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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Humanity must use weapons of truth, mercy to end conflict

BY CAROL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christ's resurrection is not a myth or fairy tale; it is the one and only event that has destroyed the root of evil and can fill the emptiness in people's hearts, Pope Benedict XVI said in his Easter message.

But Christ still wants humanity to help affirm his victory by using his weapons of justice, truth, mercy and love to end the suffering in Africa, build peace in the Holy Land, and combat hunger and poverty worldwide, he said April 12 in his message "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world).

"Africa suffers disproportionately from the cruel and unending conflicts, often forgotten, that are causing so much bloodshed and destruction in several of her nations," and increasing numbers of Africans fall prey to hunger, poverty and disease, the pope said in the message broadcast from St. Peter's Square to millions of people worldwide.

He said when he visits the Holy Land May 8-15 he will "emphatically repeat the same message" of reconciliation and peace he brought to Africa during his March 17-23 visit to Cameroon and Angola.

While reconciliation is difficult, he said, it is an indispensable "precondition for a future of overall security and peaceful coexistence and it can only be achieved through renewed, persevering and sincere efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

Pope Benedict read his message and gave his solemn blessing after celebrating Easter morning Mass in St. Peter's Square, which Vatican Radio said



CNS PHOTO/TONY GENTILE, REUTERS

Pope Benedict XVI waves to the faithful during his Easter Monday "Regina Coeli" prayer at the papal villa at Castel Gandolfo, Italy, April 13.

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TELLING OUR FAITH STORY

I've rejoiced to be Catholic ever since coming into the church at St. Therese Parish at the Easter Vigil in 1997. Pursuit of undergraduate and graduate degrees in theology and biblical studies from a leading Protestant college and seminary didn't answer questions gnawing at my soul and instead led to more questions and eventually home to the Catholic Church. Wonderful!



Vicki L. Jacobs
Administration Liaison-Office of the
President, University of Saint Francis

Group of Holy Cross priests oppose Notre Dame's invitation

NOTRE DAME — A group of 10 Holy Cross priests said the decision to invite President Barack Obama as the University of Notre Dame's commencement speaker "portends a distancing of Notre Dame from the church which is its lifeblood and the source of its identity and real strength."

"Such a distancing puts at risk the true soul of Notre Dame," said the priests, who are graduates of Notre Dame and members of the order that founded the university.

The priests' signed letter to the editor was published in the April 8 issue of Notre Dame's student newspaper, *The Observer*.

They said they wished to join and support the "courageous students and treasured alumni" who similarly opposed the university's "sad and regrettable decision" to host Obama as the school's May 17 commence-

ment speaker and honorary degree recipient.

Critics of Obama say his support of legal abortion and embryonic stem-cell research make him an inappropriate choice to be commencement speaker at a Catholic university.

The group of priests echoed the U.S. bishops' 2004 document, "Catholics in Political Life." The document says: "Catholic institutions should not honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles. They should not be given awards, honors or platforms which would suggest support for their actions."

In an early April letter to Notre Dame's board of trustees, not released by the uni-

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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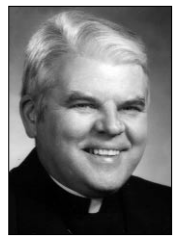
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Honoring our baptism honors death and resurrection of Christ



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Easter and baptism

What a sacred privilege, something true beyond words and becoming more and more a joy to me, as I pass through my last years as your bishop. I refer to the celebration of the services of the sacred triduum, and especially of the Easter vigil.

I baptized three people at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, this year; and many more adults and children were baptized at these sacred ceremonies throughout our diocese.

I thought of my own baptism at Our Lady of the Presentation Church in Brighton, Mass., in August, 1932.

When blood and water poured forth from the side of Christ, as recounted in John's Gospel, it symbolized the Holy Spirit being poured out on the church and the world.

But this Spirit could not come until he offered himself in sacrifice.

"If I do not go, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you." — Jn 16:7.

When we honor our baptism, we are honoring the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. What can truly be said is that his death is our life.

The baptismal font of Pope John Paul II

Pope Benedict XVI quotes Johann Wolfgang von Goethe, a great German poet, who said, "He who wishes to under-

stand a poet should visit his native land." Pope Benedict XVI says, "This is also true for those who wish to understand the life and ministry of John Paul II; it is necessary to come to the city of his birth." In 1979, in his first pilgrimage to Poland as pope, John Paul stated: "In this baptismal font, on June 20, 1920, I was given the grace to become a son of God, together with faith in my Redeemer, and I was welcomed into the community of the church. I have already solemnly kissed the baptismal font in the year of the millennium of the baptism of Poland, when I was archbishop of Krakow. I kissed it again on the 50th anniversary of my baptism, when I was a cardinal, and today I kiss this baptismal font for the third time, as I come from Rome as the Successor of St. Peter."

The first confirmation

On Easter Monday night, I made the short trip to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish. It was my privilege to establish this parish. I was there a few weeks previously in Lent as part of a highly successful parish mission. On this night, I conferred the sacrament of confirmation on 126 young people in a beautiful ceremony.

Confirmation is the completion of baptism. At baptism, we are made children of God; and in confirmation, witnesses to Christ. Again, it is from the loving death and resurrection of Jesus Christ that these graces are put forth. Please pray that I may somehow in the weeks that lie ahead, be enabled to express this truth in a language that will bid entry into the hearts of young people and also of their parents. It will be the 25th spring time when I have the privilege to give this sacrament of Christian maturity in our diocese, and the 35th overall. This year, I pray for the grace of conveying to the listeners at the various parish churches in the diocese for the closeness of Christ to them through the sacraments, and also, what is a mature Easter faith.

It seems to me, that the mature Easter faith is what the Lord said to Thomas, the Apostle, "Blessed are those who have not seen, and have believed."

A few words in South Bend

At the bottom of this page in this edition of the newspaper, I have shared a statement I sent to the media on Good Friday. My statement speaks for itself. It is necessary, at this time, to concentrate clearly on the issue at hand. Within the campus of Notre Dame, young people are gathering in prayer, and distinguished faculty members are making presentations. My purpose was to distance the Catholic Church from unseemly demonstrations, which attack the president of our country, or Notre Dame or Father Jenkins. Such demonstrations are distractions. The true issue remains, the sacredness of every life and the necessity of honoring this sacredness in our decisions, as well as our words.

Especially moving

How wonderful to hear from our parish priests about the large number of confessions during Lent. At the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Holy Saturday, five priests heard confessions for two hours each, after hearing many confessions the previous day. I was privileged to hear confessions with Father Michael Heintz, after the Good Friday service in South Bend.

The work of the church

Holy Week and Lent is a great time to be a priest and bishop. Now, let us concentrate on the Easter season and the Resurrection accounts. It seems to me that the fullness of Easter faith, to which we are all called, is found in the Lord's words to Thomas: "Blessed is he who has not seen, but has believed."

My ball team is struggling. I am ready, if they need me. Still — no call.

See you all next week.

STATEMENT FROM BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

Concerning unseemly and unhelpful demonstrations at Notre Dame

April 10, 2009

I urge all Catholics and others of good will to stay away from unseemly and unhelpful demonstrations against our nation's president, or Notre Dame or Father John I. Jenkins, CSC.

The Notre Dame community is well-equipped to supervise and support discussions and prayer within their own campus.

I had a positive meeting this week with Father Jenkins, and I expect further dialogue will continue. These are days of prayer and hope when we should turn to the risen Christ for light and wisdom.

Let us all work towards a peaceful graduation experience for the class of 2009 at our beloved Notre Dame.

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE



MICHAEL UEBBING

Bishop John M. D'Arcy prepares for the Eucharist at the Good Friday services at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.

Deacon McCoy prepared for God's call to the priesthood

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — Working on the front lines as a counselor at a crisis pregnancy center and realizing that “holiness is possible and something we’re called to in the midst of regular, real life,” helped lead Deacon Charlie McCoy along the path to priesthood.

The middle of three children, McCoy says he always wanted to be a priest. After spending his grade school years in Catholic school, McCoy graduated as valedictorian of his public high school and went on to make friends with many evangelical Christians at Baylor University. Armed with the love of Scripture from an early age, McCoy says his family upbringing prepared him for many challenges.

“When I got to Baylor,” recalls McCoy, “I was very happy to talk with the Christians there about Scripture, and about where some of the things in the Catholic faith that they maybe found odd, or kind of strange ... what the scriptural foundation for these things would be.”

McCoy says he by no means had all the answers, but many of his evangelical friends were surprised to meet a Catholic who knew the Bible so well.

When asked how the average Catholic might develop a better appreciation of Scripture, McCoy says to go with your strengths.

“If you like to pray the rosary,” he explains, “then try reading the Passion narrative when your pray-

ing the sorrowful mysteries. Or read the birth narrative when you’re praying the joyful mysteries. If you’re a poetry person, the Psalms are a great place to get into Scripture. If you’re looking for a good novel to read, maybe every once in a while, instead of picking up another novel or something like that, pick up a book of the Bible and just start reading through. When you have questions, talk to your priest about that. I would think a priest would be pretty happy to know his parishioner is interested in Scripture and has a question.”

Parishioners at Christ the King in South Bend have benefited from having two deacons in two years. In fact, associate pastor, Holy Cross Father Steve Lacroix, who was ordained one year ago, and McCoy were classmates in the seminary. McCoy took an extra year of formation, teaching at Portland University while Father Steve finished a year ahead of his friend. McCoy was surprised when he, too, landed at Christ the King.

“It’s nice ... we know it’s a privilege to have three fairly young guys,” McCoy grins, referring to himself, Father Steve and the pastor, Holy Cross Father Neil Wack. Associate pastor, Holy Cross Father Ron Tripi, seems to have no trouble keeping up with the younger priests, as he joins Father Neil and Father Steve in the back of church after the 8:30 a.m. weekday Mass, chatting and visiting with parishioners.

“Like most Holy Cross religious,” continues McCoy, “I think



DIANE FREEBY

Holy Cross Deacon Charlie McCoy, in this photo taken inside Christ the King Church in South Bend where he is currently serving, will be ordained to the priesthood in the Congregation of Holy Cross on Saturday, April 18, at the Sacred Heart Basilica on the campus of the University of Notre Dame.

we take the community stuff faithfully. So we pray together every single day during the week. ... Saturday’s the only day, I guess, we don’t pray together because of the different weekend schedule. We have meals together almost every single night. So there is a real chance in the every day routine to kind of get to know one another, and they’re all three very good guys.”

“I think we’re each pretty different men,” McCoy continues, “and I think we complement each other well in that sense. ... We have different strengths and weaknesses, and so together as a team I think we’re pretty good.”

McCoy says it’s that “down to earth spirituality” along with the

education mission that attracted him to the Holy Cross order. Having earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in mathematics, McCoy enjoys teaching and also refers to his time spent working as a counselor at Women’s Care Center as “one of the best experiences of my life.” In fact, he wishes everyone who does pro-life work could experience what he did working at the center.

“I still have a real devotion to that place,” he smiles. “One of the things I got to see there was just the real beauty and humanity of these women who were coming to us. I especially wish that people who cover the pro-life and pro-choice struggle in the media would spend some time there, because

some of their caricatures of what pro-life work is would just be shot. The amount of compassion, the amount of love that’s there among those counselors... really, it’s an awesome and a beautiful thing to see.”

McCoy also draws heavily on the vision of Holy Cross founder, Blessed Father Anthony Basil Moreau.

“Moreau’s vision for Holy Cross was that we would be a family,” explains McCoy, citing Moreau’s plans before rules were put into place separating men’s and women’s orders. “The brothers, their patron is St. Joseph; the sisters’ patron is Our Lady; and the priests’ patron is the Sacred Heart ... is Jesus. So he really had a vision of us as the Holy Family. I don’t think it’s a surprise that we connect well with families. Father Neil likes to call Christ the King a ‘family of families.’ Our parish is a family made up of the individual families, and I don’t think that’s a surprise that we really do cultivate that kind of spirit.”

Deacon McCoy becomes Father Charles McCoy, CSC, upon his ordination April 18. He’s not sure if he’ll be reassigned to Christ the King, but he says he’s both excited and nervous about the future and filled with a lot of joy.

“It’s obvious that no one’s worthy (to be a priest), but beyond being worthy ... there’s really no way I can really be ready for what’s ahead of me, so I rely on God whom I really do believe wants me to do this and calls me to do this.”

HUMANITY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

was attended by about 100,000 people.

A sea of flowering trees and shrubs, and other colorful blooms, donated by companies in the Netherlands, decorated the steps and central balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica.

The pope, who turns 82 April 16, tripped without further incident when he climbed the dais where the papal throne sat in the central balcony.

He offered Easter greetings in 63 different languages and gave special encouragement to those struck by the April 6 earthquake and string of aftershocks in Italy’s L’Aquila province.

During the April 11 Easter Vigil, Pope Benedict baptized and confirmed one woman and two men from Italy, a woman from China and Heidi Sierras, a 29-year-old mother of four from St. Joseph Church in Modesto, Calif.

The pope used a small golden shell to pour the holy water over each catechumen’s head. The newly baptized, wearing laced white shawls, had a personal exchange with the pope when they brought the offertory gifts to the altar.



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO

Pope Benedict XVI delivers his Easter blessing “urbi et orbi” (to the city of Rome and the world) April 12 overlooking St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican. In his message he called for renewed efforts to bring about peace in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

During the evening ceremony in St. Peter’s Basilica, the pope asked that the fragile flame and delicate light of God’s word and his love, which God has lit in every Christian, may not be snuffed out “amid the confusions of this age ... but will become ever stronger and brighter, so that we, with him, can be the people of the day, bright stars lighting up our time.”

The next morning, after celebrating the Easter Mass, the pope urged Christians to spread the hope the world so desperately needs.

“At a time of world food shortage, of financial turmoil, of old and new forms of poverty, of disturbing climate change, of violence and deprivation which force many to leave their homelands in search of a less precarious form of exist-

tence, of the ever present threat of terrorism (and) of growing fears over the future, it is urgent to rediscover grounds for hope,” he said in his Easter message.

Christ’s resurrection “is neither a myth nor a dream, it is not a vision or a utopia, it is not a fairy tale, but is a singular and unrepeatable event” that brings light to the dark regions of the world, he said.

The “sense of emptiness, which tends to intoxicate humanity, has been overcome by the light and the hope that emanate from the Resurrection,” he said.

