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to be
transformed**

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Catholic schools gather for Mass

BY DIANE FREEBY

NOTRE DAME — Just one month on the job, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades learned firsthand how hardy the souls are in the Fort Wayne-South Bend Diocese. Despite the snowy conditions and predictions for more snow throughout the day, the South Bend Area Schools Mass went on as scheduled Feb. 9 at the University of Notre Dame's Purcell Pavilion.

"I'm getting used to the weather," Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades told *Today's Catholic* after Mass. "I always look forward to those days off and sleep-ins to get caught up, but you don't close here. I guess you have to have a real blizzard!"

Bishop Rhoades greeted the crowd of students, teachers, and administrators from over 20 Catholic schools, wrapping up Catholic Schools Week by celebrating the Holy Eucharist. He made a special point of thanking the 19 priests who joined him to concelebrate the Mass. They were also joined by two deacons, one of whom will be the next priest ordained later this spring.

"The reason we're all here today," said Bishop Rhoades, "is that we all share something; we're all friends of Jesus Christ. We're gathered here, not to have a day off from school. ... We're gathered here to praise and thank the Lord for His goodness, for all His love. We praise Him in the songs we sing, we speak to Him in the prayers that we recite, and even more important, we listen to Him speak to us, especially in the readings from the Word of God in Sacred Scripture that we just heard."

Bishop Rhoades said he chose the reading from

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DIANE FREEBY

Children representing 23 different South Bend area Catholic schools brought up the gifts during Mass. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades greeted each child and later promised to pay a visit to each grade school in the diocese. Because there are so many good Catholic schools, he said it might take him a couple years to get to each one.

Rites of Election, Calling of Candidates celebrated in diocesan cathedrals

The Rites of Election of Catechumens and Calling of Candidates will be celebrated in the cathedrals in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend the last two Sundays in February.

On Feb. 21, the first Sunday of Lent, the Rite of Election will take place in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne at 2:30 p.m. On Feb. 28, the second Sunday of Lent, the Rite of Election will be held in St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, also at 2:30 p.m.

Catechumens (those unbaptized) are preparing for reception into full communion with the Catholic Church by receiving the sacraments of initiation — Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist — at the Easter Vigil. Candidates (those baptized in another faith tradition) are preparing to receive Confirmation and/or Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

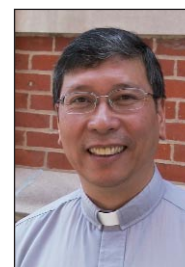
During the liturgy, each catechumen/candidate and their sponsor will be presented for

recognition to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, ordinary of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The catechumens and candidates are from local and area parishes of the diocese. All together, 550 to 600 catechumens and candidates from throughout the diocese — along with their sponsors, families and guests — are expected to attend the liturgies.

Prior to the ceremony, many of the catechumens and candidates will take part in an optional rite in their respective parishes that same weekend called the Parish Celebration for Sending Catechumens for Election and Candidates for Recognition by the Bishop. The catechumens will sign their names in a Book of the Elect that will be available for Bishop Rhoades to sign at the end of the Rite of Election — often referred to as the Enrollment of Names. Each candidate also is included in this rite but, out of respect for the validity of their baptism, normally do not sign the book.

YEAR of our PRIESTS

BY MARK WEBER



FATHER CHAU PHAM, SVD

Violence and terror have shadowed Chau Pham since his prenatal days. A 1955 sweltering summer in

Vietnam found the Pham family on the run from the north in Vietnam hoping to find freedom in the south. Mom, dad, three kids and a few possessions and coins tied in bundles. Mom was in the final stages of pregnancy.

At Duc Hoa, Hau Nghia, the family found food, fresh water and rest at a camp

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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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Lent reflects on our call to prayer, fasting and almsgiving



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

This past Sunday, Valentine's Day, I had the privilege of celebrating Holy Mass with our Vietnamese community at St. Patrick Church in Fort Wayne. Our Vietnamese brothers and sisters were celebrating Tet, the Lunar New Year. It was a beautiful celebration of faith and culture, reminding me of the wonderful diversity of the Church. The Vietnamese presence in our diocese is a blessing. Though a relatively small community here, the faith and devotion of the Vietnamese community are an example for us all. There are over 1 million Vietnamese living in the United States, of whom over 300,000 are Catholic. We have many priestly and religious vocations from the Vietnamese community in our country, a testament to the strong faith of our Vietnamese families.

St. Patrick's is a wonderful multiethnic parish. I thank Father Chau Pham, pastor, and Father Thomas Aschman, parochial vicar, for their devoted ministry there. I enjoyed dinner with them at the celebration after the Mass. Not only did we eat delicious Vietnamese soup, but also some Mexican tamales! What an interesting combination of food, a reflection of the parish's diversity. While eating, we watched the parade of the dragon and enjoyed other Vietnamese New Year traditions.

Earlier in the week, I spent three days in South Bend. I continue to adjust to being bishop in a diocese with two see cities. While in South Bend, I enjoyed the hospitality of the Holy Cross Fathers at Corby Hall on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. I wish to thank in particular Father Peter Jarret, the superior of the Holy Cross community at Notre Dame, for his gracious welcome. While there, I celebrated Mass with the Holy Cross Fathers and shared with them in my homily my gratitude for their ministry in the northern part of our diocese. I was happy to recall their recently beatified founder, Father Basil Moreau. In my spiritual reading these past few weeks, I have enjoyed learning about the holy life of Father Moreau in the biography by Gary MacEoin. It is good to recall that this holy priest visited Notre Dame and our diocese in 1857, the same year that Pope Pius IX established our diocese and also approved the constitutions of the Congregation of Holy Cross.

Blessed Basil Moreau and the Congregation of Holy Cross remind all of us of the hope and wisdom of the cross. As we approach the season of Lent, it is good to reflect on our call to embrace the cross of Jesus by self-denial and the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving. The Lord Jesus calls us, His disciples, to deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow Him. This is the essence of the meaning of Lent. It is an important time to heed the counsel of St. Paul: "Be reconciled to God" — 2 Cor 5:20, especially through the reception of the sacrament of Penance. I hope that we will all make time during these 40 days to confess our sins



DIANE FREEBY

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades echoed the words of the evening's responsorial psalm during the Feb. 9 welcome Mass at the University of Notre Dame. Bishop Rhoades referred to the Basilica of the Sacred Heart as "the lovely dwelling place of the Lord that stands prominently on the campus of the University of Notre Dame," calling it "a reminder of this great university's Catholic identity."

and receive the Lord's pardon and peace.

While at Notre Dame, I gave a speech at the Mendoza College of Business on the sanctity of human life. This was part of an annual lecture series for Ethics Week at the Business College. I spoke of our duty, and the duty of Catholic universities, to bear witness to the truth about the sacredness of human life and the inviolable right to life of the innocent unborn. This universal, objective and unchanging moral truth serves our true freedom as human beings. I spoke about the true meaning of freedom, as opposed to the distorted view propagated by pro-choice advocates. As the great Pope John Paul II reminded us in his homily in Baltimore back in 1995: "... freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought." The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "The more one does what is good, the freer one becomes. There is no true freedom except in the service of what is good and just. The choice to disobey and do evil is an abuse of freedom and leads to 'the slavery of sin.'" The choice to kill an unborn baby is an abuse of freedom and brings harm, not only to the innocent child whose life is taken, but also to all who participate or cooperate in the evil act. We only need think of the suffering of women who have had abortions, many having been deceived into thinking that the choice to abort was an exercise of their rightful freedom, to later discover that they were anything but free after the destruction of their unborn child. The Church's ministry to women who have had abortions is vitally important so that the wound left in their hearts is healed and true freedom restored through repentance and God's merciful love.

The highlight of my time at Notre Dame was the beautiful Mass on Feb. 9, during which the university president, Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, and the university community officially welcomed me as the new bishop of our diocese. I am deeply grateful for their warm welcome and the gift of a beautiful walnut crozier (pastoral staff) with painted images in the crook of the staff of my coat-of-arms and of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Celebrating Mass in the beautiful Basilica of the Sacred Heart was a wonderful experience. As I said to the congregation, "in this basilica, all are invited to contemplate the Heart of the Redeemer, the Heart which gives life to the Church and to this university, the Heart which awakens within us not only deep gratitude for our redemption in Christ, but also the desire

to worship and to serve the One whose Heart was pierced after His death upon the cross. From that Sacred Heart flowed blood and water. His Heart is the source and the fountain of the living water, which gives us the life of grace, the sacraments, the Church and the Holy Spirit. It is Christ's redeeming love that is at the origin of our salvation. At every moment we are enveloped in the love of His Sacred Heart!"

