africa, to be held in Rome in October. The pope's

schedule, published Jan. 26, calls for him to release the synod's working document when he celebrates Mass and meets with synod planners March 19. The pope's program calls for encounters with political leaders, representatives of other Christian churches and Muslims in Cameroon, the first leg of his visit. In Angola, where the pope will celebrate the 500th anniversary of the country's evangelization, he plans to talk to regional bishops, celebrate Mass for pastoral workers and meet with Catholic movements engaged in women's promotion.

New network launched to mobilize Catholics against death penalty

HARRISBURG, Pa. (CNS) — The Catholic Mobilizing Network to End the Death Penalty, launched Jan. 25 in Harrisburg, is not just another initiative of the bishops but instead represents lay Catholics at the grass-roots level "taking up the challenge" put forth in bishops' documents, statements and actions over the past three decades. That's how John Carr, executive director of the Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, described the network at a news conference at the close of a training conference of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty in Harrisburg. The network,

which will operate independently from the USCCB, will be designed particularly to reach out to young people and Hispanic Catholics on the issue of capital punishment. It was begun with seed money from the Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille, whose best-known member is death penalty abolitionist Sister Helen Prejean. Sister Helen, the author of "Dead Man Walking" who speaks frequently at college campuses, said she has seen "how hungry" students are "to participate in substantive exchanges on important issues."

Msgr. Edward Burns of Pittsburgh named bishop of Juneau, Alaska

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Msgr. Edward J. Burns, rector of St. Paul's Seminary in Pittsburgh and former director of national offices dealing with clergy, vocations and priestly formation, as bishop of Juneau, Alaska. The appointment was announced in Washington Jan. 19 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop-designate Burns, 51, succeeds Bishop Michael W. Warfel, who headed the Juneau Diocese for 12 years before being named bishop of Great Falls-Billings, Mont., in January 2008. He will be ordained a bishop March 3 at St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh and installed as bishop of Juneau nearly

a month later on April 2. In an interview in Juneau with the *Catholic Anchor*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Anchorage, Bishop-designate Burns said he was shocked to receive a call from Archbishop Sambi telling him he had been named a bishop but was excited to hear that he would be going to Juneau. In three brief visits to Juneau he said he had become "truly enamored by the diocese."

Pope appoints Rockville Centre priest to be bishop of Charleston

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI named Msgr. Robert E. Guglielmone, 63, rector of the Cathedral of St. Agnes in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y., as bishop of Charleston, S.C. The appointment was announced in Washington Jan. 24 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop-designate Guglielmone succeeds Bishop Robert J. Baker, who headed the Charleston Diocese from September 1999 until he was named bishop of Birmingham, Ala., in August 2007. He will be ordained and installed as the 13th bishop of Charleston March 25. "I am both humbled and grateful that His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, would entrust this awesome ministry to me," Bishop-designate Guglielmone said in a statement, but he admitted he was "a bit anxious about leaving Long Island where I have spent almost my whole life." "However, I do trust in the Lord and am very encouraged by the wonderful sense of Southern hospitality I have already experienced," he said.

Pope says Christians must work, pray, convert for Christian unity

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Full Christian unity will be a gift from God, but it is something Christians themselves must work for, pray for and experience personal conversion in order to receive, Pope Benedict XVI said. Dedicating his weekly general audience Jan. 21 to the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the pope said God wants Christians to be one, but that can happen only through deeper unity with Christ. The theme of the 2009 week of prayer was "That they may become one in your hand," a quote from the Book of Ezekiel in which God tells the prophet to take two sticks, representing his divided people, and join them together. "The hand of the prophet that puts the two sticks together becomes like the very hand of God who will gather and unite his people and, finally, all of humanity," the pope said. "We can apply the prophet's words to Christians in the sense of an exhortation to pray, to work, to do everything possible so the unity of Christ's disciples will be accomplished, so that our hands will become instruments of the unifying hand of God," Pope Benedict said.

All-Schools Mass to be celebrated

FORT WAYNE — Area Catholic elementary school students, teachers, staff and parents will gather in the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum on Friday, Jan. 30, at 10 a.m. for the annual Catholic All-Schools Mass. More than 6,000 students are expected to attend the liturgy.

The All-Schools Mass in the South Bend area will be celebrated in the Joyce Center on the campus of the University of Notre Dame on Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 10 a.m. More than 6,000 students are expected to attend the liturgy.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy, of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, will preside at each Mass with 30 to 40 local and area priests serving as concelebrants.

Students also will participate in the Mass as servers, gift presenters, incense bearers and in other liturgical functions including prayer, petitions and singing.

Tajci performs in concert at Bluffton

BLUFFTON — Singer-songwriter Tajci will perform, "I do Believe," in concert at St. Joseph Church, 1300 N. Main St., Bluffton, on Feb. 8 at 2 p.m. The free event features Tajci on keyboards, backed by electronic instrumentalist Mark Johnson and guest instrumentalist Eileen Bird.

Tatiana Cameron — Tajci, who has performed in over 600 concerts since 2000, tells her story of living in communism, learning about the healing power of music, becoming a teenage pop music superstar and leaving it all behind to find a greater purpose in life all through beautifully arranged music supporting her powerful voice.

A reception will follow the concert. Babysitting will be available.

For more information call (260) 824-1380 or e-mail stjosephchurch@adamswells.com.

Notre Dame rises again in Peace Corps rankings

NOTRE DAME — As it did last year, the University of Notre Dame moved up four spots this year on the list of medium-sized schools, those with undergraduate enrollments between 5,000 and 15,000, producing Peace Corps volunteers.

With 26 alumni currently serving in the Peace Corps, Notre Dame is now ranked 13th on the list, up from 17th last year. This is the sixth year in a row that Notre Dame has been among the nation's top 25.

Since its inception in 1961, the Peace Corps has enrolled volunteers from more than 3,000 institutions nationwide. At present, 7,876 Peace Corps volunteers are serving for 27-month commitments in 76 countries.

Notre Dame's association with the Peace Corps dates back to the agency's founding in 1961, when the very first volunteers were trained on campus. Since then, 800

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This year, the Garrett Knights of Columbus Council 1790 sponsored a poster contest. The poster contest was open to all St. Joseph students in preschool through sixth grade. Prizes were awarded for the best poster in each grade and displayed during Catholic Schools Week. Winners include the following: front row, Zane Mix, Abigail Sexton, Katie Lacey, Levi Follett, Libbey Detcher, Connor Ort and Rachael Lay; and back row, Christopher VanPelt, Grace Cooper, Amanda Shonka, Jackson Haynes, Victoria Ruble, Amanda Stump and Nicole Gillespie. Winners Sophia Ruble and Emily Grueter were not available for the photo.

Notre Dame graduates have entered the Peace Corps — more than from any other Catholic college or university.

NICHE to hold curriculum share

FORT WAYNE — A curriculum share for current and prospective home school parents will be held on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 8:45 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the University of Saint Francis. It will be located in Achatz Hall in the planetarium building.

There is no admission charge for this event that features literature, speakers, a used book sale and displays of favorite curriculums.

Childcare will be available for a minimal fee. For more information contact Jeri Morman at jlmorman@hotmail.com or 639-3744.

Photographer Peter Turnley visits USF

FORT WAYNE — International award-winning photographer and Fort Wayne native Peter Turnley will visit the University of Saint Francis Feb. 2-13 as a visiting artist, where he will meet with students and faculty, host a roundtable discussion with the Fort Wayne Photographer's Club, meet with local high school teachers, conduct workshops for student photogra-

phers and present two free public lectures in the Closer Look Lecture Series.

Turnley's visit to the University of Saint Francis is supported by Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne, the Indiana Arts Commission and the National Endowment for the Arts. For more information contact the School of Creative Arts at 260-399-7700 ext. 8001.

USF and Most Precious Blood School awarded GreenWorks service learning grant

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis department of biology, in collaboration with Most Precious Blood Catholic School has been selected to receive a 2008 GreenWorks! Community Action & Service Learning Grant in the amount of \$5,000.

The grant is sponsored by Project Learning Tree (PLT), a national organization that strives to increase students' understanding of the environment, stimulate students' critical and creative thinking, develop students' ability to make informed decisions on environmental issues and instill in students the commitment to take responsible action on behalf of the environment. The GreenWorks! grant will

be used to install a state-of-the-art learning and discovery garden at Most Precious Blood School this spring. The grant will also support a PLT environmental workshop at the University of Saint Francis in the fall.

'We Believe in You' enrollment skyrockets

DONALDSON — Enrollment for Ancilla College's "We Believe in You" program has risen from nine students in 2007 to 35 this year. The "We Believe in You" program, reintroduced to the campus in 2007 after a long hiatus, is designed for prospective students 21 years and older who have never attended college.

The program allows a student to take up to three credit hours free of charge and is assigned an academic advisor to assist them with all aspects of attending college for the first time, including the registration process, filing a financial aid application, determining their education opportunities and more.

Classes officially began Jan. 12 and are held on site at the Donaldson-based campus. Upon completion of a course, students will have access to their transcripts.

"We Believe in You" was originally created in 1988 by the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, the reli-

gious order that sponsors Ancilla College.

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

St. Jude leads other parishes in Apostle Build

FORT WAYNE — Since this past summer, the social action committee at St. Jude Parish with the blessings of the parish council, has been contacting other Catholic parishes in the area and making presentations at parish council and staff meetings, to ask for a commitment of time, talent, and treasure toward building from the ground up a Habitat for Humanity home. The name of the project is Apostle Build. The idea is to involve at least 12 parishes.

Building such a home will have three positive results. It will help a Fort Wayne family find affordable and adequate housing. The recipient of the home pays back by means of a low monthly payment, no-interest mortgage. It will unite local parishes in a community effort. It will make the Catholic presence in Fort Wayne felt in the area of social justice.

The cost of a Habitat home is \$50,000. That averages out to about \$4,166 for each of the parishes involved. Making a commitment so far are:

- St. John the Baptist: Time, talent and \$4,166;
- St. Charles: Time, talent and \$4,166;
- St. Vincent de Paul: Time, talent and \$5,000;
- Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception: Time, talent and \$4,166;
- St. Jude: Time, talent, and \$5,000 from parish tithes.

• Queen of Angels: Donation of service by licensed electrician worth a \$1,500 deduction from the total cost of home.

There is a need for a licensed plumber and for a drywaller. Donating these services will also reduce the total cost of the project. Private donations of materials and of treasure will also be accepted.

Even if a local parish cannot commit to the treasure part of the package in these tough times, all the parishes contacted have been asked to send volunteers during the 10 days of the build, which is scheduled to begin May 12.

For more information, or to volunteer to be a shift leader on one of the days of the building project, call (260) 483-0978.

Serrans hold dinner with seminarians

SOUTH BEND — Members and associates of the Serra Club of South Bend will hold their annual traditional dinner with seminarians from Holy Cross Seminary on Thursday, Feb. 5, at the seminary on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. They will attend Mass at 5:15 p.m. prior to the dinner. Esther Cyr of Serra is coordinating the event. — EJD

Modernization effort of state agency encounters technology snafu

INDIANAPOLIS — Good ideas don't always pan out in practice. Modernizing some of the services rendered by the state's Family and Social Services Administration (FSSA) to improve access to benefits is one of them. The attempt at rendering better services has resulted in, at least temporarily in some counties, an inability for many to access any benefits.

Two bills HB 1691 authored by Rep. Suzanne Crouch (R-Evansville) and HB 1195 authored by Rep. Bill Crawford (D-Indianapolis) have been introduced to address the problem.

House Bill 1691 would prevent additional counties from moving to the new system until the Joint Commission on Medicaid Oversight has reviewed the changes and status of the counties that have already implemented the eligibility determination changes.

Another bill regarding this same topic, HB 1195, authored by Rep. Bill Crawford (D-Indianapolis), provides for specific measures to correct some of the problems noted in the summer study committee.

The Indiana Catholic Conference supports the review of the program and is supportive of these bills because they call attention to a real and serious problem facing the elderly and families in need.

Three programs, which are affected in the modernization effort, include Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), Food Stamps and Medicaid.

In 2007, Indiana's FSSA signed a \$1.6 billion contract with IBM Corp. and Affiliated Computer

Services to implement a call system and Web program for welfare applicants. This new system would be the entry point for applicants to access benefits. Previously, applicants had to visit a county welfare office, where they were assigned a caseworker to handle their application process in a face to face interaction.

Debbie Schmidt, executive director of Catholic Charities for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, said their clients are experiencing a myriad of problems with the new system. As a whole, Schmidt said, "We're seeing an increase in need caused by rising utility bills, unemployment, the mortgage crisis and the downturn of the economy in general."

