

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

National March for Life 2010

The dividends of Catholic education

Pages 9-17, 22

March for Life Mass

'Prayer our strongest weapon in fight for life'

Page 3

New president introduced

Brother John Paige to head Holy Cross College

Page 5

Immigration proposal

Indiana Catholic Conference voices opposition

Page 8

Savor time

Tim Prister talks from the sidelines

page 21

BY DIANE FREEBY



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, bishop of the diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, left, stands with retired Bishop John M. D'Arcy at the 37th annual March for Life, held Jan. 22 in Washington, D.C.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Nearly 1,000 strong, they came from all corners of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Most tossed sleeping bags onto buses and made their way to Washington, D.C., to show their support for the sanctity of human life. They joined a record-breaking crowd of about 400,000 people who descended upon Constitution Avenue, participating in the 37th annual March for Life, held Jan. 22, the date marking the anniversary of the Supreme Court decision making abortion legal in the U.S.

Today's Catholic rode along on a bus that left Thursday night from Saint Joseph's High School in South Bend. Young people from Elkhart, Goshen and Warsaw also joined the pilgrimage. They included students from Catholic, public and home schools. Driving through the night, the group arrived in the nation's capital Friday morning, just in time for the Youth Rally and Mass for Life at the Verizon Center.



More photos are available at www.diocesefwsb.org

"That was incredible, to be part of such a huge crowd of people all working and standing up for respect for life," exclaimed Mark Wheeler, a home-schooled junior from St. John the Evangelist Parish in Goshen. He and others enjoyed the music, talks and rosary that were conducted before Mass. "Sometimes, where I live, I'm kind of the minority in terms of Catholics. When you're in a huge stadium of some 20,000 Catholics, excited about it all, that was pretty incredible to me."

Saint Joseph's High School junior Michael Shakour was also making his first trip to Washington for the march.

"I see how horrible abortion is and I just want to

MARCH, PAGE 24

YEAR of our PRIESTS

BY MARK WEBER



FATHER DREW CURRY

He started at the top. Father Andrew Cole Curry, age 29, with the oils of ordination fresh on the forehead, began his priestly career in the midst of 8,000 souls at one of the largest parishes in the diocese.

He started at the top. Father Andrew Cole Curry, age 29, with the oils of ordination fresh on the forehead, began his priestly career in the midst of 8,000 souls at one of the largest parishes in the diocese.

Father Drew was no stranger at St.

YEAR OF, PAGE 5

Amid cathedral rubble, Haitians celebrate funerals

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (CNS) — Amid the rubble of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption, Haitians celebrated the lives of the archbishop and vicar general of Port-au-Prince, both of whom were killed in the country's earthquake.

Church officials — including some from the United States — joined ordinary Haitians Jan. 23 for the funerals of Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot, who died when the impact of the Jan. 12 quake hurled him from a balcony, and Msgr. Charles Benoit, the vicar general whose body was pulled from the cathedral debris.

They were among more than 150,000 Haitians killed in the magnitude 7 quake; U.N. officials have said the final death toll

might never be known.

Archbishop Louis Kebreau of Cap-Haitien, president of the Haitian bishops' conference, celebrated the funeral Mass, and Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Lafontant of Port-au-Prince delivered the homily.

Haiti President Rene Preval was among those in attendance.

New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, who represented the U.S. bishops at the Mass, read a message on behalf of Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, U.S. bishops' conference president. Cardinal George's message to the Haitians was contained in a letter was addressed to

HAITI, PAGE 24

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Episcopal ministry begins with gratitude and joy



BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

It has been almost two weeks since my installation as Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend and what a wonderful two weeks it has been!

The week of my installation was filled with activity as my family and friends arrived from Pennsylvania and other parts of the United States and even abroad. I am so grateful for the warm welcome and incredible hospitality extended to them by you, the faithful of my new diocese. So many of my friends and relatives have commented on the friendliness of the people of Indiana. I am so deeply grateful for your kindness to me and all my guests who came for the installation.

Speaking of my installation, it was truly a grace-filled event. Vespers at St. Matthew Cathedral on Jan. 12 and the Installation Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Jan. 13 were both very beautiful liturgies. I thank all who were involved in these ceremonies and all who helped with my installation in any way: with the liturgies, receptions, transportation and hospitality. I realize that dozens of people helped in the planning and organization of those days. To Bishop D'Arcy, Msgr. Schulte, Maureen Schott, the members of the installation committee, and all who assisted in various ways, from the bottom of my heart, I say "thank you."

After I bade farewell to my family and friends, I was ready to begin my episcopal ministry in this beautiful portion of the Lord's vineyard. It was truly a joy to celebrate my first Sunday Mass as bishop here in St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend on Jan. 17. That liturgy, the annual diocesan pro-life Mass, was truly a celebration of the Gospel of Life. It was the beginning of a week of events commemorating the infamous Roe v. Wade decision of the U.S. Supreme Court on Jan. 22, 1973.

I was deeply impressed to see the great turnout from our diocese at the March for Life in Washington, D.C., this past week. I concelebrated the Vigil Mass for Life on Jan. 21 in the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. As I processed with dozens of other bishops during the opening procession, I was happy to see and greet some of our seminarians, as well as college and high school students from our diocese who were in the congregation.

The next day, Jan. 22, both Bishop D'Arcy and I concelebrated the Youth Mass at the Verizon Center in downtown Washington. There, among the 20,000 young people in attendance, it was a joy to see so many high school and college youth from our diocese. Later we marched together from the rally on the mall, down



DIANE FREEBY

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Bishop John M. D'Arcy are shown with Deacon Andrew Budzinski, left, Holy Cross Father Wilson Miscamble, and Holy Cross Father Richard Warner, director of Campus Ministry at the University of Notre Dame, right, in a diocesan Mass for pro-life participants at St. Ann Church in Arlington, Va., on Jan. 23.

Constitution Avenue, past the U.S. Capitol, to the Supreme Court. It was a great joy for me to meet so many wonderful youth from our diocese — over 350 high school students from our four diocesan high schools and from several of our parishes as well as over 500 college students from the University of Notre Dame, Holy Cross College, Saint Mary's College and the University of Saint Francis. I thank Fred and Lisa Everett, John Sikorski, Margarita Rodriguez, Cindy Black, Megan Oberhausen, Brian MacMichael, our high school pro-life moderators and faculty, our parish youth ministers and chaperones, all who helped organize and supervise our young people's participation at the march.

We should have much hope for the future as we witness the pro-life commitment of our youth. Also, polls show that, for the first time in many years, a majority of Americans identify themselves as "pro-life." We can only hope and pray that this will lead to a greater respect in our nation for the precious gift of human life, to an end to abortion, and to the reversal of the Roe v. Wade decision that has so grievously harmed the moral fabric of our beloved nation. When we feel down about the prospects of ending abortion in our nation, it is important to turn to the Lord in prayer, trusting that, with God, nothing is impossible. Prayer is also our greatest weapon in the battle to defend life!

On Saturday, Jan. 23, the day after the March for Life, it was a special joy for me to celebrate holy Mass for the participants from our diocese at St. Ann Church in Arlington, Va. I was very happy that a large number of Notre Dame students joined us for this Mass prior to everyone's return to Indiana. It was a beautiful climax to our days in our nation's capital. I was also very happy that Bishop D'Arcy concelebrated the Mass with me, prior to his trip home to Boston for a well-deserved vacation with

his family and friends.

I flew back to Indiana after the Saturday Mass. I flew to South Bend, rather than Fort Wayne, since I was scheduled for a Confirmation Mass on Sunday at Holy Cross Parish. This was my first Confirmation ceremony in the diocese. Celebrating the sacrament of Confirmation was one of my favorite episcopal duties in Harrisburg. It was wonderful to begin this holy ministry in my new diocese on Jan. 24. I confirmed 31 young people from the parishes of Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus in South Bend. The candidates were clearly well-prepared to receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit. I thank the pastor, Father Michael Mathews, CSC; the parochial vicar, Father Bradley Metz, CSC; and all who helped prepare the newly confirmed. I pray that they, and all the young people Bishop D'Arcy and I will confirm this spring, will joyfully and courageously bear witness to Christ with the help of the Holy Spirit who strengthens them in Confirmation.

Finally, let us continue to pray for our brothers and sisters in Haiti. Thank you for your generosity in the special collection this past weekend to support the Church's relief efforts in Haiti. The devastation from the earthquake on Jan. 12 has brought incredible suffering and loss of life to that impoverished nation. The Lord calls us to show love and compassion to our suffering neighbors. We do so through our prayers and our financial sacrifices. May God grant comfort to those who mourn the death of their loved ones, strength to those who are rebuilding and providing relief, and eternal peace to those who have died! May Christ our Hope be the refuge and strength for all our Haitian brothers and sisters!

You may find Bishop Rhoades occasional columns or homilies at todayscatholicnews.org under the columnist section.

Diocesan marchers gather for Mass in Virginia



DIANE FREEBY

The diocesan group from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend pose for a photo at St. Ann Church in Arlington, Va.

BY DIANE FREEBY

ARLINGTON, Va. — “When you think about the forces of evil in the culture of death that we need to confront and challenge, our strongest weapon in this battle for life is prayer.”

That was the resounding theme Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades shared with members of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend who packed St. Ann’s Church last Saturday morning in Arlington, Va. After participating in Friday’s March for Life in Washington, D.C., many joined together to celebrate the Eucharist before spending a day of sightseeing and boarding buses for the overnight drive home.

Bishop Rhoades took time to thank the individual schools and groups who publicly stood up for life. Evoking “*Evangelium Vitae*” (“The Gospel of Life”), by Pope John Paul II, Bishop Rhoades reminded the young people how necessary it is to offer great prayer to God for the causes of life. He exhorted them to continue at home what they started in Washington, D.C.

“Sometimes we underestimate the power of prayer when it’s over,” said Bishop Rhoades. “When you go home ... continue to pray for the cause of life. For all those lives that are vulnerable and threatened by abortion, or by physician assisted suicide, or by euthanasia or by embryonic stem-cell research ... all these threats to human life.

“And also we pray for the people in Haiti, and all the lives that are still in danger today because of lack of adequate medical care and clean water and food,” he added. “And that’s what’s so beautiful about our Catholic Church. We stand up for life at every stage of

development — from the tiniest embryo in the mother’s womb to the very end of life for those who are terminally ill and approaching death. We believe that every human being has the right to life, that every life is precious and holy ... the innate dignity of the human person.”

Bishop Rhoades acknowledged how countercultural living the faith can be at times. But because so many today have bought into the lies of the culture of death, Bishop Rhoades said, it’s important to not only pray for life, but to stand up for truth.

“And the truth is,” continued Bishop Rhoades, “all human life is a precious gift from God. Now some leaders and pro-choice Catholic politicians will say, ‘Well, that’s a matter of religious faith, and you can’t impose your faith on other people.’ Well, it’s more than religious faith. Through the use of right reason we know that human life begins at conception. It’s a biological fact, an objective fact! It’s part of what we call the natural law, so even people who don’t share our Christian faith can come to the understanding that that little embryo in the mother’s womb is not part of the woman’s body. It’s a human being separate from the mother and the father. And therefore deserves our total respect. So it’s a truth not only of faith, but it’s the truth of reason.”

Bishop Rhoades said his motto, something all bishops are required to choose for themselves upon ordination, is “Truth in Charity.” He reminded the young people how they are called to love and not condemn women who have abortions and to reach out to them with the love and mercy of Christ.

“And that’s something the Catholic Church does,” Bishop Rhoades said. “I don’t know any organization or institution in the

world that does more to assist women who are contemplating abortion, or women who have had abortions, than the Catholic Church. So we don’t condemn them, but we love them and we help them to repent of this sin because abortion not only is the killing of innocent human life, it can also kill the soul of those who participate in it. So we can work to bring about their healing and reconciliation.”

Bishop Rhoades admitted it’s a lot harder to love those who are proponents of the culture of death, but to look no farther than the example set by Jesus Christ Himself, who asks us to love our enemies.

“We should pray for abortionists,” he said. “We should pray for those politicians who are pro-choice. Because the power of prayer can bring about their conversion as well. To love them can help bring about a change in their mind and in their heart. To be pro-life, we must always proclaim the truth in charity.”

Bishop Rhoades encouraged the young people to do that through their prayer and the way they relate with those who disagree with them. But he cautioned them not to minimize the truth, and never to downplay the truth about the evil of abortion.

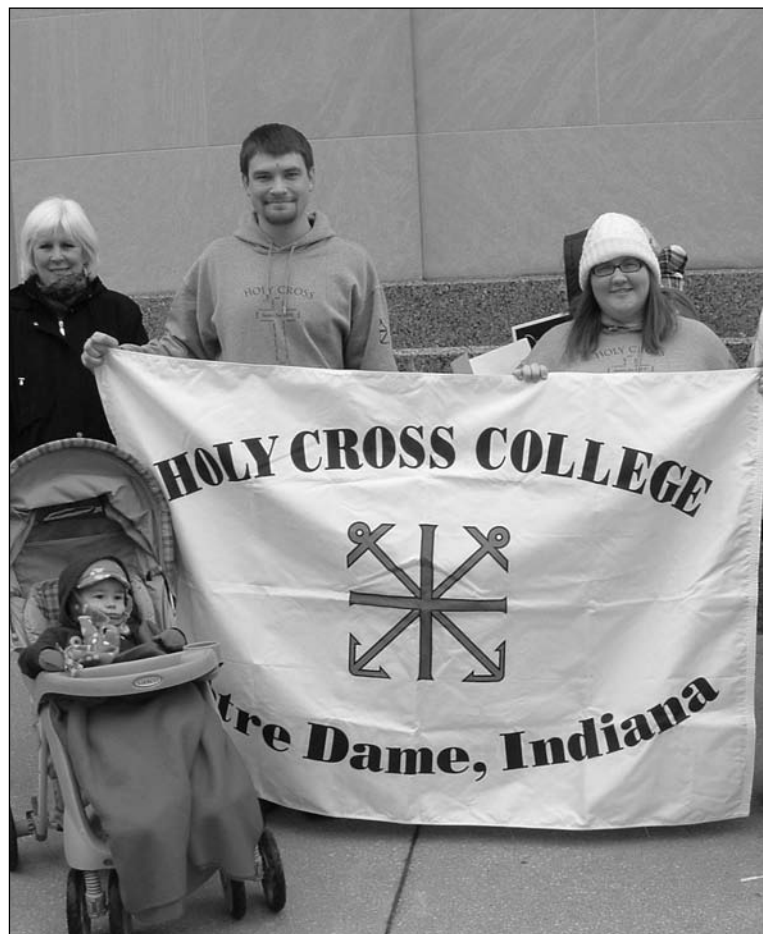
“I thank you again for your witness to life these past few days,” concluded Bishop Rhoades. “For your prayers for life. For your marching for life. For enduring some of the hardship of sleeping on the floor and going many hours on a bus, and for that sacrifice. ... When we go back to Indiana, continue to witness for life. In your schools, in your parishes, in your communities, in your families ... to proclaim the truth with love and charity.”



BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES PUBLIC SCHEDULE

- Thursday, Jan. 28, 7 p.m. — Theology on Tap, Columbia Street West, 135 W. Columbia St., Fort Wayne.
- Saturday, Jan. 30, 7 p.m. — Legacy Auction and Dinner benefiting St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Fort Wayne.
- Sunday, Jan. 31, 10 p.m. — Mass for students at Siegfried Hall, University of Notre Dame.
- Monday, Feb. 1, 11:30 a.m. — You Can Lend A Hand luncheon to benefit Catholic Schools, Hilton Garden Inn, Saint Mary’s College, Notre Dame.
- Monday, Feb. 1, 8 p.m. — Mass for students at Morrissey Manor, University of Notre Dame.
- Tuesday, Feb. 2, 9 a.m. — Mass and pastoral visit at Marian High School, Mishawaka.
- Wednesday, Feb. 3 — Meeting of the USCCB Subcommittee on the Catechism, Chicago, Ill.
- Thursday, Feb. 4, 11:30 a.m. — You Can Lend A Hand luncheon to benefit Catholic Schools, Marriott Hotel, Fort Wayne.
- Friday, Feb. 5, 9 a.m. — Mass and pastoral visit at Bishop Luers High School, Fort Wayne.
- Saturday, Feb. 6, 8 a.m. — Mass for Men’s Day of Prayer at St. Vincent de Paul Church, Fort Wayne.

TAKING A STAND FOR LIFE



TOM UEBBING

Holy Cross College students and friends bear witness at the St. Joseph County Right to Life noontime rally in front of the Federal Court House in South Bend on Jan. 22.

Haiti Program staff recounts earthquake, refocuses priorities

BY SHANNON CHAPLA

NOTRE DAME — "I feel like I have my second life," said Holy Cross Father Thomas Streit, founder of the University of Notre Dame's Haiti Program.

Father Streit was at a meeting in Port-au-Prince's Hotel Montana with Notre Dame colleagues Sarah Craig and Logan Anderson and postdoctoral student Marie Denise Milord during the Jan. 12 earthquake, which collapsed their hotel. All four were standing on open hotel bal-

conies and rode the building down as it pancaked to the ground. They sustained only minor cuts and bruises.

"The building around us came down and we were all thrown to the ground and we held on to literally nothing because we were on a tile floor," explained Craig, manager of the Haiti Program. "The building below us just collapsed and we could feel it going down each floor until we ended up somewhere between the first and second floors with the rubble beneath us."

The four were in the nation's

capital city to attend the semi-annual partners meeting for the Neglected Tropical Disease Initiative, along with some 25 Haitian colleagues. After the meeting had concluded, the group separated into different areas of the hotel compound.

"The Notre Dame people split into different groups and when the earthquake hit, we were all on different rooftop terraces," said Father Streit, who had been standing below another terrace but managed to step out from underneath seconds before the collapse. "All of us went down at

least two floors. One of our staff people had a double fracture to his leg and some from our meeting were buried in the building for a few days but were found unhurt. Everyone that was associated with the meeting and our partnership has been accounted for, except one, so we are praying for that individual."

"I remember seeing Father Tom right after," said Anderson, the program's financial manager. "He was the only person I could see other than the three people who were on the terrace with me, so that was a pretty big relief. We made our way down and found our colleague who had broken his leg. I was thinking this is something I see on TV, not something I experience."

"Sarah (formerly an emergency first responder) went right into first-aid mode. I took off my shirt and we started tearing it up into strips. We found two sticks and I helped hold (my colleague's) leg while Sarah splinted it."

After helping carry injured people from the hotel and assisting with first-aid, the four found a grassy spot to rest and spend the night, if not sleep.

"I could hear people praying and chanting," Anderson said, "and also the sounds of more buildings coming down during the aftershocks. You could just hear thousands of people screaming. That will stay with me for awhile."

The next day, U.N. troops arrived at the hotel and the four walked with them to the U.N. Embassy, then to the American Embassy where they spent another night. Craig, Anderson and Milord were flown home, while Father Streit remained behind to help his Haitian colleagues. All now are back at Notre Dame.

For Father Streit, the "horrific" experience also was a testimony to the spirit of humanity.

"I saw people with limbs torn

from their bodies screaming in pain," he said. "I saw children wandering about who had perhaps just lost their parents, bodies stacked up four and five deep, and the churches were all gone ... all of them ... places that mean so much to the nation's people. That was their source of hope. And yet, the people at night were praying and singing. They were holding hands as perhaps the only thing they could do without food or water. They turned to God."

"I came away with an experience I would not have wished for," Father Streit said, "but one that has shown me the strength that we have in the human spirit and that spirit is so clearly sustained by our belief and our faith."

Notre Dame's Haiti Program, based in Léogâne about 30 kilometers west of Port-au-Prince, has worked since 1993 in conjunction with Hôpital Sainte-Croix on a major initiative to eradicate lymphatic filariasis, a debilitating mosquito-borne disease that affects some 120 million people around the world and manifests itself as elephantiasis. For now, the program's focus will shift from public health to relief.

"Haiti needs our help now more than ever," Craig said. "Our program is a mainstay in the community and we need to make sure we help where we can. After we help get the community settled, we can then address our global health program."

"There's a Haitian expression 'paz a pa' (step-by-step)," Father Streit said. "We've been set back quite a bit, so we need prayers, financial support and involvement. The people of Haiti really depend on their faith that has gotten them through 200 years of difficulty, so I would urge anyone planning relief efforts not to forget this important element of nourishment for the Haitian psyche and spirit ... that is faith."

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Abby Johnson

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Brother Paige named president-elect at Holy Cross College

BY DIANE FREEBY

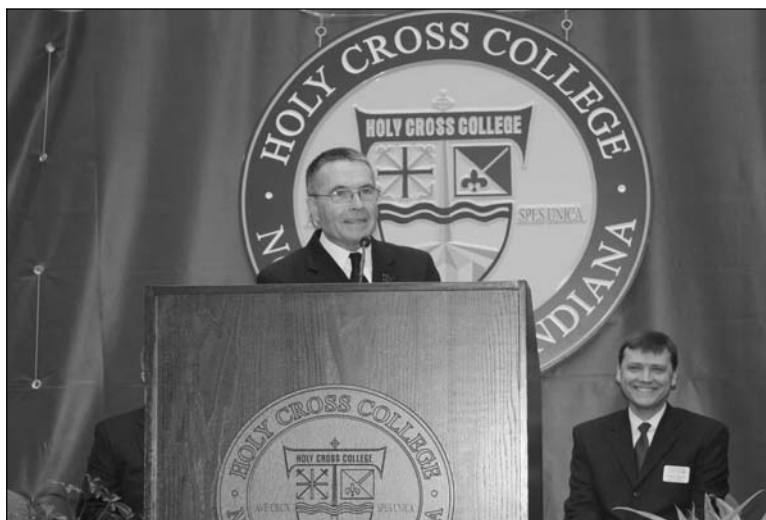
NOTRE DAME — Catholic identity is at the “top of the table,” says newly appointed Holy Cross College president, Holy Cross Brother John R. Paige. That, along with drawing more students and raising more money makes up the immediate agenda for Brother Paige as he prepares to lead the small liberal arts college founded in 1966.

Brother Paige was formally introduced at a press Jan. 20, on the liturgical feast day of founder of the Holy Cross Congregation, Blessed Basil Anthony Moreau, C.S.C. Brother Paige replaces Brother Richard Gilman, who recently announced his retirement after 17 years of service.

Because he is currently serving a six-year term at vicar general of the Congregation of Holy Cross in Rome, Brother Paige will remain in Italy until he is able to return to Indiana to assume the presidency of Holy Cross College in January of 2011.

Brother Paige has had a long and highly accomplished career in education as a teacher, coach, athletic director, academic dean, principal, board member, president/CEO and college professor, and is frequently involved as a workshop facilitator, speaker and consultant on religious, educational and school governance and accreditation issues. He has also served the Congregation of Holy Cross in the United States as master of novices.

Brother Paige says he is excited about building on the strengths he already sees at Holy Cross College, while also collaborating with nearby Saint Mary's College and the University of Notre Dame. He also believes the school's Catholic identity is its strength, citing a current report on vocations in Indiana, he says, “Forty-six young men are trying to discern their vocation to perhaps serve in religious life of Holy Cross ... 46!



DIANE FREEBY

Holy Cross Brother John R. Paige has been named the next president of Holy Cross College at Notre Dame. Holy Cross Brother Richard Gilman, president, recently announced his retirement after 17 years. On Jan. 20, Brother Paige was introduced at a press conference on the Holy Cross College campus in the new Pfeil Center.

Sixteen of them have matriculated in some way at this college. Sixteen of 46!”

Brother Paige says Holy Cross College is able to contribute to many formative experiences.

“We give the same opportunity to all the men and women who are here at Holy Cross College. That's contributing to Catholic identity, not only of the institution, but of the Congregation of Holy Cross and of the Church in northern Indiana and wherever these young people go, back to their own homes to work and be part of a family.”

Brother Paige, a native of Albany, N.Y., and a member of the Eastern Province of Brothers, earned a bachelor's degree in physics from the University of Notre Dame, a master's degree in mathematics from Wesleyan University, Middletown, Conn., a degree in applied theology from the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, Calif., and was awarded the doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Maryland at College Park.

“I'm just thrilled with the selection of Brother John Paige as our next president,” says Robert Kloska, vice president for mission advancement at Holy Cross College, pointing out that Brother Paige has worked in many parts of the world and knows most of the 1,500-member Congregation of Holy Cross by name.

Kloska notes, “He's passionate about our Catholic and Holy Cross identity. He's smart and articulate. He's experienced and highly educated. And he started his whole religious life right here at Holy Cross College. Seriously, how could you find a more compelling leader?”

In his doctoral work, Brother Paige's dissertation research focused on educational institutional development in Uganda, East Africa, where he served as visiting professor of social science at the Philosophy Centre, Jinja, and adjunct professor on the faculty of education at Makerere University. He also wrote a book about the experiences of the Congregation of Holy Cross educators during Uganda's brutal civil war,

Perhaps Father Curry's rookie period was served as a child. He grew up in a “church in the home” atmosphere. Not one with flickering candles and brimming holy water fonts, but one in which the spirit and the name of the family's parish Holy Family, was literally brought home from church and school and where love for the Blessed Mother and her divine Son was the undercurrent of family life.

Drew Curry's family had an appetite for the full menu offered by Holy Family Parish and were regular attendees at Sunday night rosary services there, which included a social mix and recreation for the kids.

These evenings, presenting a view of priests reverently leading the congregation in the rosary and Benediction and then enjoying their work as they participated in family fun, planted the seed for Drew Curry's religious vocation.

The seed was nourished by

family prayer, high school retreats and a pilgrimage to World Youth Day in Denver, observing the magnetic presence of Pope John Paul II.

Attendance at Andrew Dinners with his pastor and his years at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, all took him to the point where, in imitation of the apostles, he wanted to follow Christ and spread the good word.

The joy of priesthood for Drew Curry comes in many ways, particularly in bringing the Eucharist to the people and through Confession, bringing people to the Eucharist.

His philosophical view of the priesthood, his formula, his desire on how to serve are captured in the words of Pope Benedict XVI: “We find ourselves only by giving our lives away, receiving God's love as an unmerited gift and working to draw all men into the beauty of that love.”

“Preserving Order Amid Chaos: The Survival of Schools in Uganda, 1971-1986”.

From 1999 to 2004, Brother Paige served at St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas, as associate professor and dean of the School of Education, and as a member of the board of directors of the Southwest Educational Development Laboratory (SEDL), the board of trustees of Stonehill College (Massachusetts), the board of governors of the Holy Cross Institute, a commissioner-at-large

and president of the Texas Catholic Conference School Accreditation Commission, and as a regional associate of the National Catholic Educational Association Secondary Schools Department.

“We feel that Holy Cross College has been truly blessed to find a new president of the caliber and experience of Brother John Paige,” says chairman of the Holy Cross College Board of Trustees, Jerry Love. “He comes to us at a time of growth and progress on many fronts as well as many new challenges.”

St. Michael the Archangel Church Building in Waterloo is CLOSED for restoration/renovation




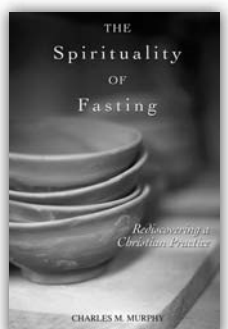
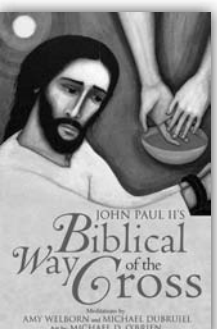
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YEAR of our PRIESTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Fort Wayne. He had been a deacon there — preaching, teaching and getting acquainted. But now he was no longer the lad from the seminary or the young fellow with the guitar. He was now the associate pastor — saying Mass, hearing Confessions and giving comfort at the loss of a loved one.

It's quite an adjustment for a new priest but well managed by this quiet spoken man who appears to have skipped the rookie period of priesthood and is quite comfortable as associate pastor in a parish requiring 14 eucharistic ministers at one Mass and ministering to 800 students in weekend religious education classes.

Health reform effort must continue, bishops' pro-life chairman says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With the fate of the current health reform bills in doubt, the next challenge is to convince members of Congress not to abandon the health reform effort entirely, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston said Jan. 22. The cardinal said he was speaking both as chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities and as head of an archdiocese that has "the highest number of uninsured in the country." "We need health reform," he said in a briefing with Catholic media at the headquarters of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in Washington. "We're concerned that there may not be" continued momentum in Congress "to allow more people to be insured," he added. Cardinal DiNardo was speaking shortly before the March for Life marking the 37th anniversary of the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion. The day before, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said there were not enough votes in the House to pass the Senate-approved version of health reform legislation. Cardinal DiNardo noted that the bishops had never endorsed a particular health reform bill but have instead "cited our preoccupations" with existing legislation — a role he said they would continue to play as the debate moves forward.