Earlier on Feb. 9, I had the joy of celebrating the All Schools Mass in the Joyce Center for children from our Catholic Schools in the South Bend area. I was surprised that the Mass was not postponed because of the snow, as would have happened in Harrisburg, but I am learning that several inches of snow does not mean school closures or delays in South Bend! In any event, the liturgy with the children was very beautiful and uplifting. I was especially impressed by the joyful participation and reverence of all the children. I thank all who organized this beautiful, spiritual event.

On Friday, Feb. 12, I celebrated Mass for the residents at St. Anne's Home in Fort Wayne. I was very happy to meet and greet many of the residents there and to share lunch with our retired priests who reside at St. Anne's. It is important, particularly during this Year for Priests, to remember and to thank our retired priests, those who have labored so faithfully among us and have been instruments of God's grace through their devoted priestly ministry through the years. Many of our retired priests, if they are able, continue to help out in various parishes. They all continue to serve our diocese through their prayers. Let us also remember them often in our prayers.

We now join together in our Lenten journey. I end this column with a quote from Pope John Paul II: "How should we respond to the invitation to conversion that Jesus addresses to us in this time of Lent? How can there be a serious change in our life? First of all, we must open our hearts to the penetrating call that comes to us from the Liturgy. The time of preparation for Easter is a providential gift from the Lord and a precious opportunity to draw closer to Him, turning inward to listen to His promptings deep within."

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

Bishop Rhoades is welcomed to Notre Dame

Speaks about first month as bishop

BY DIANE FREEBY

NOTRE DAME — A busy few days spent by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades on the campus of the University of Notre Dame last week typifies the first month following his installation as the ninth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

"It couldn't have gone better," said Bishop Rhoades, taking a break to chat with *Today's Catholic* after celebrating the All Schools Mass and before having lunch with the South Bend area priests. "I can't believe it's been a month. I've hit the ground running and it's been kind of a whirlwind, but I've had a variety of experiences. I've already visited a number of parishes and some schools, and also met with various directors of offices of the diocese. I've met a number of the priests and I've been up and down between Fort Wayne and South Bend ... but I think it's been going great!"

An untimely flat tire prevented Bishop Rhoades from celebrating Mass with the students of Notre Dame last month, before nearly 400 of them left to participate in the March for Life in Washington, D.C. He has since celebrated Mass in a couple dorms at Notre Dame, before his official welcome Feb. 9 in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart.

Bishop Rhoades said he has enjoyed spending time with Father John I. Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame.

"Last evening, we had a wonderful meeting and, of course, he's welcomed me very warmly to the University of Notre Dame," said Bishop Rhoades. "So I'm looking forward to having a strong relationship with him and the administration of Notre Dame, and a close relationship with the whole community — the students, the faculty, the staff."

Father Jenkins, joined by a full basilica and over 20 concelebrating priests, opened Mass by saying, "We welcome you to Notre Dame, not as a visitor, but as our bishop!"

Met with thunderous applause, Bishop Rhoades smiled and began the liturgy. During his homily, he offered his thoughts on the relationship between a bishop and a Catholic university. A student of history, Bishop Rhoades recalled celebrating Mass in the log chapel on the eve of his installation. He said he was reminded of Father Edward Sorin and the Holy Cross brothers who came with Father Sorin as missionaries.

"As you know, Father Sorin arrived here in 1842 at what was then called Saint Mary of the Lakes and here he found a log building with a chapel on the second floor," stated Bishop Rhoades. "I was delighted to learn that the date of his arrival was Nov. 26, so I share a birthday with the University of Notre Dame. Soon Father Sorin changed the name of



DIANE FREEBY

Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins, president of the University of Notre Dame, presents a crozier to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades as a gift on behalf of the university. The dark wooden pastoral staff bears the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe on one side and the bishop's coat-of-arms on the other side.

the place to Notre Dame du Lac, Our Lady of the Lake. Students began to show up soon after the arrival of Father Sorin and the Holy Cross brothers."

Still reflecting on his experience celebrating Mass in the log chapel, Bishop Rhoades remembered the priest who is buried there, Father Stephen Badin. Father Badin revitalized the abandoned St. Joseph Mission and began the purchase of the 524 acres where Notre Dame now stands. Within a few years, the Congregation of Holy Cross would receive the land Father Badin had purchased and given to the bishop of Vincennes.

"It is good to remember the holy and humble beginnings of our beloved University of Notre Dame," said Bishop Rhoades, referring to the first devout Catholics of the region and the great missionaries who served them. "They remind us of our roots. They remind us of our Catholic identity and mission."

"It is especially interesting for me to learn about the relationship between my predecessor bishops of this diocese and the University of Notre Dame, as well as the relationship of those earlier bishops of Vincennes with Notre Dame," continued Bishop Rhoades. "It is an important relationship, an essential relationship. This relationship is one of the many exciting aspects of becoming the Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend. I look forward to a close relationship."

Bishop Rhoades said many have asked him about this relationship.

"Notre Dame is a Catholic university so the relationship must be close," stated Bishop Rhoades, who went on to quote the papal

document, "Ex Corde Ecclesiae."

"I believe," he said, "as Pope John Paul II said when he visited the United States in 1987, that bishops 'should be seen not as external agents but as participants in the life of the Catholic university.'"

Earlier, *Today's Catholic* asked Bishop Rhoades about a Feb. 4 letter to the editor in the *South Bend Tribune* in which Notre Dame theology professor Jean Porter publicly criticized Father Jenkins for leading Notre Dame students at last month's March for Life. In her letter she wrote of her dismay at the university's participation in the national march as well as its consideration of adopting an official statement committing to pro-life.

Bishop Rhoades told *Today's Catholic*, "I think it's unbelievable that at a Catholic university, you would have a professor that would disagree with the president of a Catholic university leading students to the March for Life in Washington."

He said, "To me, that is terribly, terribly sad and really unbelievable in my mind. I'm really grateful that Father Jenkins did lead the students at the March for Life. I was so glad to see him there, and I thank him for that leadership. I would presume that the great majority of faculty at Notre Dame would disagree with that professor ... I would hope."

For those who continue to question the motives of Notre Dame's president when he decided to attend the January march, Bishop Rhoades reiterated his support: "Father Jenkins is pro-life, for heaven's sakes."

Bishop Rhoades said it is his prayer at the Mass of welcome that Notre Dame constantly grow in its

commitment to truth and charity and that Catholic ideals, attitudes and principles pervade all aspects of university life: teaching, research, curricular and extracurricular activities.

"Through fidelity to its Catholic mission and its commitment to serve the Church and the human family, may Notre Dame always be faithful to its founder's vision,



Beginning with last month's March for Life in Washington, D.C., where Father Jenkins invited Bishop Rhoades to walk with students from Notre Dame Right to Life, the two Catholic leaders appear to be forging a working relationship as well as a friendship.

to its historic roots, and, most importantly, faithful to the One in whose Heart we discover and experience the wondrous reality of God's infinite love for us. May Our Lady who watches over this university lead us all to encounter Him, her Divine Son, who is the source of all wisdom and truth, goodness and love."

Bishop Rhoades' complete homily from the Notre Dame welcoming Mass can be found at TodaysCatholicNews.org. Click on columnists.



BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES PUBLIC SCHEDULE

- Sunday, Feb. 21, 10:45 a.m. — Mass at St. Mary Church, Fort Wayne
- Sunday, Feb. 21, 2 p.m. — Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
- Monday, Feb. 22 — Mass and pastoral visit to Our Sunday Visitor, Huntington
- Tuesday, Feb. 23 — Meeting with Council of Teachers, Ramada Inn, Warsaw
- Wednesday, Feb. 24 — Lenten Day of Recollection with Priests, St. Martin de Porres Parish, Syracuse
- Thursday, Feb. 25 — Meeting of National Coalition on Health Care, Washington, D.C.
- Friday, Feb. 26, 10 a.m. — Mass for all South Bend area Catholic School Teachers, Marian High School, Mishawaka,
- Saturday, Feb. 27 — Saints Alive dinner and auction to benefit Bishop Dwenger High School

YEAR of our PRIESTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

called Chau Hiep, and on July 13, Chau Pham was born there and was given the name Chau, taken from the camp name.

In time, the Phams relocated to a village called Nam Hoa Parish, and when Chau was 6 years old, his dad died, leaving his mother with six young children.

When Chau was 24, he became one of the "boat people" and joined 83 other desperate souls on two boats in a well intentioned but hastily planned escape by sea.

Short on food, gasoline and water, the boats were sucked into a storm and lost on the ocean for five days.

Land was sighted; it was a Maylasian coast. The storm-tossed victims were taken to the beach where they were robbed, women were raped and the group was denied access to the island. One boat was confiscated and all of the refugees were forced on board one boat.

At sea they were victims of another pirate attack and were plundered two more times.