This increase in need, coupled with a new system, which is complicated for applicants and Catholic Charities staff to navigate, has compounded the problem for those who are served by Catholic Charities. "Many of our clients can't get access or maintain their benefits," said Schmidt. "In general, the poor do not have home computers, Internet access or even phone service," she said. "These are obstacles to gaining access. The demand for computers at the library has increased significantly as this is also the way many go to apply for unemployment benefits," said Schmidt.

Lisa M. Young, who works with Schmidt as assistant director said, "The new system is difficult to navigate." Lost paper work, documents of one applicant being placed in another applicant's file causing denial or delay of benefits for both applicants, technology

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

failure from unscanned signatures on the receiving end to the Web page being down for days highlight some of the problems encountered by those needing help. Not only is Catholic Charities' staff hearing complaints about these problems but are experiencing them first hand as they work with their clients to help them access state benefits.

Corina Hurtado, Hispanic health advocate for Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, has experienced difficulties made with document-management errors resulting in delayed or denial of benefits to her clients.

"The application process is complicated," said Hurtado. "There's really no easy way an applicant can confirm their application was completed properly or even received. The person thinks they've applied when in reality, they haven't."

Theresa Teders, community services supervisor for Brief and Emergencies Services, another program of Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, said she's had clients who came to her very upset because their Medicaid insurance card was rejected when they went to pick up

a prescription at the local pharmacy. Under the previous system, emergency assistance for food stamps would be expedited with a wait time of seven to 10 days, said Teders, but now the wait is on average about 45 days.

John C. Etling, agency director of Catholic Charities, Terre Haute, said he is also seeing longer delays for those being served in his area.

"I've seen a delay in services 30, 60 or even 90 days. There's a disconnect somewhere in the process," said Etling. "There's one company that has an expertise in handling calls, another with an expertise in document collection and another that handles the document verification. The problem is there isn't one company handling it all."

Both bills, HB 1691 and HB 1195, have been assigned to the House Public Health Committee.

Recap of social justice bills

• HB 1025. Child and dependent care tax credit, passed the House Small Business & Economic Development committee, Jan. 21, and is headed to House for second reading. The bill provides a refundable income tax credit to individuals for certain household, child care or dependent care expenses associated with an individual's gainful employment. ICC supports the bill as a positive way to assist families and targets families who need it most.

• HB 1080, Sales tax exemption for home energy assistance, assigned to House Ways & Means committee, seeks to make permanent what was given a two-year extension in 2007. ICC will again support this bill; it seems prudent to utilize all allocated resources for heating assistance.

New legislation designed to assist those who provide for the needy is receiving attention also.

• SB 281, Contributions for food

banks, would add the Indiana food bank trust fund as a charitable purpose to which an individual may choose to give all or part of the individual's state income tax refund. The bill received a hearing in Senate Appropriations committee on Jan. 15, but no vote was taken.

• HB 1315, Funding for food banks, creates the food bank account within the general fund to provide funding for food banks. This bill is in House Ways & Means committee. Because of fiscal costs the bill faces a difficult path. However, ICC supports this bill and SB 281 as many agencies who provide for the needy are finding it difficult to meet the daily and nutritional needs of growing number of individuals and families.

In addition to the update, one can obtain more detailed information regarding the bills and detailed information about legislative process through the Legislative Action Center under policy tools; click issues and legislation to access the state or federal bills. Also, you can access the archived updates, ICC positions and other background information at the ICC Web site www.indianacc.org.

What is the consistent life ethic? It is the belief that all human beings, from conception to natural death, have inherent dignity given to them by God himself.

The unborn, the elderly, the death row inmate, the poor, the handicapped, the undocumented immigrant are all human beings deserving respect and dignity. This Christian ethic is applied to public policy and is the measuring stick by which the ICC acting on behalf of the Indiana bishops determine which issues deserve the church's involvement.

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."



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St. Pius X Wells of Hope ministry brings faithful back

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

GRANGER — Recently, John and Angie Miller, leaders of St. Pius X Wells of Hope ministry answered questions about the direction of this program since its inception in 2007.

Today's Catholic: When did Wells of Hope begin at St. Pius X and in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend?

John: As a part of the 2007, 150th anniversary jubilee celebration of the diocese, "You Can Always Come Home" was the theme of billboards and posters throughout the diocese as part of an evangelization outreach to inactive or under-active Catholics. St. Pius X introduced and launched Wells of Hope during the Christmas season of 2006 with pew cards and invitations to attend sessions held beginning April 11, 2007, once a week for five weeks.

Today's Catholic: What is the basic thrust of the ministry?

John: The diocesan concept for Wells of Hope was to have parishes form a team of people to go to people's homes that have left the church for some reason and listen, love and invite them back home to the Catholic Church. These visits would, of course, be scheduled and not unannounced or uninvited.

At St. Pius X, we took a slightly different approach. Father Bill Schooler and our Wells of Hope team felt the home visits may be a bit tough for team members as well as those being visited to really open up and feel

comfortable. We proposed a concept similar to Christ Renews His Parish, where people could come somewhat anonymously and listen to a series of witnesses given by team members on subjects we felt would be appropriate to many who had left the church. These included; divorce, loss of a loved one, misunderstanding of church teaching and others. These talks would be accompanied by table discussion facilitated by team members and a question and answer session with Father Schooler or Father Bob Lengerich, where nothing was off the table for discussion.

Today's Catholic: How has it developed over the years?

John: Slowly. The first sessions offered drew a lot of attention because of the diocesan advertising and promotional efforts during the jubilee year. Since that time St. Pius X has relied on the pew cards during Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter to attract people to the program. These times for promotion were chosen because many people who have been away from the church often return for Mass during these times.

Today's Catholic: How has the format changed or matured?

John: The program at St. Pius X has changed for a number of reasons. First, because it is difficult to determine the number of people who might want to attend sessions, planning was difficult to determine how many team members needed to be present, what witnesses would be required, etc.

Second, because the program was only offered twice a year,



BY KAREN CLIFFORD

Father Bob Lengerich is shown leading an ASK (Adults Seeking Knowledge) meeting. Wells of Hope leaders Angie and John Miller, seated in the back row, were present to field questions about returning to the church.

many people who inquired about returning to the church during ordinary time had nowhere to go during the bulk of the year. We made a conscience decision to revise the program to be more inclusive during the year and have incorporated the program into Father Lengerich's ASK (Adults Seeking Knowledge) sessions.

These sessions are a free flowing exchange between attendees and Father Lengerich, where questions about anything related to the church are answered. Wells of Hope team members will be there for anyone who may be in need of further ministering and to help guide them on the journey

back home.

Today's Catholic: Describe the successes.

John: In discussing and defining success, Father Schooler says, "The return of one person to the church has made our Lord smile." It is kind of the parable of the lost sheep.

We have had a number of people return fully to the church. One couple had their marriage blessed in the church, some have gone through Christ Renews His Parish, others have joined the choir and many others are engaged in parish life.

Angie: I felt very encouraged by what we have learned so far with the people we have minis-

tered to. Many of the people we have worked with just needed their questions answered, a meeting with Father Schooler or Father Lengerich and a chance to receive the sacrament of confession. Then they had fulfilled the requirements of the church.

Today's Catholic: What have you learned about the reasons for drifting away from the church?

John: There are countless reasons people leave the church. The most frequently voiced are things like divorce, annulments, loss of a loved one, misunderstanding of church teaching, disagreements over teachings, hurt by a priest or religious, attracted by another faith, lack of community and a big one — unfriendly, unwelcoming churches.

Today's Catholic: What have you learned about the reasons for considering returning to the church?

Angie: As John mentioned, it is most important for people returning to the church to feel welcome and to have someone to connect with, that is how we will keep them back in the fold. It will be important for them to join a ministry so they have a support group and a way to meet others in such a large parish.

John: People always have a desire to come home to the Catholic Church. The biggest reason that I have heard is that they miss the sacraments most specifically the Eucharist. It tells me people have a desire to be fed by Jesus. We have also found that if people feel welcome and you help them become a part of the community, they feel at home.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter convention slated in South Bend

SOUTH BEND — Hundreds of priests and happily married couples of many faiths from all over the Midwest will gather in South Bend July 10-12 to enrich and celebrate their sacraments of matrimony and holy orders.

The regional convention, hosted by Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, is an experience for couples and priests who have previously attended a WWME weekend. It will be held at the Gillespie Conference Center at the Hilton Garden Inn located on the north side of the campus of Saint Mary's College.

The theme of the convention is "Let Us Be Your Servants." Opening ceremonies start at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, July 10. It concludes about noon on Sunday, July 12, with a closing Mass at the grotto on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. Other activities include a dinner and entertainment on Saturday evening featuring excerpts from the musical "The Man of LaMancha."

Throughout the weekend a

series of presentations will reinforce the communication tools taught on a WWME weekend.

Mike and Julia Roszkowski from Granger find they always benefit from attending WWME conventions: "The best part of convention is meeting couples and priests from all over our region. It is so neat to hear their stories and how WWME has affected their lives, just as it has ours."

Rene and JoAnn Lusser of Chesterfield, Mo., agree. "We have been encountered for over 32 years and some of our fondest memories have been of WWME conventions. Each convention is a worthwhile opportunity to celebrate with other encountered couples and priests who are all part of our family of faith and have a desire to make a difference in the world around us."

The cost of the convention is \$150 per couple or \$75 for a priest. Additional details including registration information, lodging possibilities and a list of frequently asked questions can be found on the Web site, www.wwme-ni.org/2009convention. For information, contact Ron and Leanne Lee at (260) 637-5124 or e-mail at lee@wwme-ni.org.

In report to USCCB, preserving Catholic schools will require universal effort

BY JULIE HAIL FLORY

NOTRE DAME — As national Catholic Schools Week (Jan. 25 to 31) approached, the state of America's parochial schools was in the spotlight, and the news is somewhat discouraging.

An article this week in the *New York Times* refers to the proposed closing of 14 elementary schools in the Diocese of Brooklyn, N.Y., as "not the deepest but only the latest of a thousand cuts suffered ... as enrollment in the nation's Catholic schools has steadily dropped by more than half from its peak of five million 40 years ago."

The article refers to "Making God Known, Loved and Served: The Future of Catholic Primary and Secondary Schools in the United States," a major report on the future of Catholic education presented by Notre Dame in 2006 to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, saying the study is "widely credited with igniting the current self-examination" of Catholic schools.

Holy Cross Father Timothy R. Scully, professor of political science and director of Notre Dame's Institute for Educational Initiatives, led the task force study and says the decline in enrollment in Catholic schools is largely due to finances.

"The principle cause is financial," Father Scully said. "First of all, of course, there has been a huge transition in the faculty and staff who support the work of this wonderful postulate. There has been a complete turnover in terms of the kind of leadership and staffing that we have in Catholic schools from 90-some-percent in the 1960s religious — who by their gift to the church subsidized Catholic schools at the time — to 95 percent today lay, who also subsidize by the gift of their salaries, which are lower than the public sector, but extraordinarily higher than the religious who subsidized and made these schools possible, built those schools.

"I'm afraid to say that I think our values have changed a bit in the Catholic community. I think

that despite our increasing resource base, we have other expectations for our lifestyle and we have other priorities for our incomes.

"Study after study of philanthropy demonstrates a sad reality that the Catholic community is actually quite stingy when it comes to supporting church causes, and that's not untrue when it comes to Catholic schools. I have to add an important caveat, and that is those parents who make the sacrifice are making a huge sacrifice."

Turning the tide will require a universal effort, according to Father Scully.

"The fundamental shift that has to occur in the church in order for our Catholic schools to recover the importance that they have always held is that we as a Catholic community have to commit ourselves to the work of this apostolate," he said. "The work of Catholic education is the responsibility of all Catholics. It's not just the responsibility of parents who have children. It's the future of our church."

MARCHES, SPEECHES INSPIRE

Rally and march for life draw record-breaking crowd

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — Despite the wintry weather, Saturday's 35th annual March for Life and rally in downtown Fort Wayne attracted a huge crowd. Attendance at the event was the largest in recent memory, completely filling the Scottish Rite Auditorium. Marchers afterwards extended three city blocks as they made their way to the Federal Building on Harrison Street where they heard personal testimonies of those affected by abortion in the Silent No More Awareness Campaign.

Cathie Humbarger, executive director of Allen County Right to Life, served as emcee for the rally. She called it a "bittersweet moment" — bitter because there is still a need to assemble more than three decades after the passage of *Roe v. Wade* — sweet because of the many dedicated proponents for life in attendance.

A large number of elected officials were also in the audience, including 3rd District U.S. Rep. Mark Souder. He discussed the current threat to the pro-life agenda on the national level, the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) currently under consideration in Washington.