But while the resurrected Christ vanquished death, “there still remain very many, in fact, too many signs of its former dominion,” said the pope.

Christ wants today’s men and women to help him “affirm his

victory using his own weapons: the weapons of justice and truth, mercy, forgiveness and love” and spread the kind of hope that inspires courage to do good even when it costs dearly, he said.

The earthquake in central Italy was never far from the pope’s mind during Holy Week and Easter services.

At the end of the candlelit Way of the Cross at Rome’s Colosseum April 10, Pope Benedict again asked for prayers for those affected by the earthquake.

“Let us pray that in this dark night, the star of hope — the light of the risen Lord — will appear also to them,” he said.

The meditations for the rite were written by Indian Archbishop Thomas Menampampil of Guwahati and focused on the way Jesus confronted violence and adversity with serenity and strength, and sought to prompt a change of heart through nonviolent persuasion.

Under an awning on a hill overlooking the Colosseum, the pope knelt through the entire service while women and men from Italy and India, as well as two Franciscan friars from the Holy Land, were among those who carried the black wooden cross.

After the 14th station, Cardinal Agostino Vallini, the papal vicar for Rome, handed the cross to the

pope who stood and held it aloft.

“We have relived the tragic event of a man unique in the history of all times, who changed the world not by killing others but by letting himself be killed as he hung from a cross,” Pope Benedict said at the end of the ceremony.

Pope Benedict left the Vatican Easter afternoon for the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome.

Reciting the “Regina Coeli” prayer with hundreds of visitors gathered in the courtyard of the villa April 13, the pope said Christians rejoice because “the resurrection of the Lord assures us that, despite all the dark moments in history, the divine plan of salvation certainly will be fulfilled. This is why Easter really is our hope.”

“We who have risen with Christ through baptism must now follow him faithfully with holiness of life, walking toward the eternal Easter, sustained by the awareness that the difficulties, struggles, trials and sufferings of our existence — including death — can no longer separate us from him and his love,” the pope said.

Editor’s Note: The text of the pope’s Easter message in English can be found online at: <http://www.vatican.va>



PROVIDED BY THE POOR HANDMAIDS OF JESUS CHRIST

The newly elected Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ Provincial leadership team are, in back, from left, Sister Nora Hahn, provincial, and right, Sister Kathy Haas, councilor. Front left is Sister Virginia Kampwerth, first councilor, and right is Sister Marlene Ann Lama, councilor.

Poor Handmaids elect leadership

DONALDSON — During the Provincial Chapter of Elections held April 3-4, the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ (PHJC) delegates elected a leadership team who will lead the PHJC American Province during the next four years.

The previous team of Sister Nora Hahn, provincial, Sister Virginia Kampwerth, first councilor, and Sister Marlene Ann Lama and Sister Kathy Haas, councilors, were reelected for a second term.

With the congregation's promise of unity, support and collaboration, Sister Nora and her team will guide the congregation to accomplish the directions and focus set forth at the Chapter of Affairs held

in January. The focus for the next four years includes internationality, voice in issues of justice, transformational aging, living in the consciousness of the new universe story, spirituality and leadership.

"By reelecting the current Provincial Leadership Team, the members of the 2009 Provincial Chapter of Elections affirmed our past leadership," said Sister Nora Hahn. "The sisters have promised their support and their challenge as we, all together, work toward the directions that have been set for the province for the next four years."

Installation of the provincial leadership team will be held June 28, in the Ancilla Domini Chapel.

OBAMA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

versity but published April 8 by LifeSiteNews.com, Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, university president, said the invitation to Obama, announced March 20, was in keeping with the "letter and the spirit" of the bishops' document.

He said university officials understood the document to be specifically referring to Catholic politicians, a view he said has been supported by canon lawyers and what other university presidents have been told by their bishops.

As far as the university giving honors, awards or platforms "which would suggest support" for speakers that do not support church teachings, Father Jenkins wrote that he always has been clear to express his disagreement with the president "on issues surrounding the protection of life, such as abortion and embryonic stem-cell research."

"If we repeatedly and clearly state that we do not support the president on these issues, we cannot be understood to 'suggest support,'" he wrote.

"However misguided some

might consider our actions, it is in the spirit of providing a basis for dialogue that we invited President Obama," he added.

In their letter to *The Observer*, the Holy Cross priests said they regretted the "fissure" that the invitation caused between the university and some U.S. bishops, including the local bishop, Bishop John M. D'Arcy of Fort Wayne-South Bend, who said he will not attend the graduation in protest.

The priests said that even though their public stance puts

them at odds with Father Jenkins, they could not remain silent on the issue.

"Notre Dame's decision has caused moral confusion and given many reason to believe that the university's stance against the terrible evil of abortion is weak and easily trumped by other considerations," they said, urging Father Jenkins

to "revisit this matter immediately."

"Failure to do so," they said, "will damage the integrity of the institution and detract from all the good work that occurs at Notre Dame and from the

impressive labors of its many faithful students and professors."

The issue of the campus newspaper that included the priests' letter also included a column by Cecilia Prinster, president of the Notre Dame Alumni Association, stressing that some of Obama's policies are in line with Catholic social teaching.

She said she did not speak for the alumni association or its board of directors, but after talking to several people and reflecting on the issue, she said, she was convinced that "although we disagree with Mr. Obama on some core issues, we must not condemn."

She urged the university community to respectfully welcome the president, saying it would "do well to heed" the words of the Second Vatican Council document "Gaudium et Spes," the Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World.

"Respect and love ought to be extended also to those who think or act differently than we do in social, political and even religious matters. In fact, the more deeply we come to understand their ways of thinking through such courtesy and love, the more easily will we be able to enter into dialogue with them," she wrote, quoting the document.

"With this approach," she said, "this commencement will be the beginning of a constructive engagement with the president on the issues where we are aligned as well as on those where we disagree."

"If we repeatedly and clearly state that we do not support the president on these issues, we cannot be understood to 'suggest support.'"

FATHER JOHN I. JENKINS

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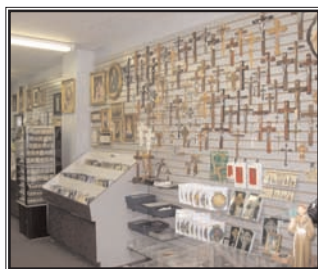


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Health care workers urge Obama not to rescind conscience rights

BY DENNIS SADOWSKI

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Dr. John T. Bruchalski would rather close the doors of his highly successful Fairfax, Va., medical practice than violate his conscience if he is forced to offer services that violate the basic tenets of his Catholic faith.

A pro-life obstetrician and gynecologist whose Tepeyac Family Center delivered 629 babies in 2008, Bruchalski is concerned that a Department of Health and Human Services proposal to rescind a conscience protection regulation for health care workers would force him to perform abortions or, at the very least, refer patients to physicians who offer the procedure.

Bruchalski told Catholic News Service he wants no part of that.

The rule, which took effect two days before President Barack Obama took office, codifies three longtime federal statutes prohibiting discrimination against health professionals who decline to participate in abortions or other medical procedures because of their religious or moral objections.

"From our perspective the heart of social justice is the Gospel of life," Bruchalski said in an interview following an April 8 press conference hosted by Freedom2Care at the National Press Club.

"At the heart of freedom is the right of conscience, a properly formed conscience. If conscience becomes truncated or coerced or undercut, then every other right that we have as citizens becomes hollow," he continued.

"We have to be obedient to our conscience, which is telling me to love God and love my neighbor. As Peter said, where else can I go?" he said. "I must be an active, alive Catholic physician and that will help health care and the nation at large, because I bring a perspective that ought to be heard. If they silence that, they're silencing Catholics from being physicians."

Bruchalski was not alone in his sentiments. He joined 40 other doctors, anesthesiologists, physician assistants, pharmacists and nurses — all donned in white

coats or operating-room scrubs — who packed the press conference to address their concerns a day before a monthlong public comment period on the HHS plan ends.

Freedom2Care, a coalition of 36 secular and medical organizations dedicated to protecting conscience rights, and the Susan B. Anthony List, which promotes and represents pro-life women in politics, are spearheading a campaign that has led to 36,000 comments being filed against the proposal.

A similar effort by the National Committee for a Human Life Amendment, an arm of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has filed another 35,000 comments, according to Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications in the bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities.

Dr. David Stevens, CEO of the Christian Medical Association, told reporters that the group had sent Obama a letter detailing its concerns about the proposal as the press conference started. The letter said thousands of health care professionals "would be put at a crossroads in their careers" should the conscience rule be rescinded.

Among the 37 signers of the letter were Dr. Louis C. Breschi, president of the Catholic Medical Association; Brian Burch, executive director of CatholicVote.org; Terese S. Collet, professor of law and director of the University of St. Thomas School of Law ProLife Center; and Austin Ruse, president of C-Fam, a Catholic family and human rights organization.

The rights of conscience are guaranteed in the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and rescinding those rights would send the country down a perilous road, Stevens said.

"When the state demands we surrender our conscience, it becomes totalitarian and dangerous," he said. "As Hippocrates knew and some have forgotten, the moral integrity of health care professionals is the patient's best protection, especially in a health care system increasingly driven by cost."



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Medjugorje 2009 National Conference

University of Notre Dame

May 29, 30 and 31

Speakers include



Doctor Tom Jones is a scientist, author, pilot and former NASA astronaut. He flew in four space shuttle missions and completed three space walks during his 53 days in space. His book, *Sky Walking: An Astronaut's Memoir*, chronicles his experiences. Doctor Jones is not afraid to speak publicly about the central role his Catholic faith has played in his life.

Immaculee Ilibagiza is an internationally known author and speaker. Her book *Left to Tell* recounts her amazing story of survival during the Rwandan genocide. She also authored the book *Our Lady of Kibeho* about the Church approved apparitions that occurred in 1984. Immaculee made her first trip to Medjugorje in the summer of 2007.



Sister Rita Marie Sofka left a successful business career at age 50 to enter the convent. This was after a pilgrimage to Medjugorje in 1991 and a conversation with Fr. Slavko Barbaric about her future. She is now a fully professed member of the Sisters of Life religious community in Bronx, New York where she works with young pregnant women.

Michael O'Brien was given a personal message from Vicka while on a pilgrimage to Medjugorje in 1988 that changed his life dramatically. He became a singer for Our Lady. His *Sounds of Medjugorje* album has sold over half a million copies. Michael has performed in over 400 cities and 60 conferences, including the first conference at Notre Dame in 1989.



Father Mark Gurtner went to Medjugorje as a teenager and felt a call to the priesthood while he was a student at Indiana University. He is well known as an outstanding preacher and teacher and is an expert on canon law. Presently, he serves as pastor of Our Lady of Good Hope parish in Fort Wayne, IN. Father also serves on the advisory board of Redeemer Radio.

Joseph Palko founded the MIR movement in Ontario, Canada, in 2004 following a pilgrimage to Medjugorje. In 2008, he completed a seven month, 3,000 mile cross-country walk called *A Million Steps for Peace* to promote Our Lady's message: "Peace, peace, peace and only peace!"



Fred Berretta was a passenger on Flight 1549 that miraculously landed in the Hudson river. As the plane was going down, he thought about the words Jesus said to St. Faustina, that nothing would be refused if asked for during the hour of mercy. Fred asked God to be merciful. He believes the Miracle on the Hudson was a testament to the mercy of God and a sign of hope.

Conference Schedule

Friday, May 29

5:00 pm... Doors open
7:00 pm... Conference begins
Guest speaker
Candlelight rosary procession to the Lourdes Grotto

Saturday, May 30

7:15 am... Doors open
8:00 am... Morning session
Holy Mass
Guest speakers (all sessions)
1:30 pm... Afternoon session
6:30 pm... Evening session
Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction

Sunday, May 31

7:15 am... Doors open
8:30 am... Morning session
Guest speakers
1:00 pm... Holy Mass
Procession and Consecration
3:00 pm... Conference ends

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Vermont legalizes same-sex marriage; D.C. recognizes same-sex unions

BURLINGTON, Vt. (CNS) — Vermont legislators voted to override the governor's veto of same-sex marriage legislation April 7, making the state the fourth to allow same-sex marriage and the first to do so without a court order. The same day, the District of Columbia Council voted to recognize same-sex unions formalized in other states. Both votes came less than a week after the Iowa Supreme Court's unanimous decision to legalize gay marriage by striking down a state law defining marriage as a union of one man and one woman. The Vermont law will allow same-sex marriages in the state beginning in September. The two houses of the Vermont Legislature voted in early April on the same-sex-marriage legislation. The votes were four short of the number needed to override a veto and Gov. Jim Douglas vetoed the measure April 6. Some legislators changed their votes April 7 to override the governor's veto in a 100-49 vote. During a March hearing about the same-sex marriage legislation, called the Freedom to Marry Act, Bishop Salvatore R. Matano of Burlington defended the church's opposition to same-sex marriages, saying it has been the Catholic Church's "consistent teaching ... that marriage is the union of man and woman."

Daring rescue of ship's captain leaves Vermont parish overjoyed

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When news of the bold liberation of U.S. Capt. Richard Phillips from the grip of pirates off the coast of Somalia filtered through his Vermont Catholic parish April 12, members of his church community felt like their Easter prayers had been answered. "We're so happy that it turned out the way that it did," said Donna Schaeffler, secretary of St. Thomas Church in Underhill Center, Vt., the parish where Phillips, 53, and his wife, Andrea, regularly attend Mass. "There is so much media here and we're trying to give the Phillipses their privacy, but we've been praying at Mass for his safe release," Schaeffler told Catholic News Service April 13 in a telephone interview. "Our pastor (Father Charles R. Danielson) also asked everyone to pray for the Phillipses during the Easter morning Mass. We were just so happy to hear the news of his rescue later in the day," she said. Phillips allowed himself to be taken hostage by four pirates who tried to seize the U.S.-flagged Maersk Alabama April 7 in the Indian Ocean, in order to keep the crew of the 17-ton ship safe. He was detained by his armed captors on one of the ship's lifeboats for five days. U.S. naval forces surround-

NEWS BRIEFS

FIREMAN CARRIES PAINTING FOLLOWING EARTHQUAKE



CNS PHOTO/MAX ROSSI, REUTERS

A fireman carries a painting of Mary after removing it from a church in Paganica, near L'Aquila, Italy, April 13. Some 40,000 people lost their homes in the 6.3 magnitude quake, which hit the Abruzzo region in the early hours of April 6, catching residents in their sleep. L'Aquila, a medieval city of 68,000, bore the brunt of the disaster and many of its buildings and centuries-old churches crumbled to the ground.

ed the boat and Navy snipers killed the Somali pirates, a Navy commander told The Associated Press April 13.