Then after surviving another killing storm, the group sighted a single fisherman who offered aid for a fee. One passenger had managed to conceal some precious items in spite of three robberies, and he surrendered them for directions to a safe place called Sungain Walang Island, Indonesia, where the group was permitted to stay after being forced to remain on the boat for

one month. Eventually, they stayed in the camp for four months, and in time Chau was repatriated and found freedom and new friends in Seattle, Wash., where the United States Catholic Conference provided assistance for Vietnamese.

Although Father Chau does not remember it, his sister recalls that he would "play Mass" as a child. Other than that, his first thoughts about the priesthood came after he attended the New Life in the Spirit seminars in Seattle as a choir director for a Vietnamese group, and became a friend of Francis Toan Tran, a seminarian with the Divine Word Missionaries.

Through this friendship, Chau applied for and was granted admission to the Society of the Divine Word order and attended college in Epworth, Iowa. After graduation, he began novice training in Bay Saint Louis, Miss., followed by theology training and one year of Regency at Asbury Park, N.J.; a particular time when the future missionary was placed in a culture other than what he has experienced before, although it would seem that after three encounters with pirates, one could adapt to any environment.

On June 3, 1995, the child who was carried to freedom prenatally and was named for the camp where he was born and thereafter survived starvation, storms at sea, robbery and witnessed beast-like treatment of others, was ordained into the priesthood of Jesus Christ and now serves as pastor of St. Patrick Parish, Fort Wayne.

His mother lived to see her son as a priest and died in Seattle about five years ago.

Pope John Paul brought dignity to all who suffer, supreme knight says

BY SARAH DELANEY

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II's humility and willingness to let the whole world watch his declining health gave dignity and meaning to suffering, said Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus.

"John Paul suffered boldly before millions," Anderson said at a Vatican conference on health care Feb. 9. "He was willing to have the humility to do this before the world."

"Through this, John Paul showed exactly what human dignity is all about," he said.

Anderson, leader of the worldwide Catholic fraternal organization, was one of the keynote speakers at the meeting sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Health Care Workers. The Feb. 9-11 gathering, titled "The Church in the Service of Love for the Suffering," marked the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul establishing the council.

Anderson said Pope John Paul had preached the Gospel and evangelized "with every gift God had given him," including his acting and singing talents, his athletic abilities and his writing. "And as life went on, we saw him communicate the Gospel using what he also called 'a gift,' that is we saw him use his own suffering," Anderson said.



CNS PHOTO/ALESSIA GIULIANI, CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

Pope John Paul II prays during Mass marking World Day of Peace in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican in this Jan. 1, 2005, photo. Pope John Paul II's humility and willingness to let the whole world watch his declining health gave dignity and meaning to suffering, said Carl Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, during a recent Vatican conference on health care.

The late pope, who died April 2, 2005, was able to show that Christ is united with those who are suffering, because he himself suffered on the cross, Anderson said.

With his prolonged and very visible illness, Pope John Paul "showed that it's not about the sickness, nor even about the man at all. It's about the other man. It's about Christ," Anderson said.

Without his long pontificate and suffering, Anderson said, "we would not have seen his many faces of humility, holiness, dedication."

He added, "Just as a resurrected Christ would have been

less marvelous without his suffering, so John Paul's holiness achieved greater depth because it preached not only the Gospel of love, but the Gospel of suffering wholeheartedly."

After the meeting, Anderson told Catholic News Service that the pope's example could help ordinary people in the midst of pain and suffering from illness.

"It's very easy to say certain things, but very difficult to say them when you're actually suffering and experiencing them. It's not so much that (the pope) said things that are different from what one might read in a spiritual manual, but the fact that he was actually living the experience when he was saying it. It makes a great difference," Anderson said.

Asked about revelations in a recently published book that the late pope had practiced self-flagellation, Anderson said he had not known this aspect of the pope and that others who knew him well also had been surprised.

"Still, even popes deserve a certain amount of privacy," Anderson said. The practice of self-mortification was reported in a book published in January by Msgr. Slawomir Oder, the postulator of the sainthood cause for Pope John Paul.

Anderson said that self-mortification is something "that might be easy to misunderstand, especially by people who don't know the tradition of mysticism or self-discipline."

He said that such a practice is "not outside the tradition" and that it should be considered within the context of the importance Pope John Paul placed on self-discipline.

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Newbill is St. Augustine's special servant of God

BY MAY LEE JOHNSON

SOUTH BEND — Every church has one — a special servant of God. Marian Newbill is St. Augustine's very special servant.

For the past 50 years Newbill has worked in St. Augustine Church on any given day where she can be seen running around seeing to her responsibilities, which include setting up the altar, guiding the excited youth coming to Mass and joining them as she teaches Children's Church. She is a loving and kind presence.

In her quiet and shy way Newbill's heart clearly belongs to her own family but she understands the loneliness of those without family members and prays for them every Sunday during the prayer intention.

"She is always the first to offer prayers for the poor, homeless and the ones we have forgotten about," says Nora Batteast. "She not only helps around the church but she's in charge of the kitchen, cleans and helps out with the tutoring program. Marian is a wonderful example for our youth because she volunteers so much time and she's around St. A's. She is a blessing to everyone here."

Mamiella Brown speaks of her friend Newbill's love of the Church, the liturgy and the tutoring program. "Marian loves to serve and reaches out to our church community," Brown says. "It's like she already knows what I'm thinking when it comes to the children in our program. And before I can say it — it's done. We are a strong team and I am so grateful to have her working with me. Marian loves being involved and will do whatever she can for anybody."

Other responsibilities Newbill



MAY LEE JOHNSON

Marian Newbill has been an all around servant at St. Augustine Parish for over 50 years.

takes on include preparing the altar for the liturgical season, cleaning the linens, helping with the Rosary Society and directing the kitchen.

Although she is a woman of few words, when Newbill speaks people listen. She wants only the best and the most prayerful environment when it comes to celebration of the Mass. And she is very helpful with the students of the tutoring program. Chloe Foster, a student in the program says, "Mrs. Newbill is very nice. She helps us with our homework and feeds us when we get finished. I like her."

She has worked along side the past eight priests of the parish. And in addition to owning her own business, she is busy raising her teenaged grandsons as well.

"I try to help out the best I can," says Newbill. "I have always been a worker and helper. I just stay low key because I'm blessed.

"I love the Church," she continues, "It's where I find the most peace in my life. God is blessing me."

With capital in ruins, northern Haiti struggles

BY DAVID AGREN

MILOT, Haiti (CNS) — Fresnel Vildor studied civil engineering in Port-au-Prince until the Jan. 12 earthquake leveled his private university. His "well-built" home withstood the magnitude 7 quake, but he was left with no place to study, no food, no water and no money.

After five desperate days and no signs of imminent improvement in Port-au-Prince, he boarded a bus with more than 100 other passengers for a 24-hour trip — nearly three-times the usual duration — to his hometown, Milot, in northern Haiti.

Vildor arrived with nothing more than the clothes on his back, but he considered himself lucky: He was able to move in with his parents and five siblings.

"For me, things are OK," Vildor said. "Some friends in Port-au-Prince that had their businesses and houses destroyed; they're in tough shape."

Vildor was among the masses fleeing Port-au-Prince for the outlying provinces in the days and weeks after the earthquake that destroyed much of the Haitian capital.

The earthquake left little damage in northern Haiti, but prompted an influx of injured, homeless and unemployed former residents of Port-au-Prince, along with those who have family ties to the region.

That influx has strained scant resources and incomes in a part of the country that has long been neglected by the central government and has been heavily dependent on Port-au-Prince to provide both public- and private-sector services.

"We have many people coming from Port-au-Prince to our diocese ... and we don't know how long they will stay," Bishop Chibly Langlois of Fort Liberté told Catholic News Service.

How long those people stay depends on the reconstruction of Port-au-Prince, a city that has so dominated national life that trips to the capital are necessary to carry out routine bureaucratic procedures such as obtaining a passport.

Before the earthquake, Port-



CNS PHOTO/DAVID AGREN

A young earthquake victim is brought via helicopter Jan. 28 to receive treatment at the 73-bed Sacred Heart Hospital in Haiti's northern city of Milot.

au-Prince absorbed masses of impoverished Haitians who left the outlying provinces in search of better economic opportunities; it also attracted thousands of students and fortune seekers.

Now, many of those same people are returning home en masse. The exact size of the influx and the impact on northern Haiti has been hard to gauge, however.

Jean-Bernard Simonnet, owner of Cormier Plage resort, said the influx of people and the collapse of the capital has led to shortages of some food items and fuel and complicated routine business procedures, such as banking, in the north. Prices for many items have increased, and the already high unemployment rate is expected to skyrocket, he said.