He pointed out that FOCA, if enacted, would eliminate all the federal and state laws passed in the last 35 years that restrict abortion and protect women and their unborn babies. States like Indiana would be forced to comply regardless of life-affirming legislation already on their books.

According to information on the Indiana Right to Life Web site (www.protectinglife.com), if FOCA becomes law, abortions would be funded by taxpayers, partial-birth abortions would be legalized, no parental consent would be needed for minors to receive abortions, no waiting period would be required for women seeking abortions, and medical professionals and facilities would be required to perform abortions. In short, all the pro-life gains of the past 35 years would be wiped out and the number of such procedures would escalate dramatically.

Audience members were urged to write to their senators and congressmen asking them to vote against the proposed legislation.

Indiana State Representative Jackie Walorski (R-Elkhart) also discussed her request for a full investigation of the activities of Planned Parenthood of Indiana (see sidebar), receiving an enthusiastic standing ovation for her comments.

Keynote speaker was Shawn Carney, director of Coalition for Life in Texas and an organizer of the National 40 Days for Life Campaign. He called this "a sad and sobering time of year" when we are reminded of the Jan. 22, 1973, *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion.

A few years ago Carney was instrumental in launching the 40 Days for Life campaign among pro-life advocates in his home state of Texas. It was a period of prayer, fasting, peaceful vigil and community outreach, which was so successful that post-abortion women found healing, abortion



PHOTOS BY TESS STEFFEN

The Anthony Wayne Assembly of the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus, in the top photo, led the 35th annual March for Life in Fort Wayne on Jan. 24. An estimated 2,000 people participated in the march, which concluded at the Federal Building. A group from Bishop Luers High School, bottom photo, marched and assembled on the steps across the street from the Federal Building during the Silent No More witness talks.

clinic workers left their jobs and many such facilities closed their doors for good. The campaign resulted in a 28 percent drop in such procedures. "That's when we knew we really had something," he said.

By 2008, he noted, 204 cities in 49 states, including Indiana, had launched similar campaigns to bring about change in the attitude toward abortion in the hearts and minds of those it touches. "We are not here (only) to make abortion illegal," he said. "We are here to make abortion unthinkable."

Bishop John D'Arcy, when asked about the importance of pro-life efforts at a time when changes in Washington threaten their advancement, said the pro-life effort is always important while "politics come and go." The unborn child has no constituency so it must constantly be defended. "It's an issue of faith," he said.

Bishop D'Arcy's closing benediction was a validation of the 40 Days for Life Campaign, which he said shows "how active God is, how strong the pro-life movement is."

Though the fight for life will continue on the national level, speaker Carney reminded his listeners that it requires a grassroots effort. Abortion is a moral crisis that requires a moral solution, one that is based on the teachings of Jesus Christ.

"Our faith is not in Washington, D.C.," said Carney. "It is in this room." It is in the proponents of life assembled locally whose dedication and tenacity will promote change in America.

Professor shares with pro-lifers the expectations, challenges of the new administration

BY TOM UEBBING

SOUTH BEND — The policies, appointments and direction of President Barack Obama, who has been described by some as the most radically pro-abortion president in U.S. history, was the subject of Notre Dame law school Professor Carter Snead's talk at the Knights of Columbus annual right-to-life march Jan. 25 in South Bend.

Snead is a parishioner at St. Joseph Parish, South Bend, and has extensive credentials in the field of bioethics. He served under the Bush administration in various capacities with the United Nations. Among other responsibilities, he acted from 2004-2005 as the chief negotiator and head of the U.S. delegation to UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) for the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights, which was adopted in October 2005.

Snead described what Americans could expect to see in next four years. The leaders of the present Democrat-controlled Congress are Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House, and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid. Both are very pro-abortion and supportive of destructive embryonic stem-cell research and can be expected to block any pro-life legislation — even authored by Democrats — from ever being voted on.

The professor detailed Obama's record on pro-life issues prior to assuming the presidency. As a state legislator or U.S. senator, Obama has been "an unapologetic and unambiguous supporter of abortion ... pushing the extreme edge," Snead said.

Obama "opposed parental notification, the partial birth abortion ban; he condemned the U.S. Supreme Court's affirmation of the federal ban on partial birth abortion. ... He opposed a bill in the Illinois general assembly that required that babies who survive abortion... to receive emergency medical care," Snead said.

Obama has given "unwavering support" for destructive embryonic stem-cell research, Snead said. "He even sponsored in law a bill to protect the right to clone human beings for the sake of destruction in research."

Snead said Obama also opposed a bill authorizing additional funding for non-embryonic stem-cell research even though this legislation took nothing away from the destructive form.

Obama opposed the Pregnant Women Support Act, designed to strengthen the social safety net so that women facing crisis pregnancies would have an incentive to carry their babies to term. "Less than a week in office we got a decisive answer to the question whether he would reduce the number of abortions. One of his very first acts in office was to sign an executive order rescinding the Mexico City policy," which prevented any federal tax dollars from going to organizations that promote or perform abortions overseas such as Planned Parenthood International.

Another indication of the direction of the



Notre Dame Law School Professor Carter Snead discussed President Barack Obama's history favoring abortion and discussed expectations at the Knights of Columbus annual right-to-life march Jan. 25 in South Bend.

Obama administration is a private memo that was made public in error. It was a 55-page roadmap posted on the Obama transition Web site. The document was composed by abortion organizations with detailed steps that they hoped Obama would take.

It went into a high degree of specificity including executive orders, legislation and the appointment of named individuals to particular government positions. The first step they urged was the revocation of the Mexico City policy, which Obama did. "Again putting the lie to the argument that President Obama

wants to reduce the number of abortions (as some had argued during the election campaign). ... Making abortions free overseas is not likely to reduce their number."

Obama's appointment of strong abortion advocates to his cabinet or other posts also testify to a determined effort to promote abortion and destructive embryonic stem-cell research.

Professor Snead outlined numerous actions he expected the Obama administration to take to promote abortion. He said that in response pro-lifers can pray, work hard to stop the Freedom of Choice Act, speak up for the right to life in private conversations and work with pro-life senators and representatives, especially Democrats who will be under enormous pressure by the Obama administration.

Marie Connelly, a student of Snead's, urged participants to visit www.catholicvote.com to see the powerful YouTube video that features an ultrasound of a baby it identifies as Barack Obama and to quickly make a minimum \$25 contribution so it can become a Super Bowl commercial. About 90 persons attended the event which was organized by Knights of Columbus Right to Life Committee Chairman Bill Schmitt and emceed by Bob Zielinski. Clergy present at the talk were Holy Cross Father Paul Doyle, Vincentian Father Paul Choorathottiyil and Father Isaac Githinji. Sister Agnes Marie Regan, a Franciscan Sister of Perpetual Adoration, suggested area pro-life organizations sit down together and discuss how they can work together.

Snead's talk was preceded by a march to Saint Joseph Catholic Church where Holy Cross Father John DeRiso presided over a prayer service. He cited Father Basil Moreau, the founder of the Congregation of Holy Cross, as a great example of practicing the virtue of hope in the midst of adversity.

E CATHOLICS TO DEFEND LIFE



Pro-life marchers in the Jan. 25 Knights of Columbus right-to-life rally and march are led by K of C 4th Degree Color Guard.

Attendees of the Knights of Columbus annual right-to-life march Jan. 25 in South Bend enjoy fellowship and food.



PHOTOS BY TOM UEBBING

Indiana legislators plan to take on Planned Parenthood

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — Allen County Right to Life hosted a press conference calling for an investigation of Planned Parenthood of Indiana and defunding Planned Parenthood at the national level on Saturday, Jan. 24, just prior to the Rally for Life at the Scottish Rite Center in downtown Fort Wayne.

The request for an investigation was made by Indiana State Rep. Jackie Walorski (R-Elkhart) in the wake of the release of videotapes revealing the apparent illegal actions of Planned Parenthood employees in Indianapolis and Bloomington. The employees were allegedly caught on tape violating state law by attempting to discourage a young woman, posing as a 13-year-old pregnant girl, from reporting statutory rape.

Walorski has called for a full investigation by the Indiana attorney general and for seizure of all taxpayer funding to Planned Parenthood of Indiana, pending the outcome of the investigation. She is concerned about potential Medicaid fraud involving Planned Parenthood clinics across Indiana, as well as “egregious disregard for our laws that protect minors.”

Planned Parenthood is the largest abortion provider in Indiana.

Walorski said she is “laser-focused” on the issue and further explained her concerns during the Rally for Life, which followed the press conference.

The problem is threefold, she said. Planned Parenthood employees not only discouraged reporting of statutory rape, they overlooked possible child sexual abuse and sidestepped Indiana’s parental consent laws.

At a time when “tax dollars

are at a premium,” said Walorski, Planned Parenthood should be held accountable and possible Medicaid fraud should be investigated.

“This is not a Republican or Democrat issue,” she added, but one focused on protecting girls across Indiana and guarding our precious tax dollars.

On the national level, it was mentioned Rep. Mike Pence (R-6th District) of Indiana and 60 cosponsors recently reintroduced the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act, a bill that would deny any federal funding to Planned Parenthood of America.

Congressman Pence has long been an outspoken advocate for life, saying in a speech from the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives on Jan. 22, “On this dark anniversary, let us rededicate ourselves to protecting the unborn and to protecting taxpayers on matters of conscience.”

Students meet with representative, talk FOCA

BY DIANE FREEBY

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Hoping to take in some of the historic sites at the nation’s capital, high school students eagerly hopped off the bus and made their way over toward the U.S. Capitol Building. They were met by Indiana’s second district Congressman and Marian High School graduate Joe Donnelly (D-2nd). As a member of Democrats for Life, the congressman told the students he was proud of them for coming to Washington for the march. He spent time answering their questions, and assured the group he would be working closely with the Republicans for Life to address life issues.

“There’s no more important issue,” Donnelly said, explaining that while he voted for President Obama, he believes the president is wrong on the issue of abortion.

“The African-American community has lost more than any-

one else to abortion,” continued Donnelly. “The very thing (Obama) championed and created hope about ... our most critical of issues ... he fumbled the ball. Our goal is to build a constant positive vote on these issues so good policies can go forward and bad ones he supports can be stopped.”

Donnelly also answered questions about the Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA), which if passed would radically change the accessibility of abortion in our nation.

“Our number one job is to stop that (FOCA),” said Donnelly, referring to the bipartisan efforts of Democrats and Republicans for Life. “We think we have the numbers to stop FOCA from happening.”

Donnelly took the next hour to personally guide the group from his hometown through the U.S. Capitol Building, showing them where lawmakers debated and where history has been made during the life of our nation.

MARCHERS MARK ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE



TOM UEBBING

Pro-lifers from the Michiana area march in front of the South Bend Federal Courthouse Jan. 22, the date that marks the 36th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, which legalized abortion. Saint Joseph County Right to Life sponsors the hour-long event. An optional sign-up sheet drew 112 signatures. Catholics and Protestants, youths, mothers with babies, college students, including those shown above from Holy Cross College, and Catholic clergy joined the peaceful public witness. Marchers carry signs: “mourning 50 million deaths”; “adoption is the loving option”; “abortion hurts women”; and “abortion kills children.”

Meet those who write for Today's Catholic

FORT WAYNE — Many would be surprised to learn that the editorial staff at Today's Catholic consists of Tim Johnson, editor, and Kay Cozad, news editor and staff writer. Mark Weber, in addition to ad composition, often takes stories and photos for Today's Catholic. And don't be surprised to see Today's Catholic's business manager Kathy Denice, advertising sales executive Tess Steffen or composition department, Web master Francie Hogan toting a camera at a diocesan event. And Director of Communications Vince LaBarbera also writes copy for Today's Catholic. Bringing Today's Catholic into your home, and the stories of the events and happenings taking place across our diocese and the people who bring our faith alive would not be possible without the talents of the following folks that we would like you to meet. Perhaps you will see them with a clipboard, camera and recorder in tow. Here's a bit of background about us:

Tim Johnson, editor of Today's Catholic

I have been editor of Today's Catholic for five years. Prior to that, I was assistant editor for five years. I began my publishing career at the *Ossian Journal*, *Sunrises News* and *News-Banner Publications* in Bluffton where I worked nine years. I'm a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU) with a degree in business and minor in mass communications. I'm a lifelong member of St. Aloysius Parish, Yoder, and a 1984 graduate of Bishop Luers High School. I am married to Rose, who is a second grade teacher and we have a daughter who is a kindergarten at St. Aloysius School. The best thing about working at Today's Catholic is the opportunity to meet and write about the great Catholic people of my home diocese, the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. I am blessed with this opportunity — it is rare in the Catholic press for an editor to serve his native diocese.



