



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Students encouraged to dedicate lives to God

I do

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South Bend area all-schools Mass draws 5,000 Catholic students

BY JUDY BRADFORD

NOTRE DAME — "How does our faith grow?" The question was put to 5,000 area Catholic school children last week at the annual all-schools Mass, held in the Joyce Center at the University of Notre Dame.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy, who celebrated the Mass with parish priests, called several students up to the podium for their answers.

"Through the Eucharist," said Ryan Rompola, an eighth grader from St. Joseph School, South Bend.

"Through reconciliation," answered Tony Mohacsek, an eighth grader from St. John the Baptist.

"Through instruction," replied Allison Whitesel, a sixth grader from St. John School.

"By fulfilling the Ten Commandments," said Lauren Sera, an eighth grader from St. John's.

"Through holy orders," said Miles Romans, a sixth grader, also from St. John's.

All of them were right, but that last one really rang a bell with the bishop, who then called up several religious who have dedicated their lives to God.

At the podium, the bishop interviewed Christ the King Catholic Church Holy Cross Deacon Charles McCoy, who is preparing to take his vows in April to become a Holy Cross priest.

Deacon McCoy, who has advanced college degrees in math, said the study of the subject has brought him closer to God.

"We can study things that are abstract and often intangible. Believing in God is the same way," said Deacon McCoy. "The search for truth in all subjects is

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JUDY BRADFORD

Trent Abbiehl, a Christ the King eighth grader and Amanda Brown, a St. John the Baptist seventh grader, carry food baskets that were laid at the base of the altar area and donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society for distribution to the poor at the South Bend area all-schools Mass on Feb. 4.

TELLING OUR FAITH STORY

"I came back to the Catholic Church after a 30-year absence. After four years in the seminary, I was disillusioned. For a mysterious reason, I was pulled back to the church but was also being pulled away. I won my struggle and am honoring the values my parents taught me."



Louis Wangler, Elkhart

'Sing to the Lord: Music in Worship' examined, discussed

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

WARSAW — Music directors and ministers from across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend gathered Saturday at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Warsaw for Liturgy Day 2009. The event was sponsored by the diocesan Office of Divine Worship.

The subject for discussion was a document released last year by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, "Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship," which examines and clarifies the evolving role of music in today's Catholic liturgy.

Presenter for the day was Paul French,

music composer and director of the William Ferris Chorale and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Chicago. French won acclaim recently when his arrangement of "Holy God We Praise Thy Name" was selected to be used during Pope Benedict XVI's entrance procession at the April 17, 2008 papal Mass in Washington, D.C.

"God is present with us when we sing," said French. Music is a sign of God's love for us and our love for him. It is a gift from God to be used in praising him and a powerful expression of our faith. The document affirms his belief when it says, "Of all the

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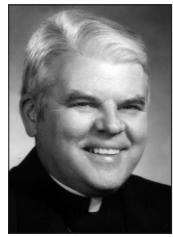
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and a variety of reflections on life in the
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Parishes should be a clearing- house to assist the unemployed



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Every day a new story

It seems that no day goes by that one does not hear a personal story that relates to the deep economic downturn, which is engulfing our nation. Our diocese has not been left out. We are told in the press that the unemployment rate in Elkhart County is 15.3 percent. Elkhart, as we all know, is an industrial city, and the large component of the unemployment is in manufactured homes, and also the so-called leisure vehicles or RV's (recreational vehicles). Employment there is always cyclical, but I do not ever remember it being this severe. Indeed, Father Bill Sullivan, the deeply engaged and much beloved pastor of St. Thomas, Elkhart, tells me that he believes it is closer to 20 percent.

There is also double-digit unemployment in Kosciusko County and LaGrange County.

Some of our Hispanic Catholics are returning to Mexico and other Central American countries. Almost every day, I receive a note, or letter, or meet someone who is suddenly unemployed, or whose employment has been reduced to part-time.

What is to be done

In such a situation, the parish has a special obligation, and so does each individual. Across the country, parishes are coming together to see what must be done. Some parishes are establishing food pantries. Other parishes are strengthening the activities of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

I shall be consulting our pastors to see what new efforts should be employed.

Certainly, every parish should reach out in prayer, both liturgically and individually.

But, we must do more. There is a possibility of using the parish as a clearinghouse — a place where the unemployed can come together for prayer, conversation and communion, and also for exchanging news about new employment possibilities.

Many parishes have food pantries; and these can be expanded, and established in new parishes.

I hope to consult our priests to see what more should be done, and also the director of Catholic Charities, St. Vincent de Paul Society, Christ Child Society and other Catholic agencies.

The parish is especially well positioned to be a place of consultation, prayer and assistance.

One thing is certain: we cannot stand

idly by without reaching out to those in need. It is an obligation that comes to us from the Scriptures and more recently, from "Deus Caritas Est," of Pope Benedict XVI.

A visit to Our Lady of Guadalupe

It is always special to turn onto Route 15 in Warsaw, and see standing up on the side of the hill the beautiful Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. It is only a few years old, and is packed every Sunday morning with our beloved Hispanic Catholics. It would have never have been built without the generosity of the diocese and the Legacy of Faith Campaign, and also Jerry and Savina Kralis and their family. Jerry lived to see the groundbreaking, and his family saw the dedication. They donated the land — provided the only condition we build a church for our Hispanic Catholics.

We need to make it more and more a shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, a place visited by other parishes throughout the diocese. It is already becoming a place for meetings, and there was a special one this week.

What a joy to enter and see the church nearly filled with music directors and directors of liturgy from all over the diocese. How wonderful, also, to hear them singing

tion, a time of collages, and lack of emphasis on the content of our faith — on the great Catholic tradition of faith seeking understanding. Through the catechetical renewal led by Pope John Paul II in the publishing of the Catechism of the Catholic Church in 1992, the international and national directories, and more recently, the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults, a full-fledged renewal of catechism is well begun.

A similar journey has taken place in liturgical music. We began singing about ourselves and singing poorly. The beautiful presentation by Paul French, which was based on the recent document of the Conference of Catholic bishops on this question, presented to us the richness of Catholic music. Here again, we have a long way to go, but the meeting at the beautiful Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Warsaw was certainly a good beginning. It was a special joy to hear at the end of the program, the musicians from all over the diocese singing a beautiful Gregorian chant in Latin. I told them that I was hearing music, which was the spiritual nourishment of my youth.

Paul French made clear the music at Mass must never be a performance. It draws people toward God and the words, which are often the inspired words of Scripture, must be heard and savored. We have a long road to go in this area, but this day represented a fresh beginning. Many thanks to Brian MacMichael, a graduate of the theology department at Notre Dame — and to his staff.

34 years

On Feb. 11, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, I will be a bishop for 34 years. February, indeed, is a special month: the month of my ordination as a priest and a bishop, and also the month, when in God's plan, I was assigned to this diocese 24 years ago. I was able this week to set aside a few days of prayer to give thanks to God for so much.

A wonderful visit this week with Father Bernie Galic and his finance council of Holy Family Parish. A few years ago, they had a great debt on their hands, a significant part from the building of their beautiful church. Working closely with the diocese, much progress has been made, and it was a joy, along with Joe Ryan — our chief financial officer, to visit with Father Bernie and his financial advisors and hear this good news.

Alas, the pitchers and catchers report this week. How wonderful. The crack of the bat will be heard again in the land — and the celebrated student umpire has returned to St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend.

I look forward to seeing you all next week.

The parish is
especially well positioned
to be a place of consultation,
prayer and assistance.

the "Missa de Angelis." Professor Paul French — a distinguished musician, who is director of the choir in Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Chicago, was giving a day sponsored by our Office of Worship. So many beautiful things were mentioned. Paul is a highly respected composer whose arrangement of "Holy God We Praise Thy Name" was chosen for Pope Benedict's entrance procession at the Papal Mass in Washington, D.C. He led his listeners through the liturgical document of the bishops, "Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship."

Music at Mass should be beautiful. The singing should not be about ourselves, but about the mystery, which we are celebrating. Those who are responsible for the ministry of music should see it as a mission and a ministry. They are calling us to prayer, or rather, God calls us to prayer; and the leaders of music help us to pray well. In my remarks, I compared what happened to catechesis, religious instruction, after the Second Vatican Council. We went into a kind of a dark time, with very little focus on content. A time of oversimplifica-

Bishop celebrates Latin Mass in Fort Wayne

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — Bishop John M. D'Arcy was celebrant last Sunday at Sacred Heart Church in southeast Fort Wayne on the special occasion of his annual visit to offer that parish's Latin Mass. His pleasure on seeing a full house of parishioners and guests was evident as he exclaimed, "It gives me great joy to offer this Eucharist with all of you."

The Latin Mass is not new to Fort Wayne. Now known as the extraordinary form of the Roman Missal, the Latin Mass has been celebrated at Sacred Heart with the permission of Bishop D'Arcy since 1990, in response to Pope John Paul II's "Ecclesia Dei" asking bishops worldwide to be generous in allowing the faithful who prefer the Latin rite to have access to it.

At first, the Latin Mass was offered two Sundays a month with then-pastor Father James Seculoff the celebrant. Then, as it gained popularity and support that first year, Bishop D'Arcy gave permission for its celebration each Sunday and holy day. For more than a decade other priests from the diocese helped out as well, including Fathers William Hodde, Daniel Leeuw, Adam Schmidt and Paul Miller.

But as it became obvious that the older priests who had learned the Latin Mass as seminarians would no longer be able to carry on the tradition, Bishop D'Arcy turned to the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter (FSSP) in Denton, Neb., which specializes in the Latin Mass, for help. That order responded by sending Father George Gabet, a Fort Wayne



BRIAN EICHMAN

Bishop John M. D'Arcy elevates the Eucharist during the extraordinary form of the Roman Missal Latin Mass in Fort Wayne's Sacred Heart Church on Feb. 8. Bishop D'Arcy is assisted by Father Daniel Leeuw and Father George Gabet, a priest from the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter.

native and graduate of Bishop Dwenger High School, back home to meet the need for a Latin-speaking priest in the city. Father Gabet had been ordained by Bishop D'Arcy at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in 1997 and was ready to take up work in his home diocese.

Upon Father Gabet's arrival last March, the bishop established the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Latin Mass Community at Sacred Heart and named the young priest as its chaplain. He reaffirmed that decision Sunday by expressing his gratitude to FSSP for assigning Father Gabet and "making it possible for those who treasure this extraordinary form" of the Mass to worship there each week.

Father Gabet has always been a strong proponent of the extraordinary rite and notes that vocations have flourished since it was first introduced at the parish. In

addition to himself, three other young men from Sacred Heart have entered religious training during that time. Benedictine Brother Paul Reust has already taken his vows and John Shannon and Gregory Eichman are currently studying at Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary in Nebraska.

Father Gabet continues to see his current role as "leading the people towards God." Perhaps other vocations will follow.

Bishop D'Arcy recently stated the importance of his role as annual celebrant of the Latin Mass. "It is imperative that those who worship through this liturgy be united with their bishop and ... the diocesan community." He concluded his remarks Sunday by saying once again, "I give thanks for the privilege and joy of celebrating the holy Eucharist with you."

National pro-life postcard campaign called more important than ever

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With tens of millions of postcards already distributed to Catholic schools and parishes, non-Catholic churches and civic organizations, the campaign to convince Congress not to reverse current pro-life policies or make abortion a right is more important than ever, according to a pro-life official.

"To guard against the erosion of current pro-life measures — and to keep abortion from becoming a federal entitlement — our voice is needed now more than ever," said Deirdre A. McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications at the U.S. bishops' Office of Pro-Life Activities, in a Feb. 4 statement.

"The massive campaign under way shows clearly that, regardless of how they voted, Catholics want to send a strong message to Congress to protect existing pro-

life policies and to oppose the radical promotion of abortion," she added. "As the cards start flooding in, the new Congress will see that they should not divide our nation with policies that offend the pro-life values of the majority of Americans."

The national postcard campaign, launched Jan. 24-25 and expected to continue until mid-February, asks members of Congress to oppose any measures similar to the Freedom of Choice Act, which "would overturn many existing widely supported policies, including laws protecting parental involvement and conscience rights and those preventing partial-birth abortion and taxpayer funding of abortion."

The majority of U.S. dioceses are participating in the postcard campaign, according to a Feb. 4 news release from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"The current campaign is unprecedented and is expected to exceed any sponsored by the Catholic bishops in the past," the release said.

Through its partner organization, the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, the USCCB has been sponsoring national postcard campaigns related to various pro-life causes since 1993.

The original campaign, held at the start of President Bill Clinton's first term in office, also targeted the Freedom of Choice Act.

"While FOCA would accomplish the abortion promotion agenda all at once, other bills could realize the same agenda in a piecemeal fashion," McQuade said.

"For example, widely supported pro-life measures in appropria-

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Confirmation schedule Spring 2009

Date	Time	Parish	Bishop
2-07	5 p.m.	St. Therese, Fort Wayne	D'Arcy
2-15	1:30 p.m.	Holy Cross, South Bend St. Stanislaus, South Bend (at Holy Cross)	D'Arcy
4-13	7 p.m.	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Fort Wayne	D'Arcy
4-14	6:30 p.m.	St. Joseph, Fort Wayne	D'Arcy
4-15	7:30 p.m.	St. John the Baptist, Fort Wayne	D'Arcy
4-19	2:30 p.m.	St. Pius X, Granger	D'Arcy
4-21	6:30 p.m.	St. Joseph, Mishawaka St. Bavo, Mishawaka St. Monica, Mishawaka (at St. Joseph)	D'Arcy
4-22	7 p.m.	St. Mother Theodore Guerin, at Sacred Heart, Fort Wayne	D'Arcy
4-23	7 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul, Fort Wayne	D'Arcy
4-25	10 a.m.	St. Mary of the Lake, Culver	D'Arcy
4-26	1:30 p.m.	St. Charles Borromeo, Fort Wayne	D'Arcy
4-28	7 p.m.	St. John the Baptist, New Haven	D'Arcy
4-29	7 p.m.	Ss. Peter and Paul, Huntington St. Mary, Huntington (at St. Mary's)	D'Arcy
4-30	7 p.m.	St. Thomas the Apostle, Elkhart	D'Arcy
5-01	7 p.m.	St. Jude, Fort Wayne	D'Arcy
5-02	7 p.m.	St. Catherine of Siena, South Bend	Houck
5-02	5 p.m.	St. Paul of the Cross, Columbia City	D'Arcy
5-03	11:45 a.m.	Campus Ministeries of University of Notre Dame Saint Mary's College Holy Cross College (at Sacred Heart Basilica, Notre Dame)	Houck
5-04	7 p.m.	St. Adalbert, South Bend St. Casimir, South Bend (at St. Adalbert)	Houck
5-05	7 p.m.	Holy Family, South Bend Corpus Christi, South Bend (at Holy Family)	Houck
5-06	7 p.m.	St. Matthew Cathedral St. Stanislaus, New Carlisle St. Patrick, South Bend St. Hedwig, South Bend (at St. Matthew)	D'Arcy
5-06	7 p.m.	St. Vincent de Paul, Elkhart	(Pending) Houck
5-07	7 p.m.	St. Michael, Plymouth	Houck
5-08	7 p.m.	St. Joseph, South Bend Sacred Heart, Notre Dame (at St. Joseph)	D'Arcy
5-08	7 p.m.	St. Mary of the Annunciation, Bristol	Houck
5-09	5:30 p.m.	Little Flower, South Bend	D'Arcy
5-09	5 p.m.	St. Martin de Porres, Syracuse	Houck
5-09	7 p.m.	Immaculate Conception, Kendallville St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla (at Immaculate Conception)	Mengeling
5-10	11:30 a.m.	St. Patrick, Arcola	Mengeling
5-10	2 p.m.	Combined confirmation for: Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception St. Joseph, Bluffton St. John Bosco, Churubusco Immaculate Conception, Ege St. Mary, Fort Wayne St. Peter, Fort Wayne St. Joseph, Garrett St. Catherine, Nix Settlement St. Robert Bellarmine, North Manchester St. Joseph, Roanoke St. Bernard, Wabash (at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne)	D'Arcy
5-11	7 p.m.	Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne	Mengeling
5-12	7 p.m.	Sacred Heart, Warsaw St. Francis Xavier (at Sacred Heart)	Mengeling
5-13	7 p.m.	St. Anthony of Padua, Angola	Mengeling
5-14	7 p.m.	St. Aloysius, Yoder	Mengeling
5-14	7 p.m.	Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne	D'Arcy
5-15	7 p.m.	St. Louis Besancon, New Haven St. Rose of Lima, Monroeville (at St. Louis)	Mengeling
5-18	7 p.m.	Christ the King, South Bend	D'Arcy
5-21	7 p.m.	St. Mary of the Assumption, Decatur	D'Arcy
5-24	2 p.m.	Combined at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Blessed Sacrament, Albion Immaculate Conception, Auburn St. Patrick, Ligonier St. Patrick, Fort Wayne	D'Arcy
5-27	7 p.m.	Queen of Peace, Mishawaka	D'Arcy
5-30	5 p.m.	St. Dominic, Bremen	D'Arcy
5-31	11 a.m.	Adult Confirmation St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend	D'Arcy
6-07	11:30 a.m.	Adult Confirmation Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception	D'Arcy
06-12	6:30 p.m.	St. John the Evangelist, Goshen	D'Arcy
06-14	11 a.m.	St. Patrick, Walkerton	D'Arcy

Obama orders faith-based office reworked, scope expanded

BY PATRICIA ZAPOR

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President Barack Obama created by executive order Feb. 5 a White House Office of Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, which will expand upon and rework the Bush administration's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

The office's top priority, according to the White House release, will be "making community groups an integral part of our economic recovery and poverty a burden fewer have to bear when recovery is complete."