Poll: More Americans, especially young people, say abortion wrong

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — A poll commissioned by the Knights of Columbus and released Jan. 21 said that a majority of Americans called abortion "morally wrong." Americans in all age groups made that judgment in the poll, conducted by Marist College. The Knights paid the greatest attention in an announcement of the poll results to the "millennial" age group, those ages 18-29, because they were intentionally oversampled in the survey. Of the 2,243 Americans polled, 1,006 of them were millennial. And 58 percent of the millennials called abortion morally wrong. More than 60 percent of seniors ages 65 and up called abortion morally wrong, as did 60 percent of those from Generation X (ages 30-44) and 51 percent of baby boomers (ages 45-64). By comparison, 19 percent of all those polled — and 20 percent of the millennials — said abortion was "morally acceptable."

Pope names Galveston-Houston auxiliary bishop to head Austin Diocese

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has appointed Auxiliary Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Galveston-Houston, 52, to be bishop of Austin, Texas, succeeding

NEWS BRIEFS

TEXAS CARDINAL ADDRESSES CROWD AT MARCH FOR LIFE



CNS PHOTO/LESLIE E. KOSSOFF-NORDBY

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, addresses the crowd, along with other bishops, during the annual March for Life rally on the National Mall in Washington Jan. 22. It was the 37th March for Life marking the Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade decision that legalized abortion. Bishop John M. D'Arcy stands to the right of the podium. He delivered the opening prayer and asked all to pray a Hail Mary. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades stands second from the left.

Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond, who was named archbishop of New Orleans last June. The appointment was announced in Washington Jan. 26 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop Vasquez has been an auxiliary for Galveston-Houston since 2001.

Caritas official: Agencies must gear up to help Haitians in long term

LIMA, Peru (CNS) — Nearly two weeks after the Haitian earthquake, Catholic aid agencies must gear up to provide longer-term food, housing and healthcare assistance to people who lost their homes and possessions. But even the massive amount of aid pouring into the country is dwarfed by the overwhelming needs of people who lost their homes, families, jobs and possessions in the Jan. 12 quake, said Hector Hanashiro, Caritas emergency coordinator for Latin America and the Caribbean. "There is still a great lack of assistance," Hanashiro told Catholic News Service in an e-mail interview. "There are not enough donations for the 3 million people who have been affected and more than 200,000 injured survivors of the earthquake. About 2 million people were affected in Port-au-Prince, and 1 million more in other cities, including Jacmel, Gressier, Carrefour and Petit-

Goave, Hanashiro said. Some 500,000 people who lost their homes are living in makeshift camps around the Haitian capital, he said. "There are specific high-risk groups that need assistance, including pregnant women, people with chronic illnesses, children who have been orphaned, and people who were injured and who, because of trauma and complications, have had to have limbs amputated," Hanashiro said.

Israeli ambassador urges Jews to dialogue with Catholics

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — For the good of the world and for the Jewish community itself, Jews should be willing to engage in dialogue and joint projects with Catholics, said the Israeli ambassador to the Holy See. "Catholics have reached out a hand to us. It makes no sense not to take it, at least if we don't want to mortgage our future with constant animosity with the Catholic world," Ambassador Mordechai Lewy wrote in an article for the February issue of the Italian Jewish newspaper, *Pagine Ebraiche*. The ambassador's article also was printed in the Jan. 20 edition of *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper. He said the first 2,000 years of Catholic-Jewish relations do not bear repeating; "we both deserve bet-

ter." Lewy said that despite the Jewish biblical view that all humanity is one and despite centuries of authoritative biblical commentary demonstrating respect for other religions, some Orthodox Jews continue to be reluctant to enter into dialogue with Christians.

Nigerian archbishop says violence more political than religious

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Nigerian archbishop said the cause of recent violence between Muslims and Christians in the African country was more ethnic and political than religious. More than 200 people were believed dead after clashes in mid-January in the central Nigerian city of Jos, where similar riots in 2008 killed about 300. Archbishop Ignatius Kaigama of Jos said the origin of the current conflicts, like those of 2008, was a struggle for political control of the city between the Hausa people, who are predominantly Muslim, and the indigenous residents, who are mostly Christians. Media reports describing the violence as a religious clash between Muslims and Christians were inaccurate, Archbishop Kaigama told the Vatican missionary news agency Fides. The archbishop said he met Jan. 20 with several Christian and Muslim leaders to clarify the situation, assess the damage and ascer-

tain the exact number of victims. He said it was still unclear how many people had died and how many houses, churches or mosques have been burned.

Cruise line cuts use of priests aboard its ships

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Celebrity Cruise Lines has cut the use of priests to give ministerial service on board its ships to only major feasts. Previously, Celebrity had been one of a handful of cruise companies to allow a priest to board any of its excursions. The change, announced in December, took effect Jan. 4. The short notice left some priests in dry-dock, as they had purchased round-trip airline tickets to a port of call to board the cruise ship and had no other business in the port city. One priest said Celebrity had not offered refunds. Celebrity's decision also punches a sizable hole in the budget allocation of the Apostleship of the Sea to schedule priests to serve on ships. Father Sinclair Oubre, a priest of the Diocese of Beaumont, Texas, who heads the U.S. Apostleship of the Sea, said the cruise ship ministry began in 2004 after Catholic passengers complained about men who presented themselves as priests able to celebrate Mass but were not in good standing with the church. "The bishops' conference asked us to organize a cruise-ship priest program. Our mission was to communicate with the cruise line," Father Oubre said. "We would supply Catholic priests in good standing with competent authority to the cruise lines." Lisa Webster, a customer service representative, said in a Jan. 12 memo to CNS that "out of respect for our guests of all religious faiths," priests, Protestant ministers and rabbis would be furnished only for "the major high holy holidays of each respective faith."

Woman rescued from cathedral rubble seven days after Haitian quake

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Caritas search and rescue teams miraculously found and pulled a 69-year-old woman from the rubble of the badly damaged Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption, where she had been clinging to life for seven days. Anna Zizi was pulled out by expert teams from Mexico and South Africa who worked for two hours to extract her. Caritas officials said she suffered injuries to her hips and possibly a broken leg, but "was not critically injured." Zizi told her rescuers, "I love you," upon being pulled from the rubble Jan. 19. Mexican rescue worker Gabriel Romero Vega said trained dogs "signaled that someone was alive in the collapsed building" and that Zizi had been singing to draw the attention of others. "It was a gigantic surprise," Romero told Catholic News Service upon returning home Jan. 20 to Cancun. "It's something that I consider to be a miracle."

Topping off at Angola church construction on Jan. 29

ANGOLA — It is a tradition when the last steel beam is erected in a commercial building project that a topping out ceremony be held. The parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua Parish believe it is only appropriate that such a ceremony be conducted when the 20 foot by 11 foot aluminum cross is lifted into place atop their new church building at 700 W. Maumee St., Angola, on Friday, Jan. 29.

Marilyn Karpinski, organizer of the event, says, "The cost to erect the cross on the weekend was prohibitive so we are holding the ceremony at 11:30 a.m. on Friday. Hopefully this will allow working members of the community to join us during their lunch hour."

The cross was custom designed by Design Collaborative to complement the new church being built by Michael Kinder and Sons, General Contractors. ProFab fabricated the cross and it will be erected by Smith Erectors.

Father Fred Pasche and the members of St. Anthony of Padua Parish invite all members of the community to join them for this moment in Angola history.

Lindenwood offers Hermitage Day

DONALDSON — Registration is now being taken for "A Time of Silence, A Time of Solace, A Time of Hermitage," a retreat to be held Thursday, Feb. 11, at 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There will be a history of the hermitage in the Christian faith, opportunities to experience silence and solitude, and to process the experience of silence, as well as opportunities for private spiritual direction. Program facilitator is Sister Nancy Raboin, a sister of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, who received her training as a spiritual guide through the Siena Retreat Center in Racine, Wis. The program fee is \$40 and includes a simple lunch and private bedroom to serve as hermitage space. This program is sponsored by Lindenwood and the Moon Tree Community. Registration deadline is Feb. 4. For information or to register, contact Lindenwood at (574) 935-1763 or e-mail rvanvactor@poorhandmaids.org or visit www.lindenwood.org.

Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters support immigration change with postcards

HUNTINGTON — Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, also known as Victory Noll Sisters, of Huntington, announced their participation in the postcard campaign sponsored by the U.S. Catholic Bishops for legislative immigration reform. Although this issue has been addressed in Congress every year since 2006,

AROUND THE DIOCESE

CONFIRMATION CELEBRATED AT HOLY CROSS PARISH



DIANE FREEBY

During Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades' first Confirmation ceremony as bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Holy Cross Father Michael Matthews, pastor of Holy Cross and St. Stanislaus Parishes in South Bend, left, looks on as Bishop Rhoades confirms Holy Cross parishioner, Colin O'Blenis, with sponsor Lynn Kachmarik.

no comprehensive legislation has been passed to correct the current immigration system. Presently over 11 million undocumented persons are living and working in the United States.

The bishops are asking members of Congress to support immigration reform legislation that will keep families together, adopt smart and humane enforcement policies and ensure that immigrants without legal status register with the government and begin a path toward citizenship.

For information regarding the postcard campaign, visit www.justiceforimmigrants.org.

Our Sunday Visitor offering free envelopes for Haiti collections

HUNTINGTON — A Catholic publishing company is receiving an overwhelming response to its offer of free bulk envelopes for parish collections for earthquake relief efforts in Haiti.

Nearly 100,000 of the specially printed envelopes were ordered from Our Sunday Visitor's Offertory Solutions Division in less than two days after the offer was publicized Jan. 18.

Division president Kyle Hamilton said the Catholic tradition has always revolved around helping those in need.

"The poorest country in the Western Hemisphere is suffering, and we are called to respond," he said in a Jan. 18 statement.

"We've been touched by the strong faith of the Haitian people, seen on CNN and other newscasts, praying for help and assistance," Hamilton continued. "They need our prayers as well as our financial support."

In addition to the offer of free envelopes, Our Sunday Visitor Publishing has given free advertising space to aid agencies in the Jan. 31 issue.

The company also is offering at nominal cost two other products to spread the word about the need for relief — a prayer card and a four-page flier to educate parishioners about the situation Haiti is facing. The flier is the four-page center spread of the Jan. 31 *Our Sunday Visitor*.

The envelopes, prayer cards and flier can be used in special mailings, inserts in offering envelope packets, church or school bulletins, or as take-home items from church, school or religious education classes.

Also available from OSV Curriculum (formerly Harcourt Religion) is a four-page brochure titled "How Can I Help? Disasters: A Catholic Response" and other Haiti-related resources.

Parishes may order as many of the free bulk envelopes as needed for Haiti special collections by going to the OSV Web site (www.osvoffertory.com) or by contacting a sales representative at (800) 348-2886. The prayer card and OSV newsweekly special section are also available through the same sources. The OSV Curriculum resources are available at www.osvcurriculum.com/haiti/haiti.html.

Victory Noll Center hosts pre-Lenten retreat

HUNTINGTON — As preparation for Lent, Victory Noll Center presents a three-session retreat, Call to Holiness, to be held Feb. 9-11, exploring the baptismal call to prayer, discernment of gifts and service.

The sessions will be from 6:30-9 p.m. each evening at Victory Noll Center, located at 1900 W. Park Dr. Presenters are Sister Ginger Downey of Our Lady of Victory

Missionary Sisters, and Dr. Barry Sargent, both of whom are part of the ministry formation team of Faith on Fire based in Phoenix, Ariz.

The cost for the three-session retreat is \$45 per person. For those who bring a family member or friend, the price is discounted to \$30 per person.

Registration required by Feb. 3.

For more information about the program or to register contact Director Sue Wilhelm at (260) 356-0628, ext. 128, or suewilhelm@olvm.org.

Adult faith formation at Most Precious Blood Parish

FORT WAYNE — The diocesan Office of Catechesis is sponsoring a four-week session facilitated by Melissa Wheeler on Thursday evenings from 7-9 p.m. on Feb. 18 and 25; March 4 and 18, at Most Precious Blood Parish in Fort Wayne.

Wheeler will explore Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical "Caritas in Veritate" and the Just Neighbor program, and will give examples of action plans to fight poverty in the diocese.

There is no cost to participants; however registration is required: online at www.diocesefwsb.org/OC under Adult Education; call Janice Martin at (260) 399-1411; or via email at jmartin@fw.diocese-fwsb.org

Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical can be downloaded from the Web, or ordered through the Cathedral Bookstore by calling (260) 422-4611; Kara, Ext. 3356; Ruth, Ext. 3357; or Pat, Ext. 3358. The encyclical is not a requirement to attend this session.

The Jesters of the University of Saint Francis to perform original work

FORT WAYNE — The Jesters, a troupe of 35 actors and artists with special needs ranging in ages from 8 to 34, will perform "DaisyJack" on Saturday, March 6, at 6 p.m. and Sunday, March 7, at 3 p.m. at the university's North Campus Auditorium, 2702 Spring St. Tickets are available for \$10.

"DaisyJack" is an original story about everyday men and women searching for the place where they belong. In this multimedia family-oriented production, Daisy and Jack are fallen stars who don't remember who they are. Guided by the magical Menhunes, they travel through emotional landscapes, hide from the Evil Queens and encounter the Super Heroes as they try to find their way home. Daisy and Jack watch through their "windows" as the story unfolds through drama, rhythm, music, dance and visual arts.

For information about the performances or the Jesters, or to attend a rehearsal or practice, call the School of Creative Arts at (260) 399-7700, ext. 8001.

Indiana Catholic Conference opposes state immigration proposal

INDIANAPOLIS — The American Dream: a good job, a safe place to live for family, and the belief that if one works hard enough, economic prosperity. This dream and the 1980s economic boom inspired a wave of Mexican immigrants to journey to the United States.

Unlike the immigrants who landed at Ellis Island, the federal government was unprepared to respond to the influx of Mexican immigrants creating the federal immigration quagmire of today.

According to Father Steve Gibson, pastor of St. Mary Parish in East Chicago in the Gary Diocese, a parish with a large Hispanic community, the pathway to legal citizenship can commonly take more than a decade to attain, and for many, there is no clear or legal way to gain entry into the United States.

These same immigrant families, the parents who are undocumented and the children who are American citizens, will suffer if a state proposal aimed at tightening-up immigration enforcement becomes law — a proposal the Indiana Catholic Conference opposes.

Senate Bill 213, authored by Sen. Mike Delph, R-Carmel, increases penalties for driving without a driver's license or falsifying identification, and encourages local law enforcement officials to arrest individuals suspected of being undocumented.

The Senate Pensions and Labor Committee unanimously passed Senate Bill 213 after hours of testimony by those who support and oppose the bill.

Glenn Tebbe, Indiana Catholic Conference executive director, who testified in opposition to the bill before the Senate panel said, "Immigration is first and foremost a humanitarian concern and a moral issue. Immigration is not a new phenomenon. The majority of us in the room, including myself, descended from immigrant families.

