



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

World Day of Prayer for Vocations

Pages 11-13

Tribute

Father Dombrowski remembered

Page 3

Catholics engage lawmakers

New technology assists

Page 10

The Year of St. Paul

Paul the liturgist

Page 15

Divine Mercy Sunday

Find out what Susan Boyle, St. Faustina have in common

Page 20

Bishop John M. D'Arcy releases report on future merging, joining parishes

BY TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Bishop John M. D'Arcy has released a report that details mergers and possible mergers of parishes across the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Over a year ago, Bishop D'Arcy formed a committee of priests who met over many months and presented him a plan for merging and joining parishes, "so that our people might be better served," Bishop D'Arcy says in his report.

See Bishop D'Arcy's report

PAGE 5

The reason for the report was pastoral concerns. "Are priests presently distributed, or placed, in such a way that people are being properly served, and is the joyful work of pastoral care properly assigned so that no priest's responsibility becomes excessive?"

Bishop D'Arcy asks in the report.

Bishop D'Arcy says the coming of the new bishop is one of the reasons for releasing the report now: "It is incumbent upon me, especially given my knowledge of the diocese, to face what must be done, by at least initiating those changes which need to be made for the better pastoral care of our people, and not leave such difficult decisions to the new bishop."

Bishop D'Arcy adds, "I have made these decisions after much reflection; and as is my responsibility, I have made them after prayer and in the presence of Christ our savior, who is the supreme shepherd of our souls. The following two facts should be clear:

- Some changes need not be made at this time.
- There will be a consultation in each parish, presided over by the vicar forane, or dean of the area, where the parish is located."

TELLING OUR FAITH STORY

I love the Catholic Church because she has been my teacher, my companion and my joy throughout my life. She teaches unfaltering truth to a world full of confusion and distortion.

Her love is ever-present in a world that mistakes self-satisfaction and indulgence with true, caring selfless giving. The joy of her message, beauty and liturgy uplifts a tired and discouraged spirit in trying and difficult times. She is my rock, the body of Christ, now and forever.

Joan Teders, St. Charles Borromeo



NOTRE DAME'S EUCHARISTIC PROCESSION



DIANE FREEBY

Kneeling in prayer at the second altar during Sunday's fifth annual Eucharistic Procession at the University of Notre Dame, Mary's intercession was sought for a number of petitions. Students and area families prayed "that through the Sacred Heart of Jesus, our government officials may recognize the dignity of human life from conception until natural death." They also prayed "for the Notre Dame community, may they continue to be strengthened by the prayers of Our Lady, who is our sweetness, and our hope." Over 200 people participate in this year's procession, which began down the main aisle of the Sacred Heart Basilica following Mass and continued outside with a prayerful walk through campus and stops at four altars. The procession ended at the steps of foot of the Golden Dome, with prayers and benediction.

Glendon declines Notre Dame's Laetare Medal

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Citing concerns about plans to honor President Barack Obama despite his views on "fundamental principles of justice" that are contrary to Catholic teaching, former U.S. Ambassador to the Vatican Mary Ann Glendon has turned down the prestigious Laetare Medal from the University of Notre Dame.

In an April 27 letter to Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, Notre Dame's president, Glendon said she will not participate in May 17 commencement exercises during which the award was to have been presented.

The letter, posted on the blog of the magazine *First Things*, does not mention specific justice principles, but Glendon was critical of Notre Dame's decision to give Obama an honorary degree.

Obama supports legal abortion and his

administration recently proposed new regulations that would allow the use of federal funds for embryonic stem-cell research. Both are in direct conflict with fundamental church teaching.

The Laetare Medal is presented annually to an American Catholic layperson for outstanding service to the Catholic Church and society.

A spokeswoman for the Indiana university confirmed April 27 that Glendon, who served as ambassador from 2007 until earlier this year, was the first person to accept and then later decline the award.

Father Jenkins offered a two-sentence response on the university's Web site.

"We are, of course, disappointed, that

LAETARE, PAGE 3

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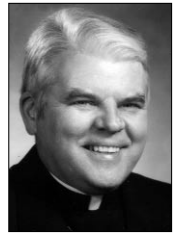
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receive, we strive to provide a balanced
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and a variety of reflections on life in the
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ness and fairness. Readers may agree or
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ions. Letters must not exceed 250
words. All letters must be signed and
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Confirmations and Luers' fund-raiser complete a busy week



NEWS & NOTES

BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

The moment of the week

It had to be the speech given by Megan Ryan at Luers Knight. Megan will graduate in a few days, magna cum laude, from Saint Mary's College; but she was at the annual Luers Knight this past Friday. This was the last of the four fund-raisers for the high schools. My part in each school is something called the Bishop's Auction. All the money given goes to grants for students who, otherwise, could not attend our schools. We know from experience that when there is a downturn in the economy, our schools can lose students; and we are working hard to see that does not happen this year. Megan, who graduated from Luers four years ago, gave a beautiful reflection of what Bishop Luers meant to her. She is president of the pro-life group at Saint Mary's College, an outstanding scholar and involved with many activities.

But this was not enough. She was always one to help the handicapped student, the one who has trouble reading or writing, or is disabled in some way.

Working with another student at Saint Mary's, they have put together the structure of a program, which will bring the two of them to Ghana where they will work with children with disabilities.

Megan traced this unselfishness to her four years at Bishop Luers, along with her parents. She spoke about the spiritual resources she found at Luers, the excellent academic experience, the famed Luers spirit; and she held all of us in the palm of her hand with a beautiful reflection tinged with the kind of emotion that touched the hearts of all who were present.

Then I got up and led the auction, and we raised \$104,000. Bishop Luers is not in a high-economic area by any means, and I

have no doubt in my mind that it was Megan Ryan's moving reflection on what Bishop Luers High School meant to her that brought about this wonderful result.

Seventy-eight percent of those who go to Luers receive some financial aid, and this year it was over \$225,000.

Luers, like our other three high schools, has been recently ranked an exemplary school, and it was a joy to help them in their fund-raising this past Friday night.

Lots of variety

On Tuesday night, I celebrated the sacrament of confirmation in the beloved old St. Joseph's Church, Mishawaka. All three Mishawaka parishes came together — St. Bavo, St. Monica and Saint Joseph — and the church was full. It was a real Mishawaka evening, because a supper of soup and sandwich in the St. Joseph's rectory was provided by Maury Cocquyt — of the famed Maury's Pub in Mishawaka. I always enjoy being with my priests, and it was a delight to talk with Fathers Terry Fisher, Barry England and Jeff Largent. Mishawaka is a working-class town and there is great pride in each of the parishes; and we expect to do much planning there in the future, both for the parishes and the three excellent schools.

But what a change the next night. I drove across the diocese the next day to Sacred Heart Parish, Fort Wayne, to the Mother Theodore Guérin Community under the pastoral care of Father George Gabet, FSSP. Father George, a native of this diocese, whom I had the privilege of ordaining in the Latin rite 10 years ago; the very same service in which I, myself, was ordained 52 years ago.

I conferred the sacrament of confirmation under the same rite in which I was confirmed as a young boy in Presentation Parish, Brighton, by the unforgettable Cardinal Richard Cushing. There were 25 confirmed, some of them having come all the way from South Bend.

I was most impressed with the careful catechesis that Father George had done with these young people. He has forged a strong community in Sacred Heart Parish, Fort Wayne, and also in St. Patrick, South Bend.

Many of the children are home-schooled.

Some of the families are very large, and all are devoted to what is now called the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Rite.

They are blessed with Father George Gabet, a graduate of Bishop Dwenger High School, where among other things, he was tailback on the football team taking Dwenger to the state championship game. Father George, also, is a chaplain at Lutheran Hospital, where he visits the sick, and brings holy Communion, and gives the sacrament of the sick to the Catholics who are there.

His presence is a blessing. Both communities are dedicated to St. Mother Theodore Guérin, founder of the Providence Sisters and a canonized saint who worked in this diocese.

A special anniversary

On May 1, I will begin my 25th year as bishop of this diocese. This is a long time for a diocese to have the same bishop. I am glad that in God's providence, I have been able to spend so many years here. I remember well the day I was installed as bishop. My three sisters were there and their families, and my dear mother was in the front row.

The call was from Jesus Christ, through the church, and I am grateful to God to have so many years as pastor of this diocese, married to it. So many memories; and above all, I am conscious of how present God has been. I am well aware of my failures, but I am grateful beyond words for the gift of these years. And I hope there will be more. Every day is a gift.

I will be off to Indianapolis this weekend for the 175th anniversary of our mother diocese, presided over so well by Archbishop Daniel Buechlein, OSB.

Sports department

Can you believe it — three straight over the Yankees, two of them coming from behind. How sweet it is.

But is there anything in all the world so boring as the National Football League draft? How can those announcers get so caught up about some offensive tackle from East Oregon State, who might go in the third round? Those people should get a life. See you all next week.

Franciscans reflect on relevance of charism 800 years after founding

BY CAROL GLATZ

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — Brown-, gray- and black-hooded robes rustled, knotted white cords swung rhythmically, and sandaled feet crunched gravel.

The soft sounds of labored breathing could also be heard as several hundred Franciscan friars from all over the world wound their way up steep hills, passing wheat fields and olive groves while on a two-hour penitential procession to the tomb of their founder, St. Francis of Assisi.

The processing friars were just some of the 1,800 Friars Minor, Conventual Franciscans, Capuchins and Third Order Regular Franciscans attending an April 15-18 gathering celebrating the 800th anniversary of papal approval of the Franciscan rule. It was the first time that many representatives of the four main Franciscan branches had come together in Assisi.

Participants followed in the footsteps of their founder with many activities centered around or near the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels, which houses the Portiuncula chapel — the small church where St. Francis experi-

enced his conversion.

On April 18, participants traveled south for a special audience with Pope Benedict XVI. The trip recalled St. Francis' pilgrimage to see Pope Innocent III in 1209 to receive approval of his rule of life and formally establish the Franciscan order.

Meeting with them in the courtyard of the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, the pope thanked the world's Franciscan family for being "a precious gift" to all Christians.

The pope recalled how St. Francis heard

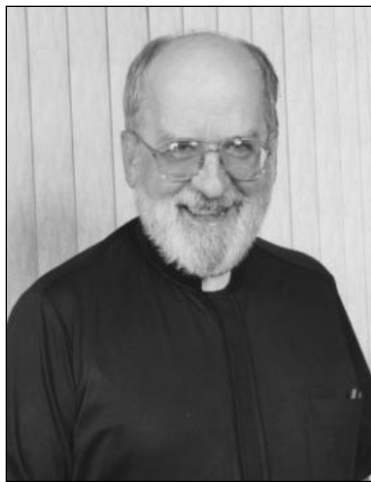
FOUNDER, PAGE 3

Father Robert Dombrowski remembered

Father Robert Dombrowski, retired priest of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, died of pancreatic cancer on April 22 near the Little Portion Monastery in Eureka, Ark. He was 74.

Born in Chicago to Alexander and Ernice on Sept. 16, 1934, Father Dombrowski attended St. John Berchmans there. He joined Quigley Preparatory Seminary College in Chicago and continued his theology formation at St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, Ill. He also attended St. Meinrad Seminary in St. Meinrad.

Father Dombrowski was ordained in to the priesthood by Bishop Leo A. Pursely on May 28, 1960 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. Three days later he was appointed as chaplain at the CYO summer camp at Lake Wawasee. By August of that year he joined the pastoral staff at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Fort Wayne as associate pastor. He also accepted the appointment of notary in the



FATHER ROBERT DOMBROWSKI

diocesan tribunal in December 1960.

With his passion for the military Father Dombrowski was given permission to accept an appointment in the Indiana Army National Guard as chaplain in 1962 and a year later he transferred to the chaplaincy of the National Air Guard.

Father Dombrowski became the deanery director of CYO and CYA in South Bend in June of 1964 and in that same month was appointed associate pastor of St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend. His pastoral ministry in the diocese was always received with love and gratitude.

One year later, Father Dombrowski was released from his diocesan pastorate for duty in the Chaplains' Corps of the U.S. Army in 1965. After serving with distinction as chaplain in the Army for 20 years, he returned to the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in 1985. It was then that he was retired from the Army chaplaincy.

Following his return to the area, he was assigned as pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption Church by Bishop John M. D'Arcy, where he served the Catholics of Decatur for 10 years. The community included a school and a community hospital. Father Dombrowski

OBIT, PAGE 4

FOUNDER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

God's voice telling him, "Repair my house," and he urged today's Franciscans to continue those efforts of fixing the serious "ruins" in society and mankind.

"Like Francis, always begin with yourself. We are the first homes that God wants restored," Pope Benedict said. In the spirit of the Gospel, "continue to help the pastors of the church by rendering her face as the bride of Christ more beautiful."

During an outdoor eucharistic celebration in Assisi April 17, Brazilian Cardinal Claudio Hummes, a Franciscan who heads the Vatican's Congregation for Clergy, underlined the importance of the Franciscan charism of fraternity, communion and living the evangelical ideal of poverty.

"To live evangelical poverty in a world that is increasingly dazzled and enslaved by money and to live with love and solidarity toward the poor — toward every single poor person — must be one of the most important and significant contributions the Franciscan friars make" in bearing witness to Christ in today's world, Cardinal Hummes said in his homily.

Cardinal Franc Rode, prefect of the Vatican's Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life, echoed the importance of living as humble and poor children of God as personified by St. Francis.

Being a living witness to humility and poverty is a sign of having been freed by God from the thirst for power and possessions, he said in his homily April 16, adding that this liberating message must be shared with others so that every-



CNS PHOTO/CAROL GLATZ

Franciscan friars participate in a two-hour penitential procession from the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels to the tomb of St. Francis in Assisi, Italy, April 17.

one may have the possibility of receiving eternal life.

Though St. Francis' rule of simplicity, fraternity and poverty received formal approval by Pope Innocent III 800 years ago, it is still relevant and crucially urgent in today's world of excess, individualism and hedonism, a number of friars told Catholic News Service April 17.

Being a Franciscan friar and living a life of poverty and sim-

licity does not mean that cable television, Internet and BlackBerry electronic organizers get the boot; rather the friars said they all find a way to maintain a proper balance between a simple, spiritual life that is still part of a busy, high-tech culture.