Kay Cozad, news editor, staff writer

My writing career with Today's Catholic newspaper began in March of 2004 as a stringer and the following September I came onboard as staff writer. Recently I moved into full-time work as news editor and continue my staff writing position; the best of both worlds.



I come from a teaching background with a master's degree in special education from Purdue University and am also certified in

death and grief studies. My bereavement ministry includes offering my monthly "Hope in the Mourning" grief column in Today's Catholic. I have also authored a book titled "Prayer Book for Widows," published by Our Sunday Visitor.

Though not a native, I have lived in Fort Wayne along with my two daughters, Sara and Emily, and have been a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish for the past 21 years.

Writing for Today's Catholic has been a dream come true for me. I work with a dynamic group of people, and have the opportunity not only to share my faith through my work, but to cover diocesan events and meet and share the stories of intriguing, faith-filled people.

Vince LaBarbera, Director of Communications, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

I have been the communications director for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend since April 2004 and served as associate director beginning in August 1996. Prior to joining the diocese I spent 30 years in the public affairs department of Indiana Michigan Power in Fort Wayne with experience in editing, advertising, information services, special projects, writing and publications. I also spent a summer as an editorial assistant with Our Sunday Visitor, Inc., Huntington. I am a graduate of the University of Notre Dame with a bachelor's degree in communication arts, and I hold a master's degree in journalism and advertising from Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism. A native of Fort Wayne, I received the sacraments of initiation in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and was married there to my wife, Marty, in 1967. Currently, we are members of St. Therese Parish, Fort Wayne. We have four children and three grandchildren.



Mark Weber

At Today's Catholic I am an artist/writer. My qualifications for this position include disappointing report cards in grade school, high school, one college and one university. I finally did okay in a Chicago art school that did not issue report cards.

For 13 years, I was editor of *The Hoosier Knight*, official publication of the Knights of Columbus publication in Indiana. I have honorable discharges from the United States Navy and the United States Air Force. I am a member of St.



John the Baptist Parish in Fort Wayne. As a matter of interest, I have had face to face encounters with Eleanor Roosevelt, Charles Laughton, James Dunne, James Melton, Lauritz Melchior, Helen Traubel and Risë Stevens. My heroes are Ernie Pyle, Jim Bishop, Bishop Noll, Mother Theodore Guérin and St. Edith Stein.

I have been a guest instructor twice at the College of Fine Arts, University of Notre Dame.

Judy Bradford

I am a freelance writer with a special interest in personal faith and religious practice of all kinds. A United Methodist, I have enjoyed working for Today's Catholic because it keeps a dialogue open among Catholic believers, and presents an opportunity for readers to deepen their faith. I have a reporting background, having worked for *The South Bend Tribune* as a news and feature writer for 11 years. I began my career at the *Elyria Chronicle Telegram* in Elyria, Ohio. I am a graduate of Miami University, Ohio, with a degree in English, and a minor in religion. I have also worked as a public relations officer in two nonprofit agencies in South Bend, including the St. Vincent de Paul Society. I currently freelance for *The South Bend Tribune*, Flagship Publications, Bethel College, Ivy Tech Community College and *ND Works*, the faculty and employee newspaper for the University of Notre Dame.



Karen Clifford

I have been freelancing for Today's Catholic since October of 2008. I am a 1977 graduate of the University of Missouri at Rolla, with a double major in English and history. I began writing news articles while I was a lieutenant in the United States Air Force. I have freelanced articles for *The South Bend Tribune*. It has been a privilege for me to share stories about people in the Fort Wayne-South Bend diocese in the articles I have written for Today's Catholic.



Lauren Caggiano

Time flies. It's hard to believe I have been a regular contributor to Today's Catholic for almost three years. My journalism career first began at the University of Dayton, where I pursued degrees



in French and journalism. I further explored the field as the arts and entertainment editor for the student-run newspaper, *Flyer News*. I graduated in May 2007 and returned home to Fort Wayne to pursue a job in my field. And the rest is history as they say. Now as a full-time reporter for the *Greater Fort Wayne Business Weekly*, I cover a wide range of business news in northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio. But outside of the newsroom, I'm a diehard feature writer. I love talking to people about their hopes, dreams and achievements. It's a real high. That's why I enjoy writing for Today's Catholic. From covering a service event at the University of Saint Francis to interviewing a seminarian, I have the pleasure of sharing people's stories with other Catholics. The variety is what motivates me. In my spare time I'm a contributor to both local and national publications. I attend St. Charles Borromeo Parish.

Michelle Castleman

I have been writing CYO sports stories for Today's Catholic for three years. I love working from my home, following the different sports and talking with the coaches. This venture was my first after staying home to raise my family. My husband Mike and I have six children ages 6-15. I am a lifelong member of St. Louis Parish, Besancon, and live in rural Monroeville. I have a finance degree from the University of Dayton and am a Heritage High School graduate. I enjoy photography, volunteering at school, coordinating our SCRIP program and am a member of the Christ Child Society. Just last fall I also began serving three lunch hours per week at Rack & Helen's in downtown New Haven.



Elmer Danch

I began writing for Today's Catholic newspaper when it was known as *Our Sunday Visitor* back in 1942. I believe I'm the oldest reporter the newspaper has, at 95 years old. As a native of South Bend I have known several of the bishops and pastors, and as a reporter for *The South Bend Tribune*, I shared the South Bend Catholic news with Today's Catholic over the years. Currently I enjoy writing Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) sports news for the paper. I was married for 67 years to my wife Angela and we have three children. I'm a member of St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.



Michelle Donaghey

I have been a writer for Today's Catholic for at least five years. I began my freelance writing career in this area working for *The Papers, Inc.* doing features and two local news columns for Nappanee and Bremen in 1986. I freelanced for several years for *The Goshen News*, *The Papers, Inc.*, *Senior Life*, and *The South Bend Tribune*, where in the early '90s, I served as their special sections editor. Currently, I freelance for Today's Catholic as well as *The South Bend Tribune* Community Section, *The Bremen Enquirer* and for Parenting Publications of America, a parenting magazine group. I am a graduate of Munster High School and Purdue University (bachelor's degree in mass communications). I love writing for Today's Catholic not only because of all of the wonderful people I meet and the great events I get to attend, but truth be told, it gives me reason to get out of Bremen every so often. I am grateful everyday for the gift to write and the people I write about.



Bonnie Elberson

I began as a freelance writer for the *News-Sentinel* and Today's Catholic 13 years ago when my husband Terry and I moved to Fort Wayne from Defiance, Ohio, where I had worked as farm editor at the *Defiance Crescent-News*. Though we are members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, writing for Today's Catholic affords me the opportunity to connect in a more personal and meaningful way with the broader Catholic community.



Denise Fedorow

My name is Denise Fedorow, I live in New Paris and I'm a parishioner at St. John the Evangelist Church in Goshen. I've been writing for Today's Catholic since 2002. I've also been a freelance correspondent and columnist for *The Goshen News* since 2001. My column is called "Not That You Asked, But..." I was born and raised in New York and educated in Catholic schools. I graduated from Yonkers High School in 1976 and Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) in 1978. I moved to Indiana in 1978. I have two grown sons.





PROVIDED BY REDEEMER RADIO — CATHOLIC RADIO 1450 AM

Redeemer Radio — Catholic Radio 1450 AM Board Chairman Mike Kelly, right, presents a plaque to outgoing Board President Chris Langford, left, in this photo taken at the station's Jan. 6 Epiphany event, which marked the third anniversary of when Redeemer Radio began broadcasting to the Fort Wayne Community.

The airwaves look bright for Redeemer Radio

Station's new board chairman looks to the future of evangelization

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — As Redeemer Radio — Catholic Radio 1450 AM — WLYV marked its third year in operation, recently appointed Board Chairman Mike Kelly has high hopes for the future of this new media.

Kelly said his interest in this form of evangelization was spurred upon hearing the "Catholic Answers" program on the drive home from work. Kelly noted he had recently returned to the church after a period of inactivity, so the program really spoke to him. Being a self-described "info-radio hound," Kelly said he knew it was a call from God to become involved with the station in some form.

Looking ahead, Kelly said he wants to hold true to the station's goals and mission. First and foremost, it serves to educate and evangelize. Kelly noted that since Vatican II, there has been "a gap" in religious education in youth, and it hopes to change that through the station's programming.

Fortunately, Kelly said he has noticed a rebirth in Catholic apologetics in the past few years, something the station embraces. He sees radio as an "intimate medium," an important tool for evangelization. Despite its intimate nature, the station is far from elite. The signal has the ability to reach 365,000 and 65,000 Catholics. Eight thousand listeners tune in weekly.

"The Holy Spirit works through (the station) in a quiet

way," he said. "I'm a case in point."

Secondly, Kelly hopes to see the station continue to be a unifying force in the Catholic community. He wants to talk to as many listeners as possible to get feedback on how to get the message out better.

But overall, Kelly, a businessman himself, said he wants to adhere to the station's business foundation.

"You have to weigh where God's calling you," he said.

And that means being prudent with the funds so the station can remain fiscally healthy, he said.

Kelly noted the station is about to undergo a strategic plan process next month. This means the 11-board members will analyze the station's strengths and weaknesses so it can function at optimal efficiency.

And the station is not lacking in strong points. Many initiatives, like parish talks, bulletin announcements and share-a-thons are working, and Kelly plans to nurture them.

"You see such a spirit (working) there," Kelly said about the share-a-thons.

Other considerations include streaming live, podcasts and broadcasting more priests' talks.

And if all goes as planned, Redeemer Radio will move to a new location that will triple its current 800-square foot facility at 4705 Illinois Rd., suite 104.

But all of this cannot happen without listener support. The station has a capital campaign planned for March. In the meantime, the station welcomes volunteers for marketing, studio production and office support.

Visit www.redeemerradio.com for monthly updates or call the station at (260) 436-9598.

WHLY Holy Radio: Reaching people and touching hearts

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — If someone had told Dick Peterson 20 years ago that his mission in life would be to assist in bringing Catholic radio to the local airwaves, this retired certified public accountant says he wouldn't have believed it.

Yet that's exactly what Peterson is doing today. Once the chief financial officer for LaSalle Bristol, a full-service supplier to the manufactured housing and recreational vehicle industries, Peterson is now in his third year as general manager for WHLY Holy Radio.

Serving the surrounding South Bend area, WHLY Holy Radio is located at 1580 AM and commonly known as Holy Radio.

Peterson says WHLY Holy Radio is dedicated to the Blessed Mother and has been up and running since Nov. 8, 2006.

"I know we are reaching people and touching people's hearts," says Peterson. "We stream EWTN Radio programming 24/7. We get a lot of positive feedback from listeners, some saying their days just wouldn't be complete without Holy Radio."

Some of the more popular programs include: "The Doctor is In," an afternoon call-in show for advice with a Catholic slant; Daily Mass; "Catholic Connection" with Theresa Tomeo; "Women of Grace" with Johnette Benkovic and the most recent addition, "Son Rise Morning Show" with Brian Patrick. "Son Rise" is a morning drive-time program that can be heard from 7-8 a.m.

While Holy Radio receives no funding other than public support, Peterson himself finds great support in his Catholic faith.

"I was a run-of-the-mill Catholic," explains Peterson, who converted to Catholicism 30 years ago. "My wife, Sue, is a cradle Catholic. She had always wanted to go to Medjugorje, so a few years ago we went. Really, over the last six or seven years my spiritual life has grown. The influence of Medjugorje and also Catholic apologists like Jeff Cavins and Patrick Madrid, along with Dr. John Bergsma at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, have brought me to this point."

At this point, Peterson is guiding WHLY Holy Radio as the station continues to operate on a lease agreement. Holy Radio is operated by the St. Thomas More Foundation, Inc, a 501(c)3 tax exempt charitable foundation, which was founded by Bob Kloska.

"Our mission is to promote a Catholic culture," says Peterson. "and to evangelize the Catholic faith to those seeking God, or to



DIANE FREEBY

Dick Peterson, WHLY Holy Radio general manager is shown holding a photo of Pope Benedict XVI giving his blessing to the radio station.

those who are lost and seeking a path to him."

Peterson is in contact with and has the support of nearly all the Catholic parishes in the WHLY Holy Radio listening area.

"One of the first things I was asked to do as GM was to put a face on the station," explains Peterson. "I went to every parish and made contacts. That was got the ball rolling. Many churches support the radio station by offering WHLY Holy Radio prayer cards, which explain the mission of spreading Catholicism over the radio airwaves."

The prayer cards include a quote from Pope John Paul II, reminding us "faith is strengthened when it is given to others."

Peterson says when the station license transfer application is approved by the Federal Communication Commission (FCC), WHLY Holy Radio will be in a position to personalize the radio programming.