Pope Benedict to find Holy Land changed since predecessor's visit

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI will encounter a Holy Land that has changed greatly since Pope John Paul II visited in 2000. Pope John Paul arrived in Israel and the Palestinian territories when, despite stumbling blocks in the peace process, the jubilee year celebrations seemed to buoy the Holy Land with a booming tourism industry. But Pope Benedict will visit amid continued Israeli-Palestinian tensions — months after a controversial Israeli invasion of Gaza and during continuing Palestinian rocket attacks against southern Israeli towns. On his visit to Bethlehem, West Bank, Pope John Paul was received by a united Palestinian Authority, led by longtime Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. In May Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who is struggling to unite the Palestinian factions following a 2007 split with the Islamic fundamentalist political party and militia Hamas, will welcome Pope Benedict.

Parishioners from eight dioceses seek mediation for parish closings

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Parishioners from 31 groups in eight U.S. dioceses have joined forces to ask the Vatican to suspend parish closings and to instruct bishops to negotiate the closures with local Catholics. In an 18-page letter delivered April 7 to several Vatican offices, the parish representatives said the decision to close hundreds of parishes across the country has left the U.S. Catholic Church at a "tipping point" of permanent damage and irreversible decline. Peter Borre, co-chairman of the Boston-based Council of Parishes, formed in 2004 to oppose parish closings, said the effort is meant to offer a "third way" for the Catholic Church to respond to changing demographics, financial concerns and the declining number of priests nationwide. "We are asking the Secretariat of State to basically instruct U.S. bishops to suspend, not roll back, parish closings and to urge bishops in the eight dioceses we name to enter into mediation with parishioner groups," Borre told Catholic News Service from Rome April 7. In addition to parishioners in the Boston Archdiocese, other worshippers involved in the request are from the New York and New

Orleans archdioceses and the dioceses of Allentown, Pa., Buffalo, N.Y., Cleveland, Scranton, Pa., and Springfield, Mass.

Latin patriarch says Resurrection is present in relationships, life

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The resurrection of Jesus can be revisited in relationships with family and friends and in daily life, said Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem in his Easter homily April 12. "Becoming incarnate, (Jesus) comes into our human story, into the history of our church and right into our personal lives," the patriarch said. "The resurrection is at work each time we choose to give succor and to love ... Jesus in our neighbor; each time we prefer his forgiveness to hate, each time that we allow love and peace to claim a place among men." Galilee, where Jesus told his followers to meet him, is everywhere, including among "the sick, the marginalized, the victims of violence" and even the powerful "who push him out from the society and are determined to grant him no public forum," he said. Although Jesus is pushed to the margins, Jesus continues to offer "his mercy, forgiveness and love," the patriarch said. Although believers "dare" to talk about joy and victory over death, they are not blind to wars, diseases

and natural catastrophes, Patriarch Twal said.

Gunman opens fire at Korean Catholic retreat center in California

TEMECULA, Calif. (CNS) — One woman was killed and three people were injured April 7 after a 69-year-old man opened fire at a remote Catholic Korean retreat center in Southern California. The Associated Press identified the gunman as 69-year-old John Chong, a volunteer who lives at the Kkottongnae Retreat Camp, about 85 miles southeast of Los Angeles. No motives have been determined for the attacks. Chong was eventually disarmed and tackled by those he was attacking. He was hospitalized April 7 in an unconscious state. The retreat center is in Temecula on the grounds of a former summer camp in the San Bernardino Diocese. It has eight to 10 cabins for visitors and semipermanent residents, some of whom had been homeless. The center is one of four U.S. branches of the Kkottongnae Brothers and Sisters of Jesus, a Catholic group founded in South Korea to serve the poor and homeless. Kkottongnae is a Korean word for "flower village." Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino said in an April 8 statement that he was "deeply saddened" by the shooting and asked for prayers for the "victims of this tragic act and for the sisters who run the retreat camp."

Pope's Way of the Cross adopts an Asian viewpoint

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — This year's meditation for Pope Benedict XVI's Good Friday Way of the Cross has a distinctly Asian perspective, referring to Hindu scriptures, an Indian poet and Mahatma Gandhi. But the linchpin of this Eastern reflection is the passion of Jesus Christ. In that sense, it reflects Pope Benedict's view of Christianity's relationship with the non-Christian world — that the Gospel enlightens and fulfills the beliefs of other faiths. Indian Archbishop Thomas Menampampil of Guwahati wrote the meditation on the 14 stations, to be read as the pope leads the candlelit "Via Crucis" at Rome's Colosseum. The pope chose Archbishop Menampampil, a 72-year-old Salesian, after hearing him deliver an impressive talk at last year's Synod of Bishops on Scripture. The archbishop took it as a sign of the pope's interest in Asia. "His Holiness regards very highly the identity of Asia, the cradle of civilization. Moreover, our Holy Father has a prophetic vision for Asia, a continent very much cherished by him and his pontificate," he said. The immediate assumption among many Vatican observers was that the choice of an Indian would serve to highlight religious freedom issues in the wake of anti-Christian violence in parts of India.

Bishop D'Arcy to host Hannah's House blessings campaign

MISHAWAKA — Hannah's House has announced that Bishop John M. D'Arcy will be the chairperson for the 2009 Blessings from Heaven Campaign starting May 31.

The 2009 Blessings from Heaven Campaign will raise funds needed to insure that pregnant women and babies in crisis have a safe, secure and nurturing home. Each year Hannah's House serves 40 to 50 pregnant women in need of physical, emotional and spiritual support. Hannah's House is funded solely through churches, businesses, individuals and other donations.

"We are so blessed to be able to announce Bishop D'Arcy's support of the Blessings from Heaven Campaign," said Karen DeLucenay, MSW, executive director for Hannah's House. "Bishop D'Arcy is standing with Hannah's House to support pregnant women who have chosen life for their babies. The Blessings from Heaven Campaign is a wonderful opportunity for pro-life groups and individuals to actively change the lives of women and babies in need.

This year has been a challenge keeping the doors to Hannah's House open, given the current economy. We have seen an increase in the number of women needing a helping hand and nurturing home. Through this campaign and the support of the community, we will be able to continue to support women who choose life," DeLucenay said.

Along with housing, Hannah's House provides educational services, employment assistance, counseling, programming and spiritual support to enrich the lives of pregnant women in need. Hannah's House serves seven women at a time, however more are currently on a waiting list. Women may move in anytime during their pregnancy and stay for up to two months after the birth of their child.

For more information on how you can support Hannah's House, please contact Dianna Nauman, director of development at (574) 254-5309.

Redeemer Radio announces Sharathon

FORT WAYNE — Redeemer Radio, Catholic Radio AM 1450, has announced its upcoming Spring Sharathon, with the theme of "Thy Will Be Done," April 22-24, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. each day.

Don Schenkel, chairman of Fort Wayne's Tower Bank and Redeemer Radio Sharathon chair, said: "We know the impact that Redeemer Radio is making locally, based on comments made by our priests who hear from those returning to our faith and those growing in their faith."

Celebrating its seventh Sharathon, Redeemer Radio is a local independent Catholic radio apostolate that serves the Catholic community of Fort Wayne, northeast Indiana and northwest Ohio by broadcasting the truth and beauty of the Catholic faith. The station offers

AROUND THE DIOCESE

RELIGIOUS ED STUDENTS HONOR ERIC'S PROMISE



KAREN CLIFFORD

During Lent St. Pius X religious education students participated in Eric's Promise, a charitable cause in memory of Eric Henry, a senior at Marian High School who was killed in a car accident in 2002. Before his accident, Eric's Lenten promise was to "be more giving" and give some of his clothes to the St. Joseph St. Vincent de Paul Society. Since his death, more than 75,000 pounds of donations have been collected through Eric's Promise drives. Eric's mother, Mary Molnar, back center, joins some of the St. Pius religious education students who collected 720 boxes of cereal this year, with the majority of students paying for the cereal with their own funds.

a rich variety of programming including national programs from national Catholic networks, including Ave Maria Radio, EWTN, and Sacred Heart Radio, as well as a growing number of locally produced shows and specials.

The "Thy Will Be Done" Spring Sharathon will again be hosted by Jerry Usher at the studios of Redeemer Radio. Usher is the former host of Catholic radio's most popular national program, "Catholic Answers Live," heard on Redeemer Radio weekdays from 6 to 8, mornings and evenings. He is now the president of Third Millennium Media and is one of America's most sought after hosts.

Throughout Sharathon, Jerry will be joined by Redeemer hosts Sean McBride, Dr. Matt Bunson, and Mariam Schmitz. Local and national guests will also give of their time and share their perspectives on the vital importance of Catholic radio to the local community. Special guests will include priests from the diocese, such as Fathers Dave Rupert, Daryl Rybicki, Phil Widmann, Ken Sarrazine, George Gabet, Cyril Fernandes, John Kuzmich, Tom Shoemaker, Tony Steinacker, Glenn Kohrman and Mark Gurtner.

Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry is also scheduled to be a guest.

Listeners will be asked to support Redeemer Radio over the three days of the Sharathon. Pledges from individuals and businesses will be accepted by phone (260) 436-1450 and toll-free (888) 436-1450, by mail to Redeemer Radio, 4705 Illinois Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46804, online at www.redeemerradio.com, or in person at the studio located at 4705 Illinois Rd., Suite 104. Volunteers will also be welcome.

Saint Joseph's recognizes 23 Saint Joe Scholars

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph's High School has recognized 23 Saint Joe Scholars, students who have earned a cumulative grade point average of 4.0 or better.

At a Mass on March 19, celebrating the feast of St. Joseph, the top academic achievers were announced to the assembled student body, faculty, staff, guests and Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

Those students topping the list are co-valedictorians Michael Furdyna and Renula Mitra and salutatorian Brian Huang.

Furdyna is the son of Margaret

Dobrowolska and Jacek Furdyna. Mitra is the daughter of Monolita and Raman Mitra. Huang is the son of Nancy and Yih-Fang Huang.

The remaining 20 scholars are Adam Arsenault, Samantha Champion, Yeojun Chun, Arnav Dutt, Alexis Ellis, Peter Freddoso, Matthew Goepfrich, Brigid Halloran, Shelby Herms, Devin Jenkins, Samuel Jones, Mary Kearney, Madeline Makielski, Matthew McCarthy, Claire McClain, Brianna Neblung, Krisit Potts, Taylor Thomas, Jeffrey Wei, and Ye Seul Lucienne Yoo.

Ancilla College golf tournament slated

PLYMOUTH — Ancilla College is hosting its Annual Ancilla College golf tournament at the Plymouth Country Club, overlooking Pretty Lake in Plymouth, on Monday, June 8. The tournament will follow the four-person Florida scramble format.

This year's tournament will feature a catered cookout lunch followed by a steak dinner after the tournament. Golfers will be welcomed at the ninth hole by the always popular, Heavenly Putters. The "Putters" offer the opportunity

to save a stroke if a golfer gives a small donation and allows a Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ sister to take a putt for them.

Funds raised provide educational opportunities at the college. Participants can take part in a raffle for a number of great prizes as well as an auction following the tournament.

Those interested in entering a team or being a hole sponsor may contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at (574) 936-8898 ext. 355. Brochures with entry forms may be found at: www.ancilla.edu/development.

Brian Huang named a Indiana Academic All-Star

SOUTH BEND — Saint Joseph's High School senior Brian Huang has been named a 2009 Indiana Academic All Star. The *Indianapolis Star*, Indiana Association of School Principals and Indiana Department of Education are the sponsors of the *Indianapolis Star* Academic All-Star program. Supporting sponsors of this program are Earlham College and Franklin College.

Each Indiana high school may nominate one senior for these prestigious awards. Ninety students are recognized as regional winners by a selection committee and 40 of those students are then chosen as Indiana Academic All-Stars.

Huang was chosen as one of the 40, a remarkable distinction. These 40 students, their parents, and an influential educator of their choice were to be present for the awards ceremony April 15 in the Indiana Roof Ballroom. These students will also be the subject of a feature article in a future edition of the *Indianapolis Star*.

Saint Mary's College teams up with Rebuilding Together

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary's College students, faculty and staff will get their hands dirty on Saturday, April 25 as they spruce up a River Park home as part of Rebuilding Together 2009. The college's Office for Civic and Social Engagements (OSCE) is sponsoring a home at 701 S. 34th St. in South Bend and will be working there from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.

OSCE will be hosting a jewelry show to raise money for the college's sponsored home. "Just Jewelry for a Just Cause" will be held in the atrium of the Student Center on Tuesday, April 21, from 3-7 p.m. The public is invited to attend. Eight local artisans will be selling earrings, bracelets, pendants and more. Each crafter has agreed to donate at least 20 percent of her proceeds to the Rebuilding Together cause.

Rebuilding Together is a national program that rehabilitates selected houses belonging to elderly, disabled or low-income homeowners.

For more information on OCSE or Rebuilding Together, visit www.saintmarys.edu/~osce and www.rebuildingtogether.org.

ICC's pro-life agenda headed toward home stretch

INDIANAPOLIS — With less than two weeks to go before the April 29 session adjournment deadline, the Indiana Catholic Conference's (ICC) pro-life legislative agenda is headed toward the home stretch.

Several abortion-related bills supported by the ICC are moving forward. A bill to hold abortion doctors accountable for the abortions they perform, SB 89, physician admitting privileges, passed the House Public Policy Committee, 8-4. "The purpose of the bill is to make sure that the doctor is available for follow up treatment if a woman has complications due to the abortion," said Sen. Patricia Miller (R-Indianapolis), the bill's author. The proposal allows abortion doctors to have admitting privileges at hospitals in the adjacent counties where the abortions are performed. The bill is expected to pass the House.

ICC supports SB 89.

Also part of the ICC's legislative agenda was a bill to enhance penalties for feticide. The Indiana House of Representatives unanimously passed a bill, 96-0, April 6 to create harsher penalties for killing the unborn — a crime referred to as feticide.

Senate Bill 236 enhances the penalty from a class-C felony to a class-B felony, which would increase the prison term from six to 20 years. A class-C felony is a prison term from two to eight years. A class-B felony is a prison term from six to 20 years.