Local celebrations took place at St. Paul of the Cross in Columbia City and at the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in Mishawaka.

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

The following decree was received from the Holy See

On Jan. 31, 2009, Pope Benedict XVI decreed that the Rev. Edward O. Paquette is dismissed from the clerical state.

LAETARE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Professor Glendon has made this decision," his statement said. "It is our intention to award the Laetare Medal to another deserving recipient, and we will make the announcement as soon as possible."

Glendon, professor of law at Harvard Law School, wrote that the Notre Dame's decision to honor the president disregards a 2004 request from the U.S. bishops to Catholic institutions and organizations asking them "not to honor those who act in defiance of our fundamental moral principles."

The former ambassador said she felt the bishops' request is "reasonable" and does not seek to "control or interfere with an institution's freedom to invite speakers and engage in serious debate with whomever it wishes." As a result, she wrote, "I am at a loss to understand why a Catholic university should disrespect it."

Glendon said she was also concerned that the university had issued "talking points" that implied that her acceptance speech for the award would "somehow balance the event."

She quoted two statements from the university:

- "President Obama won't be doing all the talking. Mary Ann Glendon, the former U.S. ambassador to the Vatican, will be speaking as the recipient of the Laetare Medal."

- "We think having the president come to Notre Dame, see our graduates, meet our leaders and hear a talk from Mary Ann Glendon is a good thing for the president and for the causes we care about."

Glendon wrote that a commencement is supposed to be a joyous day for the graduates and their families.

"It is not the right place, nor is a brief acceptance speech the right vehicle, for engagement with the very serious problems raised by Notre Dame's decision — in disregard of the settled position of the U.S. bishops — to honor a prominent and uncompromising opponent of the church's position on issues involving fundamental principles of justice," the letter said.

In light of reports that other Catholic institutions also are choosing to disregard the bishops'



CNS PHOTO/GIANCARLO GIULIANI

Mary Ann Glendon is pictured in Rome in 2008 while serving as U.S. ambassador to the Vatican. In an April 27 letter to Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame, Glendon said she can not accept the Laetare Medal or participate in the university's May 17 commencement ceremony that will include President Barack Obama.

request, Glendon expressed concern that Notre Dame's example "could have an unfortunate ripple effect."

Glendon concluded her letter by saying that she would release it to the media without making any other comment "at this time."

The university has been under nearly constant criticism since announcing March 20 that Obama would speak at the commencement. Bishops, clergy, alumni and conser-

vative Catholic organizations have mounted a campaign seeking to have the university revoke the invitation to the president. However, students have been reported to be enthusiastic about and supportive of the president's upcoming appearance on campus.

The Laetare Medal has been awarded by the university since 1883 and is the university's oldest and most prestigious award for lay Catholics. Past recipients include President John F. Kennedy; Sen. Daniel P. Moynihan; death penalty abolitionist Sister Helen Prejean, a member of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Medaille; and Dorothy Day, co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement. Last year's recipient was actor and political activist Martin Sheen.

Glendon expressed concern that Notre Dame's example "could have an unfortunate ripple effect."



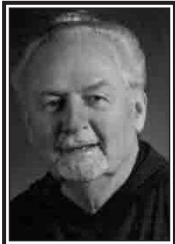
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Presentations by Father Shaughnessy May 3, 4, 5, at 7:00 pm

(Reception following Wednesday evening Mass)

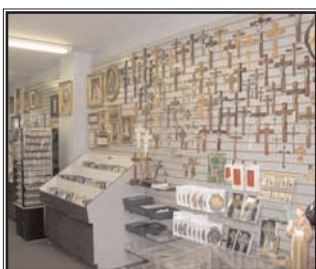
CONFESSIONS...

Before and after each evening presentation (except Wednesday)

Before and after 9:00 am daily Mass and May 4, 5, 6 at 3:00 pm

Father Angelus has devoted his life to delivering God's message of joy, hope and a promise of everlasting life. A message and teaching the fundamentals of Christianity through his missionary work in Papua, New Guinea and throughout the United States. Matthew Edmund Shaughnessy, was born on November 16, 1929 in Rochester, Pa. He was baptized on November 24, 1929 at St. Cecilia's Church in Rochester. For eight years he attended school there under the guidance of the Sisters of Divine Providence and graduated in 1943. Upon graduation, he entered St. Fidelis College and Seminary in Herman, Pa. which was staffed by the Capuchin-Franciscan Friars of the St. Augustine Province where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts. A talented and capable athlete in his youth, Father Angelus turned down an offer to play professional baseball as a left-handed pitcher for the Cleveland Indians to enter the Capuchin Novitiate in Cumberland, Maryland. On July 14, 1953, Father solemnly professed his perpetual vows as a Capuchin Friar. Father's theological studies took him to Capuchin college in Washington, DC for four years where he received a Master's Degree in Religious Education. On June 4, 1955, Father Angelus was ordained to the priesthood at the hands of Bishop John McNamara in the crypt of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. From 1956 until 1966, Father Angelus served as the Director of Secular Franciscan Order (S.F.O.) at St. Augustine Church in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Father Angelus volunteered to work as a missionary in Papua New Guinea (P.N.G.) where he was spiritual director and teacher in the Pontifical Seminary of Madang for eleven years. As a major part of his parochial ministry, Father and his parishioners built eleven permanent churches and three bush churches. While ministering to the needs of the people of P.N.G., Father was privileged to baptize 1,227 men, women, and children. Results of his physical examination revealed that his cardiogram was unsatisfactory and in the summer of 1980, Father was reassigned to western Pennsylvania. Under the auspices of St. Fidelis Retreat Center, he maintained a rigorous schedule of parish missions and renewals, preached and directed retreats, accepted parish help-outs, days of recollection and appointments for personal individual counseling. He continued this work for nine years out of St. Mary's Friary, Export, PA and four years with St. Paulinus Church in Clairton, PA. Since July 1, 2001, Father Angelus has been stationed at Birmingham, Alabama as the Minister General to the Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Word. After circling the globe four times and traveling thousands of miles over barely navigable terrain, Father delights in characterizing this present ministry as "the good life - a taste of the hundredfold here on earth."

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OBIT

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

was received well by all in the parish community and especially by those who had served in the military.

In a condolence letter to friends and family of this beloved priest, Bishop D'Arcy wrote, "It (St. Mary) proved to be a very demanding parish. He (Father Dombrowski) undertook it with great zeal and devotion, and served with a spirit of prayer and hard work."

Jane Beery, 31-year veteran teacher of St. Joseph School said of the priest, "You always heard him coming. He had a loud voice. But he was a compassionate person." Principal Karla Hormann recalled that Father Dombrowski enjoyed the outdoors and would walk his dog by the playground where he would stop and interact with the students there. "He loved his dog ... and was very gentle with the children. He gave good sermons at the children's Masses."

Following his pastorate in Decatur, Father Dombrowski moved to Bremen to become pastor of St. Dominic Church there, where he was again received well by all. Ann Marie Monhaut, who worked for over three years as the DRE for Father Dombrowski said, "He was a wonderful pastor to work for. He liked to use the latest technology, and would go out and buy hard or software, without me even asking for it. The new tool would inevitably make my job

easier. Father Dombrowski was humble. He would call himself just another tool in God's toolbox, like a conduit. The healing services he held brought people from other towns, all full of the joy of the Lord as they left."

He was appointed to the Presbyteral Council in September of 1999.

Father Dombrowski replaced Father Erpelding as Episcopal Vicar for Region C for one year in September of 2002.

Following his 43 years of prayerful priestly service, Father Dombrowski retired in July of 2003 to Eureka Springs, Ark., which became his spiritual home. He lived a few miles from the Little Portion Monastery where he was chaplain for the Brothers and Sisters of Charity. He provided Masses and the sacraments for the community as well as domestic members in the surrounding area.

Sister Juliana Laura, sacristan at the monastery said of Father Dombrowski, "He was a wonderful confessor. He was very loving and compassionate. He was full of joy!"

Services for Father Dombrowski included visitation at the Little Portion Monastery, in Eureka Ark., on April 26. A Mass of Christian Burial was offered by Bishop Anthony Taylor of the Diocese of Little Rock on April 27 at St. Elizabeth Catholic Church Hall, in Eureka.

Father Dombrowski was buried at the monastery.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy will hold a memorial Mass at St. Mary in Decatur in the near future for those who were unable to attend the funeral in Arkansas.

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THE FUTURE OF OUR PARISHES

BY BISHOP JOHN M. D'ARCY

One of the central responsibilities of a bishop is to see that the Eucharist is provided for his people. In support of this responsibility and of other matters central to the life of the church, he must seek to provide sufficient priests for the people of that diocese, which the Lord through the church has placed in his hands. As part of this responsibility the bishop, along with others — especially his priests, must seek to find and implement ways to draw young men to consider the priesthood and not be afraid to offer themselves to this beautiful, but demanding vocation. Working with others, he must try to forge a spirit of courage among young people so they will be willing to take this path of love and service in response to the love of Christ.

Recent circumstances have made it necessary and opportune to seek priests from other countries who may be able to assist on either a temporary or permanent basis, so each parish may have the dynamic presence of priests to care for the flock in the name of Christ.

Such efforts, because of the prayers of many and the grace of the providential God, who promised always to be with his church, have proven to be effective. Thus, in the last 23 years, 20 young men have been ordained to the priesthood and continue to serve in parishes, and also six priests who have come from other countries have been incardinated into the diocese, meaning that they have promised to be part of the priestly work of this diocese throughout their lives. Approximately 100 others from overseas have spent a period of time serving here.

Also, at this writing, 14 young men are in the seminary preparing for the priesthood for this diocese. Two more have been accepted for the seminary for next year, and several more are in the application process.

The present pastoral situation causes another question to arise.

Are priests presently distributed, or placed, in such a way that people are being properly served, and is the joyful work of pastoral care properly assigned so that no priest's responsibility becomes excessive?

A quick glance at the statistics in the diocese certainly raises pastoral concerns about both of these questions.

There are parishes where the average number of baptisms per year for the past five-year period is five or less, and these parishes have one priest. There are other parishes where the average number of baptisms per year for the past five years is 80. These parishes also have one priest. There are parishes where there are over 200 baptisms a year, and these parishes have just two priests.

Baptisms

Baptisms are a significant factor in weighing the situation. Baptisms require substantial work of preparation, instruction of parents, follow-up religious instruction, the eventual preparation for first holy Communion and confirmation. When there are a significant number of baptisms, there must be the training of catechists, teachers who will instruct both parents and children. The priest, who is the chief catechist in the parish, cannot be distant from this work; but must be in the midst of it, tending the flock and training others to teach.

The sacrament of marriage

The bishop and his advisors must also watch closely the number of marriages in a parish. This sacrament requires great discernment and preparation both remote and approximate. While the diocese plays its role through the family life office, preparation for marriage is a significant parish responsibility. The responsibility has grown in complexity, because there are many movements in the contemporary culture — such as same-sex marriage, widespread contraception, couples living together before marriage and lack of respect for life — which affect young people. The priest must be able to clarify and present clearly to the young couple a sound teaching, so that they will follow the teaching of the church, and cherish it, and pass it on to their children. He must choose and train married couples to help him. There are parishes that have two or three marriages a year, and other parishes that have 60 or 70 marriages per year. In both cases, there is one priest.

It would be a superficial pastoral analysis if this matter is considered only on the basis of the distribution of work. The

full flowering of the spiritual life of families depends on proper distribution of priests. (Indeed, proper preparation of people for marriage will affect family life for several generations.)

There are two additional reasons why it is necessary to face this difficult pastoral situation at this time.

1. The coming of a new bishop. I have been bishop here for 24 years, and treasure every day while I hold this great responsibility. It is incumbent upon me, especially given my knowledge of the diocese, to face what must be done, by at least initiating those changes that need to be made for the better pastoral care of our people, and not leave such difficult decisions to the new bishop. The adjustment faced by a new bishop is difficult enough without having to address the merging or closing of parishes.

2. There is a second reason for facing the necessity of parish mergers at this time. Of our 80 parishes, 11 are currently under the pastoral care of priests from other countries who are not incardinated in this diocese. Incardination is a term in canon law, meaning that a priest is linked permanently to the pastoral service of a diocese. Since these priests are not permanently bound here, they can return to their home diocese or their religious congregation, if they so choose. This presents a second reason why planning and decision making cannot be postponed.

In fairness to the next bishop, in order to make choices rooted in my 24 years of experience, keeping in mind the number of priests serving here but not committed to a life of pastoral service among us, after consultation with priests, and in preparation for further consultation among the laity, I now present to the faithful of the diocese the decisions, which I have made relative to the future of our parishes, and also the changes that must be made in both the near and more distant future.

I have made these decisions after extensive consultation with our priests. Over a year ago, I formed a committee of priests who met several times over many months, and presented to me a plan for merging and joining parishes, so that our people might be better served.

Wisely, they suggested that not all of these should be made at once, but should be presented, so that there could be further consultation and prayer.

I have made these decisions after much reflection; and as is my responsibility, I have made them after prayer and in the presence of Christ our savior, who is the supreme shepherd of our souls. The following two facts should be clear.

- Some of these changes need not be made at this time.
- There will be a consultation in each parish, presided over by the vicar forane, or dean of the area, where the parish is located.

Some history

There were 89 parishes when I was installed as bishop. One new parish, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, has been established, bringing the number to 90 at the highest point. Over 24 years, 10 have been merged or suspended, leaving 80 parishes in the diocese at this time.

St. Mary, Geneva

Founded in 1883, this parish has 82 families, and it has had 19 baptisms, and no marriages over the five years of our study. I know it well, and have been there many times. As with all the parishes under consideration, it is precious to those who live there. Many are farmers. Currently, there is one candidate from that parish studying for the priesthood. Over the five-year period from 2003 through 2007, there was an average of 4.5 baptisms per year.

Recommendation of Priests' Committee: That it be joined to the nearest parish in the diocese, which is St. Mary, Decatur.

Decision at this time: This recommendation has been accepted for further discussion.