"During the first two years of broadcasting, we have been blessed by the financial support of the community," said Peterson. "We are grateful for all the encouragement and prayers offered for the support of Holy Radio."

It appears WHLY Holy Radio does have the blessings of one well-known Catholic. Holy Radio representative Brenda McDonald met Pope Benedict XVI and presented him with one of the station's prayer cards as he blessed her. Someone snapped a photo of the brief exchange and it can be viewed on the WHLY Holy Radio Web site, www.holyradio.org.

"I have the picture framed," says Peterson. "This is a confirmation of our ministry... the pope is blessing our ministry."

Questions about this gift?

On Feb. 1, 2009 *Today's Catholic* will be sent to the home of every registered Catholic in the Diocese Fort Wayne, South Bend. We are excited and humbled by this increase in circulation; however, we realize there will be several questions. We hope to answer some here:

What if I still have remaining years on my subscription?

Your 2008 subscription will expire with the Jan. 27, 2009 issue.

We realize that some renewed last year for more than one year, if that is the case we would suggest that you treat those prepaid years as a donation to the diocese.

What if I purchased a gift subscription for someone?

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

If the recipient lives outside the diocese 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 all registered Catholics in the Diocese Fort Wayne-South Bend as a gift from Bishop D Arcy.

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

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

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.

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 your local post 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, 260-456-2824 and we will correct your information.

As Bishop John M. D'Arcy wrote in the Jan. 4, 2009 issue, our newspaper is an instrument of evangelization and we ask God's blessing on this new effort.

EDITORIAL

Getting the most from your Today's Catholic

Welcome new readers and welcome back to our longtime readers. Beginning this week, *Today's Catholic* will be gifted to all registered Catholic homes in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend — a new endeavor from our publisher, Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

Obviously, we hope that *Today's Catholic* will be a part of every household's reading material. We want to be your Catholic window to the world: from the Vatican, the United States, the world, to your very own street in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

We want to walk with you as we all integrate our faith into our lives and evangelize our communities.

There are those out there reading who want us to be a more Democratic or a more Republican publication. But we are neither. We are centered on church teaching and the Gospel, and neither political party has or probably ever will fall directly in line with the teaching of the pope or our bishops. But living in these troubled times where society blurs the lines between calling what is good, good, and what is evil, evil — our goal is to help you understand the beauty of the truth of the Catholic faith.

From those who just skim headlines to those who read every story, we ask you to take just a few minutes to search *Today's Catholic* each week and see if you don't find it to have stories, features, commentary that will inspire, clarify a teaching or help you in your faith formation journey, which continues throughout our lives.

The dream of justice denied to the unborn

As the nation celebrated the dream of justice expressed so eloquently by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., and the inauguration of the first African-American President Barack Obama — a truly historic moment in the United States — it is clearly overlooked that the unborn are denied the full justice as other Americans. It has been said many times, the most dangerous place for Americans is the womb.

Just a day after the inauguration, thousands, including a large contingent from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, marched on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., appealing for justice and protection for the unborn under our laws.

The march was held Jan. 22, the 36th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision legalizing abortion. The same day the Supreme Court ruled on the *Roe* case, it also handed down the companion decision *Doe v. Bolton*. Together, *Roe* and *Doe* recognized abortion as a constitutional right and overturned state laws banning the procedure.

And then last Friday, President Obama repealed the Mexico City policy. This repeal, according to a memo sent to *Today's Catholic* from Rep. Dan Burton's (R-Indiana who opposed the repeal) office "... will allow U.S. taxpayer dollars to fund non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that discuss or provide abortions as a method of 'family planning,' as well as support coercive practices like China's 'one child policy' — such organizations have been banned from receiving funding since Jan. 22, 2001."

"President Obama has opened the pipeline for using millions of our taxpayer dollars to support the killing of unborn children and to advance the promotion of abortion on demand," responded Indiana Right to Life President and CEO Mike Fichter.

This indicates the likelihood of fulfilling a pledge by the new president to sign the so-called "Freedom of Choice Act" (FOCA), which would overturn virtually all pro-life laws nationwide. This would divide the nation on a moral issue at a time when the country needs to unite. It is a time to make pleas for justice to government leaders.

The Office of Family Life of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has initiated a postcard campaign to write to our U.S. legislators encouraging them to fight FOCA. Our congressmen and senators need to hear from Catholics in our diocese. Please mail the postcards. The addresses of the senators are provided; but depending on your congressional district, you will need to hand-write the address of your district congressman separately.

Those addresses are:

Rep. Joe Donnelly, 1530 Longworth HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515-1402
Rep. Mark Souder, 2231 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515-1403
Rep. Dan Burton, 2308 Rayburn HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515
Rep. Mike Pence, 1317 Longworth HOB, Washington, D.C. 20515

The Indiana Catholic Conference Web site's Legislative Action Center offers action alerts and can connect readers to their state and federal-level representatives. Visit www.indianacc.org.

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

Include Scripture word puzzle every week

I am a senior citizen who neither reads the movie review nor the sports section for the young. But I do enjoy doing the Scripture word puzzle. Please find room for it. I and other seniors, especially shut-ins, will thank you.

And regarding the letter from Monroeville, I, too, was surprised at this portrayal of the Virgin Mary in this painting until I really looked at it and decided the woman, among the shepherds, had to be a shepherdess or the waitress at the inn.

D. W.
South Bend

Examine CCHD grant process after ACORN troubles

I was so disappointed that I have waited almost two months to write about the article in the Nov. 2, 2008 issue concerning ACORN. I also read the subsequent articles attempting to sanitize this fiasco. Nothing that has been written can do anything but further illustrate the dangers involved in the church allying itself with these various organizations under the "social justice" banner. Many of these tax-exempt organizations serve primarily to enrich the organizers and the attorneys that work for them. The history of government "antipoverty" pro-

grams is also one of corruption and scandal. The agendas of so many of these groups directly conflict with Catholic beliefs and moral values.

What is the point of hiring specialists to determine which account Rathke embezzled the money from? This appears to be throwing good money after bad. The grant process itself should be examined and McCloud and the directors of CCHD should resign or be replaced. They are either naïve or incompetent or both.

The bishops themselves are ultimately responsible for how the money is distributed. We already have the St. Vincent de Paul Society and other Catholic organizations that we should support.

David R. Holmes
Bremen

Paul and the 'last Adam'

We often say, "We're in this together!"

A husband and wife might say this when they're going through a tough patch. And a couple of friends could say this when they vow to help each other meet a challenge. And a family will say this when one of the children gets ill.

Two people are probably the smallest group where this can be said. But it can be affirmed by a larger number of people, too.

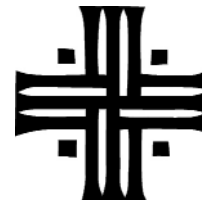
I was in a flood once and the whole city said "we're in this together." And at times of national threats the whole nation can say it. And even the whole world can say it about things like ecological concerns or financial crises.

Paul is saying "we're in this together" in the largest sense possible. When he says it, he means the whole human race, ever. Every human being who has ever lived is in this together because we are all sons of Adam and daughters of Eve (as C.S. Lewis phrases it).

There is a mysterious connection between every human being. The creation account in Genesis affirms this, even if it doesn't explain this. And Paul is referring to that fact when he writes to the Romans (and we read over their shoulder).

The human race has a problem with death, and we're all in this problem together. "Therefore, just as through one person sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all ..." — Rom 5:12.

This sounds like bad news. We



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The Year of St. Paul

all share one human nature, and that nature has been affected by sin, and is subject to death. The point is not so much that we're being punished for something someone else did. Rather the point is that "we're all in this together," and sin affects the whole human race. We are not naturally attached to the Source of Life any more.

But what sounds like bad news can now be seen as good news. Since the Incarnation, the Son of God is in this together with us. He has joined us in our circumstance. He shares our condition. And therefore, what sounded like bad news is the basis for the good news: the Gospel. "For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life ..." — 1 Cor 15:22.

This is why Paul refers to Christ as the "second Adam." It may be even better to say Christ is the "last Adam." We don't mean this in the sense of "last in line," but in the sense of "at last" — at last human nature exists the way it is supposed to exist. At last humanity stands before God the way it is supposed to.

A theologian once said, "Jesus

is what God means when he says 'man', and what man means when he says 'God.'"

Jesus undoes what Adam did. Though Christ was in the form of God, he did not regard equality with God something to be grasped (Phil 2:6). Adam was not in the form of God, but seized on the tempter's empty promise to not need God.

Christ emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, dying on the tree of the cross. Adam elevated himself by eating the fruit of the tree of knowledge. The second Adam undoes what the first Adam snarled up.

Why? Because Christ is in this together with us.

For more information about the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy, which is providing this series on St. Paul, visit www.liturgy.nd.edu.

World issues dominate Vatican hopes

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican has struck a predominantly positive tone as it opens relations with the administration of President Barack Obama, emphasizing hopes for cooperation on issues of peace and social justice.

While registering its disappointment over an early presidential decision to restore funding to programs that offer abortion overseas, the Vatican has avoided pre-emptive battles with Obama over pro-life and family issues.

Pope Benedict XVI sent an Inauguration Day telegram congratulating the new president and supporting Obama's resolve to "promote understanding, cooperation and peace among the nations."

The Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, compared the swearing-in of the first African-American president to the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 and said it ushered in a new era of expectation and participation.

But beyond these optimistic

public declarations, what are the Vatican's top concerns at the start of the Obama term? What are its highest hopes and its deepest worries?

In interviews over recent weeks, Vatican officials said their expectations were highest on international questions of war and peace — most specifically, the Israeli-Palestinian war, which a Vatican official once termed "the mother of all conflicts."

What is expected of the Obama administration, they said, is a decisive initiative to restart the peace process and move it toward a definitive solution, not a one-shot attempt but a "consistent commitment" to lead Israelis and Palestinians to the realization that a settlement is in their own best interests.

Vatican diplomats were disappointed at the Bush administration's peace-promoting efforts in the Holy Land. They said those efforts came late and that the most promising initiative — the peace

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

conference in Annapolis, Md., in late 2007 — was not followed up with diplomatic pressure.

While no one expects Obama to alter the United States' fundamental support for Israel, Vatican officials said the new president begins his term with a certain amount of trust and sympathy among Arabs. That could be important, they said, because Arabs need to feel they have a world leader who takes their situation to heart.

All this could help change the

LETTER, PAGE 16

God's promised fulfilled in Jesus



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mk 1:21-28

The Book of Deuteronomy furnishes the first reading for this weekend. Deuteronomy appears in modern Bibles as the fifth book in sequence in the Old Testament. It is one of the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament, all of them attributed to Moses.

In this reading, Moses addresses the Chosen People, whom he has led, with God's help, from Egypt where they were enslaved. He promises that God will send prophets, with whom the people can relate. If anyone presumes to take the role of prophet upon himself or herself, without having been called by God, then this impostor will die.

God will take care of his people.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians is the source of the second reading. From the earliest days of Christianity, virginity has been treasured. Christians have never been forbidden to marry, although all Christians are bound to be chaste, according to their state in life. However, over the centuries, Christians have chosen lifelong virginity for religious reasons.

Corinth in the first century A.D. was a city notorious for its out-

geous immorality. It was a busy commercial center. Visitors often availed themselves of the pleasures of the flesh provided in Corinth. Indeed, Aphrodite, the goddess of love and carnal desire, was the city's special deity.

Paul sees virginity as a powerful Christian witness, and from a more pragmatic point of view, he thinks that Christians not obligated by marriage and parenthood can devote their whole time to God's service.

Mark's Gospel is the source of the third reading. Luke's Gospel contains an almost exact parallel story. Matthew treats this event only glancingly.

Judaism has never required weekly attendance by Jews at synagogue services. However, going to synagogue to pray together, and to learn the teachings of the Torah, is definitely a high value for Jews during the time of Jesus, as indeed it is even among Jews today.

That Jesus went to the synagogue, and on the Sabbath at that, reveals how seriously the Lord took the Law of Moses.

As Jesus speaks, the people spellbound at the knowledge of things relating to God spoken by Jesus, a man "with an unclean spirit" appears. It is important to note here that this man recognizes Jesus as the "holy one of God." Furthermore, the man believes that Jesus has the power to do anything. The climax of the story is when Jesus orders the unclean spirit to leave the man, and the unclean spirit obeys.

Again, the people are amazed. The message, however, is not in their amazement, but that Jesus could command this unclean spirit and be obeyed, and that the man, albeit harboring this evil spirit, recognizes Jesus as the son of God. No devil can overcome the power of God.

Reflection

Thanks be to God, few people today would say that they, or great numbers of people, are "possessed by the devil," although the church still teaches that such possessions occur.