Bishop Langlois said shortages of food already were "the big problem" in his diocese before the earthquake; international aid programs had been responsible for feeding many of the hungry in northern Haiti. The earthquake, he said, only worsened the food situation.

"For some families, they don't have the ability to welcome so many people and now they have to give them food," Bishop Langlois said.

Father Joachim Roboam Anantua, a parish priest in Milot, described a similar situation in his community. He said local

Caritas chapters had recently received additional food aid to distribute from Catholic dioceses and international aid organizations, "but it's still not enough."

"We need more food, more clothes, more materials of any kind," he said.

With the central government in ruins and much of the international relief efforts focused on Port-au-Prince, Father Roboam said family has become a safety net for millions of Haitians.

"Families are generous ... they share what they have," Father Roboam said. "Even if the house is small, they always find a place to put someone affected by the catastrophe."

Nicolas Antoine, who works as a tour guide in Milot, said his family took in a relative from Port-au-Prince.

"There's the same amount of food, but now there's an extra person," he said.

Vildor, the engineering student, said food has not been an issue for his family. But he, like many Haitians, said his life is on hold as he awaits news if private universities will reopen, allowing him to complete the single semester remaining in his engineering studies.

"It doesn't depend on me," he said. "It depends on the owner of the university."



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Pope: Christian faith without love cannot live

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With love, faith comes alive, and without it, faith is dead, Pope Benedict XVI said. It is God's love that grants true spiritual knowledge and transforms people's lives, he said Feb. 10 at his weekly general audience. "Charity lies at the heart of faith and makes it come alive. Without love, faith dies," he said. The pope's audience talk focused on the life and teachings of St. Anthony of Padua, a 13th-century Franciscan friar who was a contemporary of St. Francis of Assisi. St. Anthony played a key role in developing Franciscan spirituality, the pope said, especially concerning the role and nature of prayer. Only through authentic prayer can a person experience spiritual progress and fight the temptations of greed, pride and impurity and instead live a life marked by poverty, generosity, humility, obedience and chastity, he said. St. Anthony taught that prayer needs silence — not so much an absence of audible noise and sounds, but an inner silence in which all worries and mental distractions are quelled and the soul finds a sense of calm, said the pope.

Ruling on same-sex marriage in D.C. called 'partisan paternalism'

WASHINGTON (CNS) — By refusing to allow residents of the District of Columbia to vote on same-sex marriage, a district board is undermining religious freedom and promoting "partisan paternalism under the guise of righteousness," according to an analysis by the Archdiocese of Washington. The analysis was sent by Auxiliary Bishop Barry C. Knestout to priests of the archdiocese Feb. 5, the day after the District of Columbia Board of Elections and Ethics turned down a request for reconsideration by voters of the district's new law allowing same-sex couples to marry. An interfaith coalition of religious leaders had asked the board to approve a ballot initiative affirmatively defining marriage as between a man and a woman and a referendum overturning enactment of the same-sex marriage bill. The board turned down both requests, citing a district law that forbids any initiatives or referendums that would "authorize discrimination" prohibited by the district's Human Rights Act. The District of Columbia Superior Court upheld the board's action on the initiative and is considering its decision on the referendum. The human rights law prohibits discrimination on the basis of "race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, personal appearance, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, family responsibilities, genetic information, disability, matriculation or political affiliation." But by placing the rights of same-sex couples over the right of religious freedom, the board and the dis-

ARCHBISHOP SPEAKS ABOUT DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY



CNS PHOTO/COURTESY LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL

Cincinnati Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr speaks at La Salle High School in Cincinnati Feb. 4. He answered questions from students sitting with him at the school and from several hundred other students at local Catholic high schools through videoconferencing technology.

trict's City Council are failing in their duty to balance competing interests, the analysis said.

Catholics of all ages see U.S. moral values on decline, survey says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although they are more likely to describe themselves as liberal, the youngest American Catholic adults believe almost as strongly as other generations that the nation's moral values are headed in the wrong direction. The millennial generation of Catholics, ages 18-29, also are more likely than those of Generation X (ages 30-44) or the baby-boom generation (ages 45-64) to say that commitment to marriage is not valued enough in this country. Eighty-two percent of Catholic millennials said marital commitment is not valued enough, exceeded only by the 89 percent of the "greatest generation," those over 65, who said so. Seventy-nine percent of Generation X Catholics and 77 percent of baby boomers agreed. Those were among the results of a survey commissioned by the Knights of Columbus and made public Feb. 11. The survey — conducted by the Marist College Institute for Public Opinion in Poughkeepsie, N.Y. — included a number of values-related questions along with others about ideology, religious practices and

beliefs, life goals, business ethics and feelings about the nation's future. Asked whether "moral values in this country are headed in the right direction or the wrong direction," 67 percent of Americans said it was headed down the wrong path.

Bishops urge governor to stay execution of death-row inmate

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (CNS) — The Catholic bishops of Florida urged Gov. Charlie Crist to stay the Feb. 16 execution of Martin Grossman and give him a life sentence without the possibility of parole. The bishops' message to Crist was released Feb. 12 in Tallahassee by the Florida Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the state's bishops. The bishops said they "support punishment as a means of protecting society and offering the possibility of repentance by the offender." But they also stressed that "execution is seen as an act of revenge for an offender's deeds and does little to deter future criminal acts in society." Grossman, 45, was scheduled to be executed by lethal injection for killing Florida wildlife officer Peggy Park in 1984. According to The Associated Press, Grossman shot Park once in the back of her head with her own gun in a scuffle that ensued after she took possession

of a stolen handgun that Grossman, then 19, and another teen had been firing in the woods.

Irish bishops, pope begin summit on sex abuse by priests

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI and the bishops of Ireland began a two-day, closed-door meeting to assess responsibility in the Irish Church's handling of priestly sex abuse cases and explore ways to heal the wounds left by the scandal. Each of the 24 bishops was scheduled to speak for seven minutes, in effect giving the pope "an account of themselves" and their own actions, Bishop Joseph Duffy of Clogher told reporters on the eve of the Feb. 15-16 summit. The pope convened the bishops in response to the continuing fallout from the scandal, following an independent report that faulted the church for its handling of 325 sex abuse claims in the Archdiocese of Dublin in the years 1975-2004. "I would admit quite frankly what everyone else knows, and shout it from the rooftops: that the Church has been seriously wounded, and we're in a very serious situation, that this has done immense damage to the authority of the Church," Bishop Duffy said. "And our business is to try to repair that damage and to restore confidence, because confidence has been lost not only in the bishops, but by the bishops themselves," he said.

Pope, at homeless shelter, says church will not abandon poor

ROME (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI paid a visit to a Church-run shelter for the homeless and said concrete acts of charity were essential expressions of the Christian faith. "Know that the Church loves you deeply and will not abandon you, because it recognizes in each of you the face of Christ," the pope said at a Caritas hostel and medical center near Rome's main train station Feb. 14. The doctors, nurses and some 300 volunteers at the center applauded the German pontiff as he toured the complex during a 90-minute visit. In a speech, the pope noted that the tough economic times had made church-run social services even more necessary. Over the last two years, the Caritas center has seen a 20 percent increase in the number of people seeking help. The pope said the center was "a place where love is not only a word or a sentiment, but a concrete reality that allows the light of God to enter into the life of people and the civic community." He said the Church's actions in favor of the needy were a natural expression of faith in Christ.

New missal not here yet, but Catholics urged to start talking about it

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The new English translation of the Roman Missal might not be in U.S. parishes for as long as two years, but Father Rick Hilgartner hopes Catholics are talking about it now. Mention of the upcoming changes in the prayers at Mass might come in the occasional bulletin insert, in adult religious education classes or Bible study groups or in a homily at Mass, said the associate director of the U.S. bishops' Secretariat of Divine Worship in Washington. "Anything to heighten people's awareness," he added in a Feb. 2 interview with Catholic News Service. Along other liturgical organizations, the divine worship secretariat is gearing up to help educate the nation's 68 million Catholics on changes to the language of the Mass that were initiated in 2002 when Pope John Paul II issued a new edition of the Roman Missal in Latin. The Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments is in the final stages of reviewing the last sections of the translation before issuing its "recognitio," or approval. Once the Vatican approval is received, the president of each bishops' conference will decide when the new missal will start being used in each country. But before that can happen, priests and people must be involved in a "two-tiered catechetical process" that starts with "general and broad" discussions of such issues as the "nature of the Mass, how it builds up the church and how we encounter Christ," Father Hilgartner said. Further information and resources are available at a Web site launched by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.usccb.org/romanmissal.

Lenten bag lunch/book study series set for Victory Noll Center

HUNTINGTON — Victory Noll Center begins its second lunchtime book study Feb. 24 with an examination of the book, "Life of the Beloved," by Henri Nouwen.