Feticide is the deliberate killing of the fetus, except in an abortion. The primary focus of SB 236 bill provides for enhanced penalty when pregnancy ends as a result of committing or attempting to commit a crime against the mother. The bill defines this crime as "termination of human pregnancy" and is consistent with current feticide statute and in the opinion of

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

some, easier for prosecutors to argue in courts.

Rep. Mike Murphy (R-Indianapolis), House sponsor of the bill who has been a primary advocate for enhancing the penalty for feticide, said, "This bill creates a measure of justice for families whose unborn children are murdered as a result of violent crimes."

The Senate is likely to concur with the changes in SB 236 and the bill will go to the governor for signature before the end of the session.

ICC pro-life agenda — priority bills at a glance

Feticide, enhances criminal penalties up to 20 years (criminal case) SB 236, passed House, 96-0, passage likely. Church supports.

Wrongful death of fetus (civil case) SB 341, passes Senate, 47-2, House bill withdrawn, resurrection possible, conference committee. Church supports.

Physician admitting privileges, holds abortion doctors accountable for abortions, SB 89, passed Senate 44-6, House Public Policy Committee 8-4, passage likely. Church supports.

Abortion matters, enhances informed consent for abortion, passes Senate 39-11, resurrection possible in conference committee, passage uncertain. Church supports.

Scholarship Tax Credits, provides school choice for lower income families, SB 528 amended into budget bill HB 1001, passage uncertain. Church supports.

Death Row Inmate execution times changed and death row inmate housing study, SB 296, passed Senate 48-0, House Rules Committee, passage unlikely. Church supports.

Foreclosure notice for tenants, SB 225 and HB 1081, conference committee negotiations. Church supports.

Charity gaming, allows festival workers to participate in church festivals, SB 414, passage likely. Church supports.

Commission on Childhood poverty, SB 260, eligible second and third reading in House, passage likely. Church supports.

FSSA Modernization, provides better access to social services for the elderly and disabled, HB 1195, passed House 53-45, conference committee negotiations. Church supports.

Sales tax exemption for energy assistance, HB 1080, passed House, resurrection possible in conference committee, passage uncertain. Church supports.

Immigration Reform, harms all immigrant families, SB 580, passed Senate 37-13, resurrection possible in conference committee, passage uncertain. Church opposes.

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Jim Bushey

The wrongful injury or death of a fetus, SB 341, will likely not pass this session unless it can be attached to another bill in conference committee. The proposal passed the Senate, 47-2, but not debated or voted on in the House due to amendments that attempted to extend the liability beyond a viable fetus, which is the intent of the bill. This bill applies to civil suits. Rep. Peggy Welch (D-Bloomington) had hoped to bring the bill back but couldn't get an agreement from lawmakers who wanted to amend the bill. The bill may be resurrected by being amended to a similar subject bill in conference committee. The ICC supports the bill.

A proposal to change the execution times and initiate a study of death row inmate housing, SB 296, passed the Senate, 48-0. In its original form SB 296 would have forced death-row inmates to move into another correctional facility where only solitary confinement cells were available. Because of the detrimental effects to the human person, the church opposed this aspect of the bill. The ICC successfully worked to get the bill amended to study death-row inmate housing rather than forcing inmates to move into solitary confinement for up to a decade or more prior to execution.

The school scholarship tax credit, SB 528, was amended into the budget bill, HB 1001, by the Senate Appropriations Committee April 9. "This provides an excellent vehicle for passage this session," said Glenn Tebbe, ICC

executive director. "Because SB 528 did not get a hearing in the House the only way for it to pass was to have it become part of another bill.

"Having a place within the budget is better than having to insert it during budget negotiations or working separately in another bill. We are very pleased with the Senate's action," said Tebbe.

House bills must be passed by the Senate and visa versa by the April 16 deadline to move forward. However, bills which have passed at least one chamber could be resurrected and amended into an existing bill with a similar subject during the conference committee phase beginning April 16. The Indiana General Assembly must pass a biennium budget and adjourn by Wednesday, April 29. The ICC is hopeful that many of the bills it has supported will pass this year.

Upcoming deadlines

April 15 Last day House and Senate can approve bills sent over by the opposite chamber

April 16 Conference Committee Phase begins

April 29 Session adjourns

Find out what's going on at the state legislature and how you can become involved. Go to www.indianacc.org and click "Legislative Action Center" on the left side of the screen.

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Spring 2009 Sharathon

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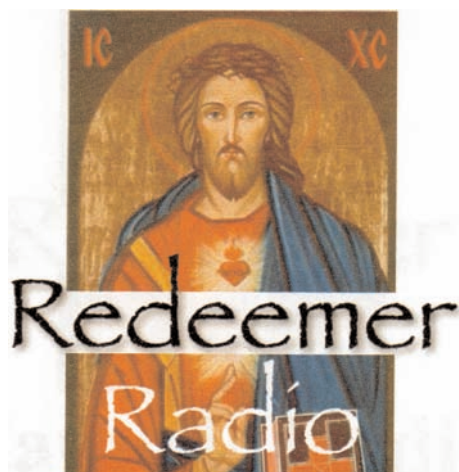
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No second thoughts: Easter promises a fresh start

Some days life feels grey and predictable: moving in the same direction, making the same turns, waiting at the same lights. Dirty dishes, unfolded laundry, nothing good on TV.

Some days the notion of house swapping seems like just the ticket.

Which is why every day hundreds of people stuff messages in bottles and cast them into the cyber sea, hoping their homes will appeal to others far away because of the hot tub, the gas stove, the nearby golf course ... or simply because of the novelty.

There's something for everyone on house-swapping sites like HomeExchange.com and Craigslist.org — whether you're trading for a weekend or a lifetime, moving in or out of the city, upsizing or downsizing, seeking sun or snow, pines or plains, East or West.

Some swaps are easy to understand. An Omaha, Neb., resident hopes for Honolulu. Charleston, W. Va., requests Istanbul, Turkey.

The incredible thing is that these desires go both ways. On one site 1,328 Italians are looking to leave. Alfombra, Costa Rica, asks for Allentown, Pa. Alta Gracia, Argentina, yearns for Boston.

Other bids are broader, "open to all offers" — whoever e-mails first, any city they've never seen, any name they can't pronounce.

When you peek online, one picture will catch your eye and tickle your imagination as you take out the trash, teasing out some long-ago dream. Maybe you can write the great American novel under the Tuscan sun or take a cooking class in Paris or learn to salsa in Puerto Rico. Maybe you can get away, get a



TWENTY
SOMETHING
BY CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

tan, get rich, get over him, get a life.

Maybe you can render the seemingly impossible possible with the swift click of a key-stroke.

It's a heady antidote to an economy that can easily depress, instilling a sense of limitation, of blocked avenues and restricted paths.

The beauty of our Christian faith is that it offers us a fresh start every day. There is no such thing as a dead end for believers, no rut that can't be scaled, no sin that can't be forgiven. Every muddied slate can be wiped blank.

We can leave bad jobs, bad relationships and bad decisions far, far behind with the saving power of our risen Lord. We are Easter people; we believe in the ultimate triumph of life over death. Old made new. Sin turned into grace. Darkness shattered by light.

The Resurrection is not a one-time miracle. It's a lifestyle, something we can experience every day, an ongoing adventure.

This year we remember St. Paul, the ultimate house swapper. He traded homes, names and religions. Friends and neighbors hardly recognized him. The man who had killed Christians was suddenly defending Christianity. He traveled through Asia Minor, sailed for Europe and preached in Philippi — a tireless apostle, a changed man.

I love how Pope Benedict XVI chronicles this conversion. "Dazzled by the divine light on

the road to Damascus," he wrote, "(Paul) did not hesitate to change sides to the Crucified One and followed him without second thoughts."

It sounds like a resolute house swapper: a swift click and no second thoughts. We are each called to follow Christ with that alacrity and authority, to be decisive disciples like St. Paul. "How timely his example is today!" the pope wrote.

No matter how dark your days or sinful your ways, don't despair. When you cling to Christ, you can make a swap.

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

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Diocesan purchasing department supplies more than office goods

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — It's a little known, but most valuable resource that is found right here in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The purchasing department, located in the basement level of the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in downtown Fort Wayne, is a mini-warehouse for in-stock items as well as a clearinghouse for schools, churches and diocesan offices to order items both large and small.

Mary Lou O'Keeffe, general manager of the purchasing department, says she'd like to get the word out about this service. In-stock items consist of sacramental wines and unconsecrated hosts for Masses at the Noll Center, retreats and the smaller churches that don't buy in large quantities, a variety of ceremonial candles, light bulbs, janitorial goods, cartridges, paper and other office supplies. Rows of boxes and shelves filled with supplies attest

to stock availability.

And beyond the ordinary, O'Keeffe handles big ticket items, such as office or school furniture and copiers. She even orders palms and pascal candles for the churches for their Palm Sunday and Easter celebrations.

O'Keeffe will celebrate her 31st year in the department in August and has seen some interesting changes over the years. She began work for the diocese in 1978 as secretary of the purchasing department, bringing her executive secretarial skills from her previous position in New York.

"My boss was stern and expected a lot from me when I came here, but he taught me all about purchasing," she says. Soon she was filling orders on her own.

She recalls in those days filling out three-part forms by hand or on an old typewriter. "There were no computers then," she says. Her biggest thrill was when her manager purchased a rather large typewriter with a memory that held vendor and parish information. "It

was a more efficient way to do the job," she recalls.

O'Keeffe has worked with several managers over the years and has been involved in a monthly newsletter for the purchasing department, which, until 2004, was located on the first floor of the Catholic Center. It was at the time of the move to the Noll Center that she accepted the position of manager.

The purchasing department is a member of the Catholic Purchasing Services (CPS), which gives negotiating flexibility for the items the department can carry. O'Keeffe is sure to attend the annual meetings to keep abreast of the latest in purchasing and also maintains a list of the most current and popular items provided by the CPS in their annual catalog.

Items such as mats or carpet for churches, tables, freezers, furniture, chalices, clergy shirts, and computer tables, lab supplies and projector screens for the schools are within the purchasing department's realm. O'Keeffe says she

buys directly from the manufacturer and negotiates the best discount possible. "My interest is saving money at the bottom line," she says.

Many schools and parishes in the diocese call the purchasing department to investigate a price or a needed item from the catalog and O'Keeffe is happy to accommodate them.

"I love the challenge of finding items the customer wants," she says, adding, "I have a good rapport with the customers on the phone. I love solving problems if I can." And if someone calls for "an oddball thing," O'Keeffe directs them to a vendor who can serve them.

O'Keeffe says she purchases items from the "best possible place for the best possible price — and always from good people." Her network of vendors provides a variety of options and prices.

A longtime member of St. Jude, O'Keeffe's faith and involvement in her parish sustain her during good times as well as the challenging times. "Faith absolutely plays a role in staying here (in the purchasing department) and how I treat people. ... I always feel like the customer is king," she says.

Of the purchasing department service O'Keeffe says, "The most important thing is the customer gets one-on-one service." In addition to that, she says, they get a truthful assessment and her network of vendors.



KAY COZAD

Mary Lou O'Keeffe, general manager of the diocesan purchasing department is available to order items for church or school needs. Her network of vendors gives each customer the "best possible price — and always from good people." The purchasing department is located in the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center in Fort Wayne.

For information or to make a purchase contact Mary Lou O'Keeffe at (260) 422-4611, ext. 3313.



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My daughter, tell the whole world about my inconceivable (138) mercy, I desire that the Feast of Mercy (139) be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of my tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of my mercy. The soul that will go to confession and receive holy communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment. On that day all the divine floodgates through which graces flow are opened. Let no soul fear to draw near to me. Even though its sins be scarlet. My mercy is so great that no mind, be it of man or of angel, will be able to fathom it throughout all eternity. Everything that exists has come forth from the very depths of my most tender mercy. Every soul in its relation to me will contemplate my love and mercy throughout eternity. The Feast of Mercy emerged from my very depths of tenderness. (139) It is my desire that it be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the fount of my mercy.

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Going GREEN

Discovery garden benefits Catholic community

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — Sometimes the best education is outside the classroom. That's the basis for the discovery garden, a joint project between the University of Saint Francis (USF) and Most Precious Blood Catholic School in Fort Wayne.

Teresa Beam, chair of the biology department at the University of Saint Francis, said it was a "perfect chance" that brought the university and the grade school together. She noted the garden is the brainchild of a few science teachers at Precious Blood who wanted to improve the science curriculum while promoting the spirit of environmentalism. In turn, the project enables the university to support local Catholic schools like Precious Blood.

Early in the planning phase, a few science teachers met to develop a project that would fit these guidelines. The idea of a discovery garden was proposed, Beam said, because it's a great way to promote stewardship and get back to your roots.

The concept came to fruition last fall when Precious Blood was selected to receive a 2008 GreenWorks! Community Action & Service Learning Grant in the amount of \$5,000. The grant is sponsored by Project Learning Tree (PLT), a national organiza-

tion that strives to increase students' understanding of the environment, stimulate students' critical and creative thinking, develop students' ability to make informed decisions on environmental issues, and instill in students the commitment to take responsible action on behalf of the environment.

So far the monies have been used to install a state-of-the-art learning and discovery garden near the former convent on the Precious Blood campus. In Beam's words, the garden is a "way of observing nature in an urban environment."

The project is designed to teach lessons both in and outside the classroom. For example, Beam said some of the crops will be donated to the needy and the flowers used at special Masses. Inside the classroom, teachers will engage students with lesson-based projects. Ann Baker's students will decorate slate roof tiles to adorn the garden's border. And Jessie Bloom has a Native American lesson planned in which students will learn about



LAUREN CAGGIANO

Most Precious Blood middle school teacher Ann Baker works with her students preparing to paint the slate tiles that will be used for signage in the discovery garden.

crop rotation.

"Everyone has a bit of a hand in it," Beam explained.

The project also has an outreach aspect, as part of the funding will be used to support a PLT environmental workshop at the University of Saint Francis in the fall.

Looking forward, Beam said she hopes the effort will create a sense of solidarity in the Catholic community.

"I'm hoping that we begin to understand that we're a larger Catholic community and (people will) reach out and see that we have a lot of common goals," she said.

The garden is also a means to promote science and Catholic education in accordance with the university's Franciscan values, she said.