However, all people have "unclean spirits" within them. All sin, and sin is the mark of the devil's involvement to some extent at least in any person's spiritual life.

People can be aware of their sins, and indeed usually they are aware of how and when they turn away from God and harm themselves or others. For many, this realization produces a sense of guilt, or the cynical hunch that virtue is impossible for them to attain.

For them, these readings are especially comforting and encouraging. God will never leave us. Such was the promise of Moses. This promise was perfectly fulfilled in Jesus, with God's own power to put away any unclean spirit. He can strengthen our resolve to be holy, even to be holy in the most radical way.

READINGS

Sunday: Dt 18:15-20 Ps 95:1-2, 6-9 1 Cor 7:32-35 Mk 1:21-28

Monday: Mal 3:1-4 Ps 24:7-10 Heb 2:14-18 Lk 2:22-40

Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4 Ps 22:26-28, 30-32 Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15 Ps 103:1-2, 13-14 17-18a Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24 Ps 48:2-4, 9-11 Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Heb 13:1-8 Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8-9 Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21 Ps 23:1-6 Mk 6:30-34

CATEQUIZEM

by Dominic Camplisson

In honor of St. Blasé this quiz sticks it neck out.

1. Psalm 66 refers to victors placing their feet on the defeated as a sign of absolute victory. We know this was an ancient custom because it is depicted in a relief of this Pharaoh:

- a. Herod b. Tutankhamen c. Anastasia

2. In which book of the Old Testament do we learn how the prophet Hananiah took the yoke from the neck of the prophet Jeremiah?

- a. Jeremiah, of course b. 1 Kings c. Micah

3. In the book of Daniel the king promises that whoever can do this will be exalted and have a golden collar about his neck, and be third in the government of the kingdom:

- a. Interpret the King's dream about skinny cows and fat cows
b. Read the writing on the wall
c. Read the king's fortune in the gizzard of a slain bird

4. The Song of Songs makes many references to body parts of the beloved. The neck is compared to

- a. a duck's gizzard
b. a tower of ivory
c. a pencil of lead

5. Sirach has a lot of advice for parents; one tidbit says to do this to sons:

- a. Upbraid them, wring their necks
b. Tattoo signs of Yahweh on their necks
c. Chastise them; bend their necks from childhood.

6. Sirach also advises that the reader, "Put your feet into her fetters, and your neck under her yoke." To what does "her" refer?

- a. discipline b. love c. faith

7. Proverbs advises the faithful to keep these (literally bind them) around your neck

- a. wealth and power
b. strangeness and charm
c. kindness and fidelity

8. In Exodus God tells Moses that these are a stiff-necked people:

- a. The Hyksos b. The Israelites c. The Canaanites

9. Judges tells how after Gideon killed Zebah and Zalmunna he took crescents (ornaments), which they had on the necks of these:

- a. camels b. bottles c. slaves

10. In another verse the Song of Songs refers to the beloved neck

- a. full of veins and arteries
b. like a turkey's
c. (lovely) in jewels

11. In Psalm 69, the writer calls for help because these have reached his neck:

- a. The waters b. Wolves c. The Assyrians

12. Psalm 105 recounts how this man had an inauspicious start in Egypt "his neck colored in iron" yet rose to be a great leader:

- a. Moses b. Joseph c. Potiphar

13. Maccabees relates how under the Hellenizers woman who had their sons circumcised were killed

- a. by hanging from the neck.
b. by having their neck cut.
c. with the babies hung from their necks.

14. According to Matthew's Gospel, Jesus said it would better for a person to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea, than to

- a. eat pork.
b. cause a child to sin.
c. become wealthy.

15. In Acts, who, as the first martyr, reminded the people that they were a "... stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears..."

- a. Stephen b. Paul c. Peter

ANSWERS:

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

Church considers herself the guardians of the culture of the ages

I have been asked why the Vatican has such a large holding of money and expensive art when the money could be used to help those around the world in great need. AC, Fort Wayne

The investment holdings of the Vatican have been estimated at \$140 million (this figure is from a *Time* magazine report). That may sound like a lot, but it's really not if you consider that the endowment of Harvard University alone as of last January was \$34 billion. These monetary holdings of the Vatican are used basically to run the day-to-day operations of the church, especially the work of the Holy Father and all his offices, which are essential to the mission of the worldwide spread of the Gospel and the care of the people in the church. The Vatican's monetary holdings are actually very modest.

Concerning the artwork and so forth, indeed the Vatican maintains enormously valuable holdings, but the church considers herself the guardians of the culture of the ages. The art holdings are a record of the development and achievements of humanity. If the church

did not maintain these things, most likely they would, over time, be lost, and with them, many of the great achievements of humans.

Why is that so important? As St. Irenaeus of Lyon put it, "The glory of God is man fully alive." To keep and celebrate these great artistic achievements of humans is to praise God and to remind us humans of the great dignity to which each of us are called by God. These artistic holdings really are another way that the church preaches the Gospel. On a practical level, many millions of people have passed through the halls of the Vatican museums, viewing the art (most of which is sacred art), and many were inspired no doubt to lift their minds and hearts to God. Isn't this what the church is to be about also?

Now concerning the poor, in no way of course does the church neglect the poor. The Catholic Church is the largest provider of charitable activity in the world today, and, through the centuries, she has helped the poor and needy more than any other organization. She has built hospitals, universities, soup kitchens and the list goes

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

on and on. The question really is not: should we help the poor or should we keep all these holdings? It is not a matter of either/or but of both/and. The church uses her assets for the spread of the Gospel, for the proclamation of the glory of God and for assistance to the poor and needy.

I have not been to Mass in a while. What do I need to do before attending Mass again? Will a priest talk with me if I do not attend his parish at the present time? Anonymous

Very simply, find a priest that you can speak with about your situation. All priests would be happy to help you. If through speaking with him you are ready to return to the faithful practice of attending Mass,

you would simply need to go to confession and be reconciled to the Lord. If there are other sins that need to be repented of, especially serious sins, this would be done in this moment also. Then you would be free to return to the practice of attending Mass and receiving holy Communion. The Lord waits for you with open arms.

My Christian friends tell me that Catholics are taught a watered down version of the Bible. What can I say to them? Anonymous

First, you would have to under-

stand what she means by that. Catholics use the same Bible as every other Christian except that there are seven more books in the Catholic Old Testament than in Protestant Bibles. Martin Luther and those who followed him were the ones who decided to take those books out of the Bible. So if one could say anything it is that it was the non-Catholics who watered down the Bible.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for February 1, 2009

Mark 1:21-28

Following is a word search based on the Gospel for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: Jesus in his hometown synagogue on the Sabbath. Words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

CAPERNAUM	ENTERED	SYNAGOGUE
TAUGHT	TEACHING	SCRIBES
SPIRIT	WITH US	JESUS
NAZARETH	DESTROY	I KNOW
HOLY ONE	COME OUT	LOUD
COMMANDS	OBEY HIM	FAME
SPREAD	REGION	GALILEE

THE TEACHER

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

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In praise of George W. Bush

The following is best appreciated if read aloud in the best Irish accent you can manage:

Paddy, the local scoundrel, was dead. The entire population of the village where he spent a lifetime making others miserable attended the funeral Mass — some, doubtless, to make sure he was really gone. Knowing the congregation's sentiments, the wise old pastor said to his people, before the final commendation, "Now, dear brother and sisters, before we commit our brother to the sod, it would be an act of charity if one of you were to come forward and say a good word about 'im.'" No one moved. "Come, now, brothers and sisters," the pastor pleaded, "surely there's someone who can say a good word for the man." Total silence. "My dear people, I'll be tellin' the sacristan to lock the door in a minute, and not a one of you's goin' to leave this church until someone comes forward to say a good word for this departed brother." Finally, an ancient villager got up, shuffled to the side of the casket, turned his back to the pastor, and said in a clear voice, "I think his brother was even worse."

As he leaves office, George W. Bush could be forgiven for feeling like Paddy, were he a man given to self-pity. Happily, he isn't. And it's emphatically not in the spirit of, "Well, James J. Buchanan and Herbert Hoover were even worse" that I should like to praise President Bush at the end of his two terms.

For what, you ask? For many things that ought to count for Catholics.

I should like to praise him for his steadfast support of the pro-life

cause, domestically and internationally. Thanks to President Bush, we have two more Supreme Court justices who likely know that *Roe v. Wade* was terrible constitutional judging, and dozens more federal district court and appellate court judges with similar convictions.

Thanks to President Bush, the U.S. government drew an important moral line in stem-cell research, even as the administration accelerated bioethically sound research strategies that have produced real results.

Internationally, the Bush administration stood firm against the Gadarene rush to use international law to declare abortion an international human right and a necessary component of the emancipation of women; as one senior Vatican official put it to me, a year ago, "We know we're never going to have another American administration as supportive of our core issues as the Bush administration has been."

I should like to praise the president for his work to rid Africa of the plagues of AIDS and malaria and to relieve the suffering of those afflicted with those awful diseases. George W. Bush may be an object of ridicule in certain U.S. zip codes; he is the subject of veneration among those in the "bottom billion," whose lives his policies have saved or enhanced.

I should like to thank the president for offering Pope Benedict XVI such a warm welcome on the South Lawn of the White House on April 15, 2008 — a welcome that ought to have put paid, once and for all, to the notion that there is something incompatible between robust Catholic faith and



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

a mature gratitude for the political miracle of American democracy.

I should like to thank President Bush for his personal decency, manifest in his (unpublicized) personal attention to our wounded and to the families of the fallen; in his refusal to become bitter in the face of outrageous slander; and in his calm amidst tribulations that most of us can't imagine. I should like to thank him for his unapologetic confession of Christian faith, and for his testimony to the importance that prayer plays in his life. And I should like to thank him for not giving a hoot about the mockery that such a witness draws from a secularized mass media, from cretins like Michael Moore, and from Euro-secularist snobs who spent eight years sneering at the evangelical cowboy in the White House while their continent was dying from spiritual boredom.

Thank you, Mr. President.

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

LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

dynamic of tension and mistrust throughout the Middle East, they said. Already, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's recent statement that the new administration would move quickly to diplomatically engage Syria and Iran was seen as a wise move by the Vatican.

The Vatican always was uncomfortable with the Bush administration's self-proclaimed "war on terrorism," even though officials gave qualified support to U.S. military action against terrorist enclaves in Afghanistan in 2001. Vatican sources said the hope is that the anti-terrorism effort under Obama will be carried out with two principles in mind: first, respect for legal rights, i.e., a rejection of torture; and, second, attention to the underlying causes of terrorism, including injustice and political frustration.

On pro-life issues, Vatican officials said they hoped Obama, who is seen as an intelligent politician, would not pick unnecessary fights with the church. Although it was expected, the Vatican reacted quickly to the president's executive order Jan. 23 to remove a ban on federal aid to programs that promote or perform abortion overseas.

"A very disappointing decision," read the headline in the Vatican newspaper, quoting from a reaction statement from U.S. bishops.

Archbishop Rino Fisichella, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, told an Italian newspaper that "if this is one of President Obama's first acts, I have to say, with all respect, that we're a short step away from disappointment."

Archbishop Fisichella noted the massive participation in the Jan. 22 March for Life in Washington. If Obama's response is to extend the right of abortion, he said, that seems to contradict the president's own remarks about defending human dignity. "But we shall see," he added.

Sports

Fox's faith foundation for athletic prowess

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

DAYTON, Ohio — What was once a boyhood pipe dream is now a reality. Dan Fox, a 20-year-old junior at the University of Dayton (UD) is a member of the nationally-ranked Flyers basketball team.

Fox's spiritual and athletic lives began in Wolcottville in LaGrange county where he grew up. As a parishioner of St. Joseph Parish in LaGrange and student at Lakeland High School, the basketball star was a member of the church youth group. Fox said he has many fond memories of mission trips that were formative in his faith life.

Like his Catholic faith, it can be said that basketball has been in his blood since birth.

"The day I was born, my uncle (who played basketball) came to see me," he recalled. "As long as I can remember I've been playing basketball."

It was no surprise when Fox joined Lakeland's team and excelled in the sport. Four years passed and soon it was time to look towards his college career. Fox said he knew he wanted to attend a school not too far away in a medium-sized city, with a small-to medium-sized student body and Division 1 sports.

Fox noted that a twist in fate led him to the University of Dayton. A good friend had his sight set on Butler University. In fact the two were planning on being roommates. Fox was "dead set" on the Indianapolis school until another friend suggested he consider a visit.

"I fell in love with it," he said about UD's campus.

Later, attending an NCAA tournament at UD's arena sealed the deal for him. It was then he realized he wanted to go to Dayton.

Fox joined the UD basketball team in 2006 as a "walk on," meaning he was not recruited prior to his attendance. And this is a privilege he does not take lightly.