It also will focus on reducing demand for abortions, encouraging fathers to stand by their families and working with the National Security Council to "foster interfaith dialogue with leaders and scholars around the world."

In the same order, Obama created a new President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, comprised of 25 leaders of religious and community organizations, including Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, and Arturo Chavez, president of the Mexican American Catholic College in San Antonio, formerly known as the Mexican American Cultural Center.

The council will advise the White House and federal agencies on a range of topics, from hiring policies for private agencies that accept federal funds to how national security issues are affected by religious beliefs.

The president also named as head of the office Joshua Dubois, who ran Obama's religious out-



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF MEXICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

Arturo Chavez, president of the Mexican American Catholic College in San Antonio, is pictured in a 2007 photo. U.S. President Barack Obama has created a new President's Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships, comprised of 25 leaders of religious and community organizations, including Chavez.

reach efforts during the campaign; he served on Obama's Senate staff in a similar capacity.

Dubois, 26, is a graduate of Boston University and Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs who at 18 began serving as an associate pastor at a Pentecostal church in Cambridge, Mass.

At the National Prayer Breakfast earlier the same day, Obama said the goal of the office "will not be to favor one religious group over another — or even religious groups over secular

groups. It will simply be to work on behalf of those organizations that want to work on behalf of our communities, and to do so without blurring the line that our founders wisely drew between church and state."

He said such work is important because "few are closer to what's happening on our streets and in our neighborhoods than these organizations. People trust them. Communities rely on them. And we will help them."

The president said the advisory council would be used to help "foster a more productive and peaceful dialogue on faith. I don't expect divisions to disappear overnight, nor do I believe that long-held views and conflicts will suddenly vanish.

"But I do believe that if we can talk to one another openly and honestly, then perhaps old rifts will start to mend and new partnerships will begin to emerge," he said. "In a world that grows smaller by the day, perhaps we can begin to crowd out the destructive forces of zealotry and make room for the healing power of understanding."

Chavez told Catholic News Service that his background in community organizing before he joined the Mexican American Cultural Center was a factor in his invitation to join the advisory committee.

As he waited for a flight back to San Antonio after the private ceremony where the executive order was signed, Chavez said the council priority closest to his heart would be helping poor youths and young adults.

"We need to reach young people with meaningful access to education and jobs," he said.

Even assistance as basic as

helping parents more effectively maneuver the educational system can make a dramatic difference in communities like those where he worked as an organizer, he said.

Father Snyder, also reached by CNS on his way to the airport after the White House event, commented on the mandate for the faith-based office to work with the National Security Council to foster interfaith dialogue. He said it is an acknowledgment that better understanding of the religious motivations of the players in global problems "can only increase our national security."

He said in meeting with the first 15 people named to the council Feb. 5, Obama laid out his philosophies about the faith community's role in the work of government.

Father Snyder said that in the Bush administration's approach to faith-based programs "what we had was an ally, an advocate" in easing the path for organizations such as Catholic Charities to work with the federal government.

Regarding Obama's approach, he said that "by establishing this council it seems to bring it to the next level," where advice and guidance from people with expertise in working with the poor, for example, are being actively sought by the administration.

The new council's structure and ways it will function were still being worked out, said Father Snyder. The executive order calls for it to have a total of 25 members who will serve one-year terms, which can be renewed.

Father Snyder said the one-year term is because Obama wants to keep fresh voices on the

council. Members were told to expect the first meeting to take place in about three months and that they would meet about four times a year, he said.

The first 15 members represent a wide range of religions and political philosophies.

Besides Chavez and Father Snyder, they include: Judith N. Vredenburg, president and CEO, Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America, Philadelphia; Rabbi David N. Saperstein, director and counsel, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, Washington; Frank S. Page, president emeritus, Southern Baptist Convention, Taylor, S.C.; the Rev. Otis Moss Jr., pastor emeritus, Olivet Institutional Baptist Church, Cleveland; Eboo S. Patel, founder and executive director, Interfaith Youth Corps of Chicago; and Fred Davie, president, New York-based Public/Private Ventures, a secular organization that works on policies and programs to help low-income communities.

The 15 also include: William J. Shaw, president, National Baptist Convention, USA, Philadelphia; Melissa Rogers, director, Wake Forest School of Divinity Center for Religion and Public Affairs, Winston-Salem, N.C.; the Rev. Joel C. Hunter, senior pastor, Northland community, Lakeland, Fla.; the Rev. Jim Wallis, president and executive director of Sojourners, Washington; Bishop Vashti M. McKenzie, presiding bishop of the African Methodist Episcopal Church's 13th district, Knoxville, Tenn.; Diane Baillargeon, president and CEO, New York-based Seedco, a secular organization that helps low-income communities; and Richard Stearns, president, World Vision, Bellevue, Wash.

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FOCA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

tions bills are already at risk, including the long-standing Hyde amendment, which has prohibited the use of taxpayer funds for most abortions, and the Hyde/Weldon amendment preventing government discrimination against health

care providers who do not perform or refer for abortions," she added.

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, expressed similar concerns in a Feb. 5 letter urging members of Congress to retain pro-life provisions in the appropriations bills they must approve to keep the government funded past March 5.

"While an extreme proposal like FOCA would overturn hundreds of pro-life laws at once, we are equally concerned that such laws may be overturned one at a time during Congress' appropriations process," he wrote.

Among the specific provisions he cited were:

- The Hyde amendment to the bill funding the departments of Labor and Health and Human Services, as well as parallel provisions barring taxpayer funding of abortions in military hospitals, federal employees' health benefits, foreign assistance and other circumstances.
- The Dickey/Wicker amendment to the Labor/HHS appropria-

tions bill, which bars federal funding of research involving the creation or destruction of human embryos or harm to them.

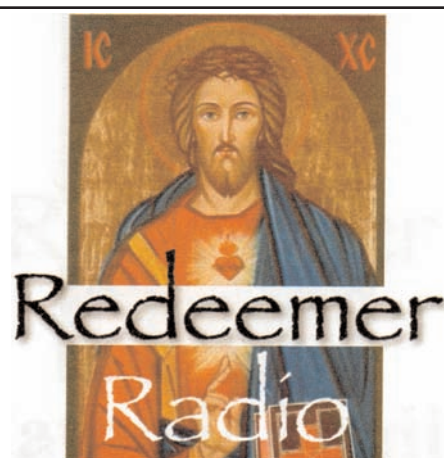
- The Hyde/Weldon amendment guaranteeing the conscience rights of physicians and nurses who choose not to participate in abortions and hospitals that do not offer them.

- The Kemp/Kasten amendment to the State/Foreign Operations appropriations bill, which prohibits U.S. funding of organizations that promote coercive abortion or involuntary sterilization overseas.

"At a time when more Americans than ever may require life-affirming assistance from the government for their basic needs, efforts to force Americans to subsidize the denial and destruction of life would be especially tragic," Cardinal Rigali wrote.

"Such efforts would radically divide our nation and increase distrust of Congress among millions of Americans, at a time when we need to unite in solidarity to serve the urgent needs of all," he added.

FOCA has not yet been introduced in the 111th Congress.



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News that founder fathered child causes Legionaries pain

BY CINDY WOODEN

ROME (CNS) — The Legionaries of Christ only recently found out that their founder had fathered a child, knowledge that has caused the members great suffering, but has not destroyed the gratitude they owe him, said a spokesman for the religious order.

Father Paolo Scarafoni, spokesman at the Legionaries' headquarters in Rome, told Catholic News Service Feb. 4 that, despite the failures and flaws of the late Father Marcial Maciel Degollado, members of the order are grateful to him for having founded the order and its various ministries.

"We found this out only recently," Father Scarafoni said, referring to the fact that Father Maciel had a daughter.

Asked how the Legionaries came to know about her, Father Scarafoni said, "Frankly, I cannot say and it is not opportune to discuss this further, also because there are people involved" who deserve privacy.

In the past, Father Maciel had been accused of sexually abusing young seminarians in the order, accusations that Father Scarafoni said "have never been proven definitively."

Because the Holy See decided against conducting a canonical trial to investigate the allegations, but rather ordered the then-elderly Father Maciel to withdraw to a life of prayer and penance in May 2006, "we do not know what allegations were made and examined at that time," Father Scarafoni said.

Father Maciel died Jan. 30, 2008, at the age of 87.

The pain the Legionaries are experiencing now "is so great precisely because this is something we did not know before," Father Scarafoni said.

However, he said, "We are serene. Certainly, it is a time of great trial for us and in the face of this there is great suffering."

Father Scarafoni had told the Mexican news agency Notimex that the Legionaries were living through "a process of purification."

He told CNS, "When you are faced with such great pain, it means that you must grow, you must be better, you must be purified spiritually because you must continue to move forward motivated by even higher ideals. This is especially true when you are faced with the unexpected."

At the same time, he said, "there is much gratitude. Our gratitude to him remains very strong because we have received so much that is good from him. This is something we cannot and will not deny."

The priest said the Legionaries of Christ and the lay members of Regnum Christi are dealing with the news "as a family. With prudence and charity we are inform-



CNS PHOTO/CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Father Marcial Maciel Degollado, right, is pictured celebrating Mass in this undated file photo. The Mexican priest who founded the Legionaries of Christ died Jan. 30, 2008 in the United States. He was 87.

phone interview from Chicago.

Despite the unsettling news, Fair said, the order will continue its ministries.

Father Maciel lived the last years of his life under a Vatican order not to practice his priestly ministry in public.

The accusations that Father Maciel sexually abused seminarians first became public in 1997 in a report in *The Hartford (Conn.) Courant* daily newspaper. In a letter to the paper, Father Maciel denied the allegations, saying "In all cases they are defamations and falsities with no foundation whatsoever."

Father Maciel founded the Legionaries of Christ in his native Mexico in 1941. Father Scarafoni said the Legionaries have 3,250 male members, of whom 850 are priests; about 1,000 consecrated women; and about 60,000 members of Regnum Christi, the lay branch.

ing our members and trying to help each other overcome this situation. What is important is not to renounce the great mission that we have."

"The priority is the life and the holiness of each of our members," he said.

Father Alvaro Corcuera, director general of the Legionaries and Regnum Christi, acknowledged that the order is "living a time of pain and suffering."

In an undated letter to the 65,000 predominantly lay members of Regnum Christi, Father Corcuera did not specifically identify the actions of the Legionaries' founder, but wrote that "these things that have hurt and surprised us — and I don't believe we can explain with our reason alone — have already been judged by God."

"It is true that we are going through much suffering and a great deal of pain. As in a family, these pains draw us together and lead us to suffer and rejoice as one body. This circumstance we are living invites us to look at everything with much faith, humility and charity. Thus we place it in the hands of God, who teaches us the way of infinite mercy," the letter said.

A spokesman for the Legionaries of Christ in the United States acknowledged that some aspects of Father Maciel's life "were not appropriate for a Catholic priest."

"We have learned some things about our founder's life that are surprising and hard to understand," Jim Fair, the order's U.S. spokesman, said Feb. 4 in a prepared statement.

Fair declined further comment on the activities of Father Maciel, saying only that Father Maciel now "stands before God's judgment and mercy."

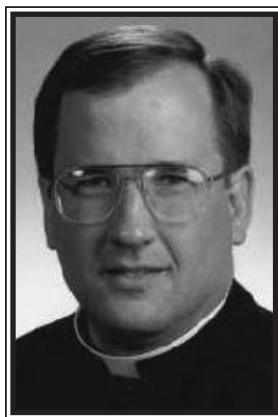
Fair denied rumors that the Legionaries would renounce Father Maciel, saying he will always be considered the order's founder.

"It's one of the mysteries of our faith, that someone can have tremendous flaws but yet the Holy Spirit can work through them," he told CNS in a tele-

Contributing to this story was Dennis Sadowski in Washington.

Lenten Parish Mission

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church
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February 22, 23, 24, 25

Evening Presentations: 7:00 p.m. in church

(Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25 Presentation during 7:00 pm Mass)

Monday and Tuesday:

10:00 a.m. presentation in church

(For Seniors or those not able to make the evening sessions)

Fr. David Wilton, C.P.M.

Father David is a native of Natural Bridge, New York. He became a member of the Congregation of the Fathers of Mercy in 1985 and was ordained to the priesthood in 1993. He is a 1989 graduate of Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia where he studied philosophy. He studied theology at Holy Apostles Seminary in Cromwell, Connecticut.

The congregation of the Fathers of Mercy was founded in 1808, originally under the title of "The Missionaries of France." The community was founded for the purpose of reevangelizing the French people after the Catholic Faith had been subjected to years of attacks and persecution during the French Revolution. It is now exclusively an American community located in South Union, Kentucky. The primary apostolate of the Fathers of Mercy is to conduct parish missions and retreats throughout the country.

During the mission, Father David will encourage and challenge the parish community to make a stronger, deeper personal commitment to Christ and to His Church.

(The Parish Mission is sponsored by the Holy Name Society of St. John's)



CNS PHOTO/MARCOS BRINDICCI, REUTERS

Our Lady of the Redeemer Church and seminary run by the Society of St. Pius X are seen in La Reja, Argentina, Jan. 25. The Argentine newspaper La Nacion reported Feb. 8 that British-born Bishop Richard Williamson has been removed as the rector of the seminary.

Pope, German chancellor discuss Holocaust-denying bishop

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI and German Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke to each other on the telephone about the recent controversy surrounding a traditionalist bishop who has denied the Holocaust.

“It was a cordial and constructive conversation, marked by a common and profound agreement that the Shoah is a perpetually valid warning for humanity,” said a statement released Feb. 8 by the spokesmen for the pope and for Merkel.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, papal spokesman, said the phone conversation was marked by “a climate of great respect” and included mention of Pope Benedict’s Jan. 28 statement about the importance of remembering the Holocaust and Merkel’s Feb. 3 request that the Vatican make it clear that it would not tolerate Holocaust denial.