"In Indiana we are experiencing many of the human consequences of a federal immigration system that is both broken and inadequate," said Tebbe. "Here, as throughout the nation, many immigrant families are separated. A lost job or a traffic arrest can contribute to frustration, alcohol abuse and other social evils — and expulsion," he said.

"Undocumented immigrants are non-citizens and are aliens in the legal sense, but they are not aliens within our human family; they are our brothers and sisters.

"Because of its harmful impact on human life and human dignity, the Church has stated that the status quo is immoral. We are insistent in calling for comprehensive reform of the U.S. immigration system," Tebbe said.

"Unauthorized presence in the U.S. is usually a violation of civil, not criminal law," said Tebbe. "This legislation creates criminal penalties for many things that are incident to daily life: driving a car to work, renting an apartment or using public institutions that are designed to protect and promote the common good."

Tebbe told the panel that the provision in SB 213 to encourage

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

local and state law enforcement officers become immigration officials would invite racial profiling by law enforcement.

"This too is happening already in some communities," said Tebbe. "We are witnessing an increase in profiling by some local law enforcement officers. Law abiding persons are being pulled over and being taken to jail because of looking Hispanic. The economic and emotional effect on the family when this happens is significant and unnecessary, as well as the offense against the human dignity of the person."

In addition to the moral and practical concerns of the Church raised by Tebbe, others testified in opposition to the bill included David Sklar, Jewish Community Relations Council, who also raised concerns of an increase in racial profiling. Kathy Williams, representing social services organizations, raised concerns about an increase in human suffering. Ed Roberts, representing the Indiana Manufacturers Association, voiced the potential problems it could cause employers. Angela Adams, an immigra-

tion attorney for Lewis & Kappes law firm, stressed a need for comprehensive immigration reform, but that it must be addressed at the federal level.

Franciscan Father Thomas Fox, who serves as a Hispanic ministry assistant in the Archdiocese of Indianapolis, also was present at the hearing to testify in opposition to Senate Bill 213, as were, John Livengood, a lobbyist for the Indiana Restaurant Association, and a representative from Indiana University's Department of Sociology, but time constraints prevented them from testifying.

Representatives from the Indiana Federation for Immigration Reform and Enforcement (IFIRE) and the American Legion testified in support of the bill claiming that the legislation would help law enforcement catch criminals and protect against terrorism. Yet, recent terrorist threats have not been perpetrated by the Latino immigrant community.

"If this bill passes, there is no doubt that the consequences would be disastrous for people in this region and for the economy of northwest Indiana," said Father Gibson. "The same compassion we are showing to the victims of tragedies throughout the world is the same compassion we should show to our immigrants who live around us."

Senate Bill 213 was reassigned to the Senate Appropriations Committee and will undergo another hearing to consider the fiscal impact of the legislation.

Bills must pass committee by Friday, Jan. 29.

All bills must pass their house of origin by midnight Feb. 3, to move to "cross over" to the second house.

Immigrants in Indiana: Facts at a glance

Immigrants make up 4.2 percent of Indiana's total population.

While the margin of Latino voters in Indiana may seem small at 1.3 percent (or 36,000), their number was greater than the margin of victory by which the 2008 Presidential election was won in the state (28,391 votes).

More than 35 percent of immigrants in Indiana are naturalized U.S. citizens who are eligible to vote.

Immigrants in Indiana paid an estimated \$2.3 billion in federal, state, and local taxes in 2007.

The purchasing power of Indiana's Latinos totaled \$6.8 billion and Asians totaled \$3.1 billion in 2008.

Source: Immigration Policy Center; American Immigration Council www.immigrationpolicy.org

The Church position on immigration reform

The Catholic Church does not support illegal immigration. The Church respects the right of nations to control its borders, and the legitimate need for the state to have reasonable requirements for citizenship and its privileges. Yet the Church sees some rights as inherent in the human condition, natural rights which extend beyond all national boundaries.

The Church evaluates public policy issues in light of sacred Scripture, the teachings of Jesus Christ and from principles derived from our experience of trying to live and apply those teachings for many centuries. The Church's consistent life ethic, the belief that all human beings, from conception to natural death, have inherent dignity given to them by God himself is applied to public policy.

The unborn, the elderly, the death row inmate, the poor, the handicapped, the undocumented immigrant are all human beings deserving respect and dignity. The Church approaches the undocumented immigrant not from a legal perspective, but from a moral one.

For more information on immigration or to read the Indiana Bishops statement on Immigration Reform entitled "I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me: Meeting Christ in New Neighbors" or go to www.indianacc.org Click "resources" and scroll down to "Immigration."

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DIVIDENDS IN OUR CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



PROVIDED BY THE MCMAHON FAMILY

The McMahon family is shown in this photo shot in Rome. From left are Kevin, Michael, Megan, Tim and Amy.

McMahons finds support in Marian's family atmosphere

BY JUDY BRADFORD

SOUTH BEND — When you're a single parent raising four children, you need all the support you can get from the school they attend.

Amy McMahon has found that type of environment in Marian High School, for her four children: Michael, Kevin, Megan and Tim.

"It's such a family atmosphere," says McMahon. "It's a closeness that you can really feel."

Michael, 21, a 2007 Marian graduate, is now a junior at the University of Notre Dame majoring in math.

Kevin, 20, graduated from Marian in 2008. He's a sophomore at Purdue University, majoring in elementary education.

Megan, 18, is currently a senior at Marian and Tim, 14, is an eighth grader at St. Matthew School who looks forward to attending Marian this fall.

Megan says she has especially benefited from the annual day-long retreats that Marian holds, on school days, for all grades at the nearby St. Francis convent.

"Upperclassmen give talks, and there are spiritual activities. You learn to practice your faith and not be ashamed of it, and there are opportunities for Confession," says Megan.

She also enjoys the smaller classes where she can get to know everyone and establish closer, longer-lasting relationships.

Teachers are open to questions and student opinions, creating an environment that fosters mutual respect. They keep their classrooms under control but "they are loving and caring and nice," says McMahon.

She has tapped financial aid to help pay for her children's educations, a resource that proved invaluable when she got divorced 10

years ago.

"I wanted things to stay the same for them as much as possible, and I was afraid I would have to pull them out and send them to public schools, but it all worked out."

Then when her ex-husband Scott was killed in a tragic auto accident in June of 2008, the Knights In Need program helped pay for school tuition.

At the time, Kevin was on Marian's baseball team, which had won its sectional and was looking forward to the Class 3-A state championship game. The accident happened on a Tuesday night. It was an emotional decision, but Kevin decided to travel to Indianapolis and play in the big game the following weekend.

"Marian's baseball team was so good to us, so supportive through the tragedy," says McMahon. "The viewing was on Sunday, too, which was Father's Day and we thought, 'Who's going to come to a viewing on Father's Day?' But so many people from Marian were there. It was amazing."

McMahon says the initial decision to send Michael, her firstborn to Marian High School was made because he wanted to go there, and because it was so accessible on the south side of South Bend. "He wanted the spirituality, and he really took the leadership on that decision."

His experience was so good, that each sibling has followed not so much for convenience, but for what Marian has offered the family through the years. Acting as an usher, server or proclaimer of the word during Mass has also given each child opportunities to serve and lead.

"In this day and age, kids need all the help they can get," says McMahon. "I know there are really good kids and good teachers in public high school, but I wanted my children to have the opportunity to attend Mass, and get involved in campus ministry."



PROVIDED BY THE FREEBY FAMILY

The Freeby children, bottom row, from left, Rosie, T.J. and Jeanie with the family dog, Skipper, and top row, Peter, Mary and Chris, pose for this Christmas photo.

Room for everyone at Saint Joseph's High School

BY JUDY BRADFORD

SOUTH BEND — Chris Freeby, 16, is a young man filled with vigor and hope.

He serves as a student manager for his high school football team, volunteers at local libraries and raises money for people with disabilities.

A lot of the credit for his success and self-confidence this past year can be attributed to his decision to attend Saint Joseph's High School. Teachers there challenge him and are eager to work with students who happen to have a disability.

Chris has cerebral palsy, but it certainly hasn't set him back much.

"There are so many proactive things in education that the staff at Saint Joseph's has been able to show us," says Chuck Freeby, Chris' father, who is sports director at WHME-TV. "They let us know early on that they could meet our needs."

Like many other students with disabilities, Chris requires an Individualized Education Program, or IEP, which gives parents, teachers and others who know him well the opportunity to work together to help him plan his education.

But Chris already got a jump on that years ago by meeting Kevin Downey, who is in charge of all the IEP's at the high school in his capacity as learning strategies teacher.

Downey is also head varsity football coach, and was conducting the summer football camp that Chris attended while in fourth grade at Corpus Christi School.

"Football camp was a good experience for me," says Chris. "I was around the older kids, I felt accepted, I met my best friend there and other friends too."

Chris also developed skills that helped him slide easily into the student manager

position for the football team.

"I make sure we have everything we need when we go out to the practice field, and I make sure we have everything when we come in," says Chris, of his job as student manager for the Indians football team.

"Plus, I make sure Coach Downey behaves himself on the sidelines," he chuckles.

Other teachers have challenged and worked with him in various subjects — even the subjects in which he struggles. Currently, he's on the diploma track and his favorite subject is computer applications. Special computer devices help him complete all his assignments, and some teachers are anxious to use them.

Chris' older brother, Peter, also attends Saint Joseph's High School, currently a junior. All the younger Freeby children — Mary, 13, twins Jeanie and Rosie, both 12, and T.J., 8 — also plan to attend Saint Joseph's.

The school will provide a way for all six of the Freeby children to attend and be successful, says Diane Freeby, their mom and a freelance writer for *Today's Catholic*.

When Chris was born with cerebral palsy, she was warned by other parents that many teachers in the public schools might try to avoid teaching a special-needs student who has been mainstreamed.

"But at Saint Joseph's, we've not had that problem at all. There is the desire here for Chris to succeed. What's awesome, is that it's a high-powered prep school, but it makes sure that all who want to go, can go."

"Plus, there is such a spiritual presence, with the priests," continues Diane. "There are actually kids who ask for Confession. That says a lot about the theology department — that they care about the kids."

The potential of Catholic education and the Hispanic population

DR. MARK MYERS

Our Catholic School Heritage

The Holy Father observed recently that since America enjoys so much wealth today, every Catholic child should be provided a Catholic education. Historically, when the immigrants came to this country and what is now geographically the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, they brought Catholics committed to the religious life with them; those early priests of the pioneers rapidly built churches for the Irish, Italians, Belgians, Poles, Germans and others from the eastern and western hemispheres who came to America in order to acquire social and economic justice, religious freedom, better health, education and security for their families. Notably, the priests and religious built the school buildings prior to constructing the churches.

Today, Catholics of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend share a Catholic identity deeply enriched, framed and grounded by those early devoted great Catholic men

and women who struggled with language barriers, transition challenges and large families in very difficult economic times. The early immigrant families had little or nothing materially; however, they sent their children to the parish schools with little more than their great faith. The immigrant parents likely could not have ever imagined how God would answer their prayers. In little more than two short generations, as a result of their Catholic education, strong faith, parental values and skills acquired in the early parochial schools by the religious serving as teachers, immigrants not only helped lay the groundwork to create the greatest economy ever known in the history of mankind, but perhaps more significantly, they supported the growth of the early immigrant Church faithfully and generously with their refined gifts through Christ.

Challenges and opportunities

During Catholic Schools Week of 2010, our schools and faith are facing a different time, different challenges and new spiritual

renewal opportunities for our Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The statistics show the very future of our American Catholic faith depends on our ability to reach out to our Catholic immigrants at the local level. According to a recent national study published by the Alliance for Catholic Education of Notre Dame, 70 percent of all American Catholics today under the age of 35 are Hispanic; however, Latino Catholic children from these families occupy only about 3 percent of seats in Catholic schools nationwide.

Diocesan data on Hispanic enrollments

Our diocesan enrollments mirror these data very closely. Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) data show 3,795 Hispanic children are enrolled in Fort Wayne schools, while 142 Catholic Hispanic students are enrolled in our diocesan Fort Wayne school buildings. The IDOE reports we have enrolled 273 Hispanic children in Catholic schools in South Bend, while the local South Bend Community School data show an enrollment of 3,293 Hispanic students. The Elkhart Community

Schools Corporation presently enrolls 3,111 Hispanic students, while our Catholic schools have enrolled 65 Hispanic children this academic year. And in the community of Goshen, public schools show Hispanic enrollments of 1,844 students, while our Catholic schools show an enrollment of 44 Hispanic children. Other communities within the diocese have similar Latino populations and Catholic school enrollments.

The Notre Dame, Alliance for Catholic Education Task Force calls American Catholics to action. Catholics residing in the Southwestern United States will be required to erect new schools in order to accommodate growing Hispanic populations; we do not need to build new structures. Our buildings are old but safe, functional and very clean. We know by experience and statistical data, we can strengthen overall Catholic identity and educational quality when we act to grow enrollments in order to meet the needs of local Catholic Hispanic children.

St. Adalbert School in South Bend is identified as having a student population of 72 percent Hispanic while earning the rating of "exemplary" by the Indiana Department of Education. We hope to explore more options like St.

Adalbert's within the diocese. Our task will be to optimize facility use and look for revenue streams to fund growth in our schools. Our immediate challenge is to find ways to fill empty seats; in some cases, we may even look at opening schools that were closed in the diocese. During our Catholic Schools Week of 2010, let us resolve to launch important spiritual initiatives that will enrich our schools and help secure our faith for generations. Early Catholic immigrants demonstrated by example that our investments in diocesan schools would ultimately yield exponential benefits enjoyed today by our nation, our parish communities and our diocese.

You can help

Please call and arrange to visit your Catholic schools during Feb. 1-6, and ask how your school community can reach out to our Hispanic school children, many of which attend religious education activities at the church.

Please continue to make contributions of your time, treasure and talents; your principal can talk to you about how we can make your school stronger for all.

Finally, please pray for us during Catholic Schools Week, Feb. 1-6, as we act now to make new efforts to share Christ and our schools more broadly with the future stewards of our church, our diocese and our faith.

Citations

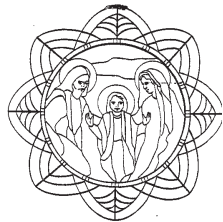
University of Notre Dame: Alliance for Catholic Education: "To Nurture a Soul of a Nation: Latino Families, Catholic School, and Educational Opportunity," 2009.

Indiana Department of Education, www.doe.in.gov. 2010.

Special thanks to Joyce Baranowski for tabulating the data on Hispanic enrollments.