"There's a sense of being a part of something bigger than yourself," he said about his enthusiasm for the team. "You get to see the rewards and everything that comes from it."

Playing in the UD arena before a crowd of 12,000 or 13,000 people a night is especially exhilarating for someone who comes from a small town.

But this superstar experience can be rather humbling as well.

On top of classes and other commitments, the Flyers are bound to a six-day-a-week practice schedule.

That's where Fox's faith life comes in. He admits that it wasn't an easy adjustment freshman year, yet he knew something bigger than himself was always there.

"My faith has shaped me and helped me get through these three years," he said. "In hard times, I sit down and reflect. ... I know God's gonna help me through it ... he does everything for a reason."

Looking back, the Athletes in Action program has been instrumental in the formation of his faith life at UD. The national program, a ministry of Campus Crusade for Christ, was founded in 1966 by David Hannah, who desired to build on society's great love of sports and utilize the platform given to the athletes to reach the world for Jesus Christ. The University of Dayton has a chapter with several UD basketball players among its members.

Fox recalled a pivotal moment in his collegiate faith life: a meeting with UD's director of AIA. It was through these encounters that Fox discovered resources to strengthen his spiritual life and gain a new perspective.

"He met with me and we'd go over (Bible) verses and stories," he said. "I could look back at those (tough) times and see how God was there to help me get through them."

And it's amazing what people can do when they overcome challenges.

Fox recalled a heartwarming story that has stuck with him to this day. As a boy, he idolized the University of North Carolina's Michael Jordan. Several years later, as a collegiate player himself, it was surreal when he had the opportunity to play in the same arena.

Looking to the future, Fox said he hopes to play basketball overseas. In the meantime, he's content leading the life of a normal 20 year old. When he finds the time, he enjoys going to the mall, movies and hanging out with teammates.

To read more about Dan and his basketball career, see the UD Basketball Web site: daytonflyers.cstv.com/sports/m-baskbl/mtt/fox_dan00.html.

17 COUGARS EARN ALL-MSFA ACADEMIC TEAM SELECTION The Mid-States Football Association has released its 2008 All-Academic Team and 17 members of the University of Saint Francis football team have earned selection. USF led all MSFA members with the 17 selections out of 104 players earning selection. "We're very pleased to learn that 17 members of our football team have also shown exceptional attention to academics," USF coach Kevin Donley said. "You have to have intelligent players to succeed on the field, and it is an important element of our success through the 11 seasons we've had a football program at the University of Saint Francis."

Gator hosts take CYO hoops action

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) hoops action heated up on another cold January Saturday morning at St. Aloysius, Yoder. In the showdown against St. Therese, the host Gators won both the boys' and girls' games.

Bud Sorg's ladies from St. Aloysius increased their conference record to 4-0 claiming the Blue League title with the "W" on Jan. 24.

However, leading just 17-16 going into the fourth quarter, Coach Sorg summarized, "Linda Luegring's team came ready to play."

At St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth boys and girls played St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne. The Eagle girls best-

ed St. Joe-St. Elizabeth, while it was the Panther boys who squeaked by in a one-point victory. The home team Squires girls and boys both were victorious over Queen of Angels.

Although they are still looking for a win, Queen of Angels coaches Dean Fowler and Dean Ross agreed that their Lady Royals are having a lot of fun this season. Ross determined that the girls are not all that concerned with wins or losses. With several girls playing basketball for the first time, and many of the team in other sports, head Coach Fowler explains, "We struggle some with fundamentals, but we are good outside the perimeter. And most importantly, these girls never give up."

The Royals are a combined seventh- and eighth-grade team and list nine on their roster. Bill

Kartholl is also an assistant coach this season.

Boys

St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, 48; Queen of Angels, 23 — Knapke 27, Simpson 8

St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth, 41; St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, 40 — Volz 15, Starks 9

St. Aloysius, 31; St. Therese, 27 — Thiele 8, Burrows 11

Girls

St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, 51; Queen of Angels, 11 — Beckman 12, McFann, Fowler 4

St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth, 29; St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne, 44 — Whitman, Andrews 17

St. Aloysius, 31; St. Therese, 19 — Sterrett 10, Heli 7

Two ICCL games head into overtimes

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — The Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) will wind up its 65th successive season this weekend by crowning four division champions.

The unbeaten St. Joseph Wildcats of Mishawaka have the best overall record. They and Christ the King are the favored bets for division titles. Other champions will be decided on overall records.

And the Wildcats' winning streak was carried on with the varsity team Jan. 25 as St. Joseph beat Mishawaka rival Queen of Peace, 49-22. St. Joseph was led by Michael Whitfield with 21 points and Noah Deitchley with 13 points.

In a thrilling double overtime, St. Anthony scraped by St. Joseph, South Bend, 38-37. St. Anthony was paced by Aaron Povivilko with 10 points. Frankie Karczewski had 12 points for the St. Joseph's team.

It took an overtime and Connor Edmonds' tossing of 13 points for Christ the King to edge out Holy Family, 33-31. Dillon Hensley of Holy Family had 14 points.

St. Pius X, Granger, defeated St. Monica, Mishawaka, 39-33, despite the efforts of St. Monica's Neal Eakins tossing in 16 points and teammate Patrick Hunsberger adding 12 more points.

St. Matthew beat St. Thomas of Elkhart, 25-20. Frank Iavaganilio paced St. Thomas with 12 points.

Our Lady of Hungary beat St. Michael of Plymouth, 38-30, with the help of Dominique Sanders scoring 16 points for the winners. Davis Payne scored 16

points for St. Michael. Led by the 20-point scoring barrage of Ray Kowalski, Corpus Christi defeated Holy Cross, 40-25. St. Jude defeated St. John the Baptist, 29-14.



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WRITERS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

I enjoy writing for *Today's Catholic* for several reasons, including getting the word out about all the wonderful things happening in our diocese. It is so inspiring to hear and write about the faith walk of others and an honor to share those stories. It's taken many years for me to realize that my ability to write is a talent and a gift and I feel that writing for *Today's Catholic* is a form of thanksgiving for that gift that I feel so blessed to be able to share.

Diane Freeby

I have enjoyed freelance writing for *Today's Catholic* for three years. My husband Chuck and I have six children. With our youngest child now in first grade, I am able to spend a little more time writing while working around our family's schedule. I also am a production assistant for MaryTV, a lay apostolate devoted to sharing Our Lady's messages of peace and prayer through broadcast communications. I am a 1984 graduate of Carmel High School for Girls in Mundelein, Ill. In 1988, I earned a



degree in mass communications from Saint Mary's College, Notre Dame. Our family has attended Corpus Christi Parish in South Bend for 18 years, with five children attending school there and the oldest now at Saint Joseph's High School. The best thing about working for *Today's Catholic* is the opportunity to meet so many area Catholics and share their stories with our community.

Joe Kozinski,

I have been a stringer for *Today's Catholic* since 2005, primarily with St. Joseph County as my area of responsibility. My contributions include the annual spring and fall sports issues detailing the upcoming Inter-City Catholic League, Marian High School and Saint Joseph's High School athletic campaigns. My focus has included many youth activities in and out of the local schools as well as celebrations of faith designed to be inclusive of our youngest parishioners. While serving in the United States Marine Corps, I was on staff at *The Camp LeJeune Globe*, *The Fleet Hometown News Center* and the Thomas Jefferson Award winning *Okinawan Marine*. I am currently on the boys basketball staff at Saint Joseph's High School and am the fall event coordinator at Marian High School. I am also the boys basketball director for the ICCL. With my family of Sabrina, Kenneth and Tyrus, we are members of St. Pius X Parish in Granger. Simply put, I write and

coach because I can't sing in the choir.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC

I am a member of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. I began writing the Cutting Edge column for young adults in 2000. In 2002, the former editor, Bill Cone, asked me to serve as a freelance reporter. Currently I work at Saint Mary's, Notre Dame, as a writer/editor for the communications department of my congregation. The thing I like best about my work with *Today's Catholic* is the opportunity to share my reflections with others.



Jodi Magallanes

I am employed full-time for *The Elkhart Truth* newspaper, having found my way back into journalism several times since high school. I have also written for *El Noticiero* Spanish-language newspaper, 'the PAPER' in Milford, the *Indianapolis News* during college and founded the first Spanish-language newspaper in northern Indiana in 1992. My bachelor's degree is in international relations and Spanish from IUPUI. I am



also a former DRE and Spanish teacher, am bilingual and cover some of the Spanish-language and Hispanic community events in the diocese. My husband Ubaldo, son Nicolás and daughter Annabelle complete the Magallanes family. We live in Goshen and attend St. John the Evangelist Parish.

Jennifer Ochstein

I have been a freelance writer for three years and writing for *Today's Catholic* just as long. I'm also an adjunct writing professor at Bethel College. Before venturing out on my own, I worked as a staff writer for *The South Bend Tribune* for eight years and graduated from Ball State University with a degree in journalism in 1997. Currently, I'm working on my master's degree in English studies and communication at Valparaiso University and plan to graduate in 2010. What I enjoy most about writing for *Today's Catholic* is meeting people who are committed to their ideals and their faith in God.



Tom Uebbing

I have been a parishioner at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, for 28 years. Writing is an avocation for



me — my primary career has been in sales. Following graduation from Notre Dame in modern languages, I did some freelance writing for the local South Bend newspaper. I also wrote some copy for an ad agency, articles for a Christian magazine and for a newsletter for a missionary outreach. I have written a number of letters and articles to the local paper in support of the pro-life and pro-marriage causes. Writing for *Today's Catholic* is way to use my talents to serve the church.

Deb Wagner

"For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened." Matthew 7:8



I told Tim Johnson, longtime friend and high school classmate during a chance meeting in 2004, to let me know if he ever needed any writers and my journey as a stringer began shortly thereafter. I have always enjoyed writing and was able to develop my writing skills through Catholic education. By writing for *Today's Catholic*, I am able to use a gift given to me by God and to learn about events within our diocese. I currently belong to Most Precious Blood Parish in Fort Wayne where I also serve as proclaimer of the word and eucharistic minister.

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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.

DEVOTIONS

First Saturday devotions of reparation
First Saturday devotions will be held Feb. 7, at the following locations: in Fort Wayne, St. Joseph, 7:15 a.m.; St. Charles, 8 a.m.; Sacred Heart, 7:30 a.m.; in Arcola, St. Patrick's 7:15 a.m.; in Garrett, St. Joseph, 9 a.m.; in New Haven, St. Louis Besancon, 8:10 a.m.; St. John, 6:55 a.m. Call (260) 749-9396 to have your listing added.

A day of prayer for women
South Bend — The Rosary Sodality of St. Catherine of Sienna Parish will host Jim Murphy for a day of prayer and reflection on Saturday, Feb. 7, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at St. Francis Convent on Dragoon Trail. Murphy will speak to the call for holiness in our lives and how the Blessed Mother is our

companion on our journey. Cost is \$20. Call Mary Huszar at (574) 291-8021 to make a reservation.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father David Voors, pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish, Decatur, will celebrate the holy hour for vocations at MacDougal Chapel Tuesday, Feb. 3, at 7:15 p.m.

Christ Child Society offers day of prayer and reflection
South Bend — Christ Child members will have a day of prayer and reflection on Wednesday, Feb. 4, at Sacred Heart Parish Center on Douglas Road. Father Kevin Bauman of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Elkhart, will speak. Gathering and coffee will be at 9:30 a.m. with reflection at 10 a.m. Mass

at 11 a.m. will be followed by lunch and reflection and benediction at 1 p.m. Cost is \$17.00. Please send reservations to Linda Brammer, 3002 Miami St., South Bend, IN 46614. Make checks payable to Christ Child Society.