The controversy began in late January when a television station aired a November interview with Bishop Richard Williamson, who was excommunicated in 1988 after being ordained against papal orders. The late French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, who ordained him, and three other bishops ordained at the same ceremony also were excommunicated.

The interview aired just before the Vatican published the news that Pope Benedict had signed a decree lifting the excommunications of the four bishops.

The Vatican Secretariat of State issued a further statement Feb. 4, the day after Merkel’s public request, stating that Bishop Williamson would not be received into full communion with the church unless he disavowed in “an absolutely

unequivocal and public manner” his statement that reports of 6 million Jews dying in the Holocaust were an exaggeration and that no Jews died in Nazi gas chambers.

In an interview published Feb. 7 by the German magazine *Der Spiegel*, Bishop Williamson said he was willing to review the historical evidence about the Holocaust, and “if I find this evidence, I will correct myself. But that will take time.”

Bishop Williamson e-mailed *Der Spiegel* from Argentina where he had been the head of the seminary of the Society of St. Pius X in La Reja for the past five years.

The Argentine newspaper *La Nacion* reported Feb. 8 that Bishop Williamson has been removed as the rector of the seminary.

In an e-mail to the newspaper, Father Christian Bouchacourt, the society’s South American district director, said Bishop Williamson had been removed from his duties, and he repeated the society’s position that “the affirmations of Bishop Williamson do not reflect in any way the position of our congregation.”

In the meantime, Father Davide Pagliarini, superior of the society’s Italian district, issued a statement Feb. 6 saying that another Holocaust denier, Father Floriano Abrahamowicz, had been expelled from the Society of St. Pius X.

As the controversy surrounding Bishop Williamson grew in late January and early February, Father Abrahamowicz gave several interviews in which he, too, denied the Holocaust and in which he claimed that the Nazi gas chambers were used to disinfect inmates upon arrival at Nazi concentration camps.

The Society of St. Pius X was founded in 1969 by Archbishop

Lefebvre. It does not accept the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council and its concepts of religious freedom and ecumenism.

Pope Benedict was scheduled to meet Feb. 12 with more than 60 U.S. Jewish leaders, members of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations.

A Vatican official told Catholic News Service Feb. 9 that the group had requested the papal audience before the Bishop Williamson controversy erupted, but that obviously the German-born pope would use the occasion to reaffirm his respect for the Jews and his position that the Holocaust was real and that it was a horrific proof of the existence of evil.

Top officers of the World Jewish Congress met at the Vatican Feb. 9 with Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Commission for Religious Relations With the Jews.

Ronald S. Lauder, president of the congress, said in a statement that he and the other officers told Cardinal Kasper that the Vatican’s insistence that Bishop Williamson recant “was a welcome first step,” but that concrete actions must be taken to emphasize that the Catholic Church itself will not tolerate “accommodating anti-Semites.”

Lauder said he hoped the pope would be able to make his planned May visit to Jordan, Israel and the Palestinian territories.

“We are looking forward to the pope’s visit to the Holy Land,” he said. “This will be an opportunity to reaffirm the Vatican’s commitment to dialogue with Jews.”

Vatican: Bishop’s Holocaust statements ‘strongly rejected’ by pope

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican said a traditionalist bishop who has minimized the full extent of the Holocaust must disavow his positions before he will be accepted into full communion with the church.

A Vatican statement Feb. 4 said Pope Benedict XVI did not know about the controversial statements by British-born Bishop Richard Williamson when he lifted the excommunication of him and three other traditionalist bishops ordained illicitly in 1988.

“The positions of Bishop Williamson on the Holocaust are absolutely unacceptable and are strongly rejected by the Holy Father,” the statement said.

In order to function as a bishop, Bishop Williamson must distance himself from his previous statements in “an absolutely unequivocal and public manner,” the Vatican said.

In a statement meant to deflect the increasing public outcry over the papal decree lifting the excommunication, the Vatican said the decree did not change the juridical status of the traditionalist Society of St. Pius X, which still has no canonical recognition in the Catholic Church.

The society was founded by French Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, who also incurred automatic excommunication when he ordained the four bishops against papal orders. The society has not accepted the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council and its concepts of religious freedom and ecumenism.

The statement from the Secretariat of State said the society would have to recognize the teachings of Vatican II and of post-conciliar popes to be in full communion.

It said the four bishops at present do not have a canonical function in the church and “do not licitly exercise a ministry in the church.”

The Vatican has emphasized that even after the removal of the excommunications remaining problems need to be resolved before full communion can be established with the society’s leadership and members.

The Secretariat of State statement — like a statement the previous day from the Vatican press spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi — reiterated the German-born pope’s remarks at his Jan. 28 audience, in which he recalled the suffering of Jews during World War II and said the Holocaust should stand as a “warning to everyone against forgetting, denying or minimizing” evil.

Father Lombardi said the pope’s words at the general audience were “unequivocal.”

The spokesman said the pope had spoken about the horror of the Holocaust in his 2005 visit to a German synagogue and in his 2006 visit to the Nazi death camp at Auschwitz. He said the papal statement at the Jan. 28 audience “could not have been clearer, and from the context it is apparent that it referred to the positions of Bishop Williamson and to all similar positions.”

“On the same occasion, the pope also clearly expressed the reason for removing the excommunication, which has nothing to do with legitimizing positions denying the Holocaust — positions which were clearly condemned by the pope,” the spokesman said.

Father Lombardi’s statement was released by the Vatican press office late the same day that German Chancellor Angela Merkel said the pope and the Vatican needed to make clear there could be no denial of the Holocaust.

At a news conference in Berlin Feb. 3, Merkel said she normally did not comment on church matters “but we are talking about fundamental questions.”

“This is not just a matter, in my opinion, for the Christian, Catholic and Jewish communities in Germany, but the pope and the Vatican should clarify unambiguously that there can be no denial” of the Holocaust, she said.

On Jan. 21, the same day the pope lifted the excommunication, a Swedish television station aired a November interview with Bishop Williamson in which he repeated his position that the Holocaust had been exaggerated.

The papal decree lifting the excommunication was made public Jan. 24 and Jewish groups — especially in Germany, the U.S. and Israel — expressed shock that the Vatican would lift the excommunication against Bishop Williamson even after his comments had been televised.

German Cardinal Walter Kasper, who coordinates the Vatican’s dialogue with the Jews, said the controversy was fueled in part by a lack of communication within the Vatican and by “management errors in the Curia.”

Cardinal Kasper said he has been following the unfolding controversy “with great concern.”

He said the pope “wanted to open the discussion because he wanted unity inside and outside” the church. But the cardinal said he “would have also liked to see more communication in advance.”

Wendy Summers: Forging a spiritual journey for herself and others

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

In part 1 of this two part series, Wendy Summers' Catholic ancestors were explored. This week's article will delve into people who have been influential in Wendy's spiritual journey, and Wendy's impact on the lives of others in her faith community.

GRANGER — Wendy Summers knew from an early age the importance of the Catholic faith from her parents and grandparents. As she grew to adulthood, that faith deepened through her marriage to her husband James and other events that would challenge and strengthen her relationship with God.

She was born on May 6, 1954 as Wildemar Therese Bates. Wendy remembers a legend that her grandfather, John Hayze Brown, was in Europe during the early 1900s and liked the German name Wildemar, which was a male name that he wanted for his firstborn. When Wendy's aunt was born, he and his wife decided to name her Wildemar anyway, and Wendy and her daughter have also carried on the family name.

One of Wendy's earliest recollections of her grandfather was that he was one of the only Catholics she knew that openly read the Bible. She also remembers with fondness stories about faith that her grandfather passed on to her. "I loved when he described Jesus as having been a man of color, hair of wool, and feet like fine brass," she recalls.

Wendy adds, "He also told me that mankind began on the continent of Africa. These were things I didn't learn in school."

Wendy's grandmother Irene Evelyn LeGras Brown, who was a descendent of maternal American ancestor Marie Thereze Coincoin, was proud that she could trace her genealogy and share that information with her offspring. Her grandmother was a devoted Catholic who loved to cook for her family. Wendy remembers that her grandmother had made dinner rolls and froze them in anticipation of the approaching Thanksgiving holiday. Her grandmother died just before Thanksgiving.

On Thanksgiving Day, all of Wendy's family gathered and ate the rolls so lovingly prepared by her grandmother. "She had made enough rolls so that everyone had one. It was spiritually moving to break bread and pray as a family," Wendy says.

Rose Marie Brown Bates, Wendy's mother, shared her Catholic faith with her family with daily devotional prayers. Wendy reminisces with sadness and joy of her mother's passing on All Saints Day in 1993. "For weeks after Mom died, I could still smell her perfume: a mix of Georgio and Kent cigarettes.



Wendy's grandmother Irene Evelyn LeGras Brown.

One day her scent was gone and was replaced with a feeling of peace and calm."

One of the most influential people on Wendy's spiritual journey has been her husband James. Married on July 12, 1975, she and James have two children, Wildemar Irene and James Malcolm III. Wendy cites that respect, trust and the ability to express emotions with each other as a cornerstone to her marriage's longevity. Wendy adds, "We share the view that marriage takes constant attention and work. But most importantly, we cherish our sacred marriage vows and our promises to God and each other."

When her husband James attended his St. Pius X Christ Renews His Parish (CRHP) weekend in August 2006, Wendy was skeptical of the benefits of the retreat. But when Wendy attended in August 2007, she felt

the presence of the Holy Spirit and her life became more enriched through prayer and Bible study.

"Since CRHP I just can't get enough of God's word. I read different versions of the Bible and am so excited to learn more about the word of God," Wendy exclaims.

St. Pius X parishioner and CRHP sister Tanya Martinez describes Wendy's influence in her life. "The way she dives into the word of God for guidance and understanding of God's will is truly amazing. She can find motivation and comfort for us in God's word for any situation in our lives and sends us his message," Tanya explains.

Wendy and her husband James were recently chosen as godparents for Tanya and her husband Jorge's daughter Racquel.

"I admire her fervor to serve

God in anything he calls her to. That is why my husband and I chose her for godmother of our child." Tanya says, "We know that she will help us raise this child in God's love and guidance."

This year Wendy is a sponsor for Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) candidate Tamara Griffin-Byrne.

Tamie recalls that at the beginning of RCIA she told Wendy she had difficulty staying focused when she prayed and Wendy offered a solution.

"Wendy pointed out that maybe I simply wasn't opening myself up to listen to what God

was trying to tell me. I never thought about praying that way before. Now, before I say my prayers, I try to listen first," Tamie says.

With an eye towards the future, Wendy looks forward to enriching her spiritual journey by passing on to her granddaughter Kamyah a strong faith foundation just as her ancestors did for her. Wendy summarizes that belief by quoting Matthew 7:25:

"And the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock."

"I read different versions of the Bible and am so excited to learn more about the word of God."

WENDY SUMMERS



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Poll shows disapproval of Obama's Mexico City policy reversal

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although a majority of Americans support many of President Barack Obama's early actions in office, only about a third back his decision to allow funding for overseas family planning groups that provide abortions, according to a new poll by *USA Today/Gallup*. The results of the survey conducted Jan. 30-Feb. 1 show that "this is no time to divide our nation with policies that offend the pro-life values of most Americans," said Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications for the U.S. bishops' Office of Pro-Life Activities, in a Feb. 3 statement. Asked about seven actions taken by Obama as president, the majority said they approved of his moves to: name special envoys for the Middle East and for Afghanistan and Pakistan (76 percent); tighten ethics rules for administration officials (76 percent); limit interrogation techniques used on prisoners (74 percent); institute higher fuel efficiency standards (74 percent); and make it easier for workers to sue for pay discrimination (66 percent). But only 44 percent said they supported Obama's decision to order that the Guantanamo Bay prison be closed and only 35 percent were in favor of his decision to reverse the Mexico City policy, a ban on federal funding of abortion-providing groups abroad that was first instituted by President Ronald Reagan in 1984.

Vigils, rallies nationwide focus on immigrants, immigration reform

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Immigrant advocates from faith groups and Congress have been organizing two types of events to take place in dozens of cities around the country in coming weeks. The Interfaith Immigration Coalition is providing how-to guides for organizing a prayer vigil or other event and gathering information about activities planned around the country as they are announced. As of Feb. 4, Patty Kupfer, of the immigration reform advocacy organization America's Voice, said about 80 prayer vigils and other faith-based events already had been organized for Feb. 13-22. The goals of all the events are to raise awareness about individuals whose lives are affected by problems with the U.S. immigration system and to build up support for comprehensive immigration reform. Meanwhile, Rep. Luis Gutierrez, D-Ill., was spearheading a five-week national tour of rallies, intended to "document the harm caused to citizens across our nation in the absence of comprehensive immigration reform," as a press release from his office put it. Information about some prayer events was posted on the site www.interfaithimmigration.org.

NEWS BRIEFS

CARDINAL SPEAKS AFTER FIRE AT CHICAGO CATHEDRAL



CNS PHOTO/KAREN CALLAWAY, CATHOLIC NEW WORLD

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago speaks to the media outside Holy Name Cathedral as firefighters worked to put out a three-alarm fire at the cathedral the morning of Feb. 4. The fire, which broke out in the attic area between the ceiling and the roof, was reported by a worker shortly after 5 a.m. CST. Fire officials said that fire damage was confined to the roof and attic area, with water damage in the cathedral sanctuary and lower levels. Father Dan Mayall, pastor at the cathedral, is behind the cardinal to the left.

Obama calls SCHIP bill 'first step' toward health coverage for all

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Joined by representatives of Catholic Charities USA and the Catholic Health Association, President Barack Obama signed into law Feb. 4 legislation reauthorizing and expanding the State Children's Health Insurance Program, known as SCHIP. Obama called the \$32.8 billion bill — one of the first signed during his presidency — "only a first step" and a "down payment on my commitment to cover every single American." Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, who attended the signing ceremony in the East Room of the White House, praised Congress and Obama "for acting so swiftly on this vital law." He added in a statement, "Without SCHIP, vulnerable children of low-income families would not receive the care they need to be strong and healthy citizens and productive individuals in our society." Kathleen Curran, CHA's senior director for public policy, repre-

sented CHA at the signing ceremony.

Scranton bishop announces final decisions on parish restructuring

SCRANTON, Pa. (CNS) — Citing population shifts, dwindling finances, overworked priests and the fact that many Catholics "are not actively practicing their faith," Scranton's bishop announced a major parish restructuring plan that will close some parishes and merge others. In a recorded message played at all Masses the weekend of Jan. 31-Feb. 1, Bishop Joseph F. Martino announced his final decisions in a process that began more than a year ago. Every parish in the 11-county diocese is affected in some way. At the start of the process, the diocese had 224 parishes. William R. Genello, the diocese's executive director of communications, said the number of parishes that will remain open will not be known for at least two years as the communities begin to close, merge or partner in sharing ministries. Implementation of the plan

will begin in July. Bishop Martino said that some people would probably prefer to leave well enough alone but he explained that was not feasible. "Unfortunately," he said, "many of our institutions are not 'well enough.' Our society and our diocese are experiencing changes. Populations are shifting. Financial resources are diminishing. Many Catholics are not actively practicing their faith or supporting the church. Our priests are serving too many parishes at one time."

Pope appeals for improved protection, support for sick children

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Countless sick and suffering children are in urgent need of help and protection, Pope Benedict XVI said. In his message for the Feb. 11 celebration of World Day of the Sick, the pope urged Catholics to not be indifferent to the suffering of these "weakest and most defenseless creatures" and to recognize a "pressing duty to intervene." World Day of the Sick is marked each year on the feast of

Our Lady of Lourdes. The Vatican released the pope's message Feb. 7. The pope dedicated this year's message to children. He called attention to those who are struck by crippling diseases or are battling illnesses that are still incurable despite great medical advancements. He underlined the plight of children "wounded in body and soul as a consequence of conflict and war and other innocent victims of the senseless hatred of adults."