However, the parish will remain with a resident priest, as long as Father Bosco Perera, OMI, a native of Sri Lanka, is

able to remain with us. After that, it will be joined to St. Mary Parish, Decatur. Because of its many years, efforts will be made to see that Mass is celebrated there at least once a month. A special difficulty is that St. Mary's nearest parish in the diocese is 26 miles to the north.

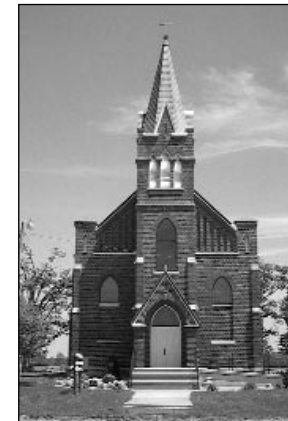
St. Catherine, Nix Settlement

This parish was founded in 1850, prior to the establishment of the Fort Wayne Diocese. In recent decades it has been cared for by the pastor of St. Joseph Parish, Roanoke.

In the five years under consideration, this parish had 14 baptisms — an average of 2.4 per year, and one marriage.

Recommendation: That this parish be taken care of by the pastor of St. Paul of the Cross Parish, Columbia City, which is closer, and should remain a site for one Mass each Sunday by the pastor of Columbia City.

Response: This recommendation has been accepted and further consultation will follow.



ST. CATHERINE

St. Francis Xavier, Piercetown



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER

Founded in 1864. This parish has for many years been under the pastoral care of a part-time priest. In recent years, there has been the judicial vicar, whose full time ministry is the direction of the diocesan tribunal. In the past five years, there have been 17 baptisms, an average of 4.1 per year. There have

been four marriages, which is less than one per year.

Recommendation: It is recommended that this parish be merged with Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw — where there is a school and a church — and where both church and school have recently been enlarged.

Response: This recommendation has been accepted pending further consultation in the parish and by the Presbyteral Council. As long as present personnel allows, the judicial vicar will remain as pastor, but it is likely that the placing of St. Francis under Sacred Heart, Warsaw, will be necessary in the near future.

St. Joseph, Roanoke, and in Huntington, Ss. Peter and Paul and St. Mary

The two Huntington parishes are historic. St. Mary's founded in 1896, had as its pastor the legendary Archbishop Noll. Our Sunday Visitor began during his pastorate, and Huntington remains the location of OSV, the largest

Catholic publishing company in the country. Ss. Peter and Paul established in 1843 has been under the pastoral care of Capuchin Franciscan priests in recent decades. However, there is no assurance that they will replace Father Ronald Rieder, OFM, Cap, when he retires, and they have indicated that they probably will not. These two parish churches are a few steps away, almost literally across the street from each other. So these two parishes, along with St. Joseph, Roanoke, require special pas-



ST. MARY

FUTURE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

toral analysis. St. Mary had an average of 31.2 baptisms per year, Ss. Peter and Paul an average of 42.3 baptisms over the five-year period under examination. St. Mary's had 56 marriages — or 11.1 per year, and Ss. Peter and Paul averaged 10.2 marriages per year.

St. Joseph, Roanoke, established in 1867, is several miles from the two Huntington churches. Roanoke had 19 baptisms in the five-year period, an average of 3.4 per year. There were four marriages during that time, less than one per year.



SS. PETER AND PAUL



ST. JOSEPH

Recommendation: One priest should be assigned as pastor for St. Mary Parish and Ss. Peter and Paul Parish, and he should have an associate pastor with him. St. Joseph's, Roanoke, should be merged with the Huntington parishes; and as long as there are two priests in Huntington, one Mass can be celebrated each Sunday at Roanoke. This would release one priest for pastoral ministry elsewhere.

Response: While Father Rieder, our Capuchin priest, remains at Ss. Peter and Paul, the present situation can be left as it is. When the Capuchins are no longer able to provide a priest for Ss. Peter and Paul, this recommendation is accepted, pending consultation with the parishes concerned, and if necessary, with the Presbyteral Council. (In further consultation, the pastor of St. Mary's recommended consideration of a pastor for each of the parishes, rather than a merging of the two parishes.)

St. Joseph, Garrett

Recommendation: Merge St. Joseph, Garrett, with Immaculate Conception, Auburn, under one priest. At least one weekly Mass would be mandated at St. Joseph, Garrett.

Many children from Immaculate Conception, Auburn, already are enrolled at St. Joseph School, Garrett.

Response: This recommendation is not accepted at this time, but may need to be considered later. Recent efforts to strengthen St. Joseph, Garrett, especially from a fiscal point of view, have been successful.

St. Mary, Fort Wayne



ST. MARY

The grand history of this parish is well-known. Established in 1848, nine years before the establishment of the Diocese of Fort Wayne, this parish has won the respect of the wider community in recent decades for its ministry to those in need, especially the Soup Kitchen, the granting of scholarships to Catholic Schools for African-American children and others, the foundation of the Matthew 25 Clinic for those without health insurance and Vincent Village for homeless families.

Recommendation: That it be

joined to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, which is only two blocks away. Also, it is recommended that there continue to be a Mass each Sunday at St. Mary's, which indeed, is the present situation at that parish. Presently, St. Mary's is under the pastor of St. Peter Church.

Response: Because of the close distance of St. Mary's and the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, this recommendation has been accepted, pending further consultation with the parish and the Presbyteral Council.

St. Henry, Fort Wayne

For the five years under consideration, St. Henry Parish has had 11 baptisms, an average of 2.1 per year.

For many years, the pastor of St. Henry Parish has also been pastor of the nearby Sacred Heart Parish.

Recommendation: Let the pastor of St. Peter Parish in Fort Wayne also have responsibility for St. Henry Parish.

Response: This recommendation is accepted pending further consultation with the pastor in question, and the faithful, and also the Presbyteral Council.



ST. HENRY

Sacred Heart Parish, Fort Wayne



SACRED HEART

During the five-year period under discussion, there have been 26 baptisms at Sacred Heart, an average of 5.1 per year.

For many years, the Latin Mass, now referred to as the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Liturgy of the Roman Rite, has been celebrated at this parish. Thus, this parish now houses the St. Mother Theodore Guérin Community, directed by Father George Gabet, FSSP.

Recommendation: That this parish be granted to the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter, of which Father Gabet, FSSP, is a member, and that they follow the Extraordinary Form of the Roman Liturgy.

I have spoken about this with Father Gabet, FSSP, and I am certainly open to this possibility. Mass in the extraordinary form is now celebrated daily, as well as Sunday, at Sacred Heart Parish.

Response: I have accepted this recommendation, pending further consultation with the parish and the Fraternity of St. Peter.

St. Gaspar Del Bufalo, Rome City, and St. Joseph, LaGrange

St. Gaspar, Rome City, has just celebrated its golden jubilee. Until last year, it was from its founding under the pastoral care of the Precious Blood Missionaries, who withdrew in July, 2008.

St. Joseph, LaGrange, founded in 1933, has been under the pastoral care of the Conventual Franciscan Fathers, who care also for two other parishes.

Recommendation: That one pastor care for both parishes. Since LaGrange is under the pastoral supervision of the Conventual Franciscans, this recommendation cannot be accepted without further consultation with that congregation.

St. Gaspar Del Bufalo, Rome City, is presently under the pastoral care of Father Bernard Ramanaden, OSB, a native of Sri Lanka.

Response: This recommendation is sound, but will be put on hold for now, as long as Father Ramanaden has the approval from his superiors to remain, and the Franciscans continue to be able to care for LaGrange. But as circumstances change, this may have to be considered later.



ST. JOSEPH

Immaculate Conception, Kendallville, and St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla

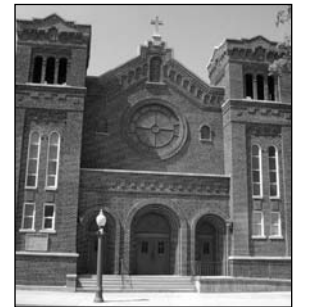


ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION

St. Mary of the Assumption, Avilla, established in 1853, is one of the oldest parishes in the diocese. It includes an excellent school of 168 students, and at one time was the only parish between Fort Wayne and Elkhart. It is blessed, also, with the Franciscan Sisters of Frankfort, Ill. St. Mary's, Avilla, averages 15 baptisms and eight marriages per year. Immaculate Conception averages 12 baptisms and two to three marriages per year.

Recommendation: That these parishes be merged, with the priests residing at Avilla, and offering one or two Masses a week at Immaculate Conception, Kendallville.

Response: This recommendation is placed on hold for now. When we are no longer able to keep a priest in each parish, this recommendation will have to be seriously considered.



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

St. Louis, Besancon



ST. LOUIS

This parish had 67 baptisms in the five-year period, an average of 13.2 per year, and 29 marriages — an average of 5.4 per year. St. Louis, Besancon, was established in 1846, and has had a strong school for a long time.

Recommendation: That the parish be merged with St. John's, New Haven, which is three miles distant.

Response: At present, we are able to have a priest at this parish. This recommendation is put on hold for now, but will need serious consideration in the years ahead. If it is merged with St. John's, New Haven, Mass should be continued to be celebrated at St. Louis, Besancon, at least once a month.

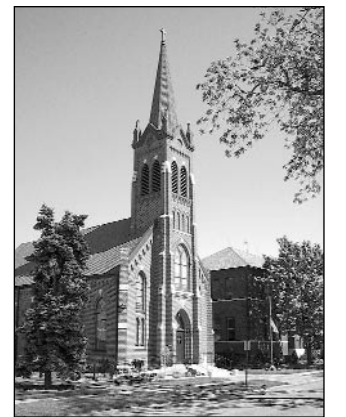
St. Rose, Monroeville

Established in 1868, this parish has 76 baptisms over a five-year period, an average of 15.1 per year. For many years, St. Rose, Monroeville, and St. Louis, Besancon, have been under the care of one pastor.

Recommendation: That this parish be under the care of the pastor of St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel.

Response: While such a recommendation will be considered, this does not release an extra priest for service in a larger parish. Another possibility remains; namely, keeping the parish in Besancon and the parish in Monroeville under one pastor.

Consolidation of the Monroeville school with St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel, or with the parish school at Besancon, which to some extent has taken place — will continue to be evaluated.



ST. ROSE

South Bend area St. John the Baptist



ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

St. John the Baptist, South Bend, has had 73 baptisms over the five-year period, an average of 14.5 per year. There have been 14 marriages — an average of 2.4 per year.

Recommendations:

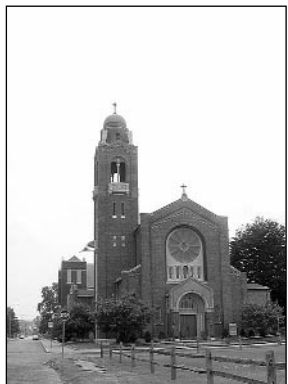
Consideration should be given to merging St. John the Baptist, South Bend, with Corpus Christi Parish, South Bend, or Holy Cross Parish, South Bend. It is recommended that this not be an immediate action, because a decision should be made as to whether or not the school should be

merged with another school. Efforts to continue and strengthen this school are ongoing.

Response: This will be considered after further consultation with the parish, and the Presbyteral Council, and the diocesan Schools Office.

St. Hedwig, St. Patrick and St. Casimir, South Bend

Recommendation: That St. Casimir Parish be closed, and overflow activities from St. Adalbert's could be handled by St. Hedwig Parish. The priests at St. Adalbert's should be asked to administer St. Adalbert and St. Hedwig with the closing of St. Casimir.



ST. CASIMIR

Response: This would have to be discussed with the Congregation of Holy Cross; who have staffed St. Casimir's for many years and St. Adalbert's more recently.

St. Casimir's recently made some painful choices to reduce their budget, and it remains a spirited parish.

The present situation, with St. Patrick's and St. Hedwig's administered by one pastor, seems better at this time; because of the close proximity of the two churches. Both churches have been recently restored and are greatly cherished.

Our Lady of Hungary Parish, South Bend



OUR LADY OF HUNGARY

Established in 1921, this parish has been the spiritual home for many, including immigrants from Hungary. It has a school, which has been especially helpful to the children of low-income families.

Our Lady of Hungary has had 36 baptisms over the five-year period, an average of 7.1 per year. There have been 14 marriages over this time, an average of 2.4 per year.

Recommendation: That Our Lady of Hungary Parish be administered by St. Matthew



ST. MATTHEW

because of its record of reaching those in need. Either with St. Matthew's, or as a school in itself, the focus of Our Lady of Hungary School on behalf of families in need will be continued.

A serious concern at Our Lady of Hungary is the financial cost to the diocese of keeping this school. This has cost the diocese \$150,000 over the past year, and \$300,000 over three years.

Response: This recommendation is accepted pending further discussion with the parish and the Presbyteral Council. If this merger is completed, efforts will be made to have one Mass each Sunday at Our Lady of Hungary. Every effort is being made at this time to strengthen the school at Our Lady of Hungary, which serves those of lower incomes.

St. Patrick, Walkerton

Founded in 1856, this parish had 62 baptisms over the five-year period, with an average of 12.2 per year. There were 16 marriages — an average of 3.1 per year.

Recommendation:

Because of its geographic location and its isolation from any nearby Catholic churches in our diocese, St. Patrick, Walkerton, would remain a parish, but consideration should be given to building a larger church, which would allow pastors to offer less than the present three Masses each Sunday, along with one on Saturday for the parish community.

Response: This recommendation has been accepted, and the pastor and parish will be encouraged to consider the building of a new parish church.



ST. PATRICK

Mishawaka



ST. MONICA

Response: This recommendation is accepted pending further consultation with the parishes and the Presbyteral Council.

Conversations have already begun between four pastors for the merging of the three schools into one school with two locations. This will not be done for the next academic year, but will be seriously considered for the following year. Such a school merger can



ST. BAVO

Cathedral Parish. Thus, the pastor and priests at St. Matthew's would care for both St. Matthew's and Our Lady of Hungary Parish. This recommendation also was that the parish school of Our Lady of Hungary be merged with the parish school of St. Matthew's. Efforts are now being made to strengthen Our Lady of Hungary School,

assure us of an even stronger Catholic school in Mishawaka. The three parishes, for years, have combined athletic programs and for other student endeavors.