So far the project has been well received by the community at large. Supporters have already donated plants and other items to back the effort.

Overall, Beam said the "green" movement has inspired people to take action locally.

"People are starting to understand you have to get back to your roots," she said.

A dedication ceremony is scheduled for May 15 at the garden site. Mayor Tom Henry, the police captain and Gary Bard, dean of USF's school of arts and sciences, are scheduled to make an appearance. Community members are welcome to attend.

To make a donation or for more information, contact Dr. Beam at tbeam@sfu.edu.

St. Jude parishioner takes on role to save the Maumee River

BY LAUREN CAGGIANO

FORT WAYNE — They say if you're not a part of the solution; you're a part of the problem. There's no doubt local environmental activist Abby Frost is part of the solution.

Frost is founder of Save Maumee, a nonprofit grassroots organization dedicated to raising awareness about the conditions of the three rivers in Fort Wayne. Through various environmental restoration projects, Frost hopes to repair and improve the rivers and reverse pollution.

Frost, 35, said she was exposed to environmental activism at a young age. In her words, her mother, a teacher at St. Jude's in Fort Wayne, lived sustainably long before the term environmentalist was coined. Case in point: Frost recalls her mother reusing baby foods jars long into her adulthood.

"My mom was environmentally friendly before it was in," she recalled.

A turning moment was when she bought a house in the South Anthony neighborhood on Niagara Drive overlooking the



LAUREN CAGGIANO

Abby Frost, with son Canaan, have taken an activist role to save the Maumee River.

Maumee River, Frost said in retrospect. Frost said she was familiar with the stigma surrounding the health of the three rivers and the house's location was an invitation to further explore it.

"I wanted to take the kids to

the river," she said. "I was curious to (find out) why it was horrible."

Frost experienced the river's pollution firsthand and was eager to change the state of affairs. A few years went by and it was

2005. By then Frost said she "couldn't keep her mouth shut" and wanted to do something "tangible" to affect change. That year she founded Save Maumee, the manifestation of an ambitious vision.

Looking back, Frost said through this series of events God was calling her to undertake this effort. "I felt a calling ... I knew that I was told and given this to do," she said. "It all happened the way ... it was meant to be."

Faced with an overwhelming mission before her, Frost reminds people that we're all in this together as stakeholders in the earth. This problem does not know socioeconomic differences. Doctors, lawyers, accountants — they all should be concerned with the state of the rivers, she noted.

"It's all inclusive," she said. "It's the entire human race."

Frost said this can-do attitude is the result of her mother's influence.

"My model was always my mother," she said. "She lived by example ... never pointed a finger. It was always about (how people could make a change)."

Now her son, a student at St. Jude, is the third generation of

activism. When most kids go to band camp or soccer camp, Canaan goes to conservation camp. Through his upbringing he has an understanding of the river and is not shy about helping her with the project at hand, she said.

On April 19, Save Maumee will sponsor a fourth annual Earth Day event on the banks of the Maumee. Volunteers will plant trees, help with reseeding and trash removal.

But the momentum doesn't stop there. Frost said in June she has plans to reach out to the public for help.

"I'm ready to put plans into action and do it," she said. "I'm looking for people's time and commitment."

Frost wishes to remind people that this project transcends the realms of citizenship and government.

"It takes both of us," she said.

For more information about Save Maumee, visit www.save-maumee.org.

Environmental principles illuminated by Pope Benedict

BY KAY COZAD

"Ten Commandments for the Environment: Pope Benedict XVI Speaks Out for Creation and Justice," by well-known Catholic journalist and best-selling author, Woodeene Koenig-Bricker, offers a look at the pope's teachings on creation and environmental responsibility.

Though initially considered a scholarly theologian, Pope Benedict has inspired the world with his persistent focus on the moral responsibility of living a "green" lifestyle to protect not only the planet but the poor who suffer due to environmental waste and shortages. He has been called the "green" pope.

Derived from the second section of the 2004 "Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church," the 10 commandments were first offered by Bishop Giampaolo Crepaldi, secretary of

the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, as "ten principles of environmental ethics;" guiding principles for responsible stewardship of God's creation. These soon became known as the 10 commandments for the environment.

Those 10 commandments, though not actually written by Pope Benedict, reflect his teachings on the current environmental issues. His papal musings and homilies are presented in easy to understand sections with Scripture references, quotes and resources throughout. Each chapter is devoted to one of the 10 commandments.

The 10 commandments include:

- The human being, created in God's image, is placed above all other earthly creatures, which must be used and cared for in a responsible way in cooperation with the divine plan for redemption.
- Nature must not be reduced to a utilitarian object of manipulation,

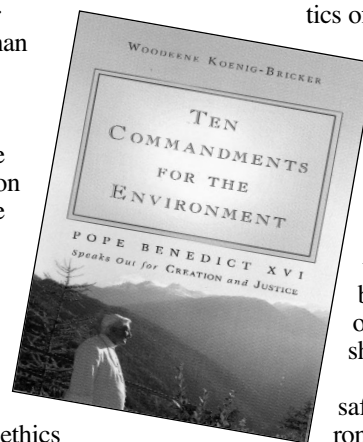
nor absolutized or placed above human dignity.

- Ecological responsibility involves the entire planet in a common duty to respect the environment as a collective good, from present and future generations.

- In dealing with environmental problems, ethics and human dignity should come before technology.

- Nature is not a sacred or divine reality, removed from human intervention. Thus, human intervention that modifies some characteristics of living things is not wrong, as long as it respects their place in the ecosystem.

- The politics of development must be coordinated with the poli-



tics of ecology, and every environmental cost in development projects must be weighed carefully.

- Ending global poverty is related to the environmental question, remembering that the goods of the earth must be shared equitably.

- The right to a safe and clean environment needs to be protected through international cooperation and accords.

- Environmental protection requires a change in lifestyles that reflect moderation and self control, on a personal and social level. That means moving away from the logic of consumerism.

- Environmental issues call for a spiritual response, inspired by the belief that creation is a gift that

God has placed into our responsible hands, so that we can use it with loving care. The human person's attitude toward nature should be one of gratitude and gratefulness to the God who has created and supports it.

The inspiration of the text immerses with the commandments as the reader explores the papal statements on justice and creation, Scripture and supportive scientific data. Pope Benedict's passion for creation and its care is evidenced in this book and can be a springboard for radical conversion. In this day and time this book is a must read for a deeper understanding of the church's view on environmental stewardship.

"Ten Commandments for the Environment" includes a wealth of resources for further study on each commandment in the "notes" section in the back of the book and is published by Ave Maria Press. ISBN: 1-59471-211-5.



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Glitzy celebration planned for Luers Knight

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — Plenty of silver and gold and lots of glitter will punctuate the festive celebration planned for Luers Knight on Friday, April 24, according to committee chairman Lona Pritchard.

The fundraising event will be the culmination of an entire year's worth of activities recognizing Bishop Luers High School's 50th anniversary, which has already included a Mass and rededication of the school, an open house and homecoming events tailored to the special occasion.

The gala evening will be a black tie affair with an Oscar night feel, says Pritchard. Attendees will enter the gaily decorated school gymnasium by walking down a red carpet as flash bulbs pop and students conduct interviews with arriving celebrity guests. A sumptuous catered dinner will be served and entertainment will be provided by the Luers jazz band and the Luers Minstrels show choir. Students will also serve the meal and provide valet parking for the evening.

Guest of honor will be Bishop John M. D'Arcy, with Jim Fitzpatrick acting as master of ceremonies and auctioneer. The traditional bishop's auction is an annual feature of the fundraiser and usually produces sizable donations. In addition, a live auction will feature popular items like Notre Dame football tickets, Cubs tickets, Carolina Panthers tickets, a Wii game and a condo in Florida.

Last year's auctions yielded \$110,000, with this year's goal as \$130,000, says chairman Pritchard. Proceeds from the event are used to fund the school's technological and curricular needs and to provide tuition

assistance to Bishop Luers students. With tuition currently set at \$4,175 per year, 78 percent of the student body qualifies for assistance. Last year 225 students were helped with the money, she points out.

Special invited guests include principals and teachers from all of Luers' feeder schools, St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, St. Therese, St. John the Baptist, St. Aloysius, St. John, New Haven, Most Precious Blood, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, St. Louis Besancon, St. Joseph Monroeville and Huntington Catholic schools. Many clergy and religious usually attend along with parents and friends of the school. Last year's dinner drew 300 guests and a similar crowd is expected this year.

Though Pritchard heads up the event, she credits committee members Leah Gabrek, Pat Landon, Molly Denning, Jenny Paris, Angie Rorick, J.D. Rector, Debbie Stoffel, Betsy Till, Deb Hall, Cindy Hoch, Renee Glismann, Melanie Van Dyck, Michele Eckert, Julie Hill, Laura Klerner and Laurie Miller for lending their talents. "We work a full year doing it," she says.

Friends and family members who cannot attend the dinner that evening may go to the school Web site, www.bishopluers.org to watch a live feed of the festivities. They may also make a donation by clicking on online donations, then clicking on bishop's auction and providing the required information.

Pritchard is both excited about the upcoming event and optimistic about meeting the ambitious goal. "We have very generous people at Luers," she points out. And the school was recently recognized with an Exemplary School Award, she says, proving that the funds are put to exceptionally good use.

Lourdes Dinner Dance planned to sponsor pilgrim

BY LISA EVERETT

SOUTH BEND — During his pilgrimage to Lourdes last September to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady, Pope Benedict XVI reflected poignantly on the Blessed Mother's smile, which made such an impression on young Bernadette and which continues to radiate from this holy place.

For over four decades, Knights of Columbus Council 553 in downtown South Bend has sought to radiate the smile of Our Lady towards those who are sick by selecting one person each year to send to Lourdes for an all-expense paid pilgrimage. Ranging in age from small children to the elderly, these pilgrims have experienced not only the healing power of the Lourdes baths but also the spiritual fruits of this famous shrine which attracts over 5 million visitors annually. Besides seeking donations to cover the cost of the yearly pilgrimage, Council 553 hosts an annual Lourdes Dinner Dance and silent auction. This year's event will be held on Saturday evening, May 2, at the Knights of Columbus Clubrooms, 553 E. Washington St.

One of the beneficiaries of this annual fundraiser is Kathy Black, who accompanied her disabled 3-year-old son Patrick to Lourdes in September 1995. "It was a very stressful time as we were not programmed on any level to anticipate, let alone handle a child with

a chronic mental/physical health condition," Black recalls. "My heart was very open going to Lourdes. What mother wouldn't want a miracle for her sick child? The experience in the baths area was the most emotional for me. I felt even more linked to this unique journey with my son than I ever had before.

"We were wrapped together in a single sheet after we disrobed," she adds. "The fresh, mountain spring water was very cold as we lay in the bath for several seconds. After we came out, I remember not feeling chilled at all. In fact, I felt very dry and clean. After witnessing the events of the week, I began to understand the meaning of suffering in general, and where Patrick was concerned in particular, in a whole new way.

"By seeing that I was not alone in my unique struggles as a mother of a disabled child, I came to accept my role in Patrick's life, as well as his illness, as necessary components of God's plan for us," Black says. "Life was not going to be spent simply coping with the aftermath of an unfortunate event anymore. The experience gave me more grace and confidence in the whole matter, to this very day. Reflections of my spiritual healing are ones of happiness, gratitude and humility that we would even be asked to raise a child like Patrick. I know that he will be perfect in every way someday and I rejoice in that thought. I am very grateful to raise a soul like his, for the glory of God."

Another beneficiary of the annual Lourdes Dinner Dance is John Lehner, who was selected to make a pilgrimage in October, 2005 after being involved in an accident with a semi-truck, which resulted in multiple serious injuries.

Lehner recounts the lasting effects of what he experienced in Lourdes: "As you literally immerse your entire body in the icy waters of the baths, you feel so very warmed by the closeness to God and his mother, as you pray for yourself and others to be healed, refreshed and renewed in body and spirit. I know that I have had many surgeries and still have had several since I have returned from my pilgrimage; but God had given me the strength and courage to accept these surgeries and my physical limitations for a wonderful life, a loving wife and son, daughter-in-law and grandson and granddaughter."

Reservations for this year's Lourdes Dinner Dance can be made by calling chairpersons Terry and Cathy Riordan at (574) 272-6184 by Friday, April 24, and mailing checks to Brian Masterson, P.O. Box 7, South Bend, IN 46624. The evening begins with a wine and cheese social and silent auction from 5:30-6:30 p.m., followed by dinner catered by Fiddler's Hearth. Afterwards there will be dancing to the modern music of Mike Vaszari and his band. The cost of the dinner dance is \$30 per person, \$60 per couple.

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EDITORIAL

Being a steward of God's creation

The Easter Vigil reading of Genesis recounts creation and how God puts mankind in dominance over the blessings of the earth: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. Let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and the cattle, and over all the wild animals and all the creatures that crawl on the ground."

Genesis continues: "God also said: 'See, I give you every seed-bearing plant all over the earth and every tree that has seed-bearing fruit on it to be your food; and to all the animals of the land, all the birds of the air, and all the living creatures that crawl on the ground, I give all the green plants for food.' And so it happened. God looked at everything he had made, and he found it very good."

This week, as we celebrate Earth Day, let us recall our dominion over God's creation and consider our stewardship roles.

When it comes to environmental or global warming issues — although we are not going to editorialize whether global warming is fact or fiction — it is important to remember whenever these issues involve humanity, such as displacement, migration, there the church is.

For example, as many parts of the world experience drought, which often leads to starvation, there the church would respond with food relief. Or wherever typhoons, tsunamis, displace people, there is the church to offer her aid. The same with migration of people looking for work. The church is there to offer her aid.

The 1992 U.S. Catholic bishops document, "Renewing the Earth" urges public officials to focus more directly on the ethical dimensions of environmental policy and on its relation to development, to see the common good and to resist short-term pressures in order to meet our long-term responsibility to future generations.

Individually, we can all do our part to create a cleaner, safer world for our children and grandchildren. Curbside recycling in most of our towns has made it easy to organize and recycle plastic, cardboard, newsprint, catalogs, etc. Some companies have partnered with schools and parishes to recycle newsprint and cardboard and actually offer a stipend per ton of materials collected. Some parishes and schools have utilized this as a fundraiser.

With tough economic times, however, many of these recycling companies are seeing the prices drop and cannot offer as great a stipend as in previous times.