Phoenix vicar for clergy named bishop of Gallup

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Father James S. Wall, vicar for clergy in the Diocese of Phoenix, as bishop of Gallup, N.M. The appointment was announced Feb. 5 in Washington by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop-designate Wall succeeds Bishop Donald E. Pelotte, who resigned in April 2008, nine months after being injured in a fall at his home. Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted had been serving as apostolic administrator of the Gallup Diocese since January 2008. At 44 he will be the second youngest U.S. Catholic bishop but the youngest one to head a U.S. diocese. The youngest U.S. bishop, 42-year-old Bishop Oscar Cantu, is an auxiliary of San Antonio. The son of Joan L. Wall and the late James A. Wall was born Oct. 11, 1964, in Ganado, Ariz., and became a Catholic along with the rest of his family.

Blair urges new global alliances to address economic, security issues

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J. (CNS) — Today's global economic, environmental and security challenges can be addressed successfully only if developed and developing nations form unconventional alliances based on shared values and use justice as a force to bring people together, according to Tony Blair. The former prime minister of Great Britain spoke Feb. 3 at the World Leaders Forum of the John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations at Catholic-run Seton Hall University in South Orange. Blair told an audience of 2,000 students, faculty, alumni and guests that commitment to justice, freedom and democracy is reflected in "not just what you say, but the motivation with which you say it and act on it." These values are not only right in themselves, he said, but are the practical key to effective action. Blair, prime minister from 1997 to 2007, is currently the special envoy to the Middle East on behalf of the Quartet, a group comprised of the United Nations, the European Union, the United States and Russia. In 2008, he established the Tony Blair Faith Foundation, dedicated to promoting understanding among the major faiths and of the role of faith in the modern world.

The Office of Worship offers ministry training programs

The Office of Worship is offering training programs for extraordinary ministers of holy Communion, sacristans, proclaimers of the word and extraordinary ministers of holy Communion to the sick. Retreat opportunities for lay ministers and those in RCIA programs will also be offered.

These programs assist parishes in providing the required training for lay ministers:

- Lector training will be in Fort Wayne on Saturday, Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Jude with instructor Ruth Chronister. The South Bend training will be Saturday, Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral with instructors Harv Humphrey and Cindi Clawson.

- Extraordinary ministers' training will be held in Fort Wayne on Saturday, Feb. 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center with instructor Father Tony Steinacker. In South Bend, the training will be held Saturday, March 7, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Pius X, Granger, with instructor Father Bob Lengerich.

- Extraordinary ministers to the sick training will be held in Fort Wayne on Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center with instructor Gervaise Bastian. In South Bend, the workshop will be Saturday, March 14, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Catholic Education Center, Mishawaka, with instructor Gervaise Bastian.

- Sacristan training will be held in Fort Wayne on Saturday, March 21, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception with instructor Jim Fitzpatrick. In South Bend, the training will be held Saturday, March 28, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at St. Patrick Parish with instructor Jim Fitzpatrick.

- The RCIA Lenten Retreat will be held in Fort Wayne on Sunday, March 15, from 1-5 p.m. in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center and facilitated by Gervaise Bastian. In the South Bend area, the retreat will be held Saturday, March 21, from 1-5 p.m. in the downstairs of Elliott Hall at St. Thomas the Apostle in Elkhart.

- Cantor workshops, sponsored by the National Association of Pastoral Musicians (NPM) Fort Wayne Chapter, will be held Saturday, March 21, from 1-3 p.m. at St. Jude, Fort Wayne; and Saturday, Feb. 28, from 1-3 p.m. at St. Joseph, South Bend. Michele Warner will facilitate both workshops.

- Afternoon of reflection, presented by the diocesan seminarians, will be held in Fort Wayne on Sunday, June 14, from 1-4 p.m. at Our Lady of Good Hope; in South Bend on Sunday, June 14, from 1-4 p.m. at Holy Cross; in Kendallville on Sunday, June 21, from 1-4 p.m. at Immaculate Conception Parish; and in Warsaw on Sunday, June 21, from 1-4 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and Diocesan

AROUND THE DIOCESE

DCCW COLLECTS, DONATES ITEMS FOR CHARIS HOUSE



PROVIDED BY MARIE REICHELT

The Fort Wayne Council of Catholic Women met at St. Joseph Hospital in Fort Wayne to stuff new pairs of socks with toiletries, candy and other items and delivered them to Charis House, a division of the Fort Wayne Rescue Mission for Women and Children. Pictured are Bea Hoewel, Marie Reichelt, Margaret Freiburger, Julie Karst, Theresa Oberley, Dorothy Cuellar, Betty Howard and Phyllis Murphy. The National Council of Catholic Women responds with Gospel values to the needs of the church and is open to all Catholic women. For more information contact: www.nccw.org.

Shrine.

Registration, with payment of \$15 for each program, is required by the Office of Worship the Wednesday before the program's scheduled date. Afternoons of reflection are free of charge.

Please send check and registration to: Office of Worship, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46801.

For more information contact Terry Broberg-Swangin at (260) 399-1401 or e-mail tbroberg-swangin@fw.diocesfwsb.org.

ISSMA results for Bishop Luers students

FORT WAYNE — The ISSMA (Indiana State School Music Association) has announced results from the solo ensemble vocal/piano competition held at Wayne High School on Jan. 31.

The following Bishop Luers High School students and groups received first place gold: Jimmy Mitchell, Ashlea Koehl, Kris Andorfer, Nick Abbott, Nick Schenkel, Megan Hire, Timmy Kawiecki and Chris Fowerbaugh, piano.

Men's Ensemble members include Nick Abbott, Kris Andorfer, Nick Ehinger, Cory Leffers, Canyon Whitman, Dakota Zwick, Steven Paris, Aaron Kennerk, Jimmy Mitchell, Timmy

Kawiecki, Robert Mabe, Tom Saul, Michael Ryan, Michael Welling, Spencer Coe, Evan Stuerzenberger and Nick Schenkel. All of these participants received a Gold Rating in First Division and qualify for the state competition in Indianapolis on Feb. 28.

Music students serve up Mardi Gras dinner

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School's music students will be hosting a Mardi Gras dinner in the Bishop Dwenger cafeteria on Sunday, Feb. 15, with seating beginning at 5 p.m., dinner at 5:30 p.m., and performances at 6:15 p.m. All phases of the evening have been produced by the students. Tickets are \$12 and may be purchased by contacting Lori Stock at (260) 341-4113, or the school at (260) 496-4700.

University hosts free health fair

FORT WAYNE — The physical therapist assistant students at the University of Saint Francis will be holding a free health fair for the university community and the public in the main hall of the Doerner Health Sciences building on Monday, Feb. 16, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The topics presented at the Health Fair will be, "Driving Posture Awareness," "Wii Fit," "Body Mechanics with Household Activities," "The Body Blade for Stabilization and Strengthening," and "Walking for Wellness and Balance." Additionally, attendees will be able to play Nintendo's Wii Fit video game, the popular and technologically advanced workout alternative.

For further information, contact Mary Kay Solon, director of the physical therapist assistant program at (260) 399-7700, ext. 8547.

Ave Maria Press plans Lenten open house

NOTRE DAME — Ave Maria Press is pleased to announce its first annual Lenten Open House, to take place from Feb. 11 through Ash Wednesday, Feb. 25. Michiana spiritual seekers are invited to visit the Ave Maria Press bookstore, located in the press offices on Douglas Road, just across from Moreau Seminary. The bookstore is open every Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m.

Of particular note for 2009 are several new Lenten resources, useful both for individual enrichment and for parish distribution.

- "The Gift of the Cross"
- "Sacred Space for Lent 2009"
- "Lent & Holy Week: Bridges

to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton"

- "John Paul II's Biblical Way of the Cross"

In addition the Ave Maria Press bookstore offers a wide array of books on spirituality and religious education. Everything in the store is 20-75 percent off.

For more information, call (800) 282-1865, or visit www.avemariapress.com.

Josephinum to hold fourth annual Irish Fest

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The Pontifical College Josephinum welcomes the general public to its commemoration of the feast of St. Patrick at the seminary's fourth annual Irish Fest on Feb. 28, from 5-11 p.m. The event celebrating Irish culture and heritage will be preceded by a Mass at 4:30 p.m. in the seminary's St. Turibius Chapel, followed by an evening of traditional Irish music, food and dance. All proceeds from the event will benefit seminarians in need.

Musical entertainment during the Irish Fest will be held in two adjoining venues on the Josephinum campus and will include performances by Kay Proffitt, Regan Irish Dancers, Shamrock Club Pipe & Drum Band, Ladies of Longford, Knot Fidd'n, The Hooligans and Maidens IV.

Beverages and food selections, including fish and chips, will be available for purchase throughout the evening.

Tickets for the Irish Fest may be purchased at the door and are \$20 for adults and \$5 for youth age 11-16. Children under 11 are free. Pre-sale tickets (\$15 adults; \$5 youth) may be purchased until 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 27. Call (614) 885-5585 to purchase tickets by phone via credit card.

Saint Mary's athletes open hearts and doors for Valentine's Day party

NOTRE DAME — The Saint Mary's College Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) in conjunction with the Athletic Department will be hosting their annual Valentine's Day party for children and families from Memorial Hospital's oncology and pediatrics units.

"I think it is important for us as student-athletes to be an active part of the community, both on campus and off," commented committee chairwoman and senior cross country runner Caitlin Stevenson. "We have a lot to share with others while also learning valuable lessons from the groups we are able to help."

The party, which runs from 1-3 p.m. in the Angela Athletic Facility, will offer an array of activities for everyone in attendance. Various varsity athletic teams will be hosting the families while providing crafts, games, snacks, and entertainment. Each year, the party brings approximately two dozen families to campus for the event.

Father Schooler honored with national NCEA Award

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

GRANGER — The moment he enters the school building, St. Pius X Catholic School students spot him. With their faces aglow and hands outstretched to greet him, a quiet chorus of "Father Bill, Father Bill!" fills the air.

The "Father Bill" the students speak of is Father Bill Schooler, pastor of St. Pius X Parish and school in Granger. In January of this year Father Schooler was selected as one of 13 pastors nationwide to receive the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) Distinguished Pastor Award.

According to Elaine Holmes, principal of St. Pius X School, a nomination package was sent to the NCEA highlighting Father Schooler's achievements.

Included in the nomination packet were letters from St. Pius teacher Sue Williams, school board president A.J. Bellia and parent Julian Velasco. One area receiving a great deal of focus was Father Schooler's leadership in the idea of a parish education center (PEC) at St. Pius.

Williams, who has also been a



KAREN CLIFFORD

Father William Schooler is shown with St. Pius X Principal Elaine Holmes, who helped nominate the St. Pius X, Granger, pastor for the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) Distinguished Pastor Award. He is one of 13 pastors being recognized in the nation.

parishioner at St. Pius for 26 years, recalls there had always been talk of building a school. "However, the parish was always divided on the issue. Father Bill was the first one to take on this monumental project," says Williams, adding, "He somehow managed to get the funding and the support of the parish behind him."

Bellia stresses it was Father

Schooler's philosophy of Catholic education that was central to the implementation of the PEC.

"Catholic elementary education is but one outreach of the overall educational mission of the parish," Bellia says. "(Father Schooler's) plan has not been to build a parish around a successful school; it has been, rather, to build a school within a successful parish."

Parishioner and school parent Julian Velasco was at first skepti-

cal of the PEC concept. "At first, the idea of a 'Parish Education Center' seemed somewhat gimmicky, and the promise to be considerate of other Catholic schools in the area seemed like lip service," Velasco remembers. "But (Father Schooler) has been true to his word. Not only is there a new parochial school, but the religious education program has been improved, and the parish has embarked on a very ambitious adult education program — all at the same time!"

Both Bellia and Velasco have children that attend St. Pius School and find Father Schooler's character is a major influence in molding their children's spiritual lives. Bellia observes that Father Schooler brings to the school the same passion for stewardship and fidelity to Catholic tradition that he brings to the parish as a whole. "He has written to school parents about the unqualified need for each of them to be good stewards of time, talent and treasure in their parish lives. He has led the focus of parental involvement in the school toward stewardship activities."

Velasco's three-year-old daughter Graciela is enrolled in the school's preschool program. Velasco notes St. Pius School pro-

vides his daughter with the combined concepts of religion and community that secular preschools cannot. "Graciela looks forward to seeing (Father Schooler) after Mass every Sunday. But now, she sees the church as more than a place we go on Sundays." Velasco continues, "She goes to 'Pius' regularly. And there is continuity: she sees her classmates at Mass on Sunday and Father Bill at school during the week."

And what does Father Schooler think of these accolades? "My only reaction is that of humility. When actors are awarded the Oscar, they usually approach the podium and go on and on about their supporting cast." Father Schooler credits the team work behind the school's success. "It is really the cast of many generous and hard-working people at St. Pius who made this award possible — most of them working completely behind the scenes to realize our dream of an Education Center designed to serve the educational needs of our parish from cradle to grave."

The 2009 NCEA Convention will be held on April 14-16 at the Anaheim Convention Center in Anaheim, Calif. Father Schooler will be presented the award on April 14.



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KARI HALDERMAN

Book drive stirs interest for students to pose as favorite characters

WABASH — Sharing literacy sparked a service project idea for students and staff at St. Bernard School, Wabash. They had a book drive for the Dallas Winchester Senior Center Food Bank. A couple of years ago, some graduates of St. Bernard ran a book drive for the food bank. Their endeavor created an enthusiasm for sharing literacy with the Wabash community that still exists today. Students and staff came to school dressed as their favorite book character and happily donated books to the book drive. They collected approximately 1,500 books. Pictured are students dressed as their book character: from left, front row, Ethan Rekeweg as a pirate, Jasper Walter as Dr. Suess, Lexi Finney as Dorothy and Jasmine Whitmer as Princess Pocahontas; second row, Erin Whetstone as Mary, Claire Rekeweg as American Girl doll Molly, Madison Garrett as Madaline, Elizabeth Anguilm as Amelia Bedelia, Asif Kahn as Nate the Great and Luke Donathon as Harry Potter; and third row, Nick Rhoads as Jamey Chaney, Collin Meggison as Indiana Jones, Jenna Halderman as a child from "The Polar Express," Robbie Cole as Pony Boy, Andreas Palmert as Matt from "Sign of the Beaver" and Sabrina Wagoner as Dorothy.

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Jeff Samardzija and Mike Scioscia advocate champions of faith

BY DIANE FREEBY

NOTRE DAME — Stories of faith, family and fastballs entertained a crowd last Thursday at the Eighth Annual Notre Dame Baseball Dinner. Mike Scioscia, former Dodger great and current manager of the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim joined Irish and Chicago Cubs favorite, Jeff Samardzija as guest speakers.

Scioscia says his Catholic faith is a big part of who he is, both on and off the field.

"My faith has helped me all through my life and career," said Scioscia. "That faith is more evident when times are tough."

Scioscia is featured along with other Catholic athletes on the DVD, "Champions of Faith." Produced by Catholic Exchange, the DVD profiles some of Major League baseball's biggest stars as they share how their faith guides and sustains them.

Scioscia, whose son Matt is currently a sophomore on the Irish baseball team, shared the advice his mother gave him as she reluctantly let him sign a major league contract instead of going to college.

"If you want to be a leader, the first person you have to lead is yourself."