Coinciding with the season of Lent, the book study will be held from noon to 1 p.m. on six Wednesdays from Feb. 24 to March 31. Anyone interested should bring a bag lunch and a copy of the book. Victory Noll Center will provide beverages. There is no cost and no registration for the book study, but a free will offering will be taken.

Victory Noll Center is located at 1900 W. Park Dr. in Huntington.

A secular writer and friend asked Nouwen to write a book explaining the spiritual life in terms he could understand. Nouwen's answer has become one of the most cherished books of our era. "All I want to say to you is, 'You are the Beloved.'"

The book study will examine different chapters each week. The schedule will be: Feb. 24, Prologue and "Being the Beloved"; March 3, "Becoming the Beloved" and "Taken"; March 10, "Blessed"; March 17, "Broken"; March 24, "Given"; March 31, "Living as the Beloved" and Epilogue.

For more information on the program or Victory Noll Center, contact Director Sue Wilhelm at (260) 356-0628, ext. 128, or by e-mail at suewilhelm@olvm.org. Additional information is available on the Victory Noll Center Web site at www.olvm.org/vncenter.html.

Victory Noll Center is a ministry of Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters, and is dedicated to fostering spiritual growth, personal development and social justice education in an ecumenical and multicultural environment.

Bishop Luers students collect diapers for WCC

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Luers High School students found an overwhelming response in a collection of diapers and newborn infant baby clothes in their annual December school-wide project, which benefited the Women's Care Center in Fort Wayne. A Friday dress down day netted over \$500 for additional diapers to be purchased.

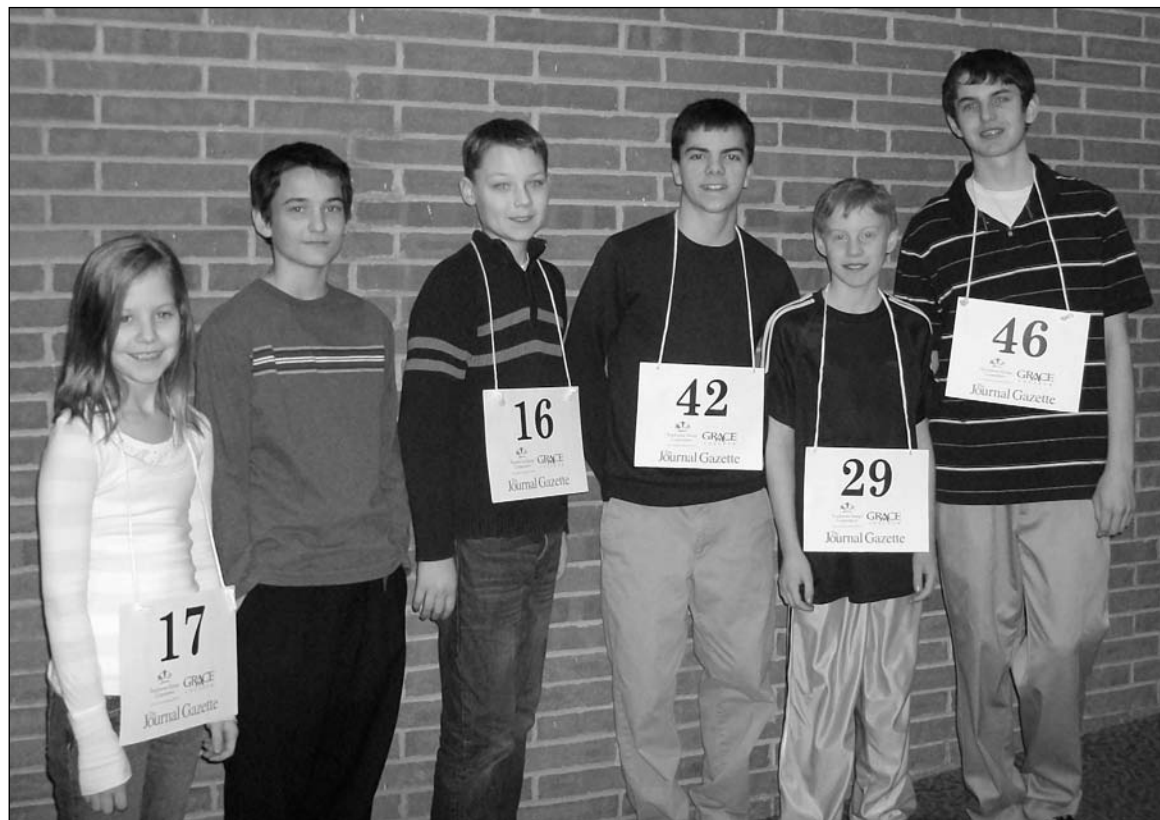
Bishop Luers teacher Meg Hanlon and students loaded and delivered the items to the Women's Care Center.

Social work students to host community forum on issues facing Latino population

NOTRE DAME — Students in social work professor Frances Kominkiewicz's Human Behavior and the Social

AROUND THE DIOCESE

CATHOLIC STUDENTS COMPETE IN SPELLING BEE



TESS STEFFEN

These students were among 67 contestants who competed in the 56th Annual Allen County Spelling Bee at South Side High School on Saturday, Feb. 6. The students, from left, are Karsyn Kleinrichert from St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth School, Matt Klein from Queen of Angels School, Daniel Romary from St. John the Baptist-New Haven, Nick Steffen from St. John the Baptist-Fort Wayne, Isaac Landstoffer from St. Jude School, and John Garris from St. Charles Borromeo School. David Cruz from St. Louis Academy and Thomas Davis from St. Vincent de Paul School participated but are not shown.

Environment II class will host an annual community forum at the college on Monday, March 1. This year's event is titled "Family H.E.L.P. Community Forum: Health and Education for the Latino Population." The forum will be a dialogue with Aida McCammon, co-founder and president, CEO of the Indiana Latino Institute. The forum will be held from 6-7:30 p.m. in Carroll Auditorium, Madeleva Hall. The South Bend-area community is encouraged to attend this free event. Guests will have an opportunity to ask McCammon questions. Translators will be present.

The forum is a collaborative effort funded by the Lilly Endowment's Initiative to promote opportunities through educational collaborations and is co-sponsored by the Cross Currents Program and college's social work department.

"We are so grateful to have Ms. McCammon come to Saint Mary's College to speak about some of the health and education challenges facing Indiana's Latino population. We hope members of South Bend's Hispanic community and others will come to campus

to hear her insights," Kominkiewicz said.

The social work program is one of Saint Mary's six nationally accredited academic programs.

USF presents Fort Wayne's Global Village on stage

FORT WAYNE — The School of Creative Arts at the University of Saint Francis (USF) is hosting the Fort Wayne Maennerchor and the Mon Community Dancers in its final presentation of Fort Wayne's Global Village on Stage — Celebrating Diversity in the Arts on Sunday, Feb. 28, from 3-4:30 p.m. at the North Campus Auditorium, 2702 Spring St. Admission is free. Doors open at 2:30 p.m. for general seating. Through a series of six unique performances, the university provides the local community an exclusive opportunity to experience the many cultures that Fort Wayne embodies.

The Mon Dancers were founded in 1993 to restore, maintain and promote Mon traditional dances in Fort Wayne. Twelve types of Mon Dance will be performed by the

group followed by a solo dance.

The Fort Wayne Maennerchor/Damenchor is dedicated to the preservation and cultivation of the German heritage of Fort Wayne as expressed in choral music. In existence for 139 years, the original members were German immigrants; now most members are second or third generation immigrants, or others interested in participating in the German culture.

These performances are made possible in part by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation and Arts United of Greater Fort Wayne. For more information call (260) 399-7700, ext. 8001.

World Youth Day 2011 meetings planned

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades is seeking teens and young adult pilgrims to journey with him to World Youth Day 2011 in Madrid, Spain.

Teens, ages 16 and older by August 2011, and young adults are invited to join the pilgrimage Aug. 10-22, 2011. The pilgrimage includes a private retreat in Lourdes and other stops prior to

WYD events and Mass with Pope Benedict XVI.

Priests, parish leaders, vicariate representatives, youth directors, parents and young adults are encouraged to attend an initial informational meeting to receive brochures and valuable details about preparation, funding and travel requirements at the following locations and dates:

- In Warsaw — Sunday, Feb. 28, at 6:30 p.m. at Sacred Heart Parish Hall;

- In Fort Wayne — Wednesday, March 3, 6:30 p.m. at the Archbishop Noll Catholic Center, 915 S. Clinton St., Garden Level Banquet Room;

- In the South Bend area — Thursday, March 4, 6:30 p.m. at St. Pius X Parish in Granger, in the Holy Spirit Room

Those interested in information, but unable to attend one of these meetings should contact the Office of Young Adult Ministry or the Office of Youth Ministry at (260) 422-4611.