Dr. Mark D Myers is the superintendent for Catholic Schools, Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

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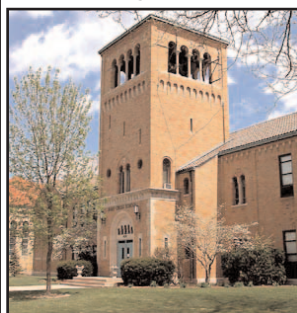
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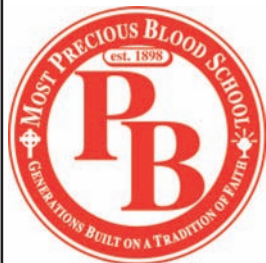
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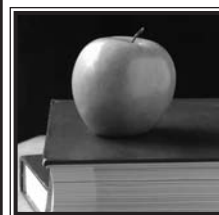
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Making Bishop Luers the right choice

BY MARY KINDER

FORT WAYNE — For many teenagers, the decision of where to go to high school isn't theirs to make. They simply go to the school in their neighborhood. Or, their parents make the decision of private or parochial school for them. But at Bishop Luers High School, it's not hard to find students who have gone out of their way to attend the Fort Wayne Catholic school. One of those students is Sean Driscoll.

Sean became interested in Bishop Luers while attending St. Therese School. However, tuition for the high school would be a hardship for his family. So, Sean took a placement exam while in middle school, along with dozens of



SEAN DRISCOLL

other students. He placed first, earning a scholarship for his freshman year. Since then Sean has had to find other ways to help offset the cost of his education, including working in the school lunchroom.

Soft-spoken and humble, the busy junior juggles a multitude of extracurricular activities with his school work. He is on the cross country and track teams. He volunteers as a peer tutor before and after school. He's also vice president of the National Honor Society and a member of Luers' Academic Super Bowl team. In addition to all of this, Sean holds a job outside of school.

It's likely Sean would succeed at any school, but he chose Bishop Luers. He cites many reasons, including the school's small class size and the closeness of its students. Bishop Luers also challenges Sean academically, something he does not believe he would experience at a public high school.

"Academics was one of the



MARY KINDER

Sisters Zoe and Athena Derloshon decided Bishop Luers was right for them. Athena, who transferred from the public school system, says, "I like how everyone is so close here. The transition was easy and I got to know everyone in my class. It's like a giant family here."

big reasons I chose Luers," he explains. "I enjoy the small classes and the one-on-one time with the teachers."

The ability to practice his faith at school was also a deciding factor, something Sean takes advantage of as a peer minister. He's part of a group who works throughout the year to host Knights of Faith, a weekend retreat designed to help students strengthen their faith.

While he does have to work hard to remain at Bishop Luers, Sean believes it is all worthwhile. "Bishop Luers is a family and I am challenged here everyday."

Bishop Luers celebrated its 50th anniversary last year. While often recognized for its sports programs, Bishop Luers is equally famous for its fierce school spirit, performing arts programs and academics. With 537 students currently enrolled, the students are very close. The smaller size offers students a variety of opportunities to become involved in extra curricular activities they may be excluded from at larger schools. Monica Zwick, director of public relations for the school, explains, "At Bishop Luers, students don't have to be the best to become involved in an activity. They have multiple opportunities and become very well-rounded students, which is something more and more colleges are looking for on applications."

Athena and Zoe Derloshon are both involved in Luers activities. The sisters each decided on their own to attend Bishop Luers, although their paths were very different. Zoe, a sophomore, chose Luers right away, coming to the school as a freshman. She keeps busy as a member of the school's soccer and volleyball teams.

Athena transferred from South Side High School to Luers halfway through her junior year. Zoe believes her happiness at Luers helped convince her older sister to switch to the school during her junior year. Now a senior, Athena smiles and says her sister didn't really influence her decision.

Athena, a cheerleader, says her decision to transfer came down to, "lots of little reasons." She cites her faith, saying, "I like that we have the opportunity to do things such as Reconciliation right at school."

She also points out the social aspect of Bishop Luers, "I like how everyone is so close here. The transition was easy and I got to know everyone in my class. It's like a giant family here."

Zoe is quick to agree, saying, "I think students treat each other nicer here, because we see each other all the time and are so close to one another."

Although the decision was different for each student, Sean, Athena and Zoe all believe Bishop Luers is the right choice for them.

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Bishop Dwenger worth the drive

BY MARY KINDER

FORT WAYNE — Most high school students dread the sound of the alarm clock every morning, and for three Bishop Dwenger students, that alarm comes earlier than most. Sophomores Erin Cinadr, Alec Lee and Tricia Wirth all wake up between 4:30 and 5 a.m. to prepare for the long drive they face each morning from their homes in Bryan, Ohio, to Fort Wayne's Bishop Dwenger High School, nearly 50 miles away.

So what drew the three to Bishop Dwenger, a school so far from home? Erin Cinadr explains all three went to a Catholic grade

school in Bryan, but it only offered classes through the eighth grade. As freshman year approached, both she and Wirth began to think more and more of continuing their Catholic education, but didn't know where to go. So the girls, along with their parents, began to explore options, which eventually led them to Bishop Dwenger. The more they looked into the school, the more the two families decided it was the right choice for them.

Bishop Dwenger opened its doors in 1963 as Fort Wayne's northside Catholic high school. There are currently 1,068 students enrolled in the preparatory

DWENGER, PAGE 14



PHOTO BY MARY KINDER

Alec Lee, Erin Cinadr and Tricia Wirth drive each day from Bryan, Ohio, to attend Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne.



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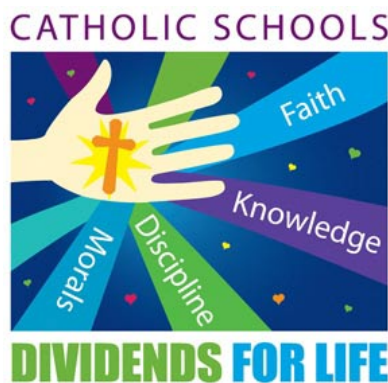
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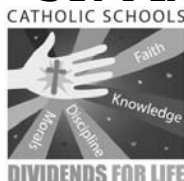
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Find out more about the Catholic Schools of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend visit

www.diocesefwsb.org

DWENGER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

school. Liz Delaney, communications associate for Bishop Dwenger, says the school's attendance is on the rise. "The students here are amazing. The school gives

them an environment where they can get involved and make good choices."

Lee wasn't exactly on board with the idea of attending a school outside of his hometown. His parents made the decision for him, especially after they heard other kids from Bryan would be attending Bishop Dwenger. He says that at first he didn't want to make the commute and really didn't want to

be a part of the school. That soon changed. He explains, "After I spent some time here I realized how much nicer it was than going to a public high school. I was accepted here whether I wanted to be or not. It's like a big family."

All three say that other students are certainly surprised to hear they travel over an hour each way to attend school, but they were easily welcomed into the tight-knit

Dwenger community. Wirth laughs, saying teachers are often just as surprised. "It's fun to see their reaction," she says, "Teachers want to make sure we enjoy being here, saying things like, 'you've come all this way.'" Lee also likes the teachers and believes they are really interested in seeing all the students succeed.

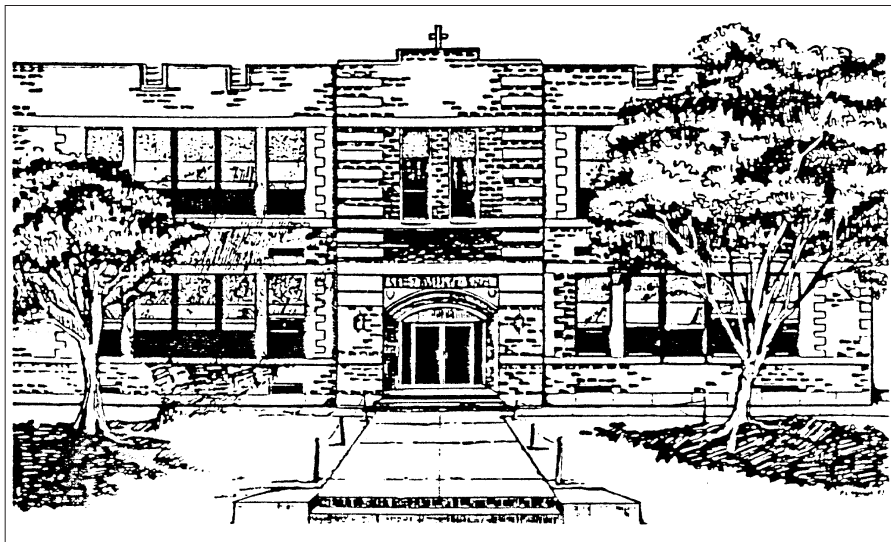
Cinadr, Lee and Wirth all try to make good use of their commute

time, doing homework or listening to music in the car, although they all admit to getting some extra sleep on the way in. They have formed an easy friendship and seem comfortable around one another, although Lee, who serves as the comedian of the group, says he's definitely the "odd man out."

Aside from the atmosphere at Bishop Dwenger, the three cited the opportunity to practice their

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faith at school as a main reason for choosing Dwenger. Cinadr seems to speak for the group when she says, "We're getting a better education plus we can grow stronger in our faith here."

Wirth is the youngest of her family so she will be the only one attending Bishop Dwenger, but both Lee and Cinadr have younger siblings who may soon join them.

Wirth explains that choosing to go to Bishop Dwenger takes a "big commitment" for them and their parents who do all the driving, but she believes it's the right choice for everyone involved. Cinadr and Lee quickly agree, describing their school as a great family — one they are very happy to be a part of, even if it means waking up extra early every day.



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January 31 - February 6, 2010

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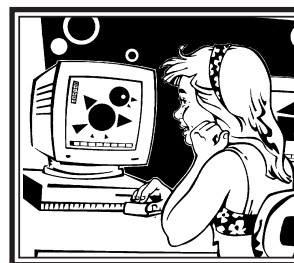


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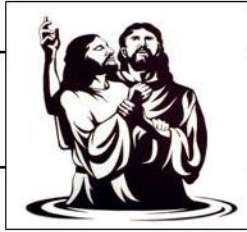


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Daycare initiative grows area parishes and schools

BY KAY COZAD

As the Hispanic population continues to grow in the U.S., statistics reveal that 70 percent of American Catholics under age 35 are Latino. Currently however, only 3 percent of these children hold seats within the Catholic school system nationwide.

As awareness of these statistics rises within the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, a new initiative has begun that will address the need to invite young Latino families to utilize the exemplary education that is offered by area Catholic schools.

Dr. Mark Myers, superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, reports that a daycare initiative in specific inner city areas of the diocese would provide

Latino and other families with the opportunity to place their children in quality Catholic daycare that would in turn feed into a Catholic school education. Applications would be made available to the daycare students as they approach kindergarten.

"We can catechize the young and get them into the schools," Myers said, adding, "It's a great opportunity to reestablish the inner city parish as a place where the immigrant can find ministry and hope."

These daycares, that would offer a clean, wholesome place for children to learn and play, staffed by qualified licensed teachers and aids, would not only assist young families who have both parents in the workforce, but might attract these families back into the parishes as well.

Clem Wroblewski, principal of Our Lady of Hungary School in

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South Bend is encouraged by this initiative. He reports that after attending a conference in Indianapolis in October of last year, his school has begun the process of applying for state licensing for an on-campus daycare. The four-to-five month process, he said, requires filing a lengthy application with the state and on campus inspections by the Board of Health, the Fire Marshall and others to insure a safe environment for the young children.

Wroblewski is confident Our Lady of Hungary will pass all inspections and cites February as the projected start date. He reports the school's current kindergarten teacher holds an early childhood development license and has applied for state licensing to head the daycare. Five of the six teachers employed

at Our Lady of Hungary are now students themselves in a Spanish-speaking class in an effort to better communicate with the parents and children expected at the daycare.

The daycare will be open to 4 and 5 year olds and run according to the dates of the school calendar. Once the daycare is state licensed federal funding will be available for qualifying middle to low income families. And that funding will in turn supply the school.

Our Lady of Hungary Parish is currently an old parish, said Wroblewski. "The daycare may help the influx of youth for the parish," he said, adding, "I think this is an excellent opportunity for the school to remain open with the influx of children and government money." This initiative and the Spanish Masses

"We can catechize the young and get them into the schools."

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offered currently as well as other Spanish speaking events are fodder for growth there. By serving the Latino population and others in need, the school will benefit by receiving renewing federal funds.

Wroblewski reports that information material about the impending daycare has been translated into Spanish and disseminated monthly after the

Spanish Masses. The school will soon boast a banner designed in both English and Spanish promoting the new government funded daycare as well.

Superintendent Myers hopes to encourage other schools in the diocese to look at their current facilities "differently" as to optimal use. In the Fort Wayne area, Bishop Luers High School is in

the preliminary stages of investigating costs to renovate the former friary for use as a daycare.

This Catholic Schools Office initiative has the potential of not only providing quality daycare to low income families, but the opportunity for continuing quality Catholic education as well as reestablishing the heart some inner city parishes as well.

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EDITORIAL

Catholic Schools, Dividends for Life

Every year, at the end of January, Catholic schools across the nation and those in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend celebrate Catholic Schools Week. This Sunday marks the beginning of the celebration. The theme of this year's Catholic Schools Week is "Dividends for Life."

Perhaps your parish school is celebrating with an open house, a festival, pizza night or special activities each day. All parishioners are encouraged to take time to explore what their parish or nearby Catholic school offers and to share that news with others. The sharing of this good news is evangelization.

Involvement by the entire community — both within the parish and even outside the community — is necessary to maintain the financial stability and vitality of the Catholic schools. And Catholic schools today require time, talent and treasure of many to succeed. Volunteers, who offer their time in the classroom or at special school events, are always necessary. Grants, parish collections, donations, fundraisers, as well as planned giving such as endowments, including the school in your will, are fast becoming parish financial strategies to help with tuition assistance or other school finances.

What makes Catholic schools different than public schools? Looking at the Catholic Schools Week logo, a cross is superimposed on an outstretched hand. Rays radiating from behind the hand express the concepts of faith, knowledge, morals and discipline — all beneficial aspects of a Catholic education.

In Catholic schools, students will meet Christ — not just in their studies and catechesis — but in the sacraments: Confession, the Eucharist — and in the preparation and formation to receive the sacraments such as Confirmation. They also meet Christ in the service projects, often an integral part of Catholic schools. This eight- or 12-year formation does not end upon graduation, but enhances what is taught in the home and sets the path for a lifetime journey with Christ through the Church.

According to Karen Ristau, president of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), "Catholic schools provide good things for students and families — high expectations and the daily experience of faith. In these challenging times, the theme also reminds parents that the dividends of a Catholic school education — students prepared in faith, knowledge, morals and discipline — last a lifetime. There is no better way to invest in a child's future — or the future of our world."