Scioscia took those words to heart and made sure he turned to his faith first so he could be that leader. After a successful career with the Los Angeles Dodgers, Scioscia led the Angels to a World Series championship in 2002. The Angels are 803-655 in nine seasons under Scioscia. The Angels were baseball's only 100-



DIANE FREEBY

Mike Scioscia, manager for the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim, joins former Irish football and baseball star Jeff Samardzija for the Eighth Annual Notre Dame Baseball Dinner. Samardzija made baseball his career choice and enters his second season with the Chicago Cubs.

game winners in 2008, then were eliminated by the Boston Red Sox in the division series for the second consecutive year. Scioscia joked about the pressures of managing a World Champion team.

"The Lord's very demanding. When he names a team the Angels, he expects a lot!"

Samardzija, who excelled at both baseball and football while in college, is getting ready to report for his second year as a pitcher for the Cubs. During his rookie season, the right-hander appeared in 26 games and com-

pleted a 2.26 ERA. It wasn't that long ago that the Valparaiso star struggled as he made his way to the University of Notre Dame, suffering the loss of his mother during his last year of high school.

"I really turned to the things I knew," recalled Samardzija. "I come from a really close-knit family, and I reached out to the people and games around me. I tried to keep a smile on my face and remember the good things she left me with.

Memories of what his mother

meant to him motivated Samardzija to create the Debora Samardzija Memorial Scholarship, which will be awarded each year to a student who has suffered the loss of a loved one while continuing to strive for academic excellence.

"Obviously, Notre Dame is a pretty expensive school to attend, so we'll do anything we can to help out," Samardzija said. "I feel like the best way for me to give back is by taking my experiences to help others. I tried to take my ideals with family and piece it

together with Notre Dame and help kids out, especially someone who went through a tough time losing a parent."

Both Scioscia and Samardzija said they were excited to be back at Notre Dame, and before the dinner got underway, they spent about an hour meeting with fans of all ages and signing autographs.

During the question and answer segment, 11-year-old Lucas Mazurkiewicz from St. Anthony School in South Bend asked Samardzija what his most memorable games were while at Notre Dame. In addition to the baseball regional game against Arizona his freshman year, the Shark said he'll never forget the 2005 showdown against USC at Notre Dame Stadium, when the Trojans eeked out a 34-31 victory.

"Any one game that should have ended in a tie, this was it!" Samardzija grinned. "A lot of talent was on the field ... Reggie Bush and Matt Leinart were at the height of their game. We had some pretty good guys, too. Unfortunately, it didn't turn out our way, but it was one amazing game to be a part of!"

Notre Dame's baseball team, lead by head coach Dave Schrage, begins their season Feb. 20 with a game in Tampa against Ohio State. The Fighting Irish open the season at home March 17 against Ball State. Games can be heard in South Bend and adjoining counties on Harvest 103.1 WHME, and worldwide on the Web at www.und.com.

CATHOLIC STUDENTS COMPETE IN ALLEN COUNTY SPELLING BEE



MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

St. Jude Paul Kiser, a seventh grader, and sixth-grader Jake Castleman from St. Louis Academy, shown here, were among 69 contestants who competed in the 55th Annual Allen County Spelling Bee at South Side High School on Saturday, Feb. 7. Other students from the Fort Wayne Diocese area Catholic Schools included: Hailie Workman from Most Precious Blood, Nancy McNamara from St. Joseph-St Elizabeth, Nicholas Steffen from St. John the Baptist, Cara Minick from St. Charles Borromeo, Esther Bell from Queen of Angels, Eric Trabel from St. John the Baptist-New Haven, and Josh Doehla representing St. Vincent de Paul School.

Saint Mary's College named to presidential honor roll for community service

NOTRE DAME — The Corporation for National and Community Service announced today that Saint Mary's College is on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for exemplary service efforts and service to America's communities. It's the third year the organization has recognized the college and the work of the Office for Civic and Social Engagement (OCSE).

"This recognition affirms the spirit of service that is prevalent throughout the college. In the past four years community service opportunities have flourished here with the advent of additional and enhanced programming," said Carrie Call, director of OCSE. "Receiving the news about the award always thrills me because it reminds me of how far we've come. Yet, I am also reminded of how much more needs to be done to help a hurting world."

Among the community pro-

grams OCSE operates is the College Academy of Tutoring (CAT). Through CAT, Saint Mary's students work with local Title 1 schools, offering services that include English, reading and mathematics tutoring; teacher assistance in the classrooms (including ENL skills building and special education); a Read-to-a-Child program; and the innovative Pen Pals program where fourth-grade girls are paired with Saint Mary's students for a semester to share letters. Also through OCSE, dozens of students, faculty and staff participate in Rebuilding Together in South Bend every spring, helping to spruce up and repair people's homes.

Launched in 2006, the Community Service Honor Roll is the highest federal recognition a school can achieve for its commitment to service-learning and civic engagement. Honorees for the award were chosen based on a series of selection factors including scope and innovation of service projects, percentage of student participation in service activities, incentives for service, and the extent to which the school offers academic service-learning courses.

Indiana General Assembly considers expanding educational choice

INDIANAPOLIS — Parental choice in education, a privilege that is accessible most typically for higher income families or for those families who make big sacrifices to send their children to a nonpublic school, may be expanded if freshman Sen. Carlin Yoder (R-Middlebury) has his way. More families could gain access to this desirable educational option under a scholarship tax credit proposal that he is offering this year.

Yoder's proposal, a scholarship tax credit bill, SB 528, would offer a 50 percent tax credit incentive to corporations or individuals for donations made to qualified Scholarship Granting Organizations (SGO's). These SGO's would then provide grants to lower income families for the purpose of school tuition or other school related costs, at a public or private school of the parents' choice.

Yoder, who works as a school administrator at Clinton Christian School in Goshen, said, "On a daily to weekly basis, people are calling in who want to enroll in our school but simply can't afford it." Yoder said his school is getting a lot of inquiries from lower income families that for one reason or another the public school is not working out. "These families want to find out what alternatives they have," he said. "The problem is they can't afford to do anything. That's what's really concerning to me," he said. "This is not a slam on public schools, but for some students, they just need another option.

"Let's say you have a kid

that's being bullied in school. This happens every once in a while, but to have to tell those parents that you can't afford any options and that their kid is just going to have to stick it out and put up with that kind of treatment is a shame," said Yoder. "Public schools just aren't for everyone. I think the state of Indiana needs to step up and acknowledge that they need to work to provide other options to families that need them."

Limitations in the area of special services to students is another reason parents need a private school option. "Students do not always get the help that they need in public schools," said Yoder. "It's not necessarily the public school's fault, they just can't reach everyone, but the student is not getting the help he or she needs."

Some students who need additional help learning must go through an evaluation process to determine if they qualify for special services. "If they do not qualify for special services for whatever reason, then they are unable to get help," said Yoder. "In a private school, we are not bound by the same regulations and can provide help to students in circumstances where the public school would not be able to.

"Public schools tend to view this (proposal) as threatening to them, but it shouldn't be in my opinion because the kids that are doing well in a public school and are enjoying it aren't going to leave the public school. They like it there. The private schools are there for the kids that are strugg-

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

gling in the public schools or aren't finding what they need there and are desperate for other options.

"This is important legislation starting down that path to more options for families. I think this could be a good marriage between public schools and private schools to find out what's best for our students and work together to provide that," said Yoder.

Glenn Tebbe, executive director of the Indiana Catholic Conference said, "Children of lower income families are often times precisely the children who need educational alternatives the most in order to achieve success in school, especially if the school they currently attend is not meeting their educational needs. Yet without adequate financial resources, these education opportunities are inaccessible to them," said Tebbe. According to data collected by the School Choice Indiana Network, the national trend in educational choice policy has moved away from a voucher system toward tax credits. Eleven states currently have scholarship tax credit programs in place.

Currently in Indiana there is

only one scholarship granting organization in operation, the Choice Charitable Trust in Indianapolis. This group awards scholarships to families to use for one of 60 participating schools in and around central Indiana.

SB 528 was scheduled to be heard in the Senate Tax and Fiscal Policy Committee on Feb. 10. The Senate panel is chaired by Sen. Brandt Hershman (R-Monticello), who supports the measure. The bill is expected to pass the Senate panel and move to second reading on the Senate floor where it may be amended. Bills on second reading are passed by a voice vote. Bills on third reading receive a roll call vote.

Scholarship Tax Credits Program Summary

How Would It Work?

Individuals and corporations who contribute to a qualified scholarship program would be able to deduct 50 percent of the amount of that donation from their state tax liability.

Example: A donor who gave \$5,000 to a participating scholarship program would be able to claim a \$2,500 credit against what they owed in state income tax liability.

The SGO program received \$5,000 in the private donation, which would then be used to fund scholarships for lower-income students.

A \$2,500 state tax credit helped leverage \$5,000 in private scholarship donations.

Scholarship Granting

Organizations (SGOs) would establish their own eligibility rules, application procedures, and scholarship amounts within the income limits and other administrative rules within the legislation. The state department of revenue would establish procedures for reporting and monitoring participation in the program, as well tax credit application processes for private donors to the SGOs.

(Source: *School Choice Indiana Network*)

What would this produce as far as scholarships?

The School Scholarship Tax Credit program is designed to provide a powerful incentive for charitable donations for education for lower-income children.

Consider the following example:

Example: The program's \$10 million statewide cap would allow for ...

\$20 million in total private contributions to participating SGOs ...

(\$20M donations x 50 percent credit = \$10 program cap)

\$3,500 average per-student scholarships across all SGOs ...

Over 5,000 scholarships per year.

(Source: *School Choice Indiana Network*)

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."

Resident expert on random knowledge tries luck at 'Jeopardy'

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — They say it pays to know a little bit about everything.

Lynne McKenna Frazier experienced this adage firsthand. The University of Saint Francis grant writer is a bit of a local celebrity after an appearance on the popular game show "Jeopardy."

Frazier, a parishioner at Precious Blood Parish in Fort Wayne, said, like most contestants, she has been a fan since day one. As a child, she was the resident expert on random knowledge.

"My brother always claimed I knew so much about everything," she said.

Frazier said her interest in the trivial was peaked by her "eclectic" reading choices. It was a common sight to see a young Frazier with her nose in an encyclopedia.

"Over the years I picked up various nuggets of knowledge," she said.

Later as an adult, Frazier pursued a calling as a reporter and

later editor. During her tenure as the *News-Sentinel's* business editor, she was the "go-to" woman for local factoids and tidbits.

Frazier said her journalistic background was an asset because of the absorption of miscellaneous knowledge. She said she "covered everything" and that was probably the biggest factor in her success.

About two years ago, it was time to put her mental portfolio of random information to use.

Aspiring contestants must complete two rounds of testing to secure a spot on the show. Frazier took the online portion in January of 2007 and eagerly awaited the results. More than six months had passed without any notification.

But good news is better delayed than none at all. In July, she received word that she qualified for the next round, a group audition in Chicago the next month.

Frazier said she "did the math" and calculated her chances of being called back to be between 20 and 25 percent. And it seems luck was in her favor. It was early

October 2008 when she got the phone call notifying her of her eligibility to compete on a November episode.

Frazier and her husband were flown out to the California studios for the episode's filming. Although she came in third place, it was "a good game." In the heat of the game, Frazier said the contestants aren't fixated on the score as much as the question at hand. In the end, it's speed and accuracy that counts. Ringing the buzzer in time is nearly as challenging as knowing the correct response, she said.

The former reporter has a few words of advice for aspiring "Jeopardy" contestants: take the online test repeatedly and be persistent.

"There's something to keeping at it," she said.

Also, above, all, she said to do it for fun, not for the prize money.

The episode aired Jan. 21 locally. A group of friends and family gathered to watch the episode's airing at Bucket's Sports Pub & Grub.

Lenten adult faith formation session offered for busy moms

FORT WAYNE — The diocesan Office of Catechesis will sponsor a workshop for mothers.

"How is a Busy Mom to Grow in Spirituality?" will be presented by Mary Jo Parrish beginning Saturday, Feb. 28, and continuing March 7 and 14 from 9:30-11:30 a.m. in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, Fort Wayne.

There is a beautiful legacy of Catholic men and women who have lived a rich active and deep spiritual life. Their example will be applied to the individual's own journey to find the ever-elusive balance of being a mother. Discussed will be letting go of the mother's guilt, ideas to create peace in our homes and simple ways to incorporate prayer throughout the day. Examined will be individual personalities, virtues and gifts of the Spirit.

Sessions are free to attend, however registration is required. Register online at www.diocesefwsb.org/OC under Adult Education. Contact Janice Martin at (260) 399-1411 or by e-mail at jmartin@fw.diocesefwsb.org for additional information.

Tax Assistance Program now underway

NOTRE DAME — Local taxpayers can get help with the preparation of federal and Indiana state income tax returns at nine area locations from now until April 15 through the University of Notre Dame's 38th annual Vivian Harrington Gray Tax Assistance Program (TAP).

TAP, which began this weekend, enlists accountancy students from Notre Dame and Saint Mary's College to provide free assistance to taxpayers whose 2008 earnings were \$38,000 or less. The program also offers free income tax preparation to unemployed taxpayers whose 2008 earnings were at or below \$38,000 prior to collecting taxable unemployment benefits.

Taxpayers should bring copies of their federal and state tax returns from last year and other relevant documents. Especially important for this filing season is information about the 2008 federal government's economic stimulus payment received.

For a complete list of TAP locations and hours of operation, visit <http://taptax.nd.edu> on the Web or call (574) 631-7863.

The consequences of avoidance



THE CUTTING EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

I am great at avoiding mundane or difficult things. I hate to admit it, but I often act as if my secret motto is: Why do today what you can put off until tomorrow? I am very good at avoiding certain actions until the last hour. When I was in college I would often stay up half the night cramming for an exam or writing a paper due the next morning. My excuse then was, and unfortunately still is, that I work better under pressure. I tend to think a lot about what I have to do but usually wait until I am down to the wire to do it. It is a bad habit that I would like to shed.

Lately I have been reflecting on just how detrimental this weakness of procrastination can be. Many opportunities to do good can pass us by. How sad it is for me to go to a funeral and hear friends or family members share regrets that they hadn't done or said this or that to the deceased when he or she was still alive. My heart goes out to the child who never got around to asking a parent for forgiveness or the friend who failed

to express just how much the person meant in his or her life. My own mother died a couple of months ago and there are things I kept putting off. There is no more time and now I live with a few regrets myself.

Another example of this occurred a few years ago when I kept putting off a visit to a dear friend who was quite ill. I was "too busy" with my ministry and planned to go see her when my life settled down. Well, that friend died when I was out of town and I never did get that last visit. My intentions were good, but I procrastinated just too long and now I live with the sadness of not having been there at the end.

Procrastination really has to do with our use of time. Time is a precious gift of God and all we really have is the present moment — the now. The past is gone forever and we have no control over the future. It is up to us to use each moment of life well because we will never have it again.

I often shudder when I think about all the missed opportunities in my own life when I put things off until another time. Sometimes that "another time" doesn't come and our good intentions go unfulfilled.

The habit of procrastination begins when we are young. We can be filled with good intentions but because of laziness or other reasons we avoid acting. We say we will do such and such next semester or when we graduate from college or when we get married. Then when we do get married we put off having a family until we can afford chil-

dren. When we get older we say that we will do such and such after we retire and so on and so on.

The same thing can hold true regarding our spiritual lives. We may postpone a needed retreat or involvement in our parish or maybe even going to confession. We know we need some spiritual advice but we never seem to get around to seeking anyone out. We just don't have the time. Those who tend to procrastinate no doubt have many other examples.

A good exercise for those of us who belong to the "Procrastinators of America Club" is to think about our lives and make a list of the types of actions we tend to delay or avoid doing. What are the things we tend to put off until tomorrow — when tomorrow never seems to come?

Who are the people we say we are going to call or visit when we have the time? Who is it that we avoid asking for forgiveness or need to be reconciled with? What are the good intentions that we rarely, if ever, carry out?