The green garden

One of the best ways we can serve the hungry, the poor, and continue to be "green," is growing a garden. Maybe this year, we may want to consider growing a larger garden to share with those who are finding it difficult to make ends meet.

And locally grown vegetables and fruits do not require the transportation costs as food items trucked across the nation. Consider contacting a food pantry at your parish or a nearby parish to bring extra produce. Perhaps your parish could offer a "table of plenty" where gardeners could bring in their extra produce to share with those who do not have healthy, homegrown vegetables. If word gets out, this could be a tool of evangelization — to bring folks outside of our own parishes to our grounds.

It is often less expensive to purchase processed packaged foods. Organic and home-grown vegetables and fruits are often more expensive, which many struggling with financial problems may have to forego.

Consider growing more produce. Consider sharing it with family, friends, your community and offer some healthy options to those who may not have the opportunity or space to grow their own fresh food. It's not only healthier, it's being "green" and charitable with God's bounteous gifts.

Today's Catholic editorial board is 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

Pro-Life politicians must walk the talk to receive my vote

Let's look at the fact, folks: Abortions during Jimmy Carter's term averaged around 1.1 million a year. They then rose to between 1.3 million and 1.5 million a year — the all time high — during the Reagan and GHW Bush administrations. Abortions dropped by almost 50 percent to a figure of 850,000 a year during the Clinton administration. Abortions then rose again to between 860,000 to a little over a million a year during the GW Bush administration.

Interesting, isn't it? The lowest rate of abortions occurred during pro-choice presidents' terms, and the lowest rate ever seen in America since Roe v. Wade occurred during Clinton's administration.

Research shows that abortions declined during the Clinton years because of many factors. But higher funding of "socialist" programs like adoption education, WIC and Medicaid are cited as the most prevalent reasons women chose adoption or to keep their child. Abortions then rose again during the GW Bush administration, and women interviewed for the study said they were choosing abortion because they could not afford their child, thought adoption was too complicated, had no support or did not qualify for Medicaid.

My guess is that Catholics who vote for pro-choice candidates have seen the writing on the walls ... that candidates who run on pro-life platforms do not walk the talk. Some of us think it seems better to vote for the candidate who actually will make changes on other Christian issues than the candidate who will tout their sense of morality to get

elected but not truly act on it.

Abortions will happen whether they are legal or not. The key to reducing or ending abortion is to give women other options and to turn unwanted pregnancies into wanted ones. What party offers the money to pay for these options? This is one reason I vote for Democrats because they are willing to spend the money on the programs that have actually been shown to reduce abortions. I have been around long enough to see that actions definitely speak louder than words, especially in politics. True disillusionment occurs when you continue the same action (vote) expecting a different outcome.

Abortion figures and research provided to me by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and the CDC.

S. Larsen
South Bend

Variables influence abortion count

While the above letter by S. Larsen may have been written in good faith, with a belief that the "facts" presented were true, nevertheless, they simply are not. So, let's look at these "facts" one by one:

First, just looking at the statistics from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the number of abortions for President Carter's four years in office (1977-1980) averaged just under 1.2 million per year. In addition, while the CDC number for 1977 was 1,079,430, the number for 1980 was 1,297,606. This amounts to a 20 percent increase over Carter's four years. The CDC number for 1981 when President Reagan took office was 1,300,760 (about 3,000 more than Carter's last year). By 1988, the number stood at 1,371,285, or what amounts to a 5.4 percent increase in Reagan's eight years. These CDC numbers continued to rise until reaching their height in 1990 with 1,429,247. They began dropping, then, in 1991, in the third year of President GHW Bush's term of office and have continued to drop since then, including during President GW Bush's term of office.

Secondly, the assertion that abortion fell 50 percent during President Clinton's term of office is simply not true. Part of the problem in the numbers that S. Larsen is relying upon is that in 1998, the CDC stopped including abortion statistics from California and a few other states in their national totals. In fact, due to often lax reporting standards in many states, the

CDC's numbers don't give the whole story. Often, it is more helpful to look at the numbers from the Alan Guttmacher Institute (AGI), which is closely associated with Planned Parenthood (the nation's largest abortion provider) and which surveys all abortion providers. Their numbers are consistently higher than those of the CDC. Using AGI numbers we see the same decline noted by CDC that began in 1991. The AGI number for President Clinton's first year in office in 1993 was 1,495,000 and the number for his last year in 2000 was 1,312,990. This amounts to a 12 percent decline over Clinton's eight years, not 50 percent.

Thirdly, while S. Larsen is correct in stating that there are many factors involved in why abortions have declined, there is really no evidence that it is linked significantly to Democratic administrations, or even to any administration up to now. I have already noted the sharp rise during the Carter years and how the numbers began their steady fall during the GHW Bush years and which continued through both the Clinton and GW Bush years.

Fourthly, S. Larsen attributes the factors that have led to decreases in abortion to government programs like WIC and Medicaid. No doubt these have played a role. However, there are many other factors that have been borne out by the research. One factor is the aging of the baby boom generation to beyond the child-bearing years. Another would be

the decline in premarital sexual activity in the early '90s due in part to the AIDS epidemic. Yet another can be found in pro-life legislation passed in dozens of states that mandate informed consent, waiting periods and parental notification for minors. A huge factor and, perhaps the greatest, has been the ongoing growth and development of crisis pregnancy centers across the country that offer direct assistance and education, including the use of ultrasounds. The astounding growth and development of the Women's Care Center in our own diocese bears witness to this phenomenon.

Finally, while it is true that we need pro-life politicians who will walk the talk — what our country really needs are Catholic politicians and citizens who are unabashedly Catholic in the public arena, and who promote the church's social teachings in their integrity.

We need, of course, to provide direct assistance to expectant mothers in distress, but we can never allow ourselves to become complacent about the right to life of every human being from conception until natural death. Such a basic respect for the dignity of every human being is the bedrock of a humane and thriving democracy. Our task, as Catholics, is to speak this truth, to reach out in love, to fight tirelessly for justice and to pray merrily for God's grace to do this faithfully.

Fred Everett
Office of Family Life
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend

Music soothes the broken heart

Many of us can recall with fondness the music of our youth. Melody laden songs that cause our toes to tap and lyrics that touch our hearts bring back memories of endearing times we treasure.

Most of my married friends have what they consider "their song." Perhaps it is a tune that marks their first date or one with lyrics that reflect their special relationship. Those songs speak to the very heart of our existence.

I was never a fan of the rock group the Rolling Stones, but my husband Trent knew every song by heart. He was known to spout, "You can't always get what you want. ..." At the time I failed to embrace the delight those tunes brought him. When he died, I couldn't get enough of Mick and the boys. Even now, 18 years after Trent's death, I still am deeply touched and swept back in time when I catch one of the Stones' songs on the local oldies radio station. It reconnects me to him.

Music is a connector. It reconnects us not only to events but to people. It can even reconnect us to ourselves. Those who have lost a loved one, whether it be a spouse, a child, a parent or friend, know the importance of music and melody in their lives.

Marie, whose teenaged son, Jon, died in an motorcycle accident recalls his love of folk music. She and her husband, Jim, found it very painful to hear that genre shortly after his death. But six years later they both agree, "We find a piece of Jon in his music. Sometimes we get one of his CDs out and listen to it together. It seems to soothe our souls and brings him closer to us."

Karen, who has been widowed for seven years, agrees, but shares a different perspective on music. "It's not only that you have a song that was 'yours,' but I find a lot of music, especially easy listening, has a love and commitment theme. Just hearing that makes me sad for what I've lost."

HOPE IN THE MOURNING

KAY COZAD

And of course, as church going folks, we have a history with traditional hymns that can evoke some powerful emotions. Tears well up for my sister and I whenever we sing "Amazing Grace" in church as that was one of the hymns played at our beloved father's funeral Mass years ago.

But no matter what type of music touches you, I have learned from my own experience with grief and loss and from those who have shared their grief journey with me, that music holds an

HOPE, PAGE 16

Resurrection offers greatest prize of all



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

2nd Sunday of Easter Jn 20:19-31

Once more in this Easter season, the Acts of the Apostles furnishes the Liturgy of the Word with its first reading.

Acts claims to be, and scholars assume it indeed to be, the work of the evangelist who penned St. Luke's Gospel. In fact, Acts may properly be seen as a continuation of the story presented in Luke's Gospel. The Gospel closes with the Ascension of Jesus. Acts begins at this point.

In modern Bibles, St. John's Gospel stands between the Gospel of Luke and Acts. For this reason, this strong message of continuity between Jesus and the early church is obscured or even lost as the faithful today read the New Testament.

Certainly, the church officials who selected these reading for the liturgies following Easter knew well the reality offered by this bond between Luke's Gospel and Acts. It is, more broadly, a bond between Jesus and the apostles and the ongoing, living community formed by those who love the Lord.

This weekend's reading from Acts describes the early church, and it clearly describes the Christians themselves. Christians were "of one heart and one mind."

Love and common adherence to the Lord were central to their lives. So, importantly, was reverence for the apostles, who had seen the risen Lord, had been the Lord's special followers and students, and whom Jesus had commissioned to continue the work of salvation. They literally had seen the risen Lord.

St. John's First Epistle supplies the second reading. It too defines the Christian, as this definition was understood in the first century.

Each believer fully gives self in love to God, through trust and faith in Jesus. As a result of this commitment, and of the Lord's redeeming acts, each Christian is a child of God. This term means much more than merely earthly creation. It means eternal life.

Baptism in water symbolizes this absolute commitment.

The Gospel reading for this weekend is from St. John's Gospel. It is a Resurrection narrative. Risen to a new and eternal life, no longer confined by earthly space and circumstance, Jesus passes through locked doors to encounter the apostles. Standing before them as the Redeemer and the victor over death and evil, the Lord sends them into the world.

Of the 11 surviving apostles present at this moment, only one apparently was absent, Thomas, the twin. Thomas would not believe the story the others told him of this meeting with Jesus.

Then, Jesus appeared again. He showed Thomas that indeed Resurrection had occurred. Overwhelmed, utterly convinced, Thomas saluted Jesus as lord and as God.

The Lord then gave the apostles the greatest of divine power. He empowered them to forgive sins.

Reflection

In the Easter Vigil, and on Easter, the church celebrated the Lord's resurrection in the most magnificent of its rituals. Without any question, these two great moments are the most awesome occasions of worship in the entire Catholic year.

Almost immediately, as in this weekend's readings, the church calls its people to have faith and to rejoice. Resurrection, and redemption in Jesus, are not memories to be commemorated.

Why? The Resurrection occurred in time and place, but it transformed the world. For those who willingly turn to Jesus, conversion changes life forever. Whatever the crosses individual persons may carry, if they are one with Christ, they will share everlasting life, the greatest prize of all.

The apostles and those who have succeeded them, have the power that is the most certain conqueror of sin. They forgive sins. This forgiveness, and the means to attain it, are the Lord's loving gifts. Thus, we celebrate. He lives! He lives here and now!

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 4:32-35 Ps 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 1 Jn 5:1-6 Jn 20:19-31

Monday: Acts 4:23-31 Ps 2:1-9 Jn 3:1-8

Tuesday: Acts 4:32-37 Ps 93:1-2, 5 Jn 3:7b-15

Wednesday: Acts 5:17-26 Ps 34:2-9 Jn 3:16-21

Thursday: Acts 5:27:33 Ps 34:2, 9, 17-20 Jn 3:31-36

Friday: Acts 5:34-42 Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14 Jn 6:1-15

Saturday: 1 Pt 5:5b-14 Ps 89:2-3, 6-7, 16-17 Mk 16:15-20

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

In April the church remembers Fidelis of Sigmaringen. This quiz, inspired by his name, looks at faith.

1. An oddity about the term **faith** is that in many translations

- it occurs much more commonly in the Old Testament than in the New Testament.
- it occurs much more commonly in the New Testament than in the Old Testament.
- it occurs only in the New Testament.

2. St. Fidelis' name was never shortened to "Fido," even though many fidoes wear dog collars. Why is this?

- The name "fido" refers only to an orthodox unmarried deacon, so the Catholic Church would not normally canonize these.
- Fido, derived from the title defender of the faith given to Henry VIII by the pope, is reserved for Anglican churchmen
- The name Fido is used almost exclusively by dogs (or rather by their owners).

3. Ezekiel 20 recounts how the Israelites "broke faith" with God by offering sacrifices at:

- High places (pagan holy places)
- Roman temples (pagan temples)
- Galilean glaciers (melting, therefore not kosher)

4. 1 Maccabees 10 tells us how in an attempt to ingratiate himself with the Jews, King Demetrius promised that if the Jews would "keep faith with us" he would free them from certain taxes, including this culinary necessity:

- the bacon tax
- the toast tax
- the salt tax

5. The Book of Wisdom admonished the people to remember how when their enemies had had their first-born killed and were then drowned; the Hebrews had kept their faith. What event is this an allusion to:

- the Passover In Egypt, when the first-born died of any families who had not followed the Passover rules observed by the Hebrews
- the flood when all save Noah and his sons died
- the war against the Gideonites when all the soldiers swore to die before surrendering

6. Sirach Chapter 49 praises King Josiah for his faith; in fact it says only three kings had faith, Josiah, Hezekiah and this most revered Jewish King

- Zadok
- Herod
- David

7. Psalm 146 noted that God is he who keeps faith forever and also

- gives food to the hungry and imprisons the slave
- gives food to the sated and sets prisoners free
- gives food to the hungry and sets prisoners free

8. Exodus 21 reflects a whole different social structure, when it mentions that a girl in this unenviable predicament cannot be sold to a foreigner:

- a girl who was sold as a slave by her father but rejected by her new master
- a girl who refuses to learn any language but Greek
- a woman who refuses to get married but instead wanted to become a nun

9. When Absalom plotted against his father, King David, 200 men had accompanied Absalom to Hebron from Jerusalem "... in good faith." What does this mean?