And Marie Powell, executive director of the Secretariat of Catholic Education of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) noted: "We realize that in most parts of the country a Catholic education is not without some cost. But I can't think of a better investment in the future than to invest in the education of a child."

Looking at high schools, in Allen County, three secondary schools are rated exemplary by the state, and two of the three are the two Catholic high schools in the county: Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Luers.

Making an impact

Nearly 400,000 people took part in the 37th annual national March For Life in Washington, D.C., Jan. 22, including a large contingency from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. Both Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and Bishop John M. D'Arcy attended the march during which Bishop D'Arcy was invited to lead the opening prayer.

The latest polls indicate some positives for the pro-life movement. Recent Gallup poll results show 51 percent of Americans to be pro-life on the abortion issue. A poll by the Knights of Columbus and Marists show a strong majority of Americans believe abortion to be morally wrong, including nearly six in 10 of young adults. The tide is turning, but we must continue to confront and challenge the forces of evil in the culture of death. Bishop Rhoades assured the diocesan contingency at St. Ann Church in Arlington, Va., Jan. 23 that "our strongest weapon in this battle for life is prayer."

Today's Catholic editorial board is Kay Cozad, Fred and Lisa Everett, Father Mark Gurtner, Msgr. 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

Medicine and the true cost of denial

Back in the early 1800s, most practicing physicians refused to believe that the simple gesture of washing their hands between patients could help prevent the spread of childbed fever among the pregnant women they examined. Even in the face of compelling scientific evidence, they remained stubbornly opposed to the practice. As a result of this intransigence on the part of the medical establishment over a period of many years, childbed fever (also known as puerperal infection) ended up unnecessarily claiming the lives of thousands of young women.

Today, a similar intransigence exists among many physicians who refuse to "wash their hands" of abortion; they also fail to acknowledge a key and dangerous effect of abortion on women's health, namely, an increased risk of breast cancer. Abortion of a woman's first pregnancy has been shown to correlate with an elevated incidence of breast cancer.

Yet the medical community, by fostering the practice of abortion, has stubbornly ignored this link, refusing to inform women about this serious health risk, even in the face of compelling scientific evidence. This long-running intransigence means that women today, not unlike the 1800s, continue to die unnecessarily.

In the 1840s, when Dr. Ignaz Semmelweis began requiring that physicians and medical students wash their hands before examining women or delivering their babies, the mortality rate dropped from 18 percent to 1.3 percent in the maternity ward in the hospital in Vienna. Yet most of Dr. Semmelweis' coworkers thought hand washing was a waste of time, and refused to comply or acknowledge its importance until several more decades had passed.

Meanwhile, year after year, he continued to provide statistical evidence that hand washing saved lives, and, year after year, he was criticized in scientific journals, and ridiculed by leading physi-

cians throughout Europe. Semmelweis was eventually fired from his job at the hospital because of his insistence on hand washing.

Those who were supposed to be dedicated to saving lives in the medical establishment of the early 1800s were instead more concerned about political correctness and committed to preserving their own entrenched academic interests. Best medical practice became subordinated to other pressures and misguided beliefs.

Today's medical establishment faces a similar temptation of placing various irrational ideologies ahead of a patient's best interests. As modern medicine subtly morphs into a schizophrenic discipline that at times works to save young human patients in the womb, but at other times works to harm that same patient population through abortion, it becomes but a

short next step to downplay or ignore the harmful effects that abortion has on women, as in the case of the abortion-breast cancer link.

More than 28 different studies over a period of 45 years have shown abortion to be a significant risk factor for breast cancer.

More than 28 different studies over a period of 45 years have shown abortion to be a significant risk factor for breast cancer. Not only has the epidemiological evidence been abundant to

implicate abortion in this way, but it has also been shown that child-bearing to full term for a woman's first pregnancy, especially at an early age, affords a significant protective effect against breast cancer.

A number of scientists and physicians (especially those with connections to the abortion industry) have been quick to suggest that these research results were "inconsistent" and that they could not really arrive at "definitive conclusions." As a result, young women today rarely receive sound medical information about these risks from their healthcare providers.

Abortion is aggressively marketed as a "woman's right" and has become one of the most common and lucrative surgical proce-



MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

dures today. So many within the medical establishment, including various professional associations like the American Medical Association, seem to shy away from serious discussions of abortion's health risks.

A few years ago, George Lundberg, M.D., former editor of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, noted during an interview with *Health Affairs* magazine how certain topics like abortion and tobacco were "sensitive issues" that had been on the American Medical Association's "don't touch" list for many years.

The danger of breast cancer from induced abortion constitutes a serious health risk that women deserve to be fully and properly informed about, and the ethical failure on the part of the medical establishment and by various cancer watchdog groups in this regard is noteworthy and troubling. Until the practice of modern medicine once again includes a repudiation of direct abortion as part of its professional creed in the way it once did when physicians took the Hippocratic Oath, little progress will be made in addressing a number of serious women's health issues linked to abortion, including breast cancer.

Modern medicine still desperately needs to break free from its steadfast denial and to wash its hands of the unsavory and immoral practice of abortion if it ever hopes to minister in a fully responsible way to the health needs of pregnant women and their children.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, Mass., and serves as the director of education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia.

Christians in Mideast battle tough choices amid violence

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A recent preparatory document for an October Synod of Bishops for the Middle East made a forceful appeal to the Christian minority there to resist emigration and to openly give witness to the Gospel values of hope, joy, justice and forgiveness in their native communities.

But like most commandments — that's easier said than done.

The synod outline said a strong faith would provide the courage for enduring the violence, persecution, prejudice and poverty that Christians in the Middle East often face today.

It's a drama that has already changed the Christian landscape in the region, according to church experts.

"To stay today in Iraq, you need to have a very profound conviction of the value of your faith" and a strong sense that the

Christian presence is important for the country, said Father Leon Lemmens, secretary-general of the Vatican coordinating body of church funding agencies for Eastern Catholic churches, known by its Italian acronym, ROACO.

Msgr. Robert L. Stern, secretary-general of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, said that when Christians feel threatened or that they don't belong, "you need a heroic sense of commitment on that occasion to say, 'I'm going to stay and I'm going to give witness.'"

The two priests spoke to Catholic News Service Jan. 20 during a break in a ROACO assembly at the Vatican.

Father Lemmens said he was amazed by the resolute dedication of the Christian leaders he met during a mid-November visit to Arbil in northern Iraq.

"We all know it's not an easy

THE VATICAN LETTER

CAROL GLATZ

choice, it's a risky choice" since people are keenly aware that priests and bishops have been threatened, kidnapped or killed because they were Christian, he said.

The targeted killings and abductions have forced many priests to flee Iraq, resulting in a critical shortage, he said. For example, he said, it's estimated that there are only about 14 priests

LETTER, PAGE 20

Jesus is the ultimate truth



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Lk 4:21-30

The Book of Jeremiah is the source of this weekend's first reading. Regarded as one of the major Hebrew prophets because of the extent of his recorded writings, and the brilliance with which he wrote, Jeremiah descended from priests. He was from a small village, Anathoth, only a few miles away from Jerusalem.

As was usual for prophets, Jeremiah was not universally popular, to say the least, among his contemporaries. His prophecies drew sharp rebukes. Critics accused him of blasphemy, a crime that had death as its punishment in the Hebrew code of law. (It was this statute that centuries later led to some of the demands for the crucifixion of Jesus.)

Despite the rejections and denunciations based on falsehoods, Jeremiah never paused in his prophetic mission of insisting upon faithfulness to God and of demanding loyalty to God as a personal, and national, imperative. Furthermore, despite all the criticisms, he never doubted that he was on a mission from God.

When God called Jeremiah to the mission of prophets, during the reign of King Josiah, who ruled the Kingdom of Judah from 640 to 609 B.C., God told Jeremiah to be

prepared for harsh responses to Jeremiah's prophesying.

As its second reading for this weekend, the Church offers us a passage from the First Epistle to the Corinthians. It is one of the loveliest, and best known, sections of the entire corpus of Pauline literature. It is the beautiful explanation of love.

Few better definitions of love, this ability unique to humans in nature, exist. It is clear and straightforward. It is greatly inspiring.

Paul then reveals what happens when a person embraces the Gospel. Imperfections fade away. Knowledge increases. Maturity is reached. The insecurities and smallness of youth pass.

St. Luke's Gospel is the source of the last reading. Jesus, as the story clearly states, appears in the synagogue in Nazareth. In earlier verses, not part of this weekend's reading, Jesus stands to read a section of the Book of Isaiah. In this section, Isaiah recalled his own calling to be a prophet. Isaiah gave details as to what this calling meant. It meant that he was God's spokesman, sent by God to bring liberty to the oppressed, hope to the poor and sight to the blind.

Then, continuing, in the passage read this weekend, Jesus declares that this prophecy has now been fulfilled. In other words, Jesus is the long awaited spokesman of God.

At first, the audience is impressed. But then Jesus recalled an incident, mentioned in the Old Testament, in which God showed mercy upon gentiles.

This mention of divine favor for anyone outside the Chosen People infuriated the audience in the synagogue so much that they tried to murder Jesus. He, of course, escaped.

Reflection

The readings very much put us, as humans, in our place. It is a place that we do not readily acknowledge. It is a realization that we are quite limited, as a human race, and as individual humans, in our ability to perceive and to judge. Thus it was with the contemporaries of Jeremiah. Thus it was with the persons whom Jesus offended in the synagogue.

The mysteries revealed in the liturgies of Christmas, the Epiphany and the Lord's Baptism say quite directly that God has not left us to our doom. He has supplied what we lack because of our limitation. He has given us strength, through grace, and the truth, revealed ultimately in Christ Jesus.

As the Gospel makes clear, no one is beyond God's mercy. But, we must do our part in receiving this mercy. We must love others, with the pure love as pure described by St. Paul. First, however, we must face the fact that we need God.

READINGS

Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19 Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17 1 Cor 12:31-13 Lk 4:21-30

Monday: 2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13 Ps 3:2-7 Mk 5:1-20

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

Wednesday: 2 Sm 24:2, 9-17 Ps 32:1-2, 5-7 Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: 1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12 (Ps) 1 Chr 29:10-12 Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Sir 47:2-11 Ps 18:31, 47, 50-51 Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: 1 Kgs 3:4-13 Ps 119:9-14 Mk 6:30-34

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

In January, we remember St. Anthony the abbot. He is often depicted with pigs, so this quiz takes a walk on the swine side.

1. This fruit is often served in a pig's mouth and in art is shown as the downfall of Adam and Eve but is not actually mentioned as the "fruit" of the tree in Genesis:

- a. Apple b. Avocado c. Pomegranate

2. In 1998, Pope John Paul II visited this communist nation which has a famous Bay of Pigs:

- a. North Korea b. Vietnam c. Cuba

3. Jews were forbidden to eat pigs. What characteristics made pigs unclean according to Deuteronomy?

- a. It had hooves and was cloven-footed, but does not chew the cud.
b. It had no horns, but chewed the cud.
c. It had hooves but no tail.

4. Isaiah 66:17 criticizes unworthy sacrifices, comparing this to "offering swine's blood":

- a. Slaughtering an ox b. Sacrificing a lamb
c. Bringing a cereal offering

5. This famous son envied the pig's food and hoped to be offered some:

- a. The Son of Man b. The Prodigal Son c. The Son of Sings

6. Jesus encountered swine in the land of the Gadarenes. What one fact do we know about the locals since they made a living herding pigs?

- a. They were non-Jews. b. They were Greeks.
c. They were rich as they brought home the bacon.

7. What did Jesus do with the pigs?

- a. He barbecued them. b. He sent them to market.
c. He sent demons into them.

8. In Mark's slightly different version, what was the collective name for these (answer to 7 above)?

- a. Porky and Company b. Legion c. Kipperbang

9. Proverbs tells us that a beautiful woman with a rebellious disposition is like:

- a. A golden ring in a swine's snout
b. A guy who makes a pig of himself on beer
c. A pig with a mop on her head

10. In Matthew's Gospel, Jesus advises people not to do this:

- a. Give what is holy to pigs b. Throw pearls before swine
c. Make pork burritos for Jews

11. In 1 Maccabees King Antiochus did this with a pig:

- a. Had it cooked for the Jews as a mocking meal
b. Had it killed to show his favor of the law
c. Had it sacrificed in the Temple to show his contempt for Judaism

12. Albert Pigge was a Catholic writer who in the 16th century proposed this theory:

- a. Papal infallibility b. The divine right of kings
c. The right of Henry VII to be head of the Catholic Church

13. Benedictines following the earliest version of the rule did not eat pork. Why not?

- a. Out of deference to the Jewish ancestors of the Christians
b. Because all meat was initially banned
c. Because the pigs were too valuable to eat

14. In the movie, "The Name of the Rose," why are the monks not concerned with the slaughter of pigs?

- a. They were still vegetarian.
b. They knew the pigs were not Catholics.
c. They had servants who did most menial tasks for them.

15. And how did St. Anthony end up as patron of pig herders?

- a. Anthony's family name Porsius was mistranslated as Porcius.
b. Anthony's monasteries opened the first chariot drive through barbecue restaurants in 678.
c. He cured skin diseases and was depicted with pigs as pig fat was often used for that too.

ANSWERS:

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

Time to start savoring the time we have

It begins at an early age, quite possibly on a family vacation in which an automobile is the mode of transportation.

An hour slips by, two hours, three. ... Okay, now the novelty of this exciting family excursion gives way to the desire to arrive at the destination.

"Are we there yet? How much longer? I can't wait until ..."

Isn't that the mantra of most Americans? I can't wait until ... We just can't wait. Of course, we can and we do wait. But we claim we can't wait until a certain amount of time has passed before we get to the good stuff, the real fun in life.

We can't wait until the semester is over to get to Christmas vacation. We can't wait until we graduate from high school so we can go to college. We can't wait to graduate from college so we can earn some money. We can't wait until 5 p.m. Friday so we can enjoy the weekend.

In other words, we spend a good portion of our lives wishing time away.

Think about that. We ride the roller coaster of life, measuring discomfort and pleasure based upon the comparative fun/drudgery of each of life's events. Mondays are bad; Saturdays are good. Mondays can wait; Saturdays can't.

Now this is completely natural and normal. We've all probably done it to some extent, some more than others. It's natural to look forward to the more enjoyable things in life.

But as I grow older, I find myself doing this less and less, or at least trying to do this less and less. I don't want to wish away January and February, even though northern Indiana weather the first two months of the year can be uncomfortable. The snow is beautiful. I love building fires in the fireplace. I don't care for sliding into a ditch with my car, but if I



TIM PRISTER

FROM THE SIDELINES

slow down, it's less likely to happen.