Hopefully we won't be like the person who wrote that if she had her life to live again she would do things like smell more roses, spend more time with friends and family, pray more, take more vacations, help more people, enjoy life, work less, etc.

Let us ask our God to help us appreciate each day of our lives and live it to the full. Let us ask for the grace to address the important things in our lives in a timely



YOUNG ADULT PERSPECTIVES

manner so we don't have to live with regrets and missed opportunities. Each day is a gift from God and we are the losers if we do not use it well. Once it is over it is gone forever. We will never have that chance again.

This week I pray that each of us will address those things in our lives that we keep putting off and do what we know needs to be done right now.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, a former campus minister and vocation director, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department. mlavonis@cscsisters.org.

Say 'cheese': looking good to the supreme photographer

There are two types of people: those who don't take pictures and those who do. Whichever category you occupy, you probably feel some uneasiness about your position, guilty of either neglect or obsession.

The first group muses, "I ought to take more pictures" — an obligation that's akin to eating more cruciferous vegetables and writing prompt thank-you notes.

The second group fears it goes overboard on picture-taking. This group consists disproportionately of young adults. Our ubiquitous cameras can turn the most mundane activity into a Kodak moment. Our lives are thoroughly documented on Facebook and Flickr, uploaded in the blink of an eye and the click of a button.

We perform for the camera, whipping out our trademark moves, the stances and expressions that charm a crowd and cinch a frame. We are constantly posing, turning life into one ongoing photo-op.

But the heavy-duty image-sculpting happens after the flash, during the editing and presentation. We have unprecedented power to alter our images, to delete the unsavory shots and Photoshop the keepers. We crop strategically and sharpen the contrast, making the whites whiter and the tans tanner.

Self-perception has never been more pliable. It is easy to create a flattering portrait: life as a series of

smiles cast under soft lighting. How we see ourselves depends upon the sophistication of our software. It has little to do with reality.

We must be aware of these illusions, remembering God's direction to Samuel as he searched Bethlehem for an anointed leader: "Not as man sees does God see, because man sees the appearances but the Lord looks into the heart."

The question is not the beauty of the body, as captured by the camera, but the beauty of the heart.

St. Paul calls us to shift our focus to the un-photographed inner self. "We look not to what is seen but to what is unseen," he instructs. "For what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal."

The unseen is the way we treat our neighbors when no one is watching. It's the moral code we uphold when it isn't convenient or conventional. It's the daily effort to scrape bitterness from sticky corners in our hearts.

Let's rise about the camera's flash this February, saturated by the glitz of Valentine's Day and the Academy Awards. Red roses and red carpet are far from reality.

Our aim on earth is not to produce Hollywood glamour for the camera. We've been given a far nobler purpose, we read in Genesis this month: We were created in the image and likeness of God.

The pictures we collect may seem to hold some weight, but they are fleeting, deleted as quick-



TWENTY SOMETHING BY CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

ly as they are snapped.

What really matters is how God sees us. How do we look through the lens of the Lord — without the benefit of the delete button and the aid of Photoshop?

That's where we should apply our revisionary efforts, altering and adjusting each day.

Pope Benedict XVI recently reflected on the beauty of Christian living. Quoting Ephesians, he said, "Christ thus desires that we grow more beautiful each day through irreproachable moral conduct, 'without wrinkle or defect.'"

So turn off the distractions: Set down the camera and log off Facebook. Stop chasing Kodak moments. Instead, chase grace, seek sacraments and pursue virtues. That kind of beauty is bigger than the camera. It can't be contained in eight megapixels. It is only picked up by the lens of the Lord.

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



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EDITORIAL

Decline of marriage compromises children's futures

The sad fact is that the institution of marriage is declining — not only in the United States, but throughout Western Europe and other developed countries. The sociological reasons for this decline stem from the 1960s, which saw the emergence of secular individualism along with the widespread introduction of legal and relatively reliable contraception and abortion. With sex severed from both marriage and children, adultery and divorce skyrocketed and children found themselves in the crosshairs of a sexual revolution.

This phenomenon has led to an increasing cultural disillusionment with marriage and acceptance of cohabitation. Forty years ago, cohabitation would have been widely considered among Americans as a deviant practice to be found at the margins of society. Forty years later, cohabitation has increased over 1,000 percent, with nearly one out of every 10 American couples living together unmarried. While such a move towards cohabitation is demonstrably a poor choice for the couples themselves as indicated by elevated levels of relational dysfunctions, unfortunately, what is often ignored or unrecognized is the terrible toll paid by the innocent children of these unions.

Approximately 2 out of every 5 children born in the United States today is born outside of wedlock. In the African-American community, it is approaching 4 out of 5. Even those born to cohabiting couples are likely to grow up with a lone parent, since cohabiting couples with children breakup at a rate more than 100 percent higher than married couples with children and those cohabiting couples that go on to marry divorce at a rate that is around 50 percent greater than those that did not cohabit prior to marriage.

In the United States, there are abundant studies showing numerous deleterious effects for the estimated 27 percent of American children who are now living in lone-parent families. However, unlike in other Western European or developed countries, these trends are not relatively homogenous across all socioeconomic classes. In fact, the United States stands out as having a little over a third of its population that remains highly religious while those who have become highly secularized are about half that. In Western Europe, the situation is reversed. This is causing an increasing social disparity in the United States between those who are both better educated and religious and those who are relatively uneducated and secular.

While religiosity has long been associated with significantly higher marriage rates, education levels are increasingly having an impact. According to a recent essay by David Popenoe of Rutgers, "Among those married in the early 1990s, for example, only 16.5 percent of college educated women were divorced within 10 years, compared to 46 percent for high school dropouts." Popenoe expects that the marriage gap will continue to grow because of the tendency of children to follow the family behavior of their parents. Increasingly, in lower socioeconomic classes, marriage is becoming referred to as a luxury associated with the wealthy. Ironically, stable marriages are one of the keys for rising out of poverty.

What is to be done?

In Western Europe where cohabitation rates are two to three times what they are in the United States, almost half of Europeans think that marriage is simply irrelevant. The question remains whether the United States will follow this trend or whether Americans will experience a renewed commitment to not only what is right, but what makes good common sense.

To renew our cultural commitment to marriage will require efforts by both the state and the church. The state can help by favoring marriage in its policies and by not rewarding or recognizing alternative arrangements such as domestic partnerships.

However, it is really the work of the church to turn the hearts of the people back to God's plan for marriage and the family. Unless the church is able to effectively evangelize our culture, despite the best efforts of government or other agencies, marriage will continue its precipitous decline and millions of innocent children will continue to pay the price for it.

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

COMMENTARY

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

Why are voters surprised?

It is amazing to me that those Catholic voters who lived, worked and breathed the cause of political and economic reform promised by the Obama campaign chose to ignore his stand on abortion and issues of vital moral concern such as his support of Roe v Wade and the Planned Parenthood agenda.

They suddenly express concern over his bold move to reverse the Mexico City policy and clear the way for taxpayers' money to fund overseas abortions on his first day in office. It should not have been a surprise, for in his first public debate before the election he claimed that he didn't know when life begins because it was "above his pay grade."

This is the man who promised an end to irresponsible leadership who has chosen someone to head the IRS who cheated on his income taxes for the past eight years and claims he used "Turbo Tax." Because he paid back what he owed and expressed regret, everything has been forgiven.

This is a man who thinks that Justices Thomas and Roberts are not fit to be on the Supreme Court presumably because of, in the case of the latter, his "inexperience." What would ever make otherwise informed and intelligent people become followers of the Obama crusade? I now sense a feeling of insecurity and skepticism on the part of those who voted for him as the answer to all of America's woes.

The life issues that were so unimportant and insignificant before the election seem to be the first and easiest decisions to make for now President Obama because the polls showed that after all, even Catholics supported him. As citizens, we can expect more of the same in the next four years.

What is difficult for me to understand is that now, instead of praying for him to win the election, his Catholic supporters are praying for his moral conversion.

Joan Loranger
South Bend

Rep. Donnelly will fight to stop FOCA from becoming law

As a member of Congress serving the Second District of Indiana, I have the privilege of representing a large portion of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in the United States House of Representatives, as well as being a parishioner in the diocese. As a pro-life Congressman, I believe it is my duty to support legislation that preserves the sanctity of life.

I want to let readers know that I am opposed to the so-called Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA), which I fear could have detrimental consequences and eliminates the states' ability to enforce laws that protect life. It would also repeal crucial laws intended to protect both the unborn child and the mother, such as parental consent requirements, waiting periods and restrictions on interstate abortion.

To bring you up to date, this proposed legislation has not come before Congress for a vote. If FOCA ever does come before Congress — and I am hopeful it will not — I will then fight to stop it from becoming law. I want to thank all of you for your postcards and correspondence regarding this matter.

Joe Donnelly
U.S. House of Representatives,
Indiana's 2nd District

Change nation's attitude

I'm writing to express my concern regarding the recent Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA), that, if passed, will not only promote abortion, but will also be a major attack on our religious freedom. If FOCA is passed, it will be mandatory for doctors and medical facilities to perform abortions on demand, regardless of one's religious beliefs. Failure to do so could result in the doctor losing his or her job and/or the medical facility being closed down.

The proponents of abortion know that there's a large enough percent of the population that is unaware of the abortion issue pertaining to FOCA, that they want to push it into law as quickly as they can, before Christians and profifers can stand their ground strongly enough to stop it.

It is important to write to our legislators and President Obama, to at least let them know where we stand on FOCA and the abortion issue, in the hope that they'll feel more accountable to profifers.

With the increase of depravity in our world today, and the government's support of abortion, etc., the day could easily come, in the not too distant future, where we will have to choose between our love for Christ and our loyalty to the government. We must obey the government unless they require us to go against God's law ... then we must obey God rather than man.

I believe to remedy the abortion problem, as well as the other problems of our nation, it's going to take more than what the government can do; it's going to take a change in attitude for our nation as a whole.

If our nation gets back to God, as a nation, as a whole and as individuals, that will enable all of us to

use better discernment in standing for what is right and what is true.

There's a saying ... "The darker the night, the brighter the stars shine." Those of us who love God are bright stars shining in a dark and depraved world. Our lives shall be an encouragement to others that people will see Christ in our hearts and come to know and love him.

Let us keep our eyes on Christ, our one and only true hope, in this life and in eternity.

Pete Freiburger
Fort Wayne

Appreciation for President Bush

This is to show appreciation for sharing the syndicated column by George Weigel, Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, D.C.

This column was very refreshing about all the wonderful things that George W. Bush has done for all of us, not only America, but also for the world. He was a great president who gave his all to protect us from terrorism. He worked diligently with many adverse people and conditions. It is a sham what the media and Hollywood did to him. We all need more of this ethical exposure.

Thank you sincerely for sharing the good news.

Marge Smithson
Fort Wayne

Disappointed with writer

I was saddened and disappointed with the letter of Ann Britzke, *Today's Catholic* Commentary, Feb. 8, 2009 justifying her vote for Obama.

She probably was not aware of the Catholic bishops advice prior to the election regarding not voting for those candidates that promote abortion/pro-abortion. This is a common problem for some Catholics who say they are Catholic but are not willing to sacrifice their interests for the sake of the church teachings.

Murder of unborn children is described as a modern-day holocaust and is a worse sin than not being able to care for the sick and not being able to help ease poverty.

Obama had just reversed the ban on federal funding for abortion-related programs recently and you can just imagine how this will increase killing of unborn children.

I'll pray for the enlightenment of Ann Britzke and all those Catholics like Nancy Pelosi and John Kerry who professed themselves as Catholics but do not follow the Catholic Church teachings. I am requesting all Catholics to join in this prayer so that we can be united in our efforts to prevent and or eliminate abortion.

Celso Dagaas
Plymouth

Paperclips are useful: What about older, bent, rusty ones?

Paperclips are functional, especially when they're new and not ruined from overuse. They're also versatile. Besides being used to hold papers together, they're used for lesser tasks: being a page marker or a pull on a zipper.

You'll see them on floors and parking lots, discarded as useless. Many are unduly bent and/or rusty. If you find such a one in your drawer, it's not used. New ones are chosen.

Take another look. Besides their primary function and minor uses, could they be valuable in any other way? Consider one paperclip's story.

"You know my obvious use: I hold things together, primarily paper but other things too. However, I never imagined that I could be used for greater things. I was satisfied being functional, and felt I was indispensable. At the office, I was often chosen over

other paperclips because I was new, shiny and efficient.

For some unknown reason, I began to be neglected. People reached beyond me for a different clip. Why, I wondered. Then, I realized: I was getting bent out of my original shape. How did that happen? When? I felt sad. Often I was passed over, barely noticed. I was happy when chosen, if no others were handy, but that didn't continue.

One day, I was sent to a super-market holding some papers. Wow! I felt great. I had something important to do. A few weeks of scuffle among departments, and I was chosen to hold a bunch of checks together. My heart raced I was off to a bank. My most important job in ages. I'd do my job well. They arrived safely; I was proud. At last, I was considered useful!

Again, as before, bent from use, no one paid attention to me. I

SPIRITUALITY OF MATURING ADULTS

SISTER ANGELITA FENKER

hoped for something meaningful to do. I wanted a new purpose. I was sad. I was pushed around for weeks at the bank. Nobody wanted me. One day I was picked up. I was helpful now as I held an important paper clipped to an envelope of money and handed to someone at the drive-through window. It felt great! Then the shock! That person took the paper, tossed the envelope on the seat, looked at me, and tossed me from the car.

FENKER, PAGE 16

Jesus overcomes sin and death



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time Mk 1:40-45

The Book of Leviticus supplies the first reading for this weekend. As one of the first five books of the Bible, all attributed to Moses, Leviticus is part of the collection called, in Greek, Pentateuch, and in Hebrew, Torah.

These five books, comprising the Torah, formed the basic theology and laws of conduct, for Jews at the time of Jesus, and even still today, the Torah is the basic religious document of Judaism.

This reading is in the style of a report. God speaks to Moses and to Aaron, the brother of Moses. Leprosy is the issue. Both the Old and New Testaments, in many places, refer to persons suffering from leprosy.

Today's medical historians cannot decide if this malady mentioned often in the Bible in fact was Hansen's disease or some other illness. However, whatever the exact scientific nature of what the ancients called leprosy, the problem was chronic and severe.

It was assumed to be contagious or communicable. For this reason, contacts with persons afflicted with leprosy, as it was called, were avoided at all costs.

Indeed, social customs and

even laws made contact difficult. Victims were outcasts. They suffered the psychological injury of being shunned, but they also most often virtually had to forage for food and search for any shelter they could find.

Ancient Jews would never blame God, regarded as good, loving and merciful, for the fact of such a serious malady. God was. In the minds of ancient Hebrews, human sin was ultimately the cause of all earthly misery. So, it was reasoned, sin must have caused leprosy. Victims themselves either sinned, or their plight was a consequence of their parents' or ancestors' sin.

St. Paul's First Epistle to the Corinthians is the source of the second reading. In this reading, the great apostle advises the Corinthian Christians never to offend either Jew or Gentile, in the process revealing the fact that Jews and Gentiles were within the Christian community in Corinth. This is not surprising. Corinth was a great city, with people from everywhere.

Paul says that he imitates Christ, and he urges that the Christians follow his example.

The same attitude about leprosy, whatever this disease actually was, applied among Jews at the time of Jesus as it did among Jews at the time of Moses. When a leper approached Jesus, asking for a cure, the poor leper was in an awful condition, ostracized and hopeless.

Jesus, "moved with pity," cured the man. Then the Lord ordered the man to go to the priests. The man had been exiled from the community because of his illness. The priests could reinstate him. But, the priests had to see that he was free of disease.