Fort Wayne area

St. John Bosco, Churubusco, and Immaculate Conception, Ege



ST. JOHN BOSCO

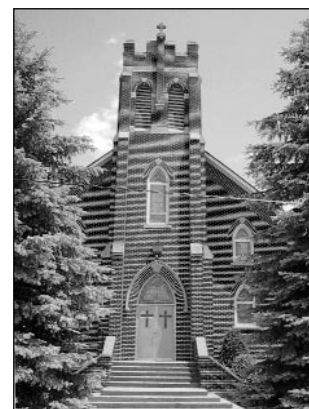
Recommendation: That if a new parish is established in Hometown, St. John Bosco, Churubusco, and Immaculate Conception, Ege, should be merged into the new parish.

Response: A new parish, if possible with a school, should be considered with a church built on the land in Hometown, which is adjacent to Cedar Canyon Road.

However, the present economic climate indicates that while this consideration should now begin, the fund raising for a new church should wait until the economy is stabilized.

Also, we must consider the effect on parish schools to the north, such as Garrett and Avilla.

Immaculate Conception, Ege, should continue to have a Mass at least once a month in light of its long history and unique location.



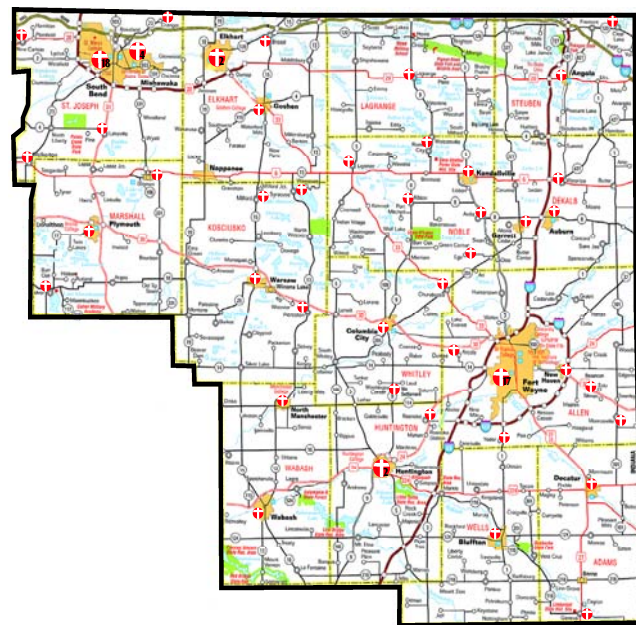
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Concluding comments

These changes would release four, and possibly five, diocesan priests for other assignments, either as pastors or associate pastors. It would ease the necessity of appointing as pastors, priests who were ordained only a few years.

It would also release four or five of the non-incardinated priests for other parishes, if their superiors allow them to remain.

I remain grateful for all who have helped consider these important refinements to our pastoral life. It is imperative that these considerations for the proper pastoral care of our diocese move ahead shortly. Some should move towards implementation in the near future, others within a few years.



Pope creates five saints, says they hold lessons for economic crisis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI canonized five new saints and said their dedication to the Eucharist, the poor and the world of work made them models for today's Christians in an era of economic crisis. By orienting their lives to Christ, the five men and women showed that "it is possible to lay the foundations for construction of a society open to justice and solidarity, overcoming that economic and cultural imbalance that continues to exist in a great part of our planet," the pope said. The pope celebrated the canonization Mass in St. Peter's Square April 26, joined by tens of thousands of pilgrims who held up photos or drawings of the saints. Four of the new saints were Italian and one was Portuguese. Dressed in bright gold vestments, the 82-year-old pontiff listened as biographies of the five were read aloud, and then pronounced the canonization formula, drawing applause from the crowd. Afterward, relics of the new saints were brought to the altar. In his homily, the pope said the saints' life stories hold valuable lessons for modern Christians. Each of the newly canonized had a special devotion to the Eucharist, and each transformed that spiritual power into social action, he said.

FDA decision on Plan B for minors called contrary to common sense

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Food and Drug Administration's decision not to appeal a court decision that the morning-after pill marketed as Plan B should be available over the counter to minors "flies in the face of common sense," said the U.S. bishops' pro-life spokeswoman. "Wider access to Plan B could endanger the lives of newly conceived children, and will put minors at risk for unnecessary side effects, undermine parental rights and contribute to higher rates of sexually transmitted diseases," said Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications at the bishops' Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, in an April 23 statement. The FDA announced April 22 that the Obama administration would not appeal a March 23 decision by U.S. District Judge Edward Korman making Plan B available to 17-year-olds without a prescription. A prescription had previously been required for anyone under 18. Korman, a judge in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, said the FDA had "repeatedly and unreasonably" delayed a decision on whether Plan B should be available over the counter and had been swayed by politics in ultimately deciding to make the drug available without a prescription only to those 18 or over.

NEWS BRIEFS

PEOPLE WEAR MASKS DURING MASS AT MEXICO CITY CATHEDRAL



CNS PHOTO/ELIANA APONTE, REUTERS

People wear masks as they attend Mass at Metropolitan Cathedral in Mexico City April 26. Fears of the spread of the swine flu had kept millions of Mexicans indoors to avoid the virus. Mexico City, one of the world's biggest cities, practically ground to a halt with restaurants, cinemas and churches closing their doors.

Cardinal urges House members to co-sponsor Pregnant Women Support Act

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Whatever their position on abortion, any House members who agree that "no woman should ever have to undergo an abortion because she feels she has no choice" or alternatives should co-sponsor the Pregnant Women Support Act, said Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia. The legislation, introduced by Rep. Lincoln Davis, D-Tenn., "provides an authentic common ground, an approach that people can embrace regardless of their position on other issues," said the cardinal, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, in an April 24 letter to House members. "An abortion performed under ... social and economic duress meets no one's standard for 'freedom of choice,'" he added. The bill provides "many kinds of life-affirming support for pregnant women and their unborn children," Cardinal Rigali said, adding that it "reaches out to women with a helping hand when they are most vulnerable, and most engaged in making a decision about life or death for their unborn children."

New bishops named for St. Louis, Syracuse, N.Y.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has appointed Bishop Robert J. Carlson of Saginaw, Mich., as the new archbishop of St. Louis. He also accepted the resignation of Bishop James M. Moynihan as head of the Diocese of Syracuse, N.Y., and named Bishop Robert J. Cunningham of Ogdensburg, N.Y., as his replacement. The appointments and resignation were announced April 21 in Washington by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Archbishop Carlson succeeds Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, who was named prefect of the Supreme Court of the Apostolic Signature at the Vatican last June. The date of his installation in St. Louis was still to be announced. Bishop Robert J. Hermann, a St. Louis auxiliary who is archdiocesan administrator, called Archbishop Carlson "a very energetic, articulate, warm and gifted pastor and administrator. He thinks and works with the church he loves, and will continue to build upon the legacy of his predecessors here in St. Louis." Bishop Cunningham, who will be installed as bishop of Syracuse May 26 at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, expressed gratitude for Bishop Moynihan for his "gracious welcome."

On life issue, Cardinal George says Obama on 'wrong side of history'

KENNER, La. (CNS) — President Barack Obama is a "very gracious and obviously a very smart man" but he is on the "wrong side of history" when it comes to his fervent support of abortion rights, Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George told the 2009 Louisiana Priests Convention April 21. Cardinal George, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, told 200 priests from the seven dioceses of Louisiana that, while he wants Obama to succeed in his efforts to right the economy, enhance world peace and help the poor, the president needs to understand that the Catholic Church will not allow the life issue to be abandoned. In a question-and-answer session that followed his keynote speech to priests on offering compassionate ministry to people who are hurting, Cardinal George offered a candid assessment of his 30-minute meeting with the president at the White House March 18. "I think on the life issue he's on the wrong side of history," the cardinal said. "I think he has his political debts to pay, and so he's paying them." Cardinal George said his conversation with the president was polite but substantive.

Catholics, Muslims hope pope's trip to Jordan sparks renewed relations

AMMAN, Jordan (CNS) — For some Muslim and Catholic analysts, the papal visit to Jordan May 8-11 could spark a renewal of interreligious relations. "He's coming after Sept. 11, after the American invasion of Iraq — so many things have changed in the area (Middle East)," said Farouq Jarar, acting director of the Royal Aal al-Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought in Amman. "Understanding among Muslims and Christians is much more important now than at any time before." The institute, founded in 1980, is an international organization that uses research and conferences to help clarify misconceptions about Islam and to spread the true image of Islam today. Jarar said he hopes the pope's visit will be "a new start, a new bridge for better understanding, better coexistence, more respect and more acceptance." Following his visit to Jordan, Pope Benedict will travel to Jerusalem May 11. Jarar also expressed hope that the pope "will help in pushing the peace process toward achieving peace in the area and settling the conflict and availing all those concerned of their lawful, legitimate rights."

Seven communities of Dominican sisters merge to form one congregation

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (CNS) — Seven communities of Dominican sisters formally merged April 12 to form a new congregation called the Dominican Sisters of Peace. The congregation will be based in Columbus, Ohio, home to the former Dominican Sisters of St. Mary of the Springs, one of the founding communities. The sisters gathered April 14 for a ceremony in St. Louis to formalize the merger. "There is a great sense of hope, great energy and great commitment to the mission" among the 265 sisters who gathered in St. Louis, said Sister Joan Scanlon, who has been elected to the new congregation's leadership council. Her community was the Dominican Sisters of St. Catharine, Ky. "It is very historic when seven congregations have ended and committed to come together," she told *The Record*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Louisville. "We have hundreds of years of ministry behind us." In addition to the 187-year-old St. Catharine community and the Columbus Dominicans, it is made up of the Dominican Congregation of St. Rose of Lima in Oxford, Mich.; the Dominican Sisters, Congregation of Mary, and the Eucharistic Missionaries of St. Dominic, both of New Orleans; the Dominican Sisters of Great Bend, Kan.; and the Sisters of St. Dominic of Akron, Ohio.

Lou Holtz to speak at Hearts of Gold Event to benefit Women's Care Center

FORT WAYNE — An Evening with Lou Holtz, to benefit the Women's Care Center, will be held on Tuesday, June 2, at 5:30 p.m. at the Grand Wayne Center.

The evening, co-chaired by Don McArdle and John Tippmann, will include cocktails, dinner and a silent auction to celebrate the Women's Care Center's fifth anniversary in Fort Wayne.

The Women's Care Center, which introduced its mission 25 years ago in South Bend, assists pregnant women in choosing life for their babies. The two Fort Wayne locations serve over 1,000 women annually and distribute over 100,000 diapers a year to needy children.

Lou Holtz, keynote speaker for the evening, currently serves as a college football studio analyst for ESPN. He is the only coach in the history of college football to take six different teams to a bowl game, win five bowl games with different teams and have four different college teams ranked in the final Top 20 poll. He has held head football coaching positions at the University of South Carolina, the University of Notre Dame, the University of Minnesota, the University of Arkansas, North Carolina State University and William and Mary; spent a season as the head coach of the NFL's New York Jets; and led Notre Dame on a record 23-game winning streak that ranks as the longest in Notre Dame history. Holtz has authored four books: "The Fighting Spirit," "Winning Every Day: The Game Plan for Success," "Wins, Losses and Lessons: An Autobiography" and "A Teen's Game Plan for Life."

Tickets are \$250 per person or \$2,000 per table of eight. For more information or to purchase tickets, call (260) 424-9377 or (574) 274-0313.

Saint Joseph's High School Quiz Bowl Team finishes second in state

SOUTH BEND — With a team strong in senior participation, the Saint Joseph's High School Quiz Bowl team found a season of great success with a recent league championship resulting in the title of 2009 Indiana state runner-up. The team went 6-1 throughout the competition losing only in the final match to Culver Academies. Along the way the team acquired wins against Shelbyville, Brownsburg, Penn, Adams, Zionsville and New Palestine.

"This year's group has been successful because they've been working at it for four years," said faculty moderator Ben Dillon, noting seven of the eight varsity players are seniors. "They've attended and won many tournaments over that time."

Not only have the seniors been together for a while but they are also a close-knit group. They have learned a great deal from one another

AROUND THE DIOCESE

CORPUS CHRISTI CELEBRATES EARTH DAY



DIANE FREEBY

Corpus Christi School, South Bend, eighth-grade student Katherine Monhaut introduces her goat-friend Ida Mae to preschooler Grace Urbanski. The petting zoo was part of the activities associated with the celebration of Earth Day, learning about caring for God's creatures along with the earth.

er and became well learned in a variety of areas.

"The strength of the team is its diversity of knowledge. Different players have become experts in different topics," said Dillon about the key to the group's success.

The varsity team consists of seniors Brian Brinig, Yeojun Chun, Arnav Dutt, Michael Furdyna, Brian Huang, Brianna Neblung and Jeff Wei, and juniors Mat Bowyer and Charles Logue. Sophomore Kaitlin Martin was the alternate at state.

"This will be the 22nd consecutive year that Saint Joseph's High School has attended a national tournament. Before last year, we always went to a tournament that is run out of Arizona, and our best finish there was fifth place in the nation in 2007," said Dillon. "However, the best and toughest teams in the nation have migrated to a different national tournament held in Chicago, and that is where we will participate again this year. Last year we had a record of 3-7 and finished in the bottom half out of 176 teams. This year, there are 192 teams, our minimum goals are to double our wins, make the playoffs and finish in the top 50."

The team plans to play in the National Association of Quiz Tournaments national tournament in May in Chicago. — LK

Father Michael J. Himes to deliver commencement address at Holy Cross College

NOTRE DAME — Holy Cross College's 42nd Annual Commencement will feature Father Michael J. Himes who will deliver the address and receive an honorary doctorate degree.

Father Himes was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Brooklyn in 1972. He was awarded with distinction a doctorate in the history of Christianity from the University of Chicago. From 1977 until 1987, he served as dean of the Seminary of the Immaculate Conception in Huntington, N.Y., and from 1987 until 1993 was associate professor and director of the collegiate program in theology at the University of Notre Dame. Currently he is professor of theology at Boston College.