- They are all Jews not tainted with Samaritan religion
- They knew nothing of the plot against King David
- They are from Judah, not from the gentile "Decapolis"

10. In Mark's Gospel Chapter 5 Jesus tells a woman, "Daughter, your faith has saved you." She had enough faith to know she would be cured if she just did this:

- Followed Jesus to the cross
- Touched Jesus' cloak
- Poured fragrant oil on his feet and wiped it with her hair

11. In Luke's Gospel Jesus tells his followers that if they have faith the size of this, they could command nature:

- A Carthaginian war elephant
- A bishop's hat
- A mustard seed

ANSWERS:

- b, 2.c, 3.a, 4.c, 5.a, 6.c, 7.c, 8.a, 9.b, 10.b, 11.c

Marriage within Eastern Rite Catholic Church honored

I am dating a lady who was raised in the Eastern Rite Ukrainian Catholic Church. I was raised Roman Catholic. I am not familiar with the Eastern Rite. We are planning to get married at her church and have children baptized there also. Are these sacraments honored by the Roman Catholic Church? We believe everything is honored by both churches but would like some reassurance from an outside source. Thank you for your time and response.
Anonymous

In the Catholic Church, there are many different rites. A rite is a particular tradition within the Catholic Church that is characterized especially by their own sets of laws. You and I belong to the Latin Rite of the Catholic Church, which happens to be the largest rite in terms of member-

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

ship numbers. Your fiancé belongs to an Eastern Rite of the Catholic Church. Eastern Rite Churches are Catholic just as much as you and I are Catholic. They follow a different set of canon laws, but are in communion with the pope (and with us) in the church. So, indeed, all their sacraments are valid.

Concerning your specific situation, there is no issue with your marriage as long as you consent

to have your marriage blessed by the Ukrainian Rite pastor. Again, this is a fully Catholic marriage in this case. Concerning the baptism of your children, canon law states that through baptism a child is enrolled in the rite of his or her father unless both parents agree and fully request that the child be enrolled in the rite of his or her mother. In your case, if you have your children baptized by the Ukrainian Catholic priest, your children would actually be Latin Rite Catholics, unless you and your wife agree and freely request from the priest that the children be enrolled by baptism in the Ukrainian Rite Church.

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

Baseball, a return to our roots

"I can breathe again."

I say it every April. I take a deep breath, inhale through my nose to smell it, close my eyes to envision and hear it, slow my breathing to savor it, and then exhale.

I am alive again. I have returned to my roots. All is right in the world.

Baseball has begun.

Forget for a second the competitive nature of the male species. It's not entirely about that for me, although "America's pastime" offers tremendous competitive appeal. I love the notion of battling it out on the baseball diamond.

But football, basketball, hockey, etc., have the same competitive component.

Baseball is different for me.

It was my first love.

I bask in the setting that is a baseball diamond. Football, basketball, soccer and hockey are rectangles. Baseball is this odd-shaped patch of land with dirt and grass strategically placed on sharp right angles in some areas, and rounded in others. It has walls of varying heights and distances, these long, concrete structures on each side of the field called dugouts where the players congregate between innings, and an elevated pile of dirt where a man winds up and throws a baseball to another man with a club in his hands.

Now that's unique.

I love the sounds of baseball, particularly when they are mixed simultaneously. The ball hitting the glove, the bat connecting with the ball, the shuffle of dirt kicked up by metal cleats, the verbal instructions from coach to player, and the idiosyncratic phrases that pop out of a dugout or from a shortstop encouraging his pitcher.

For some, the pads popping on a football field or the thump of a basketball on the hardwood provide that same visceral experience, and I like that too. Golf is a beauti-

ful sport that offers a pastoral feel like no other. But for me, nothing is quite like baseball.

Baseball was the first sport I experienced as a seven year old, and I'm still head-over-heels in love with the game.

It helped that I had a certain amount of skill for playing the game. But it was always so much more than that. Even if I had a tough day on the diamond, I still had my most prized possession — my baseball cards — and a major league game to document in my scorebook.

I savor the smell of a baseball glove and the feel of this uniquely stitched configuration of leather on my left hand. There is no feeling quite like a well-hit line drive because, amazingly at times, you don't actually feel a perfectly well-hit ball coming off the bat. How is that possible?

But ultimately, when I think of the game of baseball and my introduction to the sport 40 years ago, I think of the guys I played with and the men who coached me. Hands down, the most memorable moments during my childhood came on a baseball field somewhere in northern Indiana.

Friendships that remain in name only — I haven't seen some of these people in four decades — lead into a conversation with a guy you played Little League with or against when you were 12.

Recently, we lost a former grade school classmate. I hadn't seen him in more than 30 years. But the first thing I thought of when I heard the news was, "My catcher is gone." We were a battery back in the 1975 Senior League state championship game. He was one of the toughest, most hard-nosed players I ever played with or against or coached. I'll never forget him. Even today, his mannerisms behind the plate provide the image in my mind of what a catcher — of what a leader — should be.



FROM THE SIDELINES

BY TIM PRISTER

Some of the most influential people in my life were men who coached me on the baseball field. I recently had breakfast with my high school coach, who last instructed me in 1978. I've stayed in periodic communication with my grade school coach, who happens to live across the street from my aunt and uncle.

Last year, while coaching third base in a high school game, I saw a woman frantically waving at me from behind the dugout. I didn't recognize her. But after the game, I talked to her. She was the daughter of my Little League coach.

Through baseball, I have formed a fraternity of some of the most influential people in my life. They are part of a group of people who define much of who I am and what I stand for.

Baseball and the people who have been involved in the sport with me have helped make me competitive, responsible, accountable, capable of dealing with the ups and downs of life, a believer in teamwork, and an adult motivated to help others achieve success and sacrifice individual needs for the betterment of others.

There are many commendable pursuits in life that can teach these lessons to you.

I can breathe again. It must be baseball season.

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

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for April 19, 2009

John 20:19-31

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Second Sunday of Easter, Cycle B: Jesus appears to his disciples in the Upper Room. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

FIRST DAY	THE DOORS	LOCKED
CAME AND STOOD	PEACE	BE WITH YOU
SHOWED (THEM)	REJOICED	THEY SAW
THE LORD	RECEIVE	HOLY SPIRIT
SINS	RETAIN	TWELVE
NAILS	FINGER	BLESSED
SIGNS	THIS BOOK	LIFE

JESUS CAME

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

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HOPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

important place in the grief process. It has a miraculous effect on the heart and offers a safe venue in which to descend into grief.

By going deeply into one's grief, it is possible to face the intense emotion involved in loss, sit with it and then slowly release it. I have learned that it is only in the expression of one's grief that healing occurs. And isn't that what the grief process is all about?

As those of you who have experienced loss first hand know, it's not easy to descend, particularly at the beginning of your journey. During those more painful times, give yourself permission to wait awhile to listen to those special tunes again. You'll know when you are ready. As you do the work of grief you may find at first a melancholia when listening to that special song. Eventually music can become the joy-filled link that will buoy your spirit and connect you in a unique and often times divine way to your deceased loved one.

I encourage those I work with to allow themselves the opportunity to be still and listen to music of their choice. It can transport the listener to another place and time, and has mysterious properties that support the healing of a wounded soul.

I try to include at least one song in each of the community workshops I have the opportunity to present and at each support group as well. I believe music can center us and provide the springboard from which to face our work as we learn to integrate our loss into our lives and learn to live again.

Music can evoke important memories and is a timeless gift to ourselves that can soothe our broken hearts.

I would like to share a partial list of contemporary selections that have proven deeply touching to those who have lost a loved one. If you are mourning the loss of dear one, may I suggest you "be still and listen."

"Angel," by Kathy Zavada; "Dancing with Angels," by Monk and Neagle; "Goodbye for Now," by Kathy Troccoli; "I Can Only Imagine," by Mercy Me; "The Wind Beneath My Wings," by Bette Midler; "We Will Go On," by Daniel Rodriguez; "With Hope," by Steven Curtis Chapman; "You're Still You," by Josh Groban; "Amazing Grace," and "If I'd Only Known," by Reba McEntyre.

Kay Cozad is a certified grief educator and news editor/writer of Today's Catholic newspaper. She is author of "Prayer Book for Widows," Our Sunday Visitor, 2004 and can be reached at kcozad@todayscatholicnews.org

Sports

HOLY CROSS COLLEGE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION HOSTS GOLF OUTING Kick off the Blue/Gold weekend with the Holy Cross College Alumni Association during the Seventh Annual Golf Outing. This outing will be held on Friday, April 17, at Knollwood Country Club in Granger. Registration and lunch will begin at 12 p.m. with a shotgun start at 1 p.m. Following the outing there will be an awards ceremony along with a tailgate-style get together. Registration fee is \$100 for an individual and \$400 for a team. To register visit www.hccaagolfouting.org or contact Jason Proctor, Holy Cross College Alumni Association, at (847) 551-3329 or e-mail jproctor99@hcc-nd.edu.

Saint Joseph's teams eye Bishop's Cup

BY JOE KOZINSKI

SOUTH BEND — Many things are on the mind of Saint Joseph's High School Athletic Director Eric Gohlke when it comes to the spring season; staff, budget, improvements, competitiveness and probably the most important, the Bishop's Cup.

"It looks like we are neck and neck with Marian for this year's cup," commented Gohlke. "It is a fierce but fun rivalry; our kids come into the athletic office just to find out where we are and how we are doing.

"Our staff is a veteran one that adds a new experienced coach in the girl's tennis program, Bill Mountford." Gohlke said. "Coach Mountford brings with him college playing experience, The United States Naval Academy and college coaching experience. We are glad to welcome him aboard.

Softball

The softball team is one of the teams competing for the Bishop's Cup that could make a difference in the sectionals.

"We played well last season and our expectations are to be better this year," commented Coach Earl Keith. "What has been fun about this team is that they are all softball players, some play multiple sports, but they all are dedicated to becoming good softball players.

"We are strong at pitcher with the return of polished sophomore Jenny Bals," remarked Keith. "We are blessed with two seniors that provide us with talent as well as leadership with Ashley Zappia and Lexie Czarnecki.

"Juniors Amanda Chamblee and Sidney Hofferth will solidify a formidable infield that should keep us in all of our contests," added Keith. "We have a whole different level of dedication that I believe will pay off when we hit the diamond."

Baseball

Maturity and consistency will be the focus as the Indians take the field as the very talented Northern Indiana Conference takes aim at the upstarts.

"We have a year under our belts and hopefully we are all grown up and understand what it takes to be good at this level," said Coach John Gump. "In high school defense is a big deal and we have a shot to be good if we can be consistent in the field.

"We are expecting good things

this year based primarily on a pitching staff that is back with experience," Gump said. "Jacob Brewer did great things last season as a sophomore, seniors; David Osowski, Andrew Vasquez and Dustin White give us a very deep and dependable staff.

"Dustin White was junior player of the year and will bring back his intensity," Gump said. "We will not have a problem swinging the bat, but are we a year better defensively? I think so.

"I feel good about this team and the chemistry is great," exclaimed Gump. "The competition combined with our experience should make for a solid year."

Girls' tennis

Though the girls' tennis team is being guided by a newbie to the Saint Joseph's family, the cupboard is definitely not bare and the skipper is not without a long distinguished resume.

"I played college tennis at the United States Naval Academy and have most recently assisted at the University of Notre Dame," explained Bill Mountford. "I feel blessed to have the opportunity to coach these very talented girls.

"We really are strong and deep program returning six starters from last year's semi-state team," remarked Mountford. "It looks like we have two freshmen and a sophomore that will be in the mix that means nine girls fighting for seven slots.

"We have our last season's number one singles back in Jessi Rink, Alaina Roberts is very talented freshman that is playing well," commented Mountford. "Bridget Veldman who played number two singles and Elle Harding will make up our number one doubles team.

Girls' track

The girls' track team is primed and ready to start the outdoor season after finishing runner up in the 1-A-3-A Indoor Finals at Purdue this spring.

"We are defending city champions and I feel that we can have even more success this year," claimed Coach Mike McCarthy. "We are well rounded with many great athletes with the hurdles, sprints, 800 and relays being our strengths.

"Meghan Czarnecki returns after being a finalist in the 400-relay, indoor state champion in the 55-meter hurdles, all conference in the high hurdles and long jump,"

stated McCarthy. "Tayler Turner also returns from the state 400-meter-relay team where she also was a finalist in the 100-meter dash.

"Molly Moskwinski is another team member of the 400-meter relay and was a regional qualifier in the 200-meter dash and is a key athlete for all of our sprint relays," McCarthy said. "Katie Campbell rounds out the 400-meter relay team and is our 300-meter hurdle specialist.

"Katherine Manion is a very dedicated senior team leader that anchors us in the 3,200-meter distance races," McCarthy remarked. "Mikaila Chamblee, Morgan Carroll, Elisa Revak, Michelle Potter, Maddie Kearney and Katie Hecklinski are all freshmen that bring us depth and are ready now to compete with the upper classmen.

Boys' track

Graduation hit the Saint Joe men's team hard but an exuberant group of newcomers will try to continue the legacy left behind.

"Our boys are young and inexperienced after graduating a dominant senior class last year," explained Coach McCarthy. "We are three-time defending South Bend City champs and hope to hold onto the title this season.

"We are led by some hard-working athletes, two-time All NIC in cross country, Michael Bradley will focus his efforts on the 800 and relays," commented McCarthy. "Former state finalist in the 4x1 and 4x4 relays, Zach Matthews is a key member of our 4x4 relay team and potentially could be a state finalist in the 300 hurdles.

"Big things are expected from Brendan Favo who posted the third best 400 time in the state last year for a sophomore," McCarthy continued. "Connor Method is a freshman that was second team All NIC in cross country and has loads of potential.

"Senior Brendan McBride and Mike Zientara bring experience and accomplishments to our middle distances," McCarthy stated. "Luke O'Connor was one of the most improved athletes from last season and key candidate in the sprint relays as well as the 300 hurdles.

"Our freshman class boasts 20-plus quality athletes, which may mean that we are solid by the season's end," remarked McCarthy. "We will have a great team in 12 months; we just need some physical maturity and training time."

Dwenger gymnastics takes fourth in state competition

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School's gymnastics team competed March 21 for the state title and took fourth place.

After two events, the team enjoyed an overall lead, but after the third event, the girls were in second by .35 of a point. The final event — beam — did not go the Saints' way.

They finished fourth in the tough field of competition with a very respectable score of 110.5, just one point out of second place.

Although the gymnasts wanted to place higher at state, the

coaches were pleased with their performance.

Competitors included seniors Alicia Roche, Olivia Lee, Grace Schenkel, Michelle Sordelet and Ashley Faghihi; junior Katharine Nix; and freshman Brittany Trahin.