Bishop Dwenger senior named National Merit Finalist

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School senior Christina Hooper has been named a 2010 National Merit Finalist. She was initially selected by scoring in the top 1 percent of all students nationwide on the PSAT test taken in October of 2009. Based on her outstanding academic performance in high school and her subsequent SAT scores, Hooper is being recognized for her high potential for future academic accomplishment at the college level and is now being considered for college and corporate sponsored scholarship opportunities.



CHRISTINA HOOPER

St. Jude School hosts kindergarten open house

SOUTH BEND — St. Jude Catholic School in South Bend will host Kindergarten Information Night for future kindergarten students and their families on March 2 from 6-8 p.m. Formal presentations by teacher Mary Johnson and recent St. Jude kindergarten parents will begin at 6:30. Free child care and refreshments will be provided.

St. Jude Catholic School's full day kindergarten program includes religion and core academic instruction. A half day option is also available. Johnson emphasizes religious, academic and literacy development in the morning, while students have more opportunities for creative play, rest and social learning in the afternoon.

For more information, contact Principal Stephen Donndelinger at (574)291-3820 or go to the Web site www.stjudeschool.net.

Proposal recognizing fetus as person in drunken driving cases receives unanimous Senate vote

INDIANAPOLIS — When Wayne County resident Danielle Brookshire got in her car to run an errand, little did she know how the short jaunt would change her life.

Brookshire was hit by a drunk driver resulting in the death of her unborn child. As if the tragedy could be any worse, the driver at fault received only a traffic ticket.

When Brookshire met with her state senator, Allen E. Paul, R-Richmond, and detailed her story about the 2007 car crash, Paul was convinced changes in current state law should be made.

Sen. Paul worked with Brookshire and Wayne County Prosecutor Michael Shipman on crafting the language of the legislation, SB 71, and named it "Drew's Bill," after the child who died.

Drew's Bill, which passed the Senate by a 50-0 vote, adds termination of pregnancy to the current reckless homicide law, a Class C felony. This law would not apply to an abortion as medically performed in compliance with Indiana law.

Glenn Tebbe, Indiana Catholic Conference executive director said that while he did not testify during the Senate hearing of the bill, the Church is supportive of the legislation because of the premise of recognizing the unborn.

"Danielle's was in the final trimester of her pregnancy when she was struck by a drunken driver," Paul said. "While the driver walked away with only a traffic ticket, Danielle tragically lost her unborn child and sadly is unable to become pregnant again."

Currently, Indiana law states a drunken driver who fatally injures another person can be charged with a Class C felony, a crime punishable by up to eight years. The charge becomes a Class B felony if the driver has prior convictions and could face six to 20 years.

Senate Bill 71, as amended, would make killing of a fetus as a

INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

result of operating a vehicle while intoxicated a Class D felony — a crime punishable by up to six months in prison.

Paul said Indiana would join several other states where penalties against drunken drivers increase if they cause crashes resulting in the termination of pregnancies. According to data compiled by the National Right to Life, the other states that have either reckless or vehicular homicide recognizing the unborn include: Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Nebraska, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Tennessee, Utah and Wisconsin.

Last year, the Indiana General Assembly increased penalties for feticide giving further recognition to the unborn. The feticide legislation of 2009 was prompted by a tragedy involving a pregnant bank teller who was shot during a robbery. The bank teller survived, her unborn twins did not. Under the feticide law, if a person kills an unborn baby while committing or attempting to commit murder or another crime commits feticide. A person found guilty of causing the death of a child in utero may be sentenced to an additional term of imprisonment of six to 20 years.

In criminal actions, the state prosecutes on behalf of the victim for crimes committed. The law increased penalties for the crime of feticide from a Class C to a Class B felony.

Paul said he applauded the bipartisan effort shown by Senate

lawmakers to pass the legislation. "Both sides of the aisle supported this from the beginning and I am excited to see it move over to the House," Paul said. "Also, I am pleased Senate lawmakers allowed the bill to stay true to its intended purpose — to increase penalties against drunken drivers and prevent another family from going through the same horrible situation Danielle Brookshire and her family went through." Paul said, "While the accident was tragic and a situation no family should go through, Drew's memory will live on through this bill and will help make sure this type of reckless act does not continue to go unpunished. It's a fitting tribute to Danielle's lost son."

Rep. Phil Pflum, D-Milton, is House sponsor of the bill. The bill has been assigned to the House Courts & Criminal Codes Committee and awaits a hearing. Rep. Matt Pierce, D-Bloomington chairs the committee. "Rep. Pierce has not committed to giving the bill a hearing," said Tebbe.

Additionally, concerns about the bill moving forward are mounting as the Senate and House leadership announced Feb. 5, their goal shortening-up the already short session. "Lawmakers are planning to complete committee hearings by Feb. 19," said Tebbe. "It is going to really crunch a lot of legislative business into a very short time, and I suspect some important issues, such as, the Marriage Amendment may not move forward as a result."

Once the regular committee process is completed, bills which have been amended in the second chamber must go back to the original chamber for a concurrence vote, or a vote of approval. Bills which do not get a concurrence can move to a process called "conference committee."

The Indiana General Assembly must adjourn by March 14, but could end as early as March 5.

Contribution made to celebrate Pope Benedict XVI Year for Priests

FORT WAYNE — James K. Fitzpatrick, senior vice president and chief development officer, of Quality Dining, Inc., announced a \$43,000 contribution in honor of the priests of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The presentation was made at the annual Luncheon in Celebration of Excellence in Catholic Education at the Marriott in Fort Wayne on Thursday, Feb. 4.

The donation was made by the Fitzpatrick family and Quality Dining partners to celebrate Pope Benedict XVI's proclamation "Year for Priests" to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the "dies natalis" of John Mary Vianny, the patron saint of parish

priests worldwide.

A \$1,000 gift will be made to each of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend elementary and high schools. Donations to the 39 elementary schools will be made in the name of the pastor and associate pastors and to the four high schools in the name of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades and retired Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

"We are honored to give back from the fruits of our labor. After 12 years in Catholic education, my Quality Dining partners and I are pleased in some way to contribute to the education of our children in the diocese," Fitzpatrick said at the luncheon.



PROVIDED BY QUALITY DINING, INC.

James K. Fitzpatrick, senior vice president and chief development officer, of Quality Dining, Inc., announced a \$43,000 contribution in honor of the priests of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. The presentation was made at the annual Luncheon in Celebration of Excellence in Catholic Education at the Marriott in Fort Wayne on Thursday, Feb. 4. In the photo, from left, are Msgr. John Suelzer, pastor of St. Charles Parish, Fort Wayne; Msgr. William Schooler, pastor of St. Pius X, Granger; Catholic Schools Superintendent Dr. Mark Myers; Msgr. John Kuzmich, pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Fort Wayne; James Fitzpatrick, senior vice president and chief development officer, of Quality Dining, Inc.; Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades; Daniel Fitzpatrick, chairman and CEO of Quality Dining, Inc.; and Msgr. J. William Lester, retired and former superintendent of Catholic Schools.

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Dignity of life, freedom and truth topics at ethics week event

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — The theme of the Feb. 8-12 Ethics Week at the Mendoza College of Business was abortion, a hot topic on the campus ever since President Barack Obama was invited to be the 2009 commencement speaker and receive an honorary doctor of laws degree. According to promotional material for Ethics Week, the theme "Ethics, Morality and the Life Issue," was chosen "to encourage/facilitate meaningful and reasonable dialogue about an important issue (abortion) that created tensions in the spring of 2009."

Thus, some people expected that the first two speakers at the lunchtime Ethics Week talks might revisit those spring, 2009 tensions, given that those speakers were Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, one of the bishops critical of the Obama invitation, and Holy Cross Father John Jenkins, the Notre Dame president who invited Obama. However, neither Bishop Rhoades in his Feb. 8 talk, nor Father Jenkins in his Feb. 9 talk, specifically addressed the Obama controversy — at least not directly — though the topic came up briefly during a question-answer session after Father Jenkins' talk.

In his presentation, "Ethics, Morality and Religion," Bishop Rhoades noted how Ethics Week and its focus tied into the Catholic mission of Notre Dame, and he thanked the university for this contribution to the Church and society. He noted that the discussion on abortion starts with a fundamental message of Scripture: The dignity of human life created in the image and likeness of God.

"Our faith teaches, and reason confirms, the transcendent dignity of the human person, and respect for this dignity is the basis of a truly just society," he said. "The

whole community, including the business, economic and political communities have a responsibility to safeguard and promote human life and dignity."