Father Himes was twice the recipient of the Most Influential Teacher Award, voted by the graduating class of the University of Notre Dame, 1990 and 1991. He has received the Phi Beta Kappa Award for Outstanding Teaching, awarded by the Massachusetts Chapter (Boston College) of Phi Beta Kappa, 2002. And, he won

the Catholic Press Association Book Award in Theology, 1998, for "Ongoing Incarnation: Johann Adam Möhler and the Beginnings of Modern Ecclesiology."

His other books include "Fullness of Faith: The Public Significance of Theology," co-authored with Kenneth R. Himes, OFM and "Doing the Truth in Love: Conversations about God, Relationships and Service." He is the coeditor of "Finding God in All Things" and "The Legacy of the Tübingen School," and the translator of a 19th-century classic, J. S. Drey's "Introduction to the Study of Theology."

His articles have appeared in many books and numerous journals in the U.S. and in England. He has lectured widely in the United States, Canada, Europe and Australia.

The Doctor of Humane Letters, honoris causa, to be conferred by Holy Cross College will be his fifth such award from U.S. Catholic institutions of higher learning.

JustFaith introductory workshop offered at Little Flower

SOUTH BEND — Little Flower Catholic Church will host Jack Jezreel, author of JustFaith, at an

evening workshop titled, "A Call to Transform Our Hearts and the World," on Wednesday, May 27, from 6:30-9:30 p.m. at the church, located at 54191 N. Ironwood Rd. in the Parish Center. Park in the upper lot.

The workshop will explore embracing the Gospel in ways that respond to the world's needs by working for justice that liberates, restores and heals.

Jack Jezreel is a popular national speaker and justice educator and holds a master of divinity degree from Notre Dame. He spent six years in a Catholic Worker Community, and has been involved with parish-based justice ministry for 25 years. Author of JustFaith, Jezreel serves as executive director of JustFaith Ministries and received the prestigious Harry Fagan Award in 2006 for his contribution to the achievement of the Catholic vision of social justice.

The cost for the workshop is \$15. Registration deadline is May 24. After May 24, the cost will be \$20.

For more information contact Jay Freel Landry at (574) 273-9722 or lfcoutreach@sbcglobal.net.

Bishop Dwenger begins employment networking

FORT WAYNE — A joint effort has begun between Bishop Dwenger and its feeder parishes to start the Employment Networking Alliance that will meet at Bishop Dwenger High School in the library the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month at 7 p.m. This program is open to the Catholic community in the Fort Wayne area.

The group will focus on fostering the right efforts to develop employment solutions for those coping with job loss. Each meeting will include a faith reflection as it relates to job/career search, networking and resume sharing, support and insights from guest speakers.

There is no cost. Bring a notebook and copies of current resume.

University of Saint Francis sponsors teacher workshops

FORT WAYNE — The University of Saint Francis Department of Biology will host Project Learning Tree, free teacher workshops, with a portion of the funds earned through a 2008 GreenWorks! Community Action and Service Learning Grant.

Indiana licensed teachers, grades K-8 can earn three CRUs by participating in all four Project Learning Tree workshops. Scheduled for May 5, 6 and 7 from 3-4 p.m. and May 15 from noon to 3 p.m., at Most Precious Blood School, 1529 Barthold St., the workshops will focus on science, English, math and social studies.

To register for Project Learning Tree, call Teri Beam at (26) 399-7700, ext. 8206 or e-mail tbeam@sf.edu. Please provide name, phone, e-mail, school/organization and grade level/subject(s) taught. Registration deadline is May 1. Space is limited.

Catholics statewide engage, influence state lawmakers

INDIANAPOLIS — The Indiana Catholic Conference's (ICC) new electronic legislative action center was a rousing success as thousands of Catholics statewide engaged and influenced state lawmakers during the 2009 session of the Indiana General Assembly using the online tool available on the ICC's Web page.

As the 150 members of the Indiana General Assembly head back to their respective home districts following the April 29 adjournment of the legislative session, the Indiana Catholic Conference applauds the efforts of the 1,300-plus Catholics who on a regular basis became engaged in the political process. The ICC also wanted to report on the success the new online tool provided the church's efforts under the state's capitol dome.

Roughly 1,300 persons were contacted about six times per month by the ICC over a four-month period. Over half who received communication from the ICC opened the communication. Nearly 2,000 Catholics contacted their state or federal lawmakers using the online tool since January of 2009 when the ICC launched the new software, but many more may have called or wrote letters using the available information.

"I couldn't be more pleased with the response and involvement of our people this year," said Glenn Tebbe, ICC executive director, who serves as the official spokesperson for the Indiana bishops on matters of public policy.

"We had high hopes for the new online tool, but frankly, we really weren't sure what kind of response we would get. The response exceeded our hopes and as the session moved along we had more and more people subscribing to our electronic Catholic network," said Tebbe.

The breakdown of the electronic communication is as follows. Roughly half of the nearly 30 e-mails sent were the I-CAN Update, the ICC's legislative newsletter, the other half were action alerts. Of the 10 action alerts, five were state legislative alerts, five were federal alerts. On the federal alert to retain the conscience protection regulation over 1,300 persons were alerted, yet 1,866 persons opened the alert either via e-mail or on the ICC Web page, and 420 people contacted their federal representatives on the issue using the online tool. On the scholarship tax credit state alert, of the 1,250-plus persons who were alerted, over 1,500 people opened the alert either via e-mail or on the ICC Web page, and at least 511 contacted lawmakers using the online tool. Of the nearly 34,000 total messages sent by the ICC, nearly 20,000 were opened and nearly 2,000 responded by contacting lawmakers using the online software, however many more may have contacted lawmakers by phone or written a letter.

Nel Thompson, ICC administrative assistant who administers the electronic program said, "What's really great about this system is once I have the Update

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

ready I can send it to 1,300-plus persons in under 30 seconds. Whereas before I would contact a handful of people by e-mail and they in turn contacted others of course taking much more than 30 seconds."

Thompson added, "And, once a person follows the link, they are provided with an e-mail message to their legislator, which they can edit, which from our report looks like many of them do this."

Thompson said that the system provides assurance that the message is received by the networker's legislator since the system will match the constituent with their respective legislator. Thompson said that another benefit is that people don't have to be part of the Catholic Action Network to be able to access a lot of valuable information. "All a person needs to do is go to the ICC Web page," said Thompson.

"When Catholics contact their representatives in unison with the work of the Catholic Conference, it allows the church to be more effective in shaping morally sound public policy," said Tebbe. "The use of this software by Catholics this year made a significant impact influencing lawmakers on two issues, the scholarship tax credit and the physicians admitting privileges requirement for abortion doctors. I don't really think these two issues would have gotten the attention and action that they did this year without the involvement of so many Catholics," said Tebbe.

Tebbe said he wanted to encourage those who have become involved to "stay tuned." The Indiana General Assembly has adjourned, but lawmakers and government officials will continue to conduct business and look at ways to improve the state and further investigate problems and policies through interim study panels.

"The interim provides time for information gathering and analysis of complex issues leading up to the 2010 session, and the ICC will continue to send out periodic updates on important developments," said Tebbe. "On the federal level, the Obama administration is moving quickly on numerous issues and there will be periodic federal action alerts. For these reasons, we encourage all to stay

tuned and ready for action."

"For those who have not yet had a chance to visit our Web page, or who would like to become part of the Catholic Action Network, there's no time like the present. Please do stop by our Web page. We are only a few clicks away," said Tebbe.

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

Since 1967, the ICC has worked to bring a consistent life ethic to Hoosier public policy making.

What's available on the ICC Web page

Visitors to the ICC Web page (www.indianacc.org), can join the Indiana Catholic Action Network and through an electronic Legislative Action Center can engage in a variety of grassroots political activities by a few simple keystrokes. One of the key features of the software allows visitors to quickly identify and contact their elected officials.

Go to www.indianacc.org for more information.



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FATHER CHARLIE MCCOY CELEBRATES FIRST MASS AT CHRIST THE KING



AMY BRADBURN

Holy Cross Father Charlie McCoy is one of three priests ordained April 18 at Notre Dame's Sacred Heart Basilica. Father McCoy concelebrated his first Mass the next day, with his family on hand, at Christ the King Parish, where he served as a deacon, in South Bend. He expects to find out where he will be assigned in the next few weeks.

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Sister Clare Marie stands surrounded by students from her junior high homework club at Holy Family School. She has been a full-time teacher there since 2005 and is known for her hands-on science activities.



KAREN CLIFFORD

Sister Clare Marie has recipe for successful teaching

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

SOUTH BEND — Who knew that making pancakes could incorporate cooking, science and God?

Sister Clare Marie, a science teacher at Holy Family School in South Bend, knows that having fun while learning is a recipe for success in teaching. And it is this same passion that led her to her vocation as a religious in the Felician Sisters, a branch of the Third Order of St. Francis.

Sister Clare Marie, the third of 10 children, was raised on a farm near Kalamazoo, Mich. Discipline and a strong faith foundation were instilled by her parents at a young age. At one point her father was in charge of managing 53,000 chickens, so every family member was expected to participate in chores on the farm. Her love of the faith was instilled by a father who attended five years of Catholic seminary and a mother with a deep appreciation of Scripture.

"It was that conscience formation from an early age to do what was right, look out for others and try to be a good citizen that influenced my decision to become a sister," she recalls.

After her schoolwork was complete and before she started her chores, Sister Clare Marie would take walks in the woods around the farm. The walks became an early part of her religious formation.

"Just spending that quiet time outside in the woods and praying my rosary helped me to think about why God created us and what his mission for me was," she says.

At the age of 10, Sister Clare Marie knew she wanted to be a missionary. After hearing family stories of a great aunt that was a missionary who died of malaria in Africa, Sister Clare Marie felt a deep desire to go to that continent and serve others as well.

It was with great joy that in 2007 Sister Clare Marie was able to fulfill that wish, when 21 members, some of whom were from Holy Family Parish, visited their sister parish in Uganda to present funds for a new roof and well. In addition to enjoying the company of those at the sister parish, Sister Clare Marie, along with Sister Marilyn, a fellow Felician, who was also on the trip, was able to make a side trip to one of her order's convents in Kenya.

"It was wonderful to pray, work and share in the community life while at the convent in Kenya," Sister Clare Marie says.

The journey to becoming a sister had several bends in the road before taking her vows in 2003. Sister Clare Marie was accepted in the nursing program at Madonna University in Livonia, Mich. in 1999. During an orientation visit

on campus with her father, she went to the information desk to pick up a brochure from the order for a friend in Canada. Sister Francilene, the president of the university, emerged from her office at that moment and invited Sister Clare Marie to consider the possibility for joining the order. She promised to pray about it.

A few weeks later Sister Clare Marie began to pray with the sisters at her dorm and the motherhouse that was just across campus. "The longer I stayed, the more at peace I felt, and I heard the call to join," she remembers.

After completing two years of her nursing degree, Sister Clare Marie discerned that it was the right time to enter. During a sister's novitiate, there are two months of apostolic experience, where they live in another convent away from the formation house.

During that period Sister Clare Marie spent one of the months at the Holy Family convent and decided to switch her major from nursing to education.

"I've always loved being around young people, and after being at Holy Family, I knew it was time to make the change," she says.

Sister Clare Marie came to Holy Family School in 2005 as a full-time teacher after her graduation from Madonna University. Her love of hands-on science activities is highlighted in her "breakfast class," where eighth graders learn the many scientific principles that go into making pancakes.

In addition to the fun in making pancakes, "We talk about atoms and how things bond, how to balance a chemical reaction and the difference between a physical and chemical change," Sister Clare Marie notes. "And I try to bring God into all of this through beginning class with prayer because science is really the study of God's creation," she adds.

In her service to the church as a religious, Sister Clare Marie doesn't believe she is "giving up" things in her life by taking vows. She stresses her needs are totally provided for by God.

"Poverty is not being without possessions, but being free and detached from things that distract us from serving God and others. Chastity is being free enough to be a servant and to love totally and completely as Christ did.

Obedience is not following blindly the command of people, but to listening attentively to the word of God and embracing God's will with great love and joy. It's learning to trust God and say 'yes,' over and over and over," she says. "If this is God's call for you, you will not be disappointed. Regardless of your vocation in life, faithfulness to Jesus is a guarantee to perfect joy and peace."



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Sister Therese Carew celebrates 25th jubilee

BY KAY COZAD

WABASH — Sister Therese Carew celebrates her 25th year as a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart this year. And what a life it's been.

Born on the feast of St. Therese, the youngest of seven children to June and Jack Carew in Aurora, Ill., Sister Carew became familiar with religious life at a very early age. Taught by Springfield Dominican order sisters throughout her Catholic education at Holy Angels Elementary and Rosary High schools, she recalls her oldest sister entering the convent when she was in kindergarten. Another later joined the Dominicans as well.

Following high school graduation, Sister Carew worked for five years as a nursing unit clerk at Mercy Hospital and another five years at AT&T as a long distance operator. Her personal calling to the religious life came at age 28 when she became involved with

Teens Encounter Christ retreats.

"I made visits with five communities and entered the convent in the Rockford diocese on Sept. 2 1984," she says, adding, "I love the spirit of St. Francis. I encounter God in creation and people."

During her formation, in addition to earning a master's degree in social work from the University of Illinois, Champagne, she worked as a nurse's aide in hospital and nursing home settings. Sister Carew joyfully professed her final vows on Aug. 6, 1990.

As a Franciscan Sister of the Sacred Heart, Sister Carew worked as a social worker in a Danville hospital. Then in 2001 she received a request from Sister Marilyn Ellert, principal of St. Bernard's School, to come to Wabash to start a convent there. After settling into a house with Sister Ellert, with the help of a parishioner, Sister Carew applied to ARC of Wabash County, Inc. and was soon working with the disabled population.

Growing up with a cousin with



SISTER THERESE CAREW

Down syndrome, who was accepted and nurtured by the entire family, Sister Carew says, "Family history has put a love in my heart for the disabled."

Currently she is a semi-independent living instructor and works directly with disabled adults in sheltered workshops teaching job and living skills.

"I love working with disabled

people. The best part is they live simply and enjoy being who they are. And that's good enough. They teach me more than I teach them," says the caregiver, adding, "I am a better person for knowing and working with these people"

And though not employed by St. Bernard Parish, Sister Carew has taught special needs religious education there as well as perform extraordinary ministry to the sick and homebound.