When your child is an infant and is waking up for a 3 a.m. feeding, you can't wait until he's older so he will sleep through the night. The next thing you know, you're dropping him off for the start of first grade. Then he's learning how to drive.

When my son was young and I was coaching him in baseball, I couldn't wait until he was older because the older he got, the better he played. So the passing of time was a good thing.

Then one day, he came to bat in the sectional championship game of his senior year, and as I stood in the third base coach's box, it hit me. Here I was wishing for time to pass in his baseball playing days, and now, trailing six runs in the last inning — unless he was about to hit a six-run homer — my son was coming to bat for me for the last time.

Suddenly, I could wait, and I asked the umpire for time so I could savor the moment with my son just a little longer.

Now, he's a junior at Notre Dame. He will spend this semester in Athens, Greece. He is thrilled about spending five months abroad. He's already been to Dublin and London. He will spend Easter in Rome. My wife and I are thrilled for him, and thankful to God for our many blessings.

Now here I am again, selfishly wishing away time. We can communicate with him. We can check on him frequently, and he'll contact us. We want the best for him and that's where he wants to be.

But as I write this, I know he won't be returning home for another 130 days. Not that I'm counting or anything.

We need to fight the temptation to wish away time because after all, our time on this earth is always running out. Wouldn't it make more sense if we experienced our time on this earth instead of enduring it?

Everyone needs to take a break from the more strenuous times. But wouldn't it be better if we rode through life's ups and downs and enjoyed the ride instead of wishing it away?

If every day were a holiday, those free times wouldn't be nearly as enjoyable. We would take them for granted. Hectic can be good, too. It means we are alive, that we're needed, that our actions as they pertain to the people we interact with carry some importance.

Besides, after this life, we will have all kinds of time, and if we play our cards right now, it will be the most enjoyable time imaginable. We will have an eternity without Mondays or Saturdays. There will be no days or time or any kind of demarcation from one moment to the next. Time will disappear.

In fact, time disappears all too quickly on earth as it is, even when we're not wishing it away. Why speed up the process?

So I will try to avoid looking at the calendar every day, counting the days until my son returns home. I will try to live that day to the fullest, rolling with the punches and taking the time to step back, express thanks for my blessings, and then move on to the next moment in time.

You want to save time? Try savoring it.

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

THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

was destroyed by the Persian (Iranian) rampage of 614. After that the patriarch Sophronius built a small chapel around 638.

Now there is a new basilica dedicated in 1900. This church is part of the complex of the famous French biblical and archaeological school.

Father Richard Hire, pastor of St. Martin de Porres Parish, Syracuse answered this question.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for January 31, 2010

Luke 4:21-30

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle C: when Jesus' hometown turned on him. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SCRIPTURES	FULFILLED	WORDS
JOSEPH	QUOTE	PROVERB
PHYSICIAN	I TELL YOU	WIDOWS
THE DAYS	EILJAH	YEARS
FAMINE	ZAREPHATH	SIDON
LEPERS	ELISHA	ROSE UP
HILL	HEAD LONG	WENT AWAY

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

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People of Antioch were first 'Christians'

How did a Christian community form at Antioch?

The early Christians fled from Jerusalem to Antioch in Syria because of the martyrdom of St. Stephen the deacon, the first Christian martyr.

In A.D. 34 or 35, St. Stephen was preaching about Jesus and showing that He was above the law of Moses and the temple at Jerusalem. Jews from Libya, Egypt and Turkey heard Stephen's discourse at Jerusalem and reported him to the Jewish council called the Sanhedrin.

As Stephen was speaking, the crowd rushed at him, dragged him out of the city of Jerusalem and stoned him to death. As Stephen was dying, he asked Jesus to forgive his killers.

Jesus did the same thing on the cross, saying "Father, forgive them,

for they know not what they do."

St. Stephen's feast day is Dec. 26 right after the birth of Jesus on Dec. 25, since he was the first person to give up his life for Christ.

Baedeker says in Jerusalem you can see St. Stephen's Gate where Christian tradition says St. Stephen suffered his martyrdom. It is also called the Lions' Gate, because of the reliefs of lions on the exterior. It is also called the Gate of the Virgin Mary, because it is near the Church of St. Anne where the Blessed Virgin Mary is said to have been born.

Also in Jerusalem is St. Stephen's Church. Father Jerome Murphy-O'Connor says a church was built here by the patriarch Juvenal. St. Cyril of Alexandria brought the relics of St. Stephen to this church in A.D. 439. In A.D. 516, 10,000 monks lived here in a large complex. This monastery

LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 19

left to minister to perhaps 100,000 Christians in Baghdad.

"This is discouraging also to Christians; they say, 'The pastor has fled, why should the flock stay?'" he said. Local bishops need to be very close to their priests, encouraging them to stay and bringing them together as a family, he said.

So many Christians in the Middle East "are very often struggling alone and it should not be," he said. While many require material assistance, they also really need spiritual support through prayer and receiving letters, phone calls and visits from Christians from around the world, he added.

Father Lemmens said Christians in the Middle East are accomplishing "an important, difficult mission." The Middle East is the cradle of Christianity, Judaism and Islam, and it's critical that Christians continue to be present in order to witness the Gospel, showing compassion for the poor and dedication to justice, reconciliation and peace, he said.

An active Christian presence in the Middle East can also help reverse the prejudice against or misinformation about the Catholic faith, he said. It's better that Muslims "really know Christians

in a concrete way" and not through some distorted image given by the media, he said.

But more importantly, if Christians and Muslims can live together in the Middle East, then it shows the rest of the world that they can live together peacefully in Europe, the Americas and Asia, he said.

"Living together with people who are very different is part of globalization," and part of the way the future of the world is heading, said Father Lemmens. Peace is not achieved with ethnic cleansing or forcing parts of a community to leave, he said.

While strengthening Christian communities in the Middle East must be the church's first priority, Msgr. Stern said there comes a point in some situations when it must be decided what is more important: the people or the place they live.

"Because if you are concerned about the people you want to make life as good as possible for them where they are," he said. But if people feel they must leave and there is no alternative, "then perhaps you assist them to migrate," he said.

Even though the Holy Land and holy sites are "a very precious part of the world for us," Christians are "not as land-bound as the Muslims and the Jews," he said, because Christianity is called to be universal and to exist anywhere and everywhere.

Sports

USF STUDENT-ATHLETES EXTEND CLASSROOM SUCCESS University of Saint Francis varsity student-athletes have exceeded a B average for the fifth consecutive semester. The final grade point average for all varsity student-athletes at USF for the fall 2009 semester was 3.07 (on a 4.0 scale). Women's volleyball led the way, achieving a 3.66 average. They were followed by women's soccer (3.48) and tennis (3.41). The men were led by the USF golf team, at 3.27. The most remarkable fact is that all of these sports were in season during the fall semester.

St. Matthew, Holy Family take junior varsity, fifth-grade volleyball championships

BY CHUCK FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — St. Matthew's sixth-grade volleyball coach Kathy Martens knows there's no substitute for hard work. The lesson has apparently been passed on to her players as well.

"Hard work and willingness to play as a team really paid off," stated Martens, after her squad prevailed over Corpus Christi in a thrilling championship match, 25-24, 25-20.

"I don't feel that there was a big difference between the Corpus team and us because all of the Corpus Christi teams that we played were great players and had great sportsmanship. They were a great pleasure to play against."

The Blazers had a number of close calls during the season, but remained unscathed with a perfect 14-0 mark. That included a narrow three-game win over another Corpus Christi squad in the semifinals. That set the stage for the showdown with Colleen Kendzicky's Cougars in the championship.

St. Matthew looked poised to roll to a win in the first game, but Corpus Christi posted six straight points to tie the match at 24, before the Blazers held on for the winning point.

"I was pretty nervous when Corpus made the comeback but never stopped believing in the girls and their efforts to win that match," said Martens. "We had a couple key plays and some very aggressive front row playing by Brittany Martens and Megan Bonk."

Sue Wilson's St. Thomas Spartans knocked off Lynn Urban's Corpus Christi team, 25-15, 25-22 to garner third place honors.



PROVIDED BY ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL

The St. Matthew Blazers recently won the sixth-grade ICCL Volleyball Championship. Team members are, front row: No. 7 Maiah Williams, No. 14 Theresa Rice, No. 17 Brittany Martens, No. 12 Erika Wright, No. 16 Kristin Guzicki; back row, Kathy Martens, No. 10 Alexis Andreson, No. 26 Megan Bonk, No. 27 Maggie Libbey, No. 28 Abbey Tragesser, No. 9 Ali Frick and Kerry Bonk.

Fifth grade

One of the great aspects of the post-season tournament is it rewards team who improve over the course of the year. That's why Holy Family earned the top prize at the fifth-grade level.

Bridget Jankowski's team started the season 1-2, but won seven straight to emerge as league champions with a 25-20, 17-25, 15-8 triumph over Christ the King in the tourney clincher.

"The girls had excellent attitudes and an excellent philosophy of teamwork," explained Jankowski. "Everyone was positive and confident all season."

They needed that confidence in dealing with Christ the King. In fact, the Trojans had to beat all three of the Christ the King fifth-

grade squads to win the tournament. JoAnne Hartman's Kings represented well in the championship match, using good serving and passing to force the third game.

Throughout the season, though, players such as Samantha Jankowski, Sydney Swartz and Mercedes Cruz came up with big serving efforts for Holy Family. That proved to be critical in the championship match.

"In the end, I think our overhand serving was dominant," said Jankowski of why her Trojans prevailed. "It's something teams don't see a lot. We work a lot on it."

Jenny Hunsberger's St. Bavo Panthers claimed third place in the tourney with a 25-20, 25-21 win over another Christ the King team.

Harding on Jan. 22.

• A McTeacher night to benefit Shelby Gruss will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 2, from 5-8 p.m. at the McDonald's at 202 E. Rudisill. A portion of the proceeds will benefit Gruss.

For further information contact Lona or John Pritchard at (260) 466-6270 and visit www.bishopluers.org/athletics for upcoming events benefiting Gruss.

Donations, payable to the Shelby Gruss Trust, may be dropped off at the Bishop Luers High School office or mailed to Bishop Luers High School, 333 E. Paulding Rd., Fort Wayne, IN 46816. An account is being made available at Chase Bank where future donations can be made at any location. Other events that benefit Gruss are:

• "Pray for Shelby" bracelets were sold by the girls basketball team at the home game vs.

St. Charles Cardinals set goal to improve each week

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In his 15th season, Coach Rick Donovan and the Cardinals from St. Charles have a 3-2 record in the Catholic Youth League (CYO) Gold League so far for the 2009-2010 season.

The Cardinals have beaten St. Joseph-Decatur, Queen of Angels and St. John-Fort Wayne. They opened the year with a loss to St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth and were downed by St. Vincent, 29-22, on Saturday, Jan. 23, in a classic rival match up at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel. Trailing 7-23 at the half, the Cardinals limited the mistakes that plagued them in the first half to rally back, but it was not quite enough.

Donovan explained, "It was just too big of a hole against a tough team."

Coach Donovan lists 10 young men on his roster, is assisted by Scott Pearson and Dan McLellan and enlists Colin Bundy as team manager. In an attempt to achieve their goal of

improving each week, St. Charles has scheduled a challenging schedule outside the CYO.

"We stress fundamentals and defense in practice and have come to rely on our defensive effort to carry us through games when we don't shoot the ball well," added Donovan.

At points during the season, Donovan admits his team has struggled on the offensive end, but feels

their scoring has improved over the past few weeks. Donovan was especially pleased with the Cardinals' performance over St. John-Fort Wayne when he had production from all 10 players at both ends of the floor. "We shot the ball well," concluded Donovan.

An attorney by day, Donovan feels fortunate to have the time to give back to the CYO league that he grew up playing in. The Cardinal alum and Bishop Dwenger graduate went on to play at the college level at Butler University. Donovan summed up, "The CYO gives kids a great opportunity to learn the game of basketball."



CURRENT CYO BASKETBALL STATISTICS

Boys

St. Vincent 38-St. Charles 27 (Pearson 9, Watercutter 12)

St. Therese 29-Most Precious Blood 18 (Gardner 16, Greenly 10)

St. John, New Haven 33-St. Louis/St. Rose 16 (Hoffer 18, Castleman 7)

St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel 36-St. Aloysius 29 (Thiele 14, Scott 14)

St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth 38-Decatur 27 (Schulthies 10, Eccsworth 9)

Girls

St. Vincent 38-St. Charles 27 (Butler 14, T. Sordelet 9)

St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel 54-Huntington 11 (Beckman 12, Olivia 5)

St. John, New Haven 32-St. John Fort Wayne 30 (Fox 11, Whitman 14)

St. Therese 38-Most Precious Blood 10 (North 14, Lawyer 4)

St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel 45-Most Precious Blood 10 (Tobe 9, Erin 6)

St. Aloysius 28-Huntington 27 (Krieder 12, Mourey 10)

Bishop Luers High School supports accident victim

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School is currently taking donations to assist senior Shelby Gruss, and her family, with financial needs resulting from her involvement in a serious accident. Gruss is a member of the girls basketball team and has been involved in softball, track, student ambassador and Key Club.

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St. Adalbert hosts successful monthly parent night discussions

BY LISA KOCHANOWSKI

SOUTH BEND — St. Adalbert School is taking an active approach to bringing parents into the school by hosting monthly parent meetings that provide dinner, child care and instruction free to school families. On the third Wednesday of each month families are invited to share dinner together and then let their children stay in the child care area while parents enjoy meetings on a variety of different topics.

“As part of the Notre Dame Magnificat Schools initiative, we want to get the parents more involved with the school,” said Jennifer Dees, who works with the Alliance for Catholic Education’s (ACE) Notre Dame Magnificat School’s program at the University of Notre Dame.

The initial half hour of each of these evenings is devoted to meeting with the Home and School Association (HASA) to discuss events at the school, areas of vol-

unteer needs and ways parents can get involved with HASA.

“We had very little parent participation with HASA; we find it gets smaller attendance as the school year progresses,” said Laurie Tomaszewski the HASA co-president and mother of a sixth grader. “We are finding the numbers to be steadier with this program.”

St. Adalbert Principal Marianne Bachman adds, “When I came to this school I was saddened at the lack of parent involvement with HASA. I have seen this option to help out a great deal with involvement.”

In November parents were divided into grade levels and given information and aids on ways of helping their child become a successful student. The January presentation offered representatives from the library, who explained the library system, discussed free programs at the library and offered a chance to sign up for a library card if needed. In February, families will have the



LISA KOCHANOWSKI

Pictured are parents at St. Adalbert’s November parent night group discussion in South Bend listening to a speaker discuss curriculum guidelines and ways to help their children learn.

chance to work with tax professionals on tax preparation.