Since the most fundamental human right is the right to life, abortion is "a serious moral disorder," Bishop Rhoades said. However, abortion proponents tend to justify their position in the name of individual freedom, he continued. Thus, it's important to consider the meaning of freedom from an ethical and religious point of view and examine the legality of abortion in a democratic society. On these issues, he said, he's guided by the writings of Pope John Paul II, particularly his encyclicals "Evangelium Vitae" and "Centesimus Annus."

As Americans, we cherish and promote freedom and democracy at home and abroad, the bishop said. The democratic system

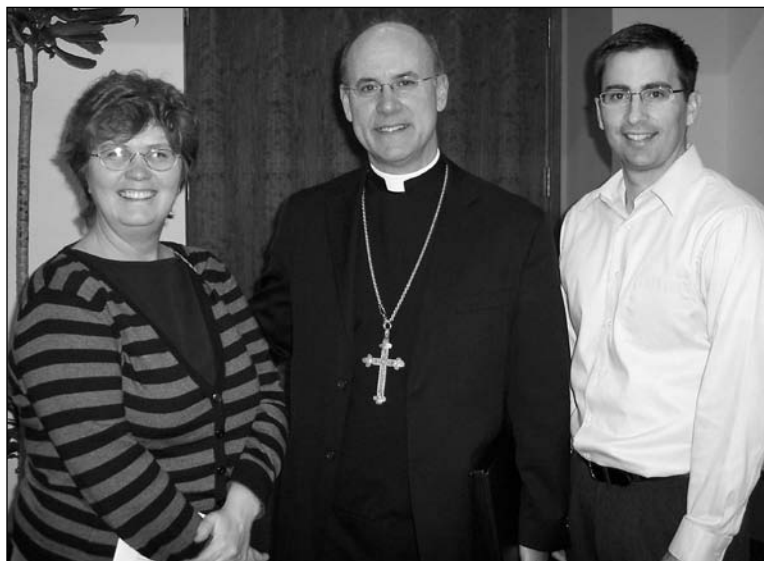
insures the rights of citizens to make political choices peacefully, he continued, whereas a totalitarian state denies truth, denies the rights of people and governs by sheer power that exploits people.

"So, the Church values the democratic system; we as Americans are rightly proud of it," Bishop Rhoades said.

"At the same time, we must be wary also in democracies of embracing the fundamental error of totalitarianism: The denial of the transcendent dignity of the human person."

Our founding fathers recognized and stated in the Declaration of Independence that there are objective truths and inalienable rights, as well as laws of nature and God that governments are meant to serve, the bishop continued. However, the Supreme Court's Roe v. Wade decision violated these most noble ideals from the Declaration of Independence, he said.

Bishop Rhoades quoted Pope



ANN CAREY

Before and after his talk at the Ethics Week program at the University of Notre Dame, Bishop Kevin Rhoades chatted with Notre Dame students, faculty and staff. At left is Mary Hamann, director of communications for the Mendoza College of Business, and at right is Jeff Burks, assistant professor of accountancy.

John Paul II, who wrote in "Centesimus Annus" that "Authentic democracy is possible only in a state ruled by law and on the basis of a correct conception of the human person." If there is no ultimate truth to guide and direct political activity, the bishop said, ideas and convictions can easily be manipulated for reasons of power. History demonstrates that a democracy without values easily turns into open or thinly disguised totalitarianism, he noted.

For a democracy to survive and flourish, he continued, there needs to be an authentic and solid foundation and the explicit recognition of human rights, the most important of which is the right to life, Bishop Rhoades said. Human rights are not a concession by society or the state, but rather belong to human nature and cannot be modified or destroyed by the state.

Pope John Paul II warned against idealizing democracy to the point of making it a substitute for morality or a panacea for immorality, Bishop Rhoades said.

"The value of democracy stands or falls with the values which it embodies and promotes," he said.

The bishop asked how our great democratic nation had come to the point of legalizing abortion and moving in the direction of legalizing euthanasia and assisted suicide. Roe v. Wade has erroneously led

people to accept that if something is declared legal, it is therefore right, he observed, for laws and Supreme Court decisions have a moral influence in forming people's opinions.

"And that's why the educational efforts of the Church and Catholic universities like Notre Dame are so essential and important," Bishop Rhoades said.

The root problem is twofold, he continued: Ethical relativism and a distorted notion of freedom in our society and culture. The freedom to kill an innocent human being is not true freedom, he said, but rather a license to do evil.

"For Catholic universities, like Notre Dame, to be truly Catholic, means witnessing to the truth,

believing in this objective moral law, that there are universal truths," Bishop Rhoades said.

The urgency of this problem is demonstrated by contempt for human life in the name of freedom of choice, he said. This is a result of ethical relativism — the refusal to acknowledge the "enduring, absoluteness of the value of human life and its inviolability" — and the result of a distorted view of freedom, for freedom finds its fulfillment in the truth.

Bishop Rhoades concluded his talk by saying: "May the University of Notre Dame and each one of us bear witness to the truth about the dignity of human life and be committed to truth, love and authentic freedom."

In a question-answer period following the bishop's talk, the Obama controversy was alluded to, but not articulated, when a faculty member asked Bishop Rhoades how to balance the freedom of discussion at the university level with the Catholic mission of the school. Bishop Rhoades responded that freedom isn't limitless, and he noted that Catholic institutions would not tolerate someone like an anti-Semitic who degraded other human beings in the name of freedom.

Catholics "must correct, not tolerate those who propose views that are not respectful of the dignity of human life," Bishop Rhoades said.

Other speakers in the ethics week series were Bobby Williams, director of the Women's Care Center Foundation, speaking on support for mothers, and a panel consisting of Mendoza faculty Ken Milani, Brian Levey and Jessica McManus, speaking on "Long-Run, Legal and Lingering Implications of Abortion."

"History demonstrates that a democracy without values easily turns into open or thinly disguised totalitarianism."

BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

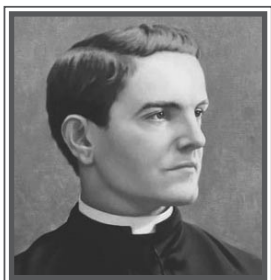


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Daily Lenten activities to inspire God's love

This Lenten season is a 40-day journey into the depth of your own heart. It is a time of introspection, repentance and resolve to move deeper into the love of Christ through his Passion and Resurrection. *Today's Catholic* offers these daily activities to assist both individual and family members journey into the Catholic Lenten tradition of prayer, penance and sacrifice.

BY KAY COZAD

- | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Place a crucifix or picture of Jesus in a prominent place to keep your focus on Him during Lent. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform an anonymous act of kindness for one person today. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Write a letter to Jesus thanking Him for His sacrifice on the cross. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clean a cabinet or closet and donate items to a charity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose a meaningful Scripture, write it down and memorize it. Then share it with someone. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give up 10 minutes each day till Easter and spend it in prayer. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray for someone you don't like today. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Smile at a stranger. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend a fish fry or share a meatless meal with friends and tell them why you are abstaining. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for evidence of God in your work or school today. Share your finding with someone. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Give up something you really enjoy — just for today. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choose a saint and learn about him/her. Pray for the saint's guidance during Lent. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attend a Reconciliation service or go to private Confession this week. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forgive someone who has hurt you. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ask Jesus to heal you of anything that separates you from His love. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Perform some act of service for your parish or school. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Go to a room, close the door and pray in secret. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resolve to go the entire day without judging anyone today, including yourself. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eat pretzels today as a reminder that Catholics used to fast from milk, cheese and meat. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Save your change all week and give it to charity. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray the Stations of the Cross and meditate on each one. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read a book to someone younger today. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray for loved ones and others who have died. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Send a card to a grandparent or other loved one, just because. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell your teacher or boss what you like about them today. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Read the Bible for 10 minutes today. Share what you learned with someone. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take a walk with a friend or family member and pick up trash along the way. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Thank the person who makes your dinner today. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pray for those who are ill or lonely today. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tell someone the story of Jesus' death and Resurrection. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Say "thank you" to five people today. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make cookies and take them to a nursing home or home-bound neighbor. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As a child of God, resolve to think and say only positive things about yourself today. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a Lenten prayer that you can say each day till Easter. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Be nice to someone you don't like today. |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete a chore without being asked today. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turn off the TV and computer and pray the rosary together with family or friends. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abstain from meat on Fridays and give the money you save to your church. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Look for signs of new growth both in nature and in your heart. Thank God for them. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At day's end, perform an examination of conscience. Pray for mercy and the grace for change. |

Display a special bowl or basket in a prominent place in your home.
Cut each Lenten activity strip separately, fold and place in the bowl or basket.
Draw one Lenten activity strip each day and follow the heart of Christ.