Of her vocation, the sister says the last 25 years haven't been without struggles. "But you remember that God's with you and with God all things are possible," she says. Sister Carew adds that her favorite part of life as a sister is "to be with and help people."

Currently Sister Carew lives in community with Sister Gayle Rusbasan in a farmhouse south of town. This nature lover finds the setting a perfect place to reenergize. "I love to be outside, walking the dog, cleaning the yard," she says.

As for the consecrated life, this

jubilant offers, "Be ready for a challenge, as in any walk of life. We have a wonderful role in the church, but it's not without consequences at times. I find it a unique way to deepen our baptismal call. Be open to God's call. Wonderful things can happen!"

She and Sister Pat Marie, stationed currently at St. Charles Parish in Fort Wayne, are investigating the opportunity to serve the poor in West Virginia's Appalachian area. But for now, Sister Carew will attend her congregation's "Chapter meeting," held every five years to establish long-term goals for the 90 member congregation and elect new officers.

A celebration of Sister Carew's silver jubilee was held at St. Bernard's Parish on March 28, where she renewed her vows during a special Mass, followed by an open-house gathering in Zahn Hall. She will also attend a communal celebration with family and friends at the motherhouse in Springfield, Ill., in June.

Do you seek to find God everyday:

- In vibrant prayer?
- In nurturing community?
- In a Gospel driven ministry?

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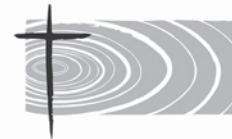
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EDITORIAL

To share in God's life is to share in his love

Last Sunday, Andrew Budzinski of our diocese was ordained deacon. In the fall, two young deacons are to be ordained to the priesthood for our diocese. There are currently 14 men preparing for the priesthood for this diocese and there are a number who have applied for the seminary in the coming year. The lifeblood of the church is the sacraments, and sacramental ministry is the principal work of the priesthood of the ordained.

Perhaps a good way for us to think about vocation is less as something imposed from without by God, and more as something that exists in potentiality within us from the first moments of our existence in our mother's womb; and like our very existence, this vocation, too, is given us by God as pure gift. All the varied states of life which bring beauty and depth to the life of the church — married, single, vowed religious, ordained — are vocations that are part and parcel of who we are from the very beginnings of our life. Vocational discernment is about discovering who it is that God has created and called us to be. And his call is such that in answering it — in making what exists in us in potentiality, nurtured by grace and with the discernment that comes from life in the church, a reality — we will find a deeper kind of fulfillment, happiness and peace than if we had simply and on our own decided who we are or who we should be.

Parents have a special obligation to nurture this sense of vocation in their children. If children are raised, formed and educated with a sense that God has called them not only to holiness by their baptism, but also to a particular state of life for which he has equipped them, so to speak, perhaps more of our young people will recognize that call from God to serve the church in priestly and religious life.

Regardless of one's state in life — married, religious, single, ordained — the common denominator is love. God has created us to share life with him. He has created us to flourish. And to share in God's life is to share in his love. This love — his love — is refracted like a beam of light into a panoply of colors in the church by men and women living their vocation with love and with joy.

If the church is to fulfill its mission as the body of Christ, each of us must pray for the grace to do God's will. And in discovering that will, in living our vocation, we will discover a deeper and more real joy than anything we could concoct by our own efforts or imagination.

Priesthood statistics

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has recently released its ordination class of 2009 statistics, and it reveals that men called to priesthood have come to their "calling" through a variety of career paths and at various stages in their lives.

The Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend was included in the report. Both of our transitional deacons scheduled to be ordained in October were mentioned in the report. The report mentions Fernando Jimenez, the first Hispanic to be ordained for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

And in Jacob Runyon's case, the report mentions "some come from large families. ... Jacob Runyon, from Fort Wayne-South Bend, is oldest of 11."

Many of the class of 2009 had careers and are finding the priesthood as a "second career." Respondents to the survey include attorneys, financiers, teachers and farmers. Some hold accounting degrees, one was a professional baseball umpire, one was an actuary on Wall Street, some served in law enforcement, one is a veterinarian, one a doctor. One of the most interesting career changes was the seminarian who will be ordained for the Diocese of Las Vegas, Nev. He was an executive director of entertainment for the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino. Another seminarian was a locomotive engineer.

Some are converts to the faith. Some have been married, widowed and have children. One is a widower, father and grandfather.

The report noted that the median age is 33 and classes are growing younger.

This Sunday, as we remember Good Shepherd Sunday and World Day of Prayer for Vocations, we can rejoice that there are men and women who hear God's call to serve his people. Oftentimes, they are just like us, people we work with, worship with. Do you know someone who would make a good priest, religious? Maybe all we have to do is plant a seed of encouragement.

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

The catechism and animals

This is in response to the letter, "Save the Farm Animals."

First, I'd like to affirm Patty for her love and compassion toward animals.

In the last paragraph, Patty asked, "Is an animal's life less important than ours?" According to church teaching, the answer is yes.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "Animals are God's creatures. He surrounds them with his providential care. By their mere existence they bless him and give him glory. Thus men owe them kindness. We should recall the gentleness with which saints like St. Francis of Assisi or St. Philip Neri treated animals. 2417.

God entrusted animals to the stewardship of those whom he created in his own image. Hence it is legitimate to use animals for food and clothing. They may be domesticated to help man in his work and leisure. Medical and scientific experimentation on animals is a morally acceptable practice if it remains within reasonable limits and contributes to caring for or saving human lives. 2417.

It is contrary to human dignity to cause animals to suffer or die needlessly. It is likewise unworthy to spend money on them that should as a priority go to the relief of human misery. One can love animals; one should not direct to them the affection due only to persons. 2418."

"Gaudium et Spes" proclaims human persons unique status in creation. "Indeed, the Lord Jesus, when he prayed to the Father, "that all may be one ... as we are one," (Jn 17:21-22) opened up vistas closed to human reason, for he implied a certain likeness between the union of the Divine Persons, and the unity of God's sons in truth and charity. The truth of this "likeness" is that man (not animal) is "the only creature on earth which God willed for itself" — 24.

In our world, we see both extremes on the spectrum of treatment of animals. From animals bred to violently fight each other for entertainment, to the extravagance with which some pet owners treat their animals. Leona Helmsley's bequeathed billions of dollars to care for her dog. Think of the amount of food and medicine that could provide to people in need.

We are called to be good stewards of all God's creation and we can all do better at that. Jesus is our perfect example; his stewardship was perfect ... and he ate meat.

Cindy Black
Office of Youth Ministry
Fort Wayne

Abortion is killing of unborn, a grave sin

Killing is a sin. We all know this. The Ten Commandments tell us, the Catechism of the Catholic Church emphatically states this, and our civil laws require the severest punishment for killing.

Our catechism speaks distinctly to the gravity of sin. Grave matter is specified by the Ten Commandments, corresponding to the answer of Jesus to the rich man; "Do not kill. Do not commit adultery. Do not steal. Do not bear false witness. Do not defraud. Honor your mother and father." — Mk 10:19. "The gravity of sins is more or less great: murder is graver than theft. One must also take into account who is wronged." (1858)

So we conclude abortion, the killing of the unborn, is sin, a grave sin.

As a further concern to us is the proliferation of sin.

"Sin is a personal act. Moreover, we have a responsibility for the sins committed by others when we cooperate in them; by participating directly and voluntarily in them; by ordering, advising, praising or approving them; by not disclosing or not hindering them when we have an obligation to do so; by protecting evildoers." (1868)

We need to ask is it the right to praise and honor a person who supports and uses others money to kill unborn human beings?

The University of Notre Dame needs to become a Christlike Catholic institution of higher learning by honoring these mandates of the Catholic Church.

We find here at the university the sacrament of conversion and the Eucharist for a reason, to give us the grace to resist and eliminate evil and evildoers.

Catholics can either agree to these mandates or they are not living up to their baptismal conversion.

Irene M. Engel
South Bend

CUA collection supports financial aid, scholarships

When His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI visited The Catholic University of America last April, the entire university community embraced him with great love and affection. He had chosen CUA as the location for an address to Catholic educators in our country.

In his remarks that day, Pope Benedict reminded us all that "education is integral to the mission of the church to proclaim the good news. First and foremost every Catholic educational institution is a place to encounter the living God who in Jesus Christ reveals his transforming love and truth." That is what we do at The Catholic University of America. That is the purpose for which we exist as the national university of the Catholic Church in our country. And that is the reason why we need and depend upon the support and generosity of Catholics throughout the United States through the annual national collection: to further the educational mission of the church.

Last year, you and your brother bishops throughout our country facilitated the largest and best response to our national appeal in the history of The Catholic University of America. A national total of \$5,923,239 was collected. I cannot begin to express our gratitude to you adequately. Once again this year, thanks to you and the good people of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, \$29,537.78 was raised and contributed — all of which is used to support young women and men through our financial aid and scholarship programs. Without this collection, the education we provide at The Catholic University of America would simply not be accessible to or possible for them.

Very Rev. David M. O'Connell, C.M.
President, The Catholic University
of America
Washington, D.C.



Blessed Rose Venerini

1656-1728
May 7

Born in Viterbo, Italy, Rose entered a convent after her fiance died, but soon returned home to care for her widowed mother. She chose to be a teacher rather than a contemplative, and opened a free school for girls in 1685. In 1692, the bishop of an Italian diocese asked her to train teachers and administer the schools there. She and St. Lucy Filippini became friends, and Rose began setting up schools around Italy. Despite opposition, including arson and assaults on some of her teachers, the order she founded was officially recognized as a congregation, the Venerini Sisters, after her death.

Paul as liturgist

We come to the end of the Year of St. Paul, and are looking for a summary. What was Paul, finally? A preacher, a missionary, an apostle, a church-founder, a martyr? Yes, all these. But more. Paul tells us his own mind in his letter to the Romans.

Every other Epistle Paul wrote was to a church he had founded. The letter to the Romans was to a church he was coming to visit for the first time. In every other Epistle, he is looking backward. In the book of Romans he is looking forward.

He tells the Roman Christians that he has long been “asking in my prayers that somehow by God’s will I may at last find my way clear to come to you.” — Rom 1:10. The church already exists, and Paul wants to come to visit it, so he writes a letter in advance. And at the end of this letter he describes himself.

By the grace given him by God, he is “a minister of Christ Jesus to the gentiles in perform-



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The Year of St. Paul

ing the priestly service of the Gospel of God, so that the offering up of the gentiles may be acceptable, sanctified by the holy Spirit.” — Rom 15:16.

That word “minister” could use some clarification, and Pope Benedict XVI gives it to us. He explains its meaning in his homily in 2008 which inaugurated the year.

The Greek word for minister is “leitourgos” — “one who serves the liturgy.” And the Greek word for priestly service is “hierourgein” — “one who serves as a priest.” So the Holy Father summarizes: “Only in this pas-

sage does Paul use the word ‘hierourgein’ — ‘serving as a priest’ — together with “leitourgos” — ‘liturgist’: he speaks of the cosmic liturgy, in which the world of men itself must become worship of God, an offering in the Holy Spirit.”

Paul has spent his life in Christ as someone who does Christ’s work. And what is Christ’s work? To make an acceptable offering to the Father. Paul has been apostle to the gentiles so that not only Israel is presented as an offering to the

PAUL, PAGE 16

Jesus is our good shepherd



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

4th Sunday of Easter Jn 10:11-18

Once more during this Easter season, the church draws from the Acts of the Apostles for the first reading for Mass. This reading reveals the priorities and beliefs of the first Christians.

The setting is Jerusalem where a Christian community has formed, very visibly and quite intentionally clustered around Peter and the other apostles. Prayer, total devotion to the Lord, bold charity and a sense of unity characterize this community.

The community is outward looking, seeing as its solemn responsibility the need to make Jesus known far beyond the circle of believers.

In this reading Peter preaches. He speaks for all the other apostles, and indeed for the community itself. Peter quite obviously is the leader.

Acts says that Peter was “filled with the Holy Spirit.” Peter was speaking in and with the power and grace of God. He emphasizes that healing a cripple, recalled earlier in Acts, occurred with the healing ability of Jesus.

In his sermon, Peter insists that no salvation is possible without Jesus, because God gave Jesus to the world as the

redeemer of humankind.

The First Epistle of John is the next reading.

The three Epistles, attributed to John but actually in the tradition of John, all have an eloquence and depth that are most appealing. The passage offered in this reading in fact is rather brief — only two verses — but it nonetheless is most expressive, reassuringly a declaration of the theological fact that believers are nothing less than God’s children.

The imagery is strong. No other human relationship so directly and well conveys the notion of love, caring and life giving, than that of a parent and child.

This reading also says that those who are worthy of being God’s children one day will see God, and therefore they will be with God.

St. John’s Gospel supplies the last reading, and it is a glorious revelation about the Lord Jesus. Everyone knew what herding sheep was all about, since at the time of Christ, Roman Palestine was by and large an agricultural nation. Most people had their livelihood in farming or in herding. Sheep herding was a major industry.

Another image is important. Sheep are gentle animals, vegetarian and not at all aggressive. They also are quite vulnerable. Predators easily make sheep their prey. Since sheep are such easy prey, aggressors hunt for them. Unable because of their placid nature to fight for their lives, sheep need their shepherds. Good shepherds care for the sheep, helping them to overcome the vulnerability created by their meekness and lack of cunning.

Jesus, in this passage, com-

pares us humans to the sheep. It is a fact, but a fact that humans prefer to forget. Humans are vulnerable. We need the shepherd. He is the good shepherd. He lays down life itself for us. He wishes that none of us be lost.

Reflection

In the Gospels, Jesus, on several occasions, uses the strong image of the good shepherd. It is an image that has survived the cultural transition in much of the world from the agrarian to the technological.

This weekend’s liturgy builds on this image, presenting it in the marvelous reading from the fourth Gospel. When the superb literary technique of this Gospel is added to the process, the image is stunning and beckoning in its brilliance. Its meaning is clear, because of the frankness of the Gospel.