Young adults host Theology on Tap
South Bend — The St. Pius X young adults group will host a Theology on Tap series open to all young adults in their 20s and 30s Tuesday nights at Brigid's Irish Pub (Waterford Estates Lodge) 52890 State Rd. 933, at 7 p.m. Dates and speakers are: Feb. 3, "Sacrifice" with Professor Robert Kloska, director of Campus Ministry at Holy Cross College; Feb. 10, "Lent: Narrowing the Gap Between Spiritual and Religious" with Father William Schooler, pastor of St. Pius X; Feb. 17,

REST IN PEACE

Bristol Karsyn Joann Bell, 4, St. Mary of the Annunciation	Mishawaka Ann M. Seward, 94, St. Monica	Clara H. Lupa, 90, Christ the King
Decatur Darlene A. Stauffer, 59, St. Mary of the Assumption	Notre Dame Daniel E. Martin, 81, Basilica of the Sacred Heart	Rita A. Kruszewski, 79, St. Casimir
Fort Wayne Carmela Burke, 77, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception	South Bend Louis J. Cohen, 79, Christ the King	Mary Ann Prister, 80, St. Matthew Cathedral
Granger Larry A. Dunlap, 81, St. Pius X	Mary E. Lair, 80, Little Flower	Charles L. Singleton, 70, St. Catherine of Sienna
	Kenneth Butterbaugh, 80, Little Flower	Warsaw Georgina Herrera, 46, Our Lady of Guadalupe
	Harry S. Kowalski, 85, Holy Family	

"Reconciliation: An Encounter with the Lord" with Father Tom Florek, SJ, from the ICLM and the Notre Dame community; Feb. 24, Fat Tuesday celebration. Contact Sean Allen at sallen3@nd.edu or (858) 354-9006.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Chicken dinner planned
South Bend — The St. Hedwig Holy Name and Rosary Societies will have a chicken dinner buffet on Sunday, Feb. 8, from noon to 2 p.m. Tickets are \$10 for adults and carry-outs, children 12 and under free. Advanced sale only by Feb. 3 to (574) 287-4821, (574) 287-5534 or at the parish rectory.

Catholic networking offered
Fort Wayne — The Catholic Business network will have a Mass followed by a meeting Friday, Feb. 6 at 6:30 p.m. at St. John Church, 4500 Fairfield Ave. Bring your business cards. For more information visit www.thecatholicbusinessnetwork.com.

Knights plan fish fry
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 6, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under. Fish, two sides and beverage are included.

Knights plan fish fry
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 6, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$7.50, children (5-12) \$3. Chicken strips for \$7.50 and shrimp for \$8.50 will be available.

St. Louis Besancon School plans square dance
New Haven — St. Louis Academy will have a square dance Wednesday, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m. Music by Bill Werling and Breakaway. Tickets are \$10 per person and include two drink tickets. A silent auction will be offered and end at 10:30 p.m. All

proceeds benefit St. Louis Academy.

Bishop Luers hosts Luers Spirit at Casa
Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School and Casa D'Angelo will present Luers Spirit at Casa, 3402 Fairfield Ave., on Sunday, Feb. 1. Seatings will begin at 12:30 p.m. with the last seating at 4 p.m. Adults \$7.50 includes Casaburo salad, bread, cheese-cake, soft drinks, coffee or tea and choice of three entrees. Children 10 and under are \$4. A cash bar will be available. Tickets may be purchased by calling Kathy Skelly at Bishop Luers (260) 456-1261, Pat Landon at (260) 747-6110, or Molly Denning at (260) 409-4132.

Fish and tenderloin dinner
New Haven — St. Louis Besancon Parish will have a fish and tenderloin dinner Friday, Feb. 20, from 4-7 p.m. in Besancon Hall. Adults \$8, children 6-11 \$4.50 and children 5 and under free. Carry-out available.

Scouts offer fish dinner
Fort Wayne — The St. Vincent de Paul Boy Scouts will have a fish dinner Friday, Feb. 20, March 6 and March 27, from 5-8 p.m. at the St. Vincent School cafeteria. Adults \$7.50, children 6-11 \$3.

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

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 \$12 per person in advance or \$15 at the door. School tuition raffle tickets also available for \$50 each. Winner announced at silent auction. (Need not be present to win.)



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TV Mass schedule for February

2009	Feast Day	Fort Wayne 10:30 a.m. WISE-TV, Ch. 33	South Bend 10:30 a.m. WNDU-TV, Ch. 16
Feb. 1	Fourth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Father Bruce Piechocki St. Francis Xavier Pierceton	Father Neil Wack, CSC Christ the King South Bend Airs at 6 a.m.
Feb. 8	Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Father Tony Steinacker St. Charles Borromeo Fort Wayne	Father Brian Daley, SJ St. Bavo Mishawaka
Feb. 15	Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time	Father Robert D'Souza St. Jude Fort Wayne	Father Tom McNally, CSC Our Lady of Fatima House Notre Dame
Feb. 22	Seventh Sunday of Ordinary Time	Father Jason Freiburger St. Vincent de Paul Fort Wayne	Father Terry Fisher St. Joseph Mishawaka

MARCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The Everetts, who had teenage daughters travel by bus with the group from Saint Joseph's and Marian High Schools, also marched with their three younger children like so many other families in attendance.

The bus from Saint Joseph's and Marian included several youth groups from Elkhart's St. Thomas and St. Vincent de Paul parishes, along with a youth group from South Bend's St. Adalbert Parish. Fort Wayne Dwenger High School also had a group come by bus, joining the other two diocesan busses organized by Allen County Right to Life. Students from Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College also joined in the diocesan contingent.

Many of the high school students said it was important to make the trip, despite the hardships of traveling overnight and trying to sleep on a bus. Many of the students also spent a few hours sleeping on gym floors the night before the march. The trip was definitely a pilgrimage and not a vacation.

"I think it's two things," explained Bishop D'Arcy. "One, it's a pilgrimage of prayer. At Mass last night at the (National) Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, several thousand young people gathered in prayer — and another 25,000 for Mass and the rosary today at the

Verizon Center. So it's prayer and penance. Pope John Paul II said that as Christ faced evil by prayer and penance, so should we."

Despite the busy schedule and lack of sleep, young people were energetic and enthusiastic about participating in the march.

"I was blown away by the huge numbers, especially for the Mass," exclaimed Marian junior Katie Garcia. "I thought it was neat how everyone stood up for what they believed in even when it wasn't convenient or pleasant."

The group from Saint Joseph's and Marian high schools packed a lot of action and prayer into their pilgrimage to Washington, D.C. With a bus filled to capacity, 46 students and 10 adults left South Bend around 8:30 Tuesday evening. Driving all through the night, the group arrived in Washington, D.C., around 9 a.m. the following morning.

Hoping to take in some of the historic sites at our nation's capital, the students eagerly hopped off the bus and made their way over toward the U.S. Capitol Building. They were met by Indiana's second district congressman and Marian High School graduate Joe Donnelly.

Trying to stay on schedule, the group hustled over to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. They secured the last few rows of available seats four hours before Mass was to begin in the largest Catholic church in all of North America. The students used that time to read and pray, while taking time to tour the basilica.

Bishop D'Arcy was one of the



DIANE FREEBY

Saint Joseph's High School juniors Angela Watkins, Rachel Kilbury, Eileen Murphy, Donny MacDonell, Liz Everett and Rylee Magee are shown gathered in front of the U.S. Capitol Building.

over 400 Catholic clergy who concelebrated the vigil Mass for Life, taking part in a magnificent processional that took nearly 30 minutes. Prior to Mass, Bishop D'Arcy visited with the young people waiting patiently in the pews, thanking them for their prayerful and enthusiastic participation in what would be a two-and-a-half-hour Mass led by Cardinal Justin Rigali, Archbishop of Philadelphia and Chairman for the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities.

"Something that struck me from the homilist was when he said Christ has already won the victory for us, and it's still

unfolding," reflected Saint Joseph's junior Donny MacDonell. "The battle's already won, and we just have to do his will and his work... we have hope and believe in that."

Arriving at the host high school late, and tired and hungry, the group was met by hundreds of other students and piles of empty pizza boxes. Another challenge for the pilgrims, chaperones managed to order a few extra pieces of pizza before sending the students off for a few hours of sleep.

Everyone packed up by 6 a.m. the next morning, headed to the Verizon Center where they would participate in the Youth Rally and Mass along with over 25,000 other Catholics. Musician Matt Maher was among those who led the crowd in prayer, while people took advantage of the opportunity for confession and the rosary before Mass.

Bishop D'Arcy was among the hundreds of priests and bishops who heard confessions in the makeshift confessionals set up in the Verizon Center's main restaurant and bar. A group of energetic nuns helped usher the seemingly unending line of penitents in and out of confession. The graces were not lost on the high school students.

"It was a total feeling of unity," exclaimed Saint Joseph's junior Rylee Magee after returning from confession. "beyond a need for cleansing of the soul. It really energized me."

As the crowd spilled out into the streets to begin the March for Life, the hundreds from the Fort

Wayne-South Bend diocese gathered together with Bishop D'Arcy in a show of unity, holding signs and marching near the diocesan banner.

"We're speaking up for the people who can't speak for themselves yet," said Marian High School freshman Stephanie VanOverbergh. "It's been amazing, and I didn't mind the hardships."

The slow-moving march took supporters up Constitution Avenue and to the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court where people gathered to reflect on the day, noting the words etched in the building's looming façade, "Equal Justice Under Law."

As they made the long trip back home a few hours later, students and adults alike expressed thoughts on the pilgrimage.

St. Joseph junior Elizabeth Everett shared a meeting she and her friends had with an older woman during the march, and how they talked with her about the intrinsic evil of abortion.

"I think it really showed the main problem in this debate is people just think it's a matter of opinion, when they need to believe it's a matter of fact," said Everett. "It showed that that belief is still in this country and the young people know."

"Every one of you on this bus is a leader," added Father Glenn Kohrman, pastor of St. Mary of the Lake Parish, Culver. "You can hopefully take this message back lovingly and kindly, because you have the truth on your side, to share this and help other people understand this more deeply."

Today's Catholic

BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB

This month's featured selection:

"Eve: A Novel of the First Woman" by Elissa Elliott

Reviewed by Kay Cozad

This month's Book-of-the-Month Club selection is "Eve: A Novel of the First Woman," by Elissa Elliott. The 421-page tome is the story of the life of Adam and Eve following their expulsion from the Garden of Eden.

"Eve" is written in first person and each chapter is told through the eyes of either Eve herself and one of her three daughters, Naava, Aya or Dara. The story begins with Eve's vivid and emotional account of finding her son Abel's lifeless body after his murder at the hands of his older brother Cain and takes the reader back through the reality of the summer's events that led to his death.

The chapters are laid out with the current narrator's perception of life as it unfolds outside the garden of Eden, laced with both biblically and historically account-able events that draws the reader into the heart of the first family. At times it is difficult to distinguish when the text is current or describing a memory, however, it is well worth the time to uncover the treasure of this first-time author's imagination.

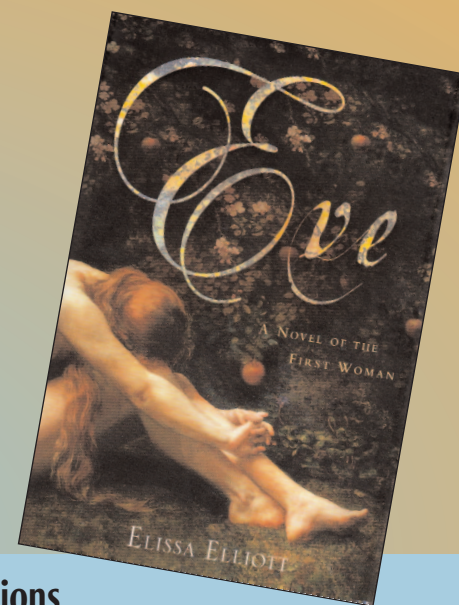
Elliott takes her reader through the everyday joys and sorrows of Adam and Eve in piecemeal fashion. As events and memories are described by the four female voices the pieces of the narrative begin to fit together to offer a compellingly fertile account of the biblical story of creation as told in Genesis. As each character's strug-

gle develops, the human condition is easy to identify and relate to — Eve's struggle to find God in everyday life again, Naava's selfish vanity, Aya's disability and need to be healed and young Dara's innocence and malleability. The emotional responses to the difficult and dangerous life outside the garden, along with some curious subplots may stir moral and theological queries in the reader.

Though Elliott takes literary license to produce this fictional tale, she explains in the afterward that the book was inspired by the Genesis account and Mesopotamian history, and written after much research. Her own faith questions play out in this colorful tome and nurtures a curiosity for more of the story.

The saga is an easy read though lengthy, but holds the reader's attention with sheer determination. Elliott's exquisite description of God's creation of man and woman, their thoughts, fears, questions and responses whet the reader's appetite to return to the Bible and read the creation account in Genesis with new eyes. Her version of the story of creation provides food for thought for biblical and everyday faith questions any reader may have.

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



Questions for discussion

- During Eve's conversation with Lucifer about feelings on page 110 she says, "I think it's ... choices... that Elohim is more concerned with. Elohim is forever talking about how a good choice is one that puts him first." What does her statement mean to you? How does it impact how you live your life as a faithful Christian?

- Eve's need to live in the lost paradise of the garden inhibits her openness to the future. What events of the past, whether joyous or painful, stop you from experiencing God's presence in your life? How can you find God in the present moment? In your hope for the future?

- Cain and Naava were swayed by the riches of the people in the city and chose to worship idols. Have you ever found yourself tempted to "follow the crowd?" Explain.