“We talked about what they (the children) were doing in the classroom and what we should be doing with the kids at home,” said parent Timothy Hudak about his first meeting. “Reading to the kids as early as possible is so important. We talked about math tracks and the importance of using idle time to work with your kids.”

Hudak is not only a parent but St. Adalbert alum and works in the maintenance department. He feels this program is a great way to bring parents to the school and brings the community together as

a whole. “I’m a firm believer that being involved in a child’s education is important. These children need to feel connected to the school. Teachers aren’t just teachers, but part of the community and family.”

Teacher Jenni Crain said that at the end of the evening they pass out age-appropriate goodie bags to the children that contain a variety of different things. Parent-teacher conferences were held a week after this meeting and Crain enjoyed the chance to tell parents at their conferences that if a child was struggling with vocabulary that all they had to do was take out the flash cards the kids got at the parent meeting and practice those every night.

“A lot of classroom influence came with the topics discussed” at the November meeting said Crain. “It was neat to see a lot of new families and not just the usual suspects.”

Jennifer Pensado, the after-school care coordinator and mother of a fourth grader, was very impressed with the turnout and the project. “It’s important for children to see their parents be involved with the school. I think it’s the best thing I can do for my kids.”

“For me, once a month to go to school to find out what’s going on is the least I can do,” said Tomaszewski. “One day a month is very simple to make.”

“Any way we can help parents be more successful at their job then I think we should do that,” said Dees.

“Before we got started we had a meeting with Marianne Bachman, the principal, and brainstormed a bunch of topics that we wanted to talk about. We talked about resources in the area that we could use,” said Dees. “The neat thing is we had so many great ideas.”

Dees said future topics include computer/internet safety, tax help and nutrition.

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

DEVOTIONS

First Saturday devotions of reparation
Devotions will be held at these locations: in Fort Wayne, St. Joseph, 7:15 a.m.; St. Charles, 8 a.m.; Sacred Heart, 7:30 a.m.; in Arcola at St. Patrick 7:15 am; in Garrett at St. Joseph, 9 a.m.; in New Haven, St. Louis Besancon, 8:10 a.m.; St. John, 6:55 a.m.; in Warsaw, Sacred Heart, 8 a.m.; in North Manchester, St. Robert, 8 a.m. Call (260) 749-9396 to have your listing added or changed.

All family rosary
Fort Wayne — The all family rosary will be recited on the last Sunday of the month, Jan. 31, at St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel from 3:30-4:30 p.m. The intention is for all families.

Little Flower Holy Hour
Fort Wayne — Father Adam Schmitt will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at St. Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel on Tuesday, Feb. 2, at 7 p.m. to pray for priests and vocations. Father Schmitt is retired and resides at St. Joseph Church in Fort Wayne.

Plan to attend Mass for fallen-away Catholics
Fort Wayne — Family and friends who know Catholics who have fallen away from the faith are invited to join others at St. Jude Parish Saturday, Jan. 30, for Mass at 8:15 a.m. then coffee, doughnuts, prayer and an open discussion. Call Angela Schade at (260) 482-3331 for information.

FUNDRAISERS

Pancake and sausage breakfast
Mishawaka — St. Joseph School will have a pancake and sausage breakfast Sunday, Feb. 14, from 8-11 a.m. in the school gym. Tickets are \$5 for adults, \$3 for children and children 5 and under are free. \$20 maximum charge per family. Tickets will be available at the school office, parish office or through any eighth-grade student. All proceeds benefit the eighth-grade class trip.

Knights plan fish fry
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on

Friday, Feb. 5, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under. Fish, two sides and beverage are included.

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

Broasted fish dinner
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 12379 will have a fish dinner Friday, Feb. 5, from 4-7 p.m. at St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel hall on U.S. Hwy. 27 S. Drive-through or carry-out only. Dinners are \$8.

Knights plan fish fries
Granger — The Knights Council 4263 will have a fish fry Friday, Feb. 5, from 4-7 p.m. in the St.

Pius X gymnasium. Adults \$7.50, children 6-11 \$3.50 and children under 6 free.

Fish and tenderloin by Country Chef
New Haven — A fish and tenderloin dinner will be Friday, Feb. 12, from 4-7 p.m. at St. Louis Besancon hall. Adults \$8, children 6-11 \$4.50 and children 5 and under free.

Spaghetti dinner
South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570, 5202 Linden Ave., will have a spaghetti dinner Thursday, Feb. 11, from 4-6 p.m. Adults \$7, children ages 5-12 \$2.50. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, bread, beverages and dessert.

Pancake breakfast hosted by Knights
Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 9460 will host a pancake and sausage breakfast Sunday, Jan. 31, at the St. Therese Parish Hall, from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. A freewill

REST IN PEACE

Bremen
Harlan Blossor, 65,
St. Dominic

Elkhart
Raymond J.
Zuchowski, 91,
St. Thomas the Apostle

Fort Wayne
Dorothy D.
Warnement, 87,
St. Therese

Phyllis A. Smith, 84,
St. Jude

Goshen
Laurance J. McAdam,
94, St. John the
Evangelist

Granger
Brent L. Geiger, 28,
St. Pius X

New Haven
Timothy Allen Tuttle,
53, St. John the Baptist

Carl E. Coble,
St. John the Baptist
Rose M. Somers, 83,
St. John the Baptist

Notre Dame
John L. Pajor, 87,
Sacred Heart Crypt

South Bend
Jane Slaby, 93,
St. Adalbert

Dorothy Koszyk, 78,
St. Adalbert

Warsaw
Ascencion Cervantes,
70, Our Lady of
Guadalupe

Sister Mary Magdalen,
87, Church of the
Immaculate
Conception, St. Mary-
of-the-Woods, Ind.
Sister served at Central
Catholic, Fort Wayne.

donation will be accepted.

Spaghetti supper helps Hannah's House
South Bend — A spaghetti supper to benefit Hannah's House will be held on Saturday, Feb. 13, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Council 553, 553 E. Washington St. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5.50 for children 5-12 and children under 5 free. A family package is available for two adults and two children for \$25. For information

contact Sister Agnes Marie Regan at (574) 259-5427.

Spaghetti dinner and silent auction benefits St. Monica
Mishawaka — St. Monica Parish will have a spaghetti dinner and silent auction Saturday, Jan. 30, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the school gym. Advance sale tickets are \$6 for adults, \$4 for K-8 and under 4 are free. Tickets at the door are \$1 more. Call (574) 255-0709 for tickets.

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MARCH

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

do something against it, like a statement of some sort, somehow," said Shakour. "There were so many people in the basketball arena ... all the bishops and priests."

The Verizon Center was nearly filled with young people from all over the country, along with several religious orders, seminarians, priests, bishops and cardinals. The seminarians especially received enthusiastic applause when they were introduced, as the youth seemed to relate to other young people answering God's call to religious life. Six Mishawaka Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration were counted among the many other young religious on hand. Retired Bishop John M. D'Arcy and Bishop Kevin Rhoades concelebrated Mass with Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl, of Washington, D.C., and other visiting clergy.

As the crowd spilled into the street after Mass, they gathered on the lawn of the National Mall where various speakers addressed the marchers before a send-off blessing was delivered by Bishop D'Arcy. Reflecting on the example of Our Lady, Bishop D'Arcy proceeded to lead the hundreds of thousands of pro-life supporters in praying the Hail Mary before joining the march himself.

Both Bishops Rhoades and D'Arcy walked back and forth among the marchers from Fort Wayne-South Bend. They met with young people eager to pose

for photos and engage in discussion about the pro-life issues.

"Everybody's got to have a voice," said Cody Sharp, a student at Ivy Tech in Fort Wayne and member of Queen of Angels Parish. "For those little ones who don't, someone has to speak up for them."

A large group from Fort Wayne, including students from Bishop Dwenger and Bishop Luers were represented. Alana Skwarcan, a junior at Marian High School in Mishawaka, was impressed with what she experienced during her first-ever March for Life.

"It's really intense, and a lot of fun," she said. "You meet a lot of people. It's just so cool because there are so many people getting together and making a big statement."

"It's really neat to see so many people willing to sacrifice so much to try to change people's views," added Rachel Staley, a junior at Saint Joseph's High School.

The enthusiasm was not lost on Bishop Rhoades, who has been to nearly every March for Life since it began in 1973.

"I think it's wonderful to see so many young people from our diocese, to come all the way from Indiana. ... I just think it's great. I'm very impressed," he smiled. "I've been meeting a lot of them, and getting photos with a lot of young people. And they're just a wonderful group. You can see their faith is strong, their commitment to the pro-life cause is very solid. It gives me great confidence for the future."

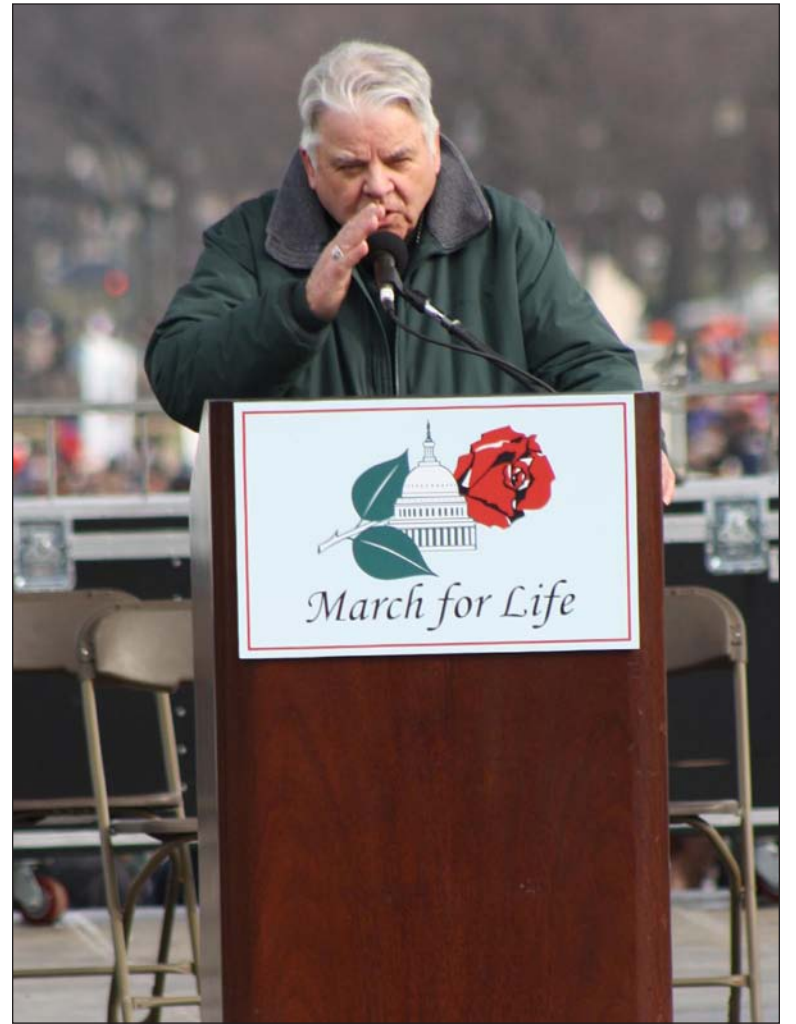
Kevin Strong of Sacred Heart Parish brought his two sons, sophomores at Warsaw High School.

"This is my first time here and I'm very impressed," said Strong. "It's very encouraging to see all these people here fighting for the unborn child. I think it shows our politicians in Congress our resolve, that this is a big issue in our minds, that we need to protect the innocent lives of the unborn."

About 400 students and faculty from the University of Notre Dame made the trip to Washington, D.C., this year. They were joined by university president, Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, making his first-ever appearance at the march. He invited Bishop Rhoades to meet with the group, and presented the bishop with an official Notre Dame Right to Life ski cap.

While the March for Life is not officially a Catholic event, the strong Catholic presence is undeniable. From Bishop D'Arcy's opening prayer to the last steps taken by pro-life marchers of all ages, many Catholics believe this kind of public witness only strengthens their faith.

"It was amazing," added Beth Bubik, a math teacher at Saint Joseph's High School and chaperone for the trip. "It's such an important cause to fight for, and to fight against abortion especially with the health care reform pending legislation. I also enjoyed walking with the bishops. I thought that was extremely special and how grateful we all should be to be walking down Constitution Avenue in Washington, D.C., with our bishops, and our seminarians and our priests, and just wonderful adults and kids. ... just like family, supporting each other. It was amazing to me! What a great witness for life."



PHOTOS BY DIANE FREEBY

Bishop D'Arcy offered the blessing before the 37th annual March for Life began in Washington, D.C. on Jan. 22.

HAITI

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Archbishop Kebreau.

"The church in the United States stands with you," he said.

"In our prayer, we recall that Jesus, too, wept before the tomb of one whom he loved," said the cardinal's message. "With you, we recall in trust that he is the resurrection and the life, offering himself to us and calling us to himself, even in our darkest hour."

"In the United States, our televisions, computers and newspapers have been filled with images of your unspeakable pain, suffering and loss," he told them. "Each hour we see the faces of the widows and orphans and all of those who have lost family and friends and all of their life's possessions."

He said the U.S. church was committed to "doing everything we can so that you may rebuild and renew and begin again your lives of faith and family and service to Haiti."

Archbishop Dolan, who also serves as chairman of the board of Catholic Relief Services, was accompanied by Msgr. David Malloy, general secretary of the U.S. bishops' conference.

Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of



CNS PHOTO/SARA A. FAJARDO, CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York blesses the caskets of Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot and Msgr. Charles Benoit during a funeral in the courtyard of the destroyed Catholic cathedral in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Jan. 23. Archbishop Dolan, chairman of the board of Catholic Relief Services, joined the Haitian community in mourning the two men who perished in the Jan. 12 earthquake.

Orlando, Fla., and Oblate Father Andrew Small, director of the U.S. bishops' Church in Latin America office, also attended.

Archbishop Miot's body was one of the first recovered after the earthquake. Archbishop Bernardito Auza, papal nuncio to Haiti, asked that it be taken to the coastal city of St. Marc because there was no electricity in Port-au-Prince. Local

clergy asked that the archbishop's funeral be at the cathedral.

A statement from Caritas, the church's network of charitable aid agencies, said when Msgr. Benoit's body was found, his hands were around a reliquary with a host inside.

The archbishop and the vicar general were buried in Lilavois Cemetery in the Haitian capital.



Carl Romkena, Holy Cross student and seminarian at Notre Dame, carries a statue of the Blessed Mother at the 37th annual March for Life, held Jan. 22 in Washington, D.C.



Shown is part of the record-breaking crowd gathered on the National Mall, during Bishop D'Arcy's blessing and Hail Mary recitation for the 37th annual March for Life, held Jan. 22.