Reflection

These weeks after Christmas, the feast of the Epiphany of the Lord, and the feast of the Baptism of the Lord, the church continues through these Scriptural readings at Mass to introduce us to the person and ministry of Jesus.

In the readings this weekend, the horror of leprosy, as it was seen among Jews long ago, is critical to understanding the readings. In particular, it is necessary to realize the connection in the ancient mind between sin and death.

Sin indeed leads to death. Furthermore, it separates us from the one community of faith in the Lord. As outcasts, sinners are left to struggle in any way they can, their efforts never adequate.

Jesus, always moved by pity, cures us by forgiving our sins. Forgiven, we enter again the family of God. Life, not death, is our destiny.

The key is to have faith, to repent, and to live according to the Lord's model, in every respect, as St. Paul lived.

READINGS

Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46 Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 1 Cor 10:31-11:1 Mk 1:40-45

Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25 Ps 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-21 Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10 Ps 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b 9c-10 Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday: Gn 8:6-13, 20-22 Ps 116:12-15, 18-19 Mk 8:22-26

Thursday: Gn 9:1-13 Ps 102:16-18, 19-23, 29 Mk 8:27-33

Friday: Gn 11:1-9 Ps 33:10-15 Mk 8:34-9:1

Saturday: Heb 11:1-7 Ps 145:2-5, 10-11 Mk 9:2-13

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

On Feb. 11, we remember our Lady of Lourdes. In this quiz the correct answers should be easy to spot, they all begin with the letter L.

- One of the most common titles for God in the Old and New Testament, occurring more than 500 times, is**
 - lawgiver
 - lord
 - lamb
- And this word used in the New Testament to refer to many, was actually a borrowing from the Roman army:**
 - lictor
 - lex Romana
 - legion
- Two books of the Old Testament begin with the letter L. One is Leviticus, the other is**
 - Lamentations
 - Leviathan
 - Luke
- The only Gospel writer with this letter in his name is**
 - Matthelus (Latin for Matthew)
 - Luke
 - John the Beloved
- These men referred to in Acts, had certain civic and police functions under the Romans**
 - Levites
 - Lexicographers
 - Lictors
- And these man assisted Jewish priests**
 - libertines
 - Levites
 - Lollards
- This estate was an early gift to the church**
 - Lectern
 - Lateran
 - Lampedusa
- This is a term used in both the east and west for certain Christian rituals**
 - liturgy
 - lapidrey
 - lugrbiity
- This man was the second pope**
 - Linus
 - Lictus
 - Lemus
- This, often thought of as the ancient church language, was actually fairly slow to be adopted by the Greek speaking church:**
 - Languè D'oc
 - Latin
 - Lettish
- This pope reportedly faced down Attila the Hun:**
 - Linus
 - Leon
 - Leo
- The version of French used by the Crusaders as a common tongue gave us this phrase**
 - lingue esperantao
 - lingua communa
 - lingua franca
- That was a time of unity, but this Catholic eventually divided the church**
 - Lionhearted (Richard I)
 - Luther
 - Leo III
- In England these men sympathized with opponents of the church:**
 - Loserinos
 - Lancastrians
 - Lollards
- The Teutonic Knights spread Christianity to this region, which is now known by the modern states names, Latvia and Estonia:**
 - Livonia
 - Lusitania
 - Lombardy

ANSWERS

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

Consider yourself invited

There comes a time in every man's life when opportunity knocks, and a man's life can be changed forever. These are the moments that challenge to the point of reflection. The question forms in one's mind, what have I really accomplished with my life? Is this all there is?

Well gentlemen, consider yourself invited to join the Knights of Columbus, the largest Catholic, family, charitable, fraternal organization in the world. As a member of the Knights of Columbus, you will have the opportunity to live more fully as a Christian witness to defend our faith by word and deed. You're being invited to get up off the couch and have the courage to make a difference in the life of another Catholic gentleman. You might have even been asked in the past without commitment. We're asking again.

This March, members of the Knights of Columbus throughout the United States, will be asking men to help strengthen our church with the theme, "Follow Me," to quote Pope Benedict XVI. This is



THE INDIANA KNIGHTS

BY BOB HARTENSTEIN

your chance to say yes to any Knight who might ask you to join our ranks. There is strength in numbers walking the walk of a Catholic gentleman following the word of God. This March 29, the Knights are celebrating Founder's Day; 127 years of doing just that.

What's in it for you? If you join for the right reasons, you will become part of an organization over 1.75 million men strong, over 33,000 in the state of Indiana. You can become something greater than yourself and lead the order to new heights. You can join an organization willing to face the challenges our church is facing today.

Would our parents have ever dreamed we would be facing the redefining of marriage, divorce and euthanasia; how about the

removal of "under God" from the Pledge of Allegiance, all religious reference from government, even our currency?

This March, we hope that someone will ask you to join our ranks during our membership blitz that will be conducted nationwide. If there is no one to ask you to join, visit: www.indianakofc.org/ and double click "find a council" or ask your parish priest for a contact.

Opportunity is knocking. Won't you say "yes" to membership in the Knight of Columbus?

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

'Afflicted' with fertility?

What's the biggest threat to the world's prosperity and stability over the medium haul — say, between 2020 and 2050? The proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction? A continuing economic recession? Jihadism running amok? The Detroit Lions ushering in the Apocalypse by winning an NFL championship? (Just kidding.)

Guess again.

According to Neil Howe and Richard Jackson, two researchers at Washington's Center for Strategic and International Studies, the primary destabilizer of world affairs in the mid-decades of the 21st century will be demographics — meaning, primarily, too few people throughout too much of the developed and developing world. Some numbers-crunching helps make the case:

In the 1980s, the median age was 34 in Western Europe and 35 in Japan. Absent an unanticipated and dramatic change in birth rates, the median age in western Europe in 2020 will be 47, and in Japan, 52.

In the 2020s, half the adult populations of Italy, Spain and Japan will be above the official retirement age.

By 2030, thanks to several generations of cratering birth rates and the resulting demand for immigrant labor to fill low-wage jobs, the number of Muslims will double in France and triple in Germany. Amsterdam, Birmingham, Cologne and Marseilles will likely be majority-Muslim cities, 20 years from now.

China, the fair-haired boy of establishment international affairs analysts, is heading for serious trouble, thanks to its draconian one-child policy and commu-

nism's destruction of traditional Chinese culture. By 2030, China will be an older country than the U.S. As Howe and Jackson write, "Imagine (Chinese) workforce growth slowing to zero while tens of millions of elders sink into indigence without pensions, without health care, and without children to support them. China could careen toward social collapse — or, in reaction, toward an authoritarian clampdown."

Vladimir Putin's plans for a new Russian imperium may run aground, because Russia will almost certainly be in demographic free fall by 2050, if not sooner. With what demographers call "lowest-low" birth rates, and confronting colossal public health problems related to alcohol abuse and environmental degradation, Russia is a mess. Today, the average Russian man's life expectancy is 59, which is 16 years less than his American counterpart (and somewhat less than the life-expectancy of those in his grandfather's generation who survived Stalin and Hitler). Forty years out, Russia will have fallen in the world population tables from fourth place (in 1950) to 20th place.

And while all this is going on, Western Europe will be in continuing social, economic and political crisis, thanks to too few tax-paying workers trying to support the womb-to-tomb Euro-welfare state — which has already displaced private-sector health care and pension options while suppressing the habits necessary to sustain them.

Ever since the 1968 publication of Paul Ehrlich's intellectually fraudulent bestseller, "The Population Bomb," enlightened opinion has held that "overpopulation" is the problem. It isn't, and it



GEORGE WEIGEL

THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

never was. Now, thanks in part to the triumph of a contraceptive mentality in societies that have lost any religious sense of obligation toward the future, the grim truth is revealing itself: the problem is too few people. Of course, there was always something instinctively counterintuitive about the anti-natalist cast of mind, which thinks of a newborn calf as a "resource" or an "asset" and a newborn child as a "burden" or "problem." Now that implausibility turns out to have, not only the gravest moral consequences, but the most severe economic, social, and political results.

Yet the mythology of overpopulation is so deeply embedded in American elite opinion that even realistic observers like Howe and Jackson, after looking into the demographic abyss, can still write that contemporary sub-Saharan Africa is "afflicted" with "the world's highest fertility rates." No, sub-Saharan Africa is "afflicted" with vast governmental corruption and ineptitude, ethnic and tribal madnesses, jihadism and diseases ancient and modern. But it is not "afflicted" with people.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for February 15, 2009

Mark 1:40-45

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B: the cleansing of a leper, and its effects. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

A LEPER	TO HIM	KNEELING
MAKE	CLEAN	MOVED
PITY	STRETCHED OUT	HIS HAND
TOUCHED HIM	BE MADE CLEAN	LEPROSY
AT ONCE	BUT GO	SHOW YOURSELF
PRIEST	CLEANSING	MOSES
BEGAN	TOWN	OPENLY

MOVED WITH PITY

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

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FENKER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

That person noticed how bent I was and had no use for me. There I lay on the parking lot. Vehicles ran over me. I felt sad.

Besides being bent, I became rusty. I was hopeless. One day, a young boy cut through the lot, spied me, picked me up, said, "yeah!" He slipped me onto a page in the science book under his arm. "Just what I needed!"

Me! A bent, old, rusty paperclip! He wanted me! At home, he began his experiment dealing with magnets. He used me for his project to show that even bent, old, rusty paperclips had potential. He realized that I had a strong heart of steel, and was determined to illustrate what I could yet do. He attached my one end to a huge magnet full of an energy I never knew existed. It permeated me. Then, he placed my other end into a pan of objects with hearts of steel. Power rushed through me into them, they too became magnetic. I never wanted to be separated from the magnet's energy. As long as I was attached, the flow never stopped, and its dynamism surged into others through me. Amazing! My existence now had vibrant meaning and vivid purpose. I remained there; I knew that if I'd detach, I'd just be an old, bent, rusty paperclip again. I didn't

ever want that! The boy, who found me and loved me, left me attached to prove to others that I, though old, bent and rusty, still had miracle-gifts to be discovered."

Remember, your Source, Christ, is infinite. Let him draw you to himself in incredible ways, and know that he is ready to do even more wondrous things in, with, to and through you to change the world around you as you are vibrantly alive with his love, light, life and presence now. Stay attached!

Reflect

1. What does this parable mean to you at this time of life?
2. How can you remain attached to Christ in ways you never did before?
3. Reread John 14:12; imagine the possibilities.

Sister Angelita Fenker has been involved in education for over 60 years. Her doctorate is in spirituality with a focus on holistic family spirituality. She holds many post-doctoral certificates in the area of spirituality for maturing adults and gives seminars and retreats throughout the U.S. and Canada. Her book, "Grace-filled Transitions unto Transformation," was published in 2004 and is available at Barnes and Noble.

Sports

ATHLETES SIGN WITH COLLEGES Three Dwenger senior athletes signed their national letters of intent Feb. 4 to continue their careers at the collegiate level. Tyler Eifert signed with the University of Notre Dame (football), Gina Killion signed with Murray State in Kentucky (soccer) and Sean Weigand signed with University of Saint Francis (soccer).

Junior Squires repeat titles

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — Both the boys' and girls' teams from St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel dominated the Catholic Youth Organization (CYO) small school junior varsity league winning their 2009 tournaments.

The defending girls' were victorious over St. Therese in their championship game by a score of 29-11 after beating Huntington Catholic, 22-12, in the first round and Most Precious Blood, 25-8, in the semifinals. The Lady Squires were untouched during the season finishing with an impressive 23-0 record.

The 15-girl roster consisted of seven fourth graders, five fifth graders and three sixth graders and claimed three different tournament titles during their outstanding season. Rookie Coach Tracy Sweeney knew her young team may lack experience but concluded, "We had an extremely talented group. Their dedication, hard work and desire made the difference all year long."

Hessen Cassel's Aubrey Feipel led all scorers with 12 points while Angelica Navarro added six for St. Therese in the championship.

In the boys' bracket, the Squires defeated Most Precious Blood in the opening round then got by St. Therese before facing the St. Louis-St. Rose Twins in the final game. Despite just a two-point lead at the half, the Squires pulled off a 37-29 victory to repeat their CYO tournament performance from a year ago.

Twins sixth grader Jake Castleman led all scorers with 18 points while Adam Beard paced the victors with nine. The Squires, who played a predominately "large school" schedule, finished with a 13-4 record and chalked up three additional first place medals in tournaments they competed in. Coach Tom Ottenweller could not have been more pleased with his team's performance this season and summarized, "This was a great group of boys who will succeed in whatever they do if they lead their lives like they played on the court."

In the large school junior varsity tournament, St. Charles defeated St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth, 39-23, for the boys' sixth-grade title while St. Jude beat St. Charles in the girls' championship, 25-10. Fans saw an overtime thriller in the girls' fifth-grade final game with St. Charles squeaking by St. Vincent, 31-29.

With the varsity tourney just weeks away, CYO seventh and eighth-graders played a full week-end of contests at various sites. Coach Dave Westendorf reported that St. Jude downed conference foe, St. Joseph, Decatur, 39-22, to finish with a perfect record of 6-0 in league play and seal the top seed in the girls' large school tournament. At St. Joseph Hessen Cassel, St. Charles, the first-place seeded Gold League team, fell to the Blue League powerhouse host Squires in a boys non-count matchup.

Varsity Large School Girls Standings

St. Jude	6-0
St. Vincent	5-1
St. Charles	4-2
St. John, FW	3-3
Decatur	2-4
St. Joseph/St. Eliz.	1-5
New Haven	0-6

Varsity Large School Boys Standings

St. Charles	5-1
St. Jude	4-2
St. Joseph/St. Eliz.	4-2
New Haven	4-2
St. John, FW	3-3
St. Vincent	1-5
Decatur	0-6

Boys

St. Jude 30; St. Joseph, Decatur (8), 28

St. Aloysius, 23; St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth (8), 49 — Kaufman 12, Thiele 11

St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, 50; St. Charles (8), 31 — Knapke 20
St. John, Fort Wayne (7), 29;
St. Joseph, Decatur (7), 37 — Sefton 14, Oberly 11

St. Aloysius 17, St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth (7), 28 — Wampole/Sorg 4, Casaburo 12

St. Joseph, Decatur (8), 16; St. John, New Haven (8), 57 — Painter 22, Selking/Macklin 5

Girls

St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel 39, St. John, New Haven (8) 13

St. Jude (8) 39, St. Joseph, Decatur (8) 22 — Feipel 11, Brite 10

St. Charles (7) 38, St. John, Fort Wayne (7) 14 — Sordelet 8, Taylor 10

St. Aloysius 38, St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth (8) 22 — Reimbold 9, Zaremba 21

St. John, Fort Wayne (7) 23, St. John, New Haven (7) 28 — Hope 15, Taylor 11

Wildcats eye tourney championship

BY ELMER J. DANCH

SOUTH BEND — The basketballers of St. Joseph School, Mishawaka, are sharply focused on bagging a postseason championship tournament in the Inter-City Catholic League, which winds up this weekend.

The Wildcats beat St. Matthew, 45-25, in the Sunday semifinal round. Michael Whitfield poured in 15 points to lead the victors. Just the day before, they defeated St. Anthony, 63-22.

In other semifinals, St. Pius X of Granger tipped Christ the King, 39-37. On Saturday, St.

Pius X, Granger, edged Queen of Peace, Mishawaka, 38-35, despite Anthony Piraccini's 12 points for the Pumas.

Holy Family upset Our Lady of Hungary, 45-37, and St. Joseph of South Bend nipped St. Thomas of Elkhart, 35-28.

Dillon Hensley of Holy Family lead all individual scorers with 21 points. Greenan Sullivan of St. Pius X, Granger, was right behind with 19 points.

In other games played Feb. 7, Christ the King defeated St. Monica, 34-27. Connor Edmonds contributed 15 points in the win.