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 4:8-12 Ps 118:1,8-9,21-23,26,28,29 Jn 3:1-2 Jn 10:11-18

Monday: Acts 11:1-18 Pss 42:2-3;43:3-4 Jn 10:1-10

Tuesday: Acts 11:19-26 Ps 87:1-7 Jn 10:22-30

Wednesday: Acts 12:24-13:5a Ps 67:2-3,5-6,8 Jn 12:44-50

Thursday: Acts 13:13-25 Ps 89:2-3,21-22,25,27 Jn 13:16-20

Friday: Acts 13:26-33 Ps 2:6-11 Jn 14:1-6

Saturday: Acts 13:44-52 Ps 98:1-4 Jn 14:7-14

CATEQUIZEM

By Dominic Camplisson

On May 1 the church remembers St. Joseph the Worker, as does this quiz.

1. Why is the Greek title “tekton” actually more accurate than “worker” used by tradition?

- In tradition, Joseph is portrayed as being too old to work.
- St. Joseph may have been a carpenter but “tekton” also means laborer.
- Joseph worked miracles before Jesus took over.

2. Why can Adam be said to have started work?

- He was the first person issued a paycheck in the form of loaves and fishes.
- His and Eve’s original sin caused mankind to have to work.
- His name in Hebrew means “he who labors.”

3. Adam’s two sons chose different work. Which was which?

- Abel became a keeper of flocks and Cain was a hunter
- Abel was a farmer and Cain was a herdsman
- Abel was a herdsman and Cain was a farmer.

4. What work did the Hebrews in Egypt do for which they needed straw?

- They tended strawberry fields and made straws for Pharaoh’s wine.
- They made mud bricks that were strengthened by straw.
- They made bedding for the horses of Pharaoh’s cavalry.

5. Who does God tell to inform the Israelites that he will save them from labor?

- Moses
- Aaron
- Joseph

6. In Sirach 38, a realistic assessment notes that work can be an obstacle to education. It asks (rhetorically)

- How can he become learned who guides the plow?
- How can he become learned who milks a cow?
- How can he become learned after he has seen Parea?

7. Ecclesiastes 2 recounts how a man, realizing he must die, comes to

- see work as his salvation
- detest all the fruits of his labor under the sun
- refuse to work more for all toil was vanity

8. In Jesus’ day many Jews refused to do work on this day

- any day with a pagan name
- the Sabbath (hence Sunday)
- the Sabbath (hence Saturday)

9. The CCC has a lot to say about work. Specifically it recommends that on this day, work should be avoided

- Sunday
- payday
- Saturday

10. The CCC also recognizes that some people have to work that day because they are

- greedy
- needy
- seedy

11. As well as that, it is understood that choosing leisure over work means

- some people (who work in service industries) still must work
- it has a bad impact on the economy
- safety concerns mean gangs may take advantage

12. In the case of those who must work for government that day, the CCC recommends that

- employers choose non-Christians to do those jobs
- they employ only orthodox Christians who have a different calendar
- authorities should ensure citizens some time for worship

13. The Letter of Philemon discusses the work of Onesimus. His status is one that later Christians found intolerable. He was a

- convert from Islam and hence under suspicion
- slave
- nonunion deacon

14. In the parable of the Prodigal Son what job does the dissolute son get?

- feeding pigs
- working in a fast food joint, serving big Maccabbes
- making mud bricks

ANSWERS

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

After Alexander the Great, empire was split between three generals

What happened to the Jews after the death of Alexander the Great?

After the death of Alexander the Great, who had no heir, in 323 B.C., his vast empire was split between his three generals, Perdicas, Ptolemy and Seleucus, in a meeting at Triparadisus in northern Syria in 321 B.C. This site may be the same as Paradisus on the upper Orontes River. Perdicas ruled over Macedonia, Ptolemy over Egypt and Cyrenaica (now the eastern portion of Libya in northern Africa), and Seleucus over Asia or Syria and Mesopotamia (in Iraq).

The first Book of Maccabees mentions this breakup of the kingdom: "So Alexander the Great's officers took over his kingdom, each in his own territory, and, after his death, they all put on royal crowns and so did their sons after them, for many years, causing much distress over the earth."

At first the Ptolemies, with their capital at Alexandria in Egypt, held dominion over Palestine from

305-285 B.C. The Ptolemaic kingdom lasted from 323-31 B.C., at the death of Cleopatra and the defeat of Marc Antony, when Egypt became a Roman province.

Father John McKenzie says the relations between the Jews and the Ptolemies were perhaps more cordial than the relations of the Jews with any other foreign imperial power. This may have been a period of tranquil prosperity. During this period the great Jewish communities at Alexandria were founded and the translation of the Old Testament into Greek was undertaken.

O'Neill says Ptolemy I of Egypt (305-283 B.C.) built a library of 500,000 volumes and a university at Alexandria that made the city a hub of the Greek world. He adorned Alexandria with sphinxes, obelisks, statues, palaces, pavilions and parks. Alexandria developed into a major port between Europe and Asia, because it could accommodate large ships of this time. Ptolemy I even established elephant-hunting base



FATHER RICHARD HIRE

HIRE HISTORY

camps along the northeast African coast to capture beasts for his own army.

M. Grant mentions that Ptolemy I buried Alexander the Great first at Memphis and then at Alexandria when a worthy tomb could be erected. The Jews in Alexandria had an independent organization directed by elders under a president. Ptolemy II (283-246 B.C.) further increased Egypt's prestige with the Pharos lighthouse at Alexandria, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world.

In 283 B.C., he instituted a form of Olympic games. Here a

Greek elite enjoyed wealth and luxury. Native workers formed a heavily taxed underclass. The Ptolemies spread Greek lifestyle, language, and culture among their subject peoples, including the Jews.

J. Pritchard says the Jews had settled in Egypt after the fall of Jerusalem in 587 B.C. The Elephantine Papyri even reveal a Jewish colony down south near Aswan acting as a Persian frontier garrison. During the reign of Ptolemy III of Egypt (246-221

B.C.) many Jews appear settled as farmers, artisans, soldiers, policemen, tax collectors and administrators. Jewish synagogues are known at Alexandria, Arthribis in the Nile delta, and Crocodilopolis on a large oasis 24 miles west of the Nile River.

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

Friends, truth and ants in the kitchen

I have been finding ants in the kitchen. This was surprising to me because we never had an ant problem before. It's still early in the spring, and I couldn't figure out why I've been finding these little pests all over the white tile.

Now I know. My four year old is feeding them. I found her crouched over one, peering at it through a magnifying glass as she crumbles bread before it. "Watch!" she directed me recently, "When I feed him, he dances, mama!"

Since I have informed her that ants in the kitchen are not good and that they do not make very good pets, she has been chasing them with a broom. "Get over here! You're not getting away from me!" I hear her shout. And then a menacing, "Where's your queen? We're going to get her!"

I am often like my four year old, "feeding" undesirable things and wondering why they continue to bother me in life. I'll grow an unkind thought, or nourish a bad habit, then wonder why I'm not making spiritual progress or gaining control over an area in my life. If only I would be aware of the spiritual pests I am unintentionally feeding I could grow spiritually and in holiness.

This is where, I'm discovering, good friends can come in. Friendships are more than just pleasant associations that can make life more enjoyable or provide relaxing conversation and an opportunity for sharing ideas and ideals. True friends can tell us things we need to know about ourselves and our actions. They can help us grow wiser and assist us in becoming better people. They can challenge us to holiness.

St. Francis de Sales in his classic "Introduction to the Devout Life" states, "A faithful friend is a strong defense, and those who find



EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

THERESA A. THOMAS

one have found a treasure. A faithful friend is the medicine of life and immortality. ..."

Further in the book he offers this advice, "Love everyone with a deep love based on charity, but form friendships only with those who can share virtuous things with you. The higher the virtues you share and exchange with others, the more perfect your friendship will be."

True friends will not only tell us if there's spinach in our teeth, but often tell us the "tough stuff" too — like if there's an attitude in our heart we need to eliminate. A good friend says, "Let's go to Mass tomorrow morning. We can take the kids for a doughnut afterwards." If we resist she may challenge us gently, "Oh come on. What's more important than that?" A true friend encourages us to mend our differences with another who has rubbed us the wrong way, instead of wallowing in self-pity. She makes us better, by holding us to higher standards than we may want to hold ourselves, and by challenging us to live Catholically, heroically.

True friends will walk with us on the path towards our journey to become closer to Christ in this world. As Mary D. Ford writes in the article, "What are Friends For," "Friends are for our growth in health, happiness and holiness on this earth in order to share together the gift of eternal life in heaven."

These true friends can be our spouses, our siblings or previous strangers who have somehow been

dropped conveniently in to our lives. We may meet such a friend at church, at our child's school, through a mutual acquaintance. We may have known them for two years or 20. We should always recognize these people for who they are — God's gifts and evidence of his providential care.

Here is a quick checklist of some signs of a good friend: He listens. He tells the truth. He wants what's best for us in the long-run, even if makes us uncomfortable in the short-term. He is trustworthy. He is loyal. And here is the most important characteristic of a good friend and friendship: Our relationship with him is based on a common love of God and desire to do his will. Basically, then, a good friend will tell us when there are "ants in our kitchen," which need eradicating, even if we don't want to hear it. And if we're smart, we'll be like my four-year-old daughter who simply changed course when her mistake was pointed out to her. We must be willing to adjust if necessary. We are truly blessed if we have friends who can see the "ants in our kitchen" and who will tell us so we can get rid of them.

Theresa Thomas, parishioner of St. Matthew Cathedral Parish in South Bend, is the mother of nine children and wife of David. Theresa Thomas may be contacted at: theresathomaseveryday-catholic@gmail.com.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for May 3, 2009

John 10:11-18

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday of Easter, Cycle B: the Good Shepherd teaching of Jesus. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

| | | |
|---------------|-------------|------------|
| GOOD SHEPHERD | LAYS DOWN | HIS LIFE |
| HIRED | WOLF | COMING |
| LEAVES | RUNS AWAY | KNOW ME |
| FATHER | OTHER SHEEP | BELONG |
| THIS FOLD | FLOCK | TAKE IT UP |
| AGAIN | NO ONE | FROM ME |
| MY OWN | POWER | COMMAND |

FLOCKS OF SHEEP

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

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PAUL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Father, but the gentiles, too. The whole inhabited world is included in the offering.

The second eucharistic prayer expresses the same sentiment. "From East to West you gather a people to yourself so that a perfect offering may be made to the glory of your name." In the Bible, "perfect" means complete, finished, whole. The offering will be perfect when all of humanity, and all the cosmos, is included in it.

The word for liturgy comes from "laos" and "ergeia." It means a work done for a people. It means the work of a few on

behalf of the many.

The Christian liturgy is the work of Christ done on behalf of the human race. His work is reconciliation. God was in Christ, reconciling the world to himself. When we are initiated into Christ's "ergeia" then we become liturgical persons. We make the whole world into worship of God.

The Holy Father sees the essence of Paul's mission as doing liturgy. At the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy, we concur. We seek to understand liturgy as the life of the church in motion. We hope you might consider joining us June 15-17 at the summer conference when we will say more about Paul as liturgical theologian. See liturgy.nd.edu for details.

Sports

St. John soccer achieving successful season

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — With a similar roster count and many of the same players as the winning football team, St. John-New Haven's 2009 soccer team is also experiencing much of the same success in the regular season with a 5-0 start.

In his eighth season with Raider soccer, Coach Ed McCarthy and assistants Bryan Renbarger and Curtiss Zink have a special group. At the core of the team are nine eighth-graders, most of whom have been playing soccer together since fourth grade. With 11 players needed to field a team and no seventh graders signed up, the Raiders brought up four sixth graders to complete their 13-man list.

"Our team couldn't be doing what they are doing without each other. They all depend on each other," explained McCarthy.

In their season opener, the Raiders downed St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, 4-1, with goals scored by Adam McCarthy (two), Colin Zink and John Wellman. Next up, St. John's played St. Charles. McCarthy scored all three goals in the 3-0 shut out.

According to Coach Ed

McCarthy, St. John-Fort Wayne gave the Raiders their toughest game so far in a 1-0 defensive battle.

McCarthy scored the lone goal of the game, but it was Jake Britton, Jeff Heaton and Zink's tough defense that held strong for the Raiders in the rain and cold, while Weston Painter had several awesome saves. And in a physical match-up against the St.

Vincent 8 team, the Raiders won, 3-1, with goals from McCarthy (two) and Wellman.

Finally, last week the Raiders defeated the St. Vincent 7 team, 3-0, with the Bishop Dwenger-bound McCarthy scoring all three goals once again.

The middle child of Coach Ed McCarthy's seven children, Adam, is most likely the leading scorer in the CYO this season, although official stats were not available. McCarthy also felt his goalie Painter could be tops in the league for least goals given up. The Raiders have just one match left yet in the regular season facing the St. Jude Eagles this week.

A seeded tournament will follow and St. John-New Haven is certainly a favorite after finishing runner-up to St. Charles in a 4-0 game a year ago.



MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

St. John, Fort Wayne's Jake Britton and Adam McCarthy run down field with St. Vincent's Nick German in a CYO soccer match during the 2009 spring season. The Raiders beat the Panthers, 3-1.

COUGARS SWEEP OVER WILMINGTON COLLEGE Celebrating 'Senior Day' on Sunday at Cougar Field, senior pitcher Bart Schnur added a University of Saint Francis record with his game 2 win giving the Cougars a sweep over Wilmington College. Schnur pitched the first four innings, then senior teammates Matt Degitz and John Schlichter finished what Schnur started for a 6-3 win. Schnur gets credit for his eighth win in nine decisions and he set a USF high-water mark for pitching wins in a season.

ROYAL READER IS KING FOR A DAY



PROVIDED BY ST. THERESE SCHOOL

Jason Baker, punter for the Carolina Panthers, was a special guest at St. Therese School. He traded his football jersey for a royal cape, crown and scepter. Then he proceeded to walk down a red carpet while students in grades pre-k through grade 3 bowed to greet him. He shared a story, "T is for Touchdown," with the students. After the story was finished, Baker took time to talk to the students and answer any questions, they might have about his career.