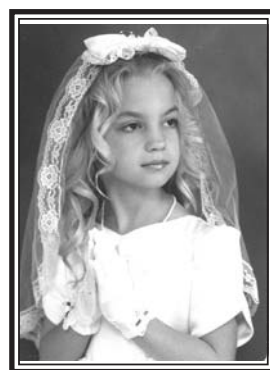
Additional honors were given to Roche, Schenkel, Lee, Nix and Trahin who made first team all-SAC. Sordelet made second team all-SAC. Faghihi and Theresa Hilger made honorable mention all-SAC.

Roche, Lee, Schenkel and Sordelet made all state academic distinction.



LIZ DELANEY

Bishop Dwenger High School gymnast Alicia Roche was named the Mildred M. Ball Mental Attitude Award winner at the gymnastics state competition. Roche placed fifth in the all-around with a total of 37.575 points. She is pictured with Bishop Dwenger Principal Fred Tone and her check for \$1,000 from Indiana Farm Bureau Insurance, which will be used for tuition assistance.



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BISHOP LUERS COMMUNITY HONORS 2-A STATE BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS AT PEP RALLY

In an April 7 afternoon assembly, the Bishop Luers Knights Class 2-A state basketball champions assembled to present the state trophy to Luers Principal Mary Keefer. In the photo, senior Lawrence Barnett makes the presentation. The team was also honored by Bishop John M.

D'Arcy who prayed and congratulated the team. Fort Wayne Mayor Tom Henry proclaimed April 7, 2009 Bishop Luers High School Boys' Basketball Day in the City of Fort Wayne. Greg Jones from the Fort Wayne Journal Gazette presented junior Deshaun Thomas the Parade magazine All-American Award.



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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Day of reflection

Mishawaka — A day of reflection will be Wednesday, April 29, from 9:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at St. Francis Convent. The theme for the day is "We are Called, We are Chosen." Please bring your Bible. The cost of the day is \$15 and includes lunch. Register by Friday, April 24, to Sister Barbara Anne Hallman at (574) 259-5427.

Pancake breakfast served

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570 will have a pancake breakfast, Sunday, April 19, from 8-11 a.m. in the Holy Family Parish Center. Adults \$5, children ages 5 to 12 \$2.50. All proceeds benefit Holy Family School.

Pasta night dinner helps athletes

South Bend — The St. Matthew Athletic Board will sponsor a pasta night Friday, May 1, from 5-7 p.m. in the St. Matthew gym. Meals provided by Papa Vino's Italian Kitchen. Tickets are adults \$6.50, seniors \$5.50 and students \$3.50. Tickets will be 50 cents more at the door. Tickets available at the school and will be sold after Mass.

Youth Mass and pizza

New Haven — St. John youth ministry will have a youth Mass Sunday April, 19, at 6 p.m. at St. Louis Besancon Church. A program for high school teens on St. Paul will follow in the parish hall with pizza dinner included. This is a free event.

State convention announced

South Bend — The 72nd State Convention of the Daughters of Isabella will be held April 24-26,

at the Blue Chip Casino Hotel in Michigan City. On Sunday, April 26, an 11:30 a.m. Mass will be offered at Queen of All Saints Church with installation of state officers to follow. Members are asked to bring non-perishable food items for the needy.

Tenderloin fry

Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council 4511 will have a tenderloin fry on Friday, April 17, from 4:30-7:00 p.m. at the Knight's hall on Bell Drive. Cost is \$6, which includes tenderloin sandwich, fries, cole slaw, and drink. Proceeds will be used for seminarian support.

Pancake breakfast

Warsaw — The Knights of Columbus Council 4511 will have a pancake breakfast after the 8:30 and 11 a.m. Masses on Sunday, April 19, at the Sacred Heart Church parish hall.

Lourdes dinner dance

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus, 553 E. Washington, will have a dinner dance Saturday, May 2. Reservations needed by April 24 to (574) 272-6184. Tickets are \$30 per person. The evening begins with a wine and cheese social and silent auction from 5:30-6:30 p.m., followed by dinner catered by Fiddler's Hearth and dancing to the music of Mike Vaszari and his band. Proceeds benefit a candidates trip to Lourdes, France. Applications available.

Little Flower Holy Hour

Fort Wayne — Msgr. J. William Lester will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, April 21, at 7:15 p.m. to pray for priests and

vocations. Msgr. Lester is retired and resides at St. Anne Home.

Christ Child Society plans garage sale

Fort Wayne — The Christ Child Society will have a garage sale Friday, June 5, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturday, June 6, from 8 a.m. to noon at the Queen of Angels Activity Center, 1500 W. State Blvd. Proceeds benefit needy children in the area.

Bishop Dwenger announces online auction

Fort Wayne — Bishop Dwenger High School will sponsor an online auction from April 13 through May 4. For information visit www.bishopdwenger.com.

Catholic Networking Offered

Fort Wayne — The Catholic Business Network will meet Friday, May 1, at the Chamber of Commerce, 826 Ewing St. Mass will be held at 7:30 a.m. with Father Tony Steinacker. Meeting will follow. Tower Bank's Don Schenkel will be the keynote speaker. For information visit www.thecatholicbusinessnetwork.com.

Family events fill weekend

Fort Wayne — Queen of Angels will offer a fundraiser the weekend of April 17 and 18. On April 17, a family carnival night will be from 5-7 p.m. and April 18, a family magical night will be from 4-9 p.m. in the Activity Center. The Bishop Dwenger show choir, Magic Mania, games, a baking contest and more are planned. For details see www.queenofangelschool.com.

Spring luncheon planned

Elkhart — Altar and Rosary Society of St. Thomas the

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St. Monica

Emily Kivasny, 95,
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Christ the King

Apostle Catholic Church at 1405 N. Main St. will have their spring luncheon salad on Wednesday, April 22, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. This will be in the church basement (elevator available). A donation of \$6 includes their famous hot chicken salad, many cold salads, bread, dessert and beverage. Carry-outs are available. Tickets may be purchased at the door or ahead of time by calling (574) 596-1673.

Focus on Health at USF

Fort Wayne — The University of Saint Francis will have Focus on Health Friday, April 17, from 7:30 a.m. to noon at the Hutzell gym. Free massage, health screenings and obtain lab tests for a reasonable cost. For information call Erica at (260) 399-7700, ext. 8501.

Knights plan spaghetti dinner

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a spaghetti dinner on Friday, April 24, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. Adults \$7, children (5-12) \$3. Carry-out available.

The blessing of the bikes

Arcola — A blessing of bikes by Father Cyril Fernandes will be Saturday, April 18, at 1 p.m. at St. Patrick Parish. Music, food and all bikes welcome.

St. Paul presented at St. Joseph

Roanoke — St. Joseph Parish, will offer St. Paul — In His Own Words, a live, Bible-based theatrical presentation by Mark Price Sunday, April 19, at 6:30 p.m. in the church, 641 N. Main St. Free to the public. For more about Mark Price Ministries see www.markpriceministries.com.

Orientation classes begin

Avilla — The St. Charles fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order will begin orientation classes Sunday, April 26, in the teacher's lounge at St. Mary of the Assumption School, 232 N. Main St., from 2-4 p.m.

Talent show support mission

Fort Wayne — The Bishop Dwenger Talent Show will be Friday, April 17, at 6:30 p.m. in the SAC gym. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for adults. Proceeds will be given to Dr. Rick Reifenberg '83 to support his medical mission to Bolivia.

Bishop Luers performs play

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will perform "Beauty and the Beast" Thursday, April 30, at 7:30 p.m., Friday, May 1, at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, May 2, at 2 p.m. following a tea party luncheon, and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. Tickets go on sale April 15 for \$10. Tea party and performance tickets are \$15.



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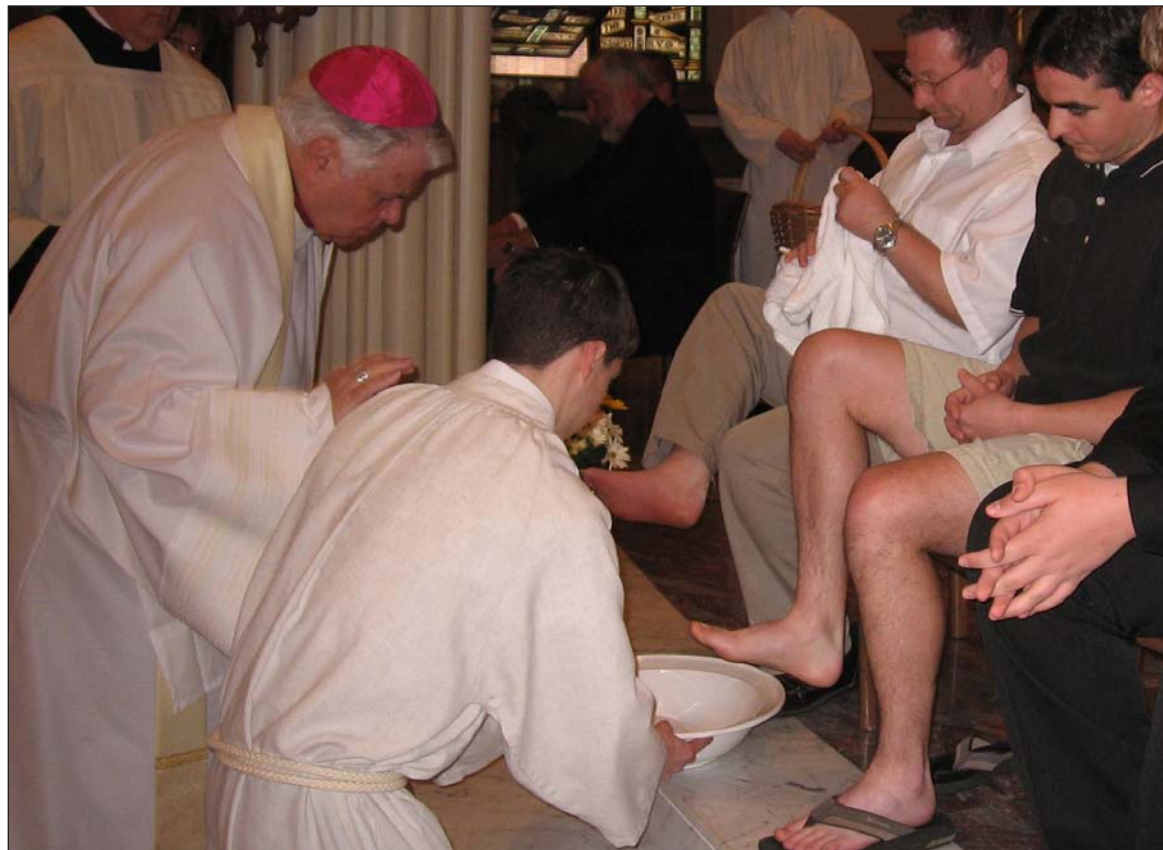
The St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Joseph County seeks a full-time Pantry Manager/Volunteer Coordinator. This position is responsible for managing all aspects of food acquisition, inventory, and distribution. This person is also responsible for coordinating the on-site volunteers of the Society. Last year the Society distributed more than 250,000 pounds of food from its pantry and eighteen member parishes. It also had volunteers work 4,500 hours. For a complete job description and further instructions on how to apply, please visit http://www.saintvincent-in.org/current_jobs.html No phone calls please.

The St. Vincent de Paul Society needs your donations of appliances, furniture, mattresses, miscellaneous household items, and gently used clothing. With today's economy, we are all experiencing shortages and cutbacks. Please do your Spring Cleaning early this year and call our Home Pickup department at 234-6000 ext 118 for a home pickup or bring it to our store located at 3408 Ardmore Trail (east side of the building) in South Bend.

Visit www.diocesefwsb.org for a complete calendar of events in the diocese.

BISHOP D'ARCY CELEBRATES TRIDUUM, EASTER

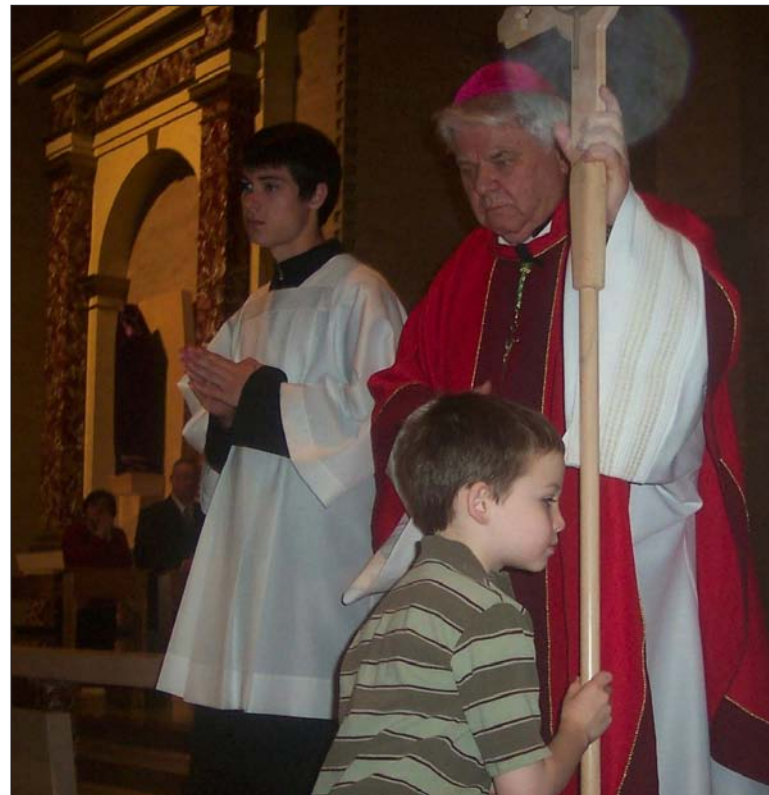
HOLY THURSDAY



MARK WEBER

Recalling how Jesus became a slave by washing the feet of his disciples, Bishop John M. D'Arcy reenacted how the Savior demonstrated charity at the Mass of the Lord's Supper at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. The bishop described how Christ's sacrifice was an exercise of love without limit and how his institution of the holy Eucharist is a perpetual gift for the faithful as a means to personal salvation.

GOOD FRIDAY



TRISH LINNER

A young member of St. Matthew Cathedral venerates the cross at Good Friday services in South Bend.

EASTER SUNDAY



TESS STEFFEN

Bishop John M. D'Arcy speaks to the participants of the Fort Wayne TV Mass before it began on Easter Sunday. Bishop D'Arcy was the celebrant for the TV Mass.



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