Our Lady of Hungary defeated Holy Cross, 54-30, with the winners led by Tyran Ottbridge with

24 points and Dominique Sanders with 16 points. Mark Maden had 11 points for Holy Cross.

St. Joseph, South Bend, defeated St. Michael of Plymouth, 38-31. Tommy Favorite had 13 points for St. Joseph. Gabe Vervynct gave 16 points for St. Michael.

Holy Family edged St. Jude, 36-35. J.C. Obringer paced Holy Family with 18 points and Alex Stopczynski, with 10 points, led St. Jude.

St. Thomas the Apostle of Elkhart beat St. John the Baptist, 39-17.

The tournament championship will be Sunday at 2:45 p.m. at Marian High School.



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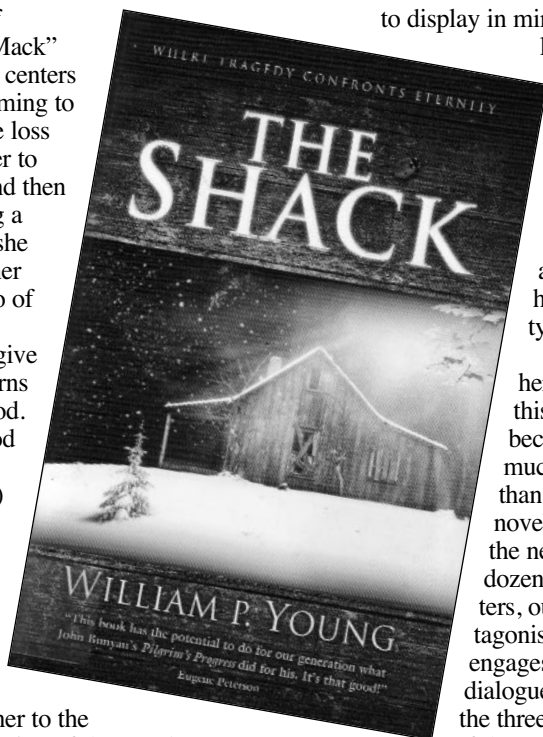
'The Shack' isn't the end-all answer to understanding God

BY YORK YOUNG

There's been a lot of chatter recently in the Christian book market about "The Shack," a novel self-published by the author William P. Young (Windblown Media, \$24.95), which has climbed into the top 10 on bestseller lists, and on a recent January day was No. 4 on Amazon.com.

A straightforward tale of one man's abandonment of God after a tragedy quickly turns into an exposition of one man's theology and his coming around to re-embracing his relationship with the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Three publishers turned this project down, according to Young. If those publishers are leaders in the Christian market, after thumping themselves on the head for passing, no doubt they will be getting out many similar projects as soon as they can.

The tale of Mackenzie "Mack" Allen Phillips centers around his coming to terms with the loss of his daughter to kidnapping and then murder during a camping trip she was on with her father and two of her siblings. Unable to forgive himself, he turns away from God. Papa, how God (imaged as a black woman) manifests himself to Mack, has different plans, however, inviting the still-distraught father to the shack, the location of the murder,



to display in miraculous

ways the love he has for Mack and all humanity.

It's here that this story becomes much less than a novel. For the next dozen chapters, our protagonist engages in a dialogue with the three Gods of the Triune

God (at least that theology is correctly intact), and the reader is essentially given a sermon on what it really means to be in relationship with God. Unfortunately, the main messages are that there are no expectations, no rules, no churches needed — it's all about being open to God and embracing the relationship he wants for us.

Yes, God's grace is for everybody, and all we need to do is be open to him giving us that grace. However, as fallen creatures, it won't come that simply, no matter how hard we try. And presenting an alleged story by writing dialogue between a human and three different versions of an anthropomorphized God — actually, buying into Jesus was less difficult, since he was fully human (yet fully divine) — isn't the end-all answer to understanding God better.

In addition, the writing is stilted, with lack of emotional depth and containing many uninspired, work-

manlike metaphors. And no matter how many times God winks at Mack, it doesn't enhance the alleged attempts at humor they accompany.

Nevertheless, thousands of Christians and plenty of Catholics are caught up in the possibilities this book reveals. Perhaps we want to more readily accept that we can converse with God in a more human, and visibly direct, manner. This may account for much of the enthusiasm. But, God is unlikely to appear before most of us, and to believe otherwise is delusional.

Praying to God, being open to his prompting in prayer (perhaps even before the Blessed Sacrament), confessing our sins to him, attending Mass (at least weekly) and receiving the Eucharist is how we help ourselves get closer to God. Even most of the saints never had the type of one-on-one conversation "The Shack" implies is natural.

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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.

FISH FRIES

Fish fry season begins

Fort Wayne — St. Therese Parish will have a fish fry Friday, March 6, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. The proceeds will benefit the athletic department. The menu includes Dan's fish, scalloped potatoes, macaroni and cheese, coleslaw, applesauce and choice of dessert. Adults \$8, children (5-12) \$4.50 and children under 5 eat free.

Fish fry at St. Jude

Fort Wayne — St. Jude Parish, across from Parkview Hospital, will have a fish fry Friday, Feb. 27, from 5-8 p.m. in the church basement. Adults \$7, children 6-8 \$5 and children under 5 free.

Fish fry and salad bar

South Bend — St. Adalbert Parish will have a fish fry and salad bar Friday, Feb. 27, from 3:30-7 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Adults and carry-out \$7.50, children 5-12 \$3 and children under 5 free.

DEVOTIONS

Day of reflection

Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be held at St. Francis Convent on Wednesday, Feb. 25, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. The theme for the day is "The Master Weaver." Please bring a Bible. The cost of the day is \$15 and includes lunch. Register by Friday, Feb. 20, to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

Little Flower Holy Hour

Fort Wayne — Father Daryl Rybicki will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour, to pray for priests and vocations, at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, Feb. 17, at 7:15 p.m. Father Rybicki is pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Fort Wayne.

FUNDRAISERS

LuersKnight fundraiser

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will celebrate 50 years of quality education with LuersKnight, Friday, April 24, including dinner by Hall's and entertainment by Bishop Luers Jazz Band and Minstrels. Preview night with silent auction is April 23 from 7-9 p.m.

St. Vincent de Paul Society holding Simple Living Raffle

South Bend — The St. Vincent de Paul Society will hold a Simple Living Raffle from Jan. 12 to Feb. 24. The tickets are \$5 for one, \$10 for three and \$20 for seven. Prizes include one of four Martin's gift certificates priced at \$500, \$750, \$1,000, or a prize of \$1500. The drawing will be at Fiddler's Hearth Feb. 24 from 6-9 p.m. Participants need not be present to win. The evening will include musical entertainment by Kennedy's Kitchen.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, Feb. 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$7, children (5-12) \$3. Carry-out available.

Eighth-grade chicken sale

Fort Wayne — The St. John the Baptist eighth-grade class will have a drive-through Nelson's BBQ chicken sale Friday, Feb. 20, from 4-6:30 p.m. behind the school. Presale tickets only are \$6. All proceeds to eighth grade.

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Glenbrook event gets people walking

Fort Wayne — The 3 Lap Health Walk will be held on March 7 at Glenbrook Square Mall.

Participants will be offered indoor wellness activities, health information, "good choice" food samples, and a "scavenger lap" (more than 12 mall stores will be giving items to the first 300 participants during the "scavenger lap"). All proceeds keep IN MOTION free for Indiana schools. More than 35 school systems and 39 individual schools, including area Catholic schools, currently receive the IN MOTION newsletter. Visit www.citywalkinc.org.

Notre Dame smoker planned

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel will have a Notre Dame smoker, Sunday, Feb. 22, from 12:30-5:30 p.m. in the activity center. Tickets are \$15 at the door or in advance to become eligible to win Notre Dame home game tickets. Food and beverages provided. Call Gary at (260) 639-3259 for tickets or they may be purchased at Nine Mile Restaurant.

High school winter retreat

The Office of Youth Ministry will have a winter retreat "Come Hungry" Friday, Feb. 20 through Sunday, Feb. 22, at Epworth Forest Retreat Center in North Webster. Go to www.diocesefwsb.org/youth or call the Office of Youth Ministry at (260) 422-4611 for more information.

REST IN PEACE

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Marjorie A. Osterholt, 88, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Lawrence H. Kohrman, 93, Queen of Angels

Gary Vanderbilt, 51, St. Charles Borromeo

Eileen R. Haifley, 82, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

Richard J. Koons, 64, Our Lady of Good Hope

Goshen

Wayne E. Miller, 71, St. John the Evangelist

Lagrange

Richard P. Brady, 77, St. Joseph

Mishawaka

Leo H. McCormick Jr., 70, St. Bavo

Karen Sami Wittman, 64, Queen of Peace

Notre Dame

Alfons J. Beitzinger, 90, Sacred Heart Basilica

New Haven

Bertha A. Gerardot, 89, St. Louis, Besancon

South Bend

Florence I. Matthys, 85, Holy Family

Luz Ester Robles, 90, Little Flower

Dorothy P. Szabo, 85, St. Anthony de Padua

Everett V. Hogie, 86, St. John the Baptist

Alice M. Kochanowski, 88, Holy Cross

Loretta M. Budzinski, 88, Holy Cross

Michael T. Deren, 74, Holy Cross

Stanley A. Kapusta, 86, Little Flower

Frank L. Govek, 91, Holy Family

Amelia Zadurski, 85, St. Anthony de Padua

Sharon Sloan, 70, Holy Cross

Raymond J. Krych, 81, St. Stanislaus

Warsaw

David A. Peters, 50, Sacred Heart

Yoder

Richard Quackenbush, 58, St. Aloysius

Former Today's Catholic writer/translator Graciela Beecher dies

FORT WAYNE — Dr. Graciela F. Beecher, former writer/translator for *Today's Catholic* newspaper, died Feb. 1 at the age of 82. Dr. Beecher was instrumental in

developing the humanities department at Saint Francis University and assisting Msgr. J. William Lester in settling Cubans in Fort Wayne. During her time at *Today's Catholic*, Beecher worked under editor Bill Cone as Spanish translator. Memorial Services at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception will be Feb. 21 at 5 p.m.

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MARCH

6 St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church 10700 Aboite Center Road (Fish Dinner)
7 Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church 1819 Reservation Drive (Fish/Chicken Strips)
13 St Joseph Hessen Cassel Church US Hwy 27 South of 469 (Fish Dinner)
20-22 NATMUS Tractor Show/Auction Kruse International Auction Park/Auburn
27 St. Aloysius Church 14623 Bluffton Road (Fish Dinner)

APRIL

18 4-H Allen County Fairgrounds Carroll Road (Fish/Chicken Strips)
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JUDY BRADFORD

Bishop John M. D'Arcy talks, during his homily, with Allison Whitesel and Tony Mohacsek, of St. John the Baptist School, about how faith grows at the South Bend area all-schools Mass on Feb. 4.

LITURGY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sounds of which human beings, created in the image and likeness of God, are capable, voice is the most privileged and fundamental.”

“The desire to offer God our praise will impel us to use our voices,” French pointed out, so the musical role of the congregation is especially important in today’s liturgical celebrations. The choir, the psalmist and the cantor also play important roles but “must not minimize the musical participation of the faithful,” according to the document.

The organist and other instrumentalists support and sustain the singing of the congregation and others. In fact, the organ is said to have “pride of place” because of its capacity to sustain the singing of a large congregation and give resonance to the full range of human emotion. Finally, the importance of the attitude, style and bearing of the priest celebrant cannot be overstated, as he sings, chants and prays in the name of the assembled community.

A professional director of music ministries is considered by Catholic bishops to be vital in today’s church. That person should oversee the liturgical music program, promote active participation in it at all parish levels and receive adequate compensation for those responsibilities, noted French with wry humor.

French also drew laughter when he described the issues he has personally dealt with as a parish music director regarding musical selections for church functions such as weddings. It is important to distinguish between secular and sacred music, he pointed out, and those songs chosen for sacramental occasions must always be appro-

priate to the liturgy. “Wind Beneath My Wings,” though a popular favorite, has no place in a Catholic ceremony, he said. The document is clear on this point. “To admit to the liturgy the cheap, the trite or the musical cliché often found in secular popular songs is to cheapen the liturgy ...”

Sacred music has three dimensions — ritual, spiritual and cultural. The ritual dimension of sacred music refers to the way it supports the liturgy and the rite. The spiritual dimension of sacred music refers to “its inner qualities that enable it to add greater depth to prayer, unity to the assembly or dignity to the ritual.” The cultural context refers to the setting in which the music is used, including the age, heritage and ethnic background of the assembly. All three dimensions come into play when

choosing appropriate music for any church function.

In preparing music for divine worship, the principle of progressive solemnity should be invoked, that is, the more solemn the occasion, the more parts of the rite should be sung. “Music should not provide pomp and circumstance for its own sake,” said French.

Preference should be given to dialogues and acclamations, those parts sung by the celebrant with the assembly responding, or sung by priest and congregation together, because “they foster community between the priest and people,” he pointed out. Then antiphons and psalms follow in order of importance, then refrains and repeated responses, and finally, hymns. There is even a place for “sacred silence” in the liturgy.

French concluded the morn-

MASS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

a search for God.”

The bishop also called on Sister Margaret Mary Mitchel, of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, to tell students how she was drawn into the life of a religious after working as an industrial engineer. A graduate of Purdue University, she said that God put her “in touch with good people from the church who drew me into service.”

The bishop also called up Felician Sister Clare Marie Klein, who teaches science at Holy Family School. She said science also led her to the Creator, but it was her parents who encouraged her to pursue ministry.

The annual Mass is a unique event that brings together students, teachers and administrators of 23 area schools. The Feb. 4

Mass marked the 18th year for the gathering, which also collected food baskets for the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County to distribute to the poor. The bishop brought attention to the number of people laid off from work, especially in Elkhart County where unemployment has reached 15.3 percent, the highest in the state and nation.

During the Mass, Bishop D’Arcy said that one of the beauties of being Catholic is a strong belief in, and appreciation for learning.

“It is wonderful to be with you, when we realize how big the Catholic schools are in the community and how God wants to use Catholic education to begin a beautiful preparation for life, to see how life is a gift and to hear the call.”

Students participated as servers, gift bearers, readers, cantors and members of the procession.

Student cantors, choir members and musicians led the assembly in song.

ing’s presentation by describing the importance of music in life’s journey and telling his listeners, “Sing, but continue on your journey.”

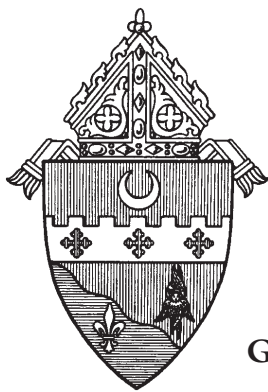
The second part of the day’s program was an exploration of the treasury of Gregorian chant, “uniquely the church’s own music.”

“Sing to the Lord” calls Gregorian chant “a living connection with our forebears in the faith, the traditional music of the Roman rite, a sign of communion with the universal church, a bond of unity across cultures, a means for diverse communities to participate together in song, and a summons to contemplative participation in the liturgy.” It is 1,100 years of musical expression, which is once again finding its place in today’s liturgy.

Catholic bishops declared that “each worshipping community in the United States, including all age groups and all ethnic groups, should, at a minimum,” learn the easier chants of the Kyrie, Sanctus and Agnus Dei and incorporate them in the Sunday liturgy.

French suggested to those in attendance that they “take small steps” to introduce Gregorian chant in their parishes. “Music directors should encourage their communities to sing chant,” he said, and concluded with a practical demonstration of his directing and teaching style.

The day concluded with Mass celebrated by Bishop John M. D’Arcy, with the melodic and timeless strains of Gregorian chant echoing through the building and evoking memories of a much earlier era in the church.



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