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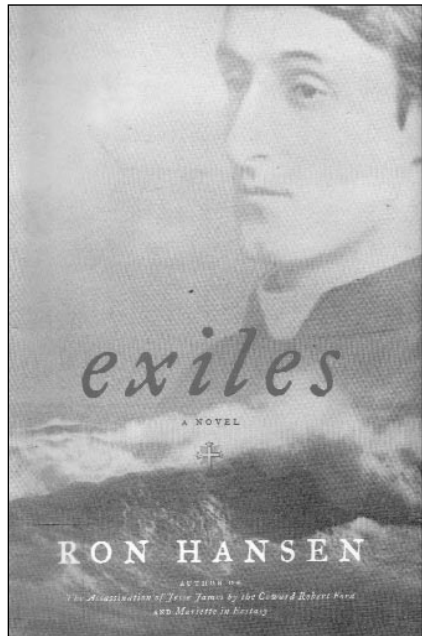
here. for life.



Hansen's 'Exiles' offers good Catholic storytelling

BY YORK YOUNG

There has been some talk in the Catholic book market recently about the lack of fiction that is specifically Catholic. There is even some debate about whether that is necessarily a bad thing, because there are so many questions about Catholic fiction. Does it need to be about Catholic topics from a Catholic writer? What are the features that make it specifically Catholic? And how does one evaluate — if you can identify it — the quality of Catholic writing? What makes it good?



fiction may or may not be going, Catholics interested in this type of writing must take what they find.

A current find of good, if not excellent, Catholic storytelling is in Ron Hansen's "Exiles," a historical novel that follows the parallel stories of five nuns who lost their lives in the famous Deutschland steamship in 1875 and the life of Gerard Manley Hopkins, a Jesuit who wrote the poem "The Wreck of the Deutschland," remembering the fate of those Catholic sisters.

Alternating between the two stories as he goes along, Hansen captures the passion, courage and dedication to Our Lord that religious embody, sometimes in a day by day style that might look uninspiring in snapshot form, but becomes heroic in the face of the overall sacrifices they make for Christ — and humanity.

Father Hopkins, a convert, struggled and suffered for much of

his adult life. Converting against his parents' wishes, he often felt alone in his faith. In addition, he was often sickly and gave up poetry at a young age, letting go of what he thought was a worldly affectation that would hinder his spirituality. He kept this under wraps so well that many of his Jesuit colleagues had no idea that he had written poetry.

"The Wreck of the Deutschland," however, was composed because of his great affection for the inspirational story of the five German sisters, and the

encouragement of a friend. His poetry that was made known to some in the literary world of the time barely moved them to comment, but after his death, at the young age of 44, the respect for his ability slowly grew. Now, he is considered to have been at the forefront of modern poetry.

Meanwhile, the tale of the doomed nuns opens with snapshots of each of the five in their early years, hearing the call of God, perhaps presented with a bit too much piety by Hansen. Once they reach the ship, the high seas becomes an

adventure, with sharp action writing mixed with the appropriate amount of character depth to lead the reader to embrace those who are about to face disaster.

Hansen, a Catholic deacon, is well-known for authoring "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford," made into a well-received movie starring Brad Pitt and Casey Affleck. Turning his attention to a disaster and the inner yearnings and desires of religious is an interesting combination, one that he pulls off with an adequate measure of poise.



Hall's

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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

Little Flower Theatre to perform 'Oliver'

Fort Wayne — St. Therese Little Flower Theater will present "Oliver," the musical based on Charles Dickens' "Oliver Twist," Friday, May 15, and Saturday, May 16, at 7 p.m. in the University of Saint Francis North Campus Auditorium on Spring Street. Tickets are \$7 and available by calling (260) 747-9139 or (260) 747-2343 or at the door the day of the show. A canned food item is requested for the Food Pantry.

The Enneagram: Understanding Yourself and Your Relationships workshop at Victory Noll Center

Huntington — Victory Noll Center in Huntington hosts presenters Sister Maria Beesing and Sister Ann Walters, who will explore these ideas in the program "The Enneagram: Understanding Yourself and Your Relationships" on Saturday, May 16, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The cost for the program is \$35 and includes lunch. Registration deadline is May 1. For more information contact director Sue Wilhelm at (260) 356-0628, ext. 128, or by e-mail at suewilhelm@olvm.org.

Open house planned

Fort Wayne — Villa of the Woods Senior Residential Living Center, 5610 Noll Ave., will have an open house Tuesday, May 19, from 2-5 p.m. Call (260) 745-7039 for information.

Light Weigh orientation meeting planned

Mishawaka — The Light Weigh Catholic Bible Study DVD series, without weigh-ins, orientation meeting will be held Monday, May 4, at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph Parish office, 220 W. Fourth St.

Harvest House announces Older American Day celebration

Kendallville — The Harvest House Council will have an Older American Day celebration Thursday, May 14, at Immaculate Conception Church. Doors open at 10:15 a.m. with Mass at 11 a.m. A luncheon will be served and includes entertainment by a female barbershop group and raffles. Tickets are \$8 and reservations are needed to Rita at (260) 347-4014 by May 9.

DEVOTIONS

Elizabeth ministry memorial Mass

Granger — St. Pius X Parish will have a memorial Mass for those who grieve because of the death of an infant or child, miscarriage or abortion (whether the loss was recent or long ago) or the loss of becoming a parent because of infertility on Tuesday, May 12, at 6 p.m. Following the Mass, members of the Elizabeth Ministry support group will gather to share stories, pray for comfort and healing and support one another through shared experiences. For more information contact Theresa at (574) 243-8770 or Tdepung5@aol.com.

First Saturday devotions

Fort Wayne — First Saturday devotions will be Saturday, June 7, at the following locations: Fort Wayne — St. Joseph, 7:15 a.m.; St. Charles, 8 a.m.; Sacred Heart, 7:30 a.m.; New Haven — St. Louis Besancon, 8:10 a.m.; St. John, 6:55 a.m.; Arcola — St. Patrick, 7:15 a.m.; Garrett — St. Joseph, 8:40 a.m. Call (260)-749-9396 to have your listing added.

Little Flower Holy Hour

Fort Wayne — Father Jason Freiburger will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at MacDougal Chapel on Tuesday, May 5 at 7:15 p.m. to pray for priests and vocations. Father Jason is the associate pastor at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne.

FUNDRAISERS

Fish, chicken and tenderloin dinner

Huntington — St. Mary Parish will sponsor a fish, chicken and tenderloin dinner (by Dan's), on Friday, May 1, in the school gym, 903 N. Jefferson St., from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Adult tickets are \$8, children 5 and under free. Carry-out available. Also, a 50-50 raffle and bake sale will be held.

Rummage and bake sale planned

Fort Wayne — St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel will have a spring rummage and bake sale Friday, May 8, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, May 9, from 8 a.m. to noon in the gym located at 11521 old U.S. 27 South. On Saturday there will be a \$3 bag sale. The bake sale will be hosted by the Girl Scouts and the money made from the bake sale will be donated to the Food Bank.

Our Lady of Good Hope plans Cinco De Mayo and Kermes festival

South Bend — Our Lady of Hungary, 735 W. Calvert, will have a Cinco De Mayo and Kermes festival Saturday, May 2, from noon to 5 p.m. in the school gym and grounds. Festival games, traditional food, pinatas, Mexican bingo, live music and dancing groups.

Salad luncheon to benefit Dismas House

South Bend — A salad luncheon to benefit Dismas House will be held on Thursday, May 7, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church, 333 W. Colfax Ave. The cost is \$7 per person and children five and under eat free. Volunteers are needed to donate salads or desserts. To purchase tickets, donate or for more information contact the Dismas House office at (574) 233-8522 or e-mail: dismassouthbend@sbcglobal.net.

Rummage sale to benefit south side community center

Fort Wayne — The St. Henry Community Center, 3029 E. Paulding Rd., will have a rummage sale Friday, May 15, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday, May 16, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

REST IN PEACE

Columbia City

Virginia M. Haggenjos, 77, St. Paul of the Cross

Carmen Renee Barber, 38, St. Paul of the Cross

Hobert Winebrenner, 88, St. Paul of the Cross

Fort Wayne

Ruth E. Brockhaus, 93, St. Jude

Mary Claire Miller, 97, St. Vincent de Paul

Mary Schmieman-lehl, 80, St. Mary

Winifred A. Wyss, 97, St. Vincent de Paul

Edward W. Reed, 78, St. Vincent de Paul

Karol S. Genstler-Cramer, St. Charles

Stephen V. Libbing, 76, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

Margaret Ann Passino, 86, St. John the Baptist

Ann K. Overton, 89, St. Jude

Stephen R. Sustek, 64, Sacred Heart

Ligonier

Helene V. Harper, 93, St. Patrick

Mishawaka

Martha V. Van De Wiele, 87, St. Bavo

Monroeville

Rosella F. Meyer, 95, St. Rose

Notre Dame

Theresa A. King, 93, Basilica of the Sacred Heart

South Bend

Marlene M. Knefely, 76, St. John the Baptist

Bert J. Szymanski, 87, Holy Family

Adeline C. Niebauer, 94, Christ the King

Melinda S. Oviedo, 40, St. Matthew Cathedral

Chester J. Jaworski, 92, Little Flower

On Saturday an International Food Festival will be held. Proceeds further the mission of outreach to the diverse population on the southeast side of Fort Wayne.

Run for the Rams dinner auction

Huntington — The Run for the Rams dinner and auction will be Saturday, May 2, at the PAL Club, 2099 Riverside Dr., at 5 p.m. Tickets are \$60 per person by calling (260) 356-2320. All proceeds benefit Huntington Catholic School.

Rummage sale

Bremen — Altar Rosary Society of St. Dominic Parish will have a rummage sale on Thursday, May 7, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday, May 8, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the parish hall, 803 Bike St.

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 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.

TV MASS SCHEDULE FOR MAY

| 2009 | Feast Day | Fort Wayne 10:30 a.m. WISE-TV/Ch. 33 | South Bend 10:30 a.m. WNDU-TV, Ch. 16 |
|--------|---------------------------|---|---|
| May 3 | Fourth Sunday of Easter | Father Drew Curry St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Fort Wayne | Father Kevin Rousseau, CSC Old College Notre Dame |
| May 10 | Fifth Sunday of Easter | Father Daniel Leeuw Provena Sacred Heart Avilla | Father Tom McNally, CSC Our Lady of Fatima House Notre Dame |
| May 17 | Sixth Sunday of Easter | Father James Stoye Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception Fort Wayne | Bishop John M. D'Arcy Diocese of FW-SB Airs at 6:30 and 10:30 a.m. |
| May 24 | The Ascension of the Lord | Father William Peil St. Anne Home Fort Wayne | Father Glenn Kohman St. Mary of the Lake Culver |
| May 31 | Pentecost Sunday | Father Larry Kramer St. Paul of the Cross Columbia City | Father Bernard Galic Holy Family South Bend |

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



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- Refugee Employment Services
- Refugee Services
- RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program)
- Senior AIDES Employment
- Villa of the Woods Senior Residential Living

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DIANE FREEBY

Young people help carry the life-size picture of the Divine Mercy up to the altar of South Bend's Holy Family Church, placing it alongside other items representing area parishes participating in the novena. Divine Mercy Mass was concelebrated by Holy Family pastor Father Bernard Galic, Father Edward O'Connor of Notre Dame, Father Chuck Herman of St. John the Baptist and homilist Franciscan Father Robert Melnick.

Susan Boyle, Sister Faustina and Divine Mercy

BY DIANE FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — What do recent YouTube sensation Susan Boyle and St. Maria Faustina Kowalska have in common? According to the homilist at the April 19 Divine Mercy Mass held at Holy Family Church, quite a bit.

Franciscan Father Robert Melnick shared his analogy with the faithful on hand to wrap up the Divine Mercy novena by participating in Holy Mass.

Father Melnick spoke of the 47-year-old woman from a small town in Scotland. For those who have not seen her on the television show, "Britain's Got Talent," Boyle is the woman described in some newspapers as "the spinster who lived a drab existence."

That's the secular media's view. In reality, Boyle is the youngest of nine children from a very devout Roman Catholic family, living in a primarily Protestant country. Currently unemployed, she devoted her life to taking care of her mother until she died. Now, Boyle wants to be a professional singer.

"Everybody thought she was a joke," explained Father Melnick, referring to the condescending looks Boyle received from the show's judges and audience members as she took the stage, "until she started to sing, 'I Dreamed a Dream,' from a Broadway musical. 'I dreamed a dream. I dreamed that love would not ever die. I dreamed that God would be forgiving.' Those words, that music, this woman electrified the auditorium and everyone watching, and even electrifies people watching it on YouTube right now."

Father Melnick described the crowd that jumped to its feet in spontaneous applause. He then continued his homily, describing Easter as more than a dream. He called it a "promise fulfilled; a pledge. It's a pledge of God's infinite mercy for each and every one of us."

The Franciscan friar then talked about the humble woman who is now forever linked with the Divine

Mercy of Jesus. He described St. Faustina as "another obscure woman who changed the world."

Father Melnick explained how St. Faustina, a young Polish nun who was not seen as someone remarkable during her lifetime, was right where Jesus wanted her to be.

"She was in his very heart," said Father Melnick, describing how St. Faustina had "mystical experience after mystical experience, where the Lord spoke to her, Our Lady spoke to her ... giving her the message of hope. A message of hope for all of us. A message of hope for a world that had become increasingly cynical. A world that had become increasingly hopeless. And the Lord said, I want everyone to know, though your sins may be scarlet, I will make you white as snow. Though you may be the worst sinner in the world, I want to show you my mercy ... my mercy is greater than sin! My love is greater than evil."

Pausing to let that message sink in, Father Melnick asked why a message like that doesn't grab the headlines today. He wondered why it doesn't have people spontaneously rising to their feet with applause, like the crowd did while witnessing the incredible beauty another unlikely woman revealed by singing on a popular television show.

Father Melnick continued, "The Lord wants us to be Faustinas praying, sacrificing, giving of ourselves to others. The Lord wants us to be Susans, willing to stand up, and even to look like a fool until people hear that we have a message they are desperate to hear and to embrace in their lives. If people only knew the incredible beauty of God's promises."

As he wrapped up his homily, Father Melnick referred back to the United Kingdom's version of "American Idol."

"Britain's got talent, but the church has got salvation! We're not contestants. We're members of the family. We don't have to worry about being eliminated. The Lord has reached out to us. He asks us today to reach out to each other."



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