Spiritual pilgrimage with the Stations of the Cross

BY KAY COZAD

During this year's six-week Lenten season of focused introspection, grace and healing, *Today's Catholic* offers spiritual reflections on the devotion of the Stations of the Cross. Each week two or three of the stations will be highlighted as the Catholic faithful travel deeper into the final hours of the passion of Jesus Christ on his journey toward Resurrection. By meditating on the specific scenes of Christ's suffering and death, this prayer pilgrimage can bring hope for our trials and the courage to trust in God's divine mercy. It is a pilgrimage into the heart.

History

The Stations of the Cross, also known as Via Dolorosa, was reported to have been developed by the Franciscans in Jerusalem in the 1300s as a way for pilgrims to follow in the footsteps of Christ by visiting holy places there. During the 15th and 16th centuries the Franciscans erected outdoor shrines in Europe to duplicate the holy places in the Holy Land. The number of stations varied from 11 to 30.

By 1686, the Franciscans were granted the right to build the stations within their own churches. By the early 1730s all churches were permitted to display stations and the number was fixed on 14. Today the stations are usually paintings or carved sculptures hung in churches across the world. The Stations of the Cross has become one of the most popular devotions in the Catholic faith.

Way of the Cross

Traditionally the Stations of the Cross are prayed during the Lenten

season, especially during Holy Week. However they can be prayed at any time of year, alone or in a congregation.

The opening prayer to each station is:

"We adore you, O Christ, and we praise you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world."

After reading a meditation explaining each step of Christ's passion the following traditional prayers are recited:

Our Father, Hail Mary and the Glory Be.

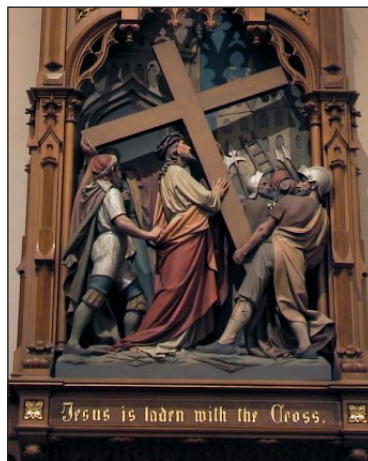


The first Station: Jesus is condemned to death

Reflection: Though Pilate questioned the charges brought against Jesus, he delivered him into the hands of his enemies. Condemnation of an innocent man to placate the whim of the masses is a moral abomination. Can you think of a time when you turned your back on your faith in God to appease another? Today pray that you might keep your eyes on the righteousness of God and not on the need to please others.

Prayer: Lord Jesus, You faithfully subjected Yourself to the

wrath of Your accusers, while Your innocence smacked of the injustice. Strengthen me with Your grace, that I might have the desire to please only you. Help me to hold Your righteous presence in my life above all else. Amen.



The second Station: Jesus takes up his cross

Reflection: Even in his innocence, Our Lord took up His heavy cross in response to His Father's call. His actions would lead to a spiritual lifting of others' burden — the burden of sin. Each of us is called to carry a cross in life, sometimes daily — perhaps a broken relationship, loss of a job, illness or the death of a loved one. Take some time today to join your cross to Jesus' and find redemptive peace in your burden.

Prayer: Jesus, You took up Your cross knowing it was the cost of salvation. How mighty is Your name! As You strengthen me with Your promise of redemptive love, help me find the courage to carry my own cross daily with grace and humility. Thank You for Your sacrifice. Amen.

Lent — Time to take stock

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

My experience has been that far too much of our lives are often spent running in the fast lane. Many people, myself included, seem to go from one thing to the next without much time for reflection in between. There are times when I actually long for the days when I would complain to my mother that I was "bored." I had a hard time doing "nothing."

Although my actions don't always witness to it, I am convinced that we are not meant to live at such a rapid pace. We need time to reflect on our experiences and on our relationships, especially with God.

The season of Lent affords us a great opportunity to pull over out of the fast lane. We are invited to slow down and fill in the spiritual potholes in our lives. Every year the Church, in its wisdom, gives us 40 days as kind of an annual retreat to spend the time to examine our spiritual lives and our relationship with God. Lent is a yearly opportunity to reflect on how well we are living out our baptismal commitment and whether our actions are in line with the Gospel message.

Our Catholic tradition guides us to use the disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving as ways to renew our spiritual lives during Lent — actually not just in Lent but throughout our lives. Lent is a good time to do an assessment of how we live our faith and take stock of our lives.

As far as prayer goes we might look at how much quality time we give to the Lord. Maybe our prayer life is limited to Mass on Sunday and a quick prayer before meals, if we remember and not too many people are looking at us. Maybe we pray primarily when we need a favor, like a good mark on a test that we aren't prepared for. During Lent we can try to slow down enough to have a real conversation with God and give him a bit of our time.

No relationship can deepen and grow unless we are willing to listen and share ourselves with the other person. God is no exception. During Lent, if you don't already, set aside 15 minutes of your quality time each day to be with God. Go to a quiet place, slow down and let God love you. Read and reflect upon some Scripture each day and get to know him better. I know this is not always easy for us at first. I remem-

ber when I first went into the convent and was expected to make an hour of silent contemplation every day. I wasn't used to being quiet that long and at first it seemed like an eternity to me. I don't suggest starting with an hour.

The second Lenten tradition is fasting. The majority of people think fasting means to give up some kind of food, like candy or ice cream, but there is more than one way to fast. It depends on us what type of fasting would best benefit our spiritual lives. Maybe it would be more beneficial for us to fast from gossip or negative words or some other behavior that only God and we know. Or perhaps we need to talk less and become better listeners. Those in the fast lane rarely have time to really hear what people say to them. They are usually preoccupied and rushing to the next "important" event or checking off their to-do lists.

Lastly, there is the discipline of almsgiving. It can be much easier to give our loose change to a charitable cause than to give the precious gift of our time. Lent calls us to give of ourselves, not just our money. We can look at our lives and see who we need to spend more quality time with and who could benefit from our gifts and talents. Lent is an opportunity to get our focus off ourselves and reach out in love to our brothers and sisters.

Besides our time, another thing we may be called to give during Lent is forgiveness to someone who has hurt us. It might even be someone who has died. Or maybe we need the grace to ask for forgiveness from someone we have injured. This is another way to give alms and is a sacrifice pleasing to God. Reconciliation is an integral part of the Gospel message.

So as this season of Lent begins, let us slow down and try to be more reflective. It is difficult to get out of the fast lane but in the long run it will benefit our Christian journeys. Meetings, jobs, term papers and classes will pass away but our relationship with God is forever. Have a happy and holy Lent.

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department. mlavonis@cscsisters.org.



Operation Rice Bowl starts Ash Wednesday

National program raises awareness of global hunger, poverty

BALTIMORE, Md — Millions of Catholics in the United States are participating in Operation Rice Bowl, Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) annual program to raise awareness of global hunger. Starting Ash Wednesday, Catholic parishes and schools from more than 12,000 communities are using symbolic rice bowls as the focal point for their Lenten observance.

"Although in the aftermath of the devastating earthquake in Haiti much of our focus is on the desperate needs there, we cannot forget that every day thousands of children around the world die from hunger and its consequences," says Beth Martin, program manager for Operation Rice Bowl. "It is because of programs like ORB and our ongoing support for long-term development that we are able to

respond swiftly in emergencies like Haiti."

Operation Rice Bowl provides 40 opportunities to learn about, pray for and help those who don't have enough to eat. Participants make the small sacrifice of preparing simple, meatless recipes each week and putting the money they otherwise would have spent on a big meal into symbolic rice bowls. That money goes to support CRS' mission to fight global hunger and poverty.

"Through Operation Rice Bowl, we read personal stories of people who have been able to improve their lives with CRS' help," Martin says. "Women receive small loans to start their own businesses; farmers receive training and communities install wells that bring clean water to

families."

With a calendar suggesting daily reflections and prayer, as well as concrete ways to act, participants can observe Lent in both a spiritual and practical way.

Every year, Catholics raise about \$6 million through Operation Rice Bowl, 75 percent of which is used to fund hunger and poverty projects in 40 countries. The remaining 25 percent stays in U.S. dioceses to support food pantries and soup kitchens.

Since its beginning in 1975, ORB has raised more than \$191 million to fund CRS' development projects. With active participation in almost every diocese in the U.S., many communities and families have adopted Operation Rice Bowl as a way to observe Lent.

Priests and laity together: One priestly people

BY FATHER LARRY KRAMER
AND LINDA FURGE

Opening/closing song: "Song of the Body of Christ" (Gather Comprehensive No. 727); "All Are Welcome" (No. 753)

Opening prayer:

Prayer for Priests

Gracious and loving God, we thank You for the gift of our priests. Through them, we experience Your presence in the sacraments. Help our priests to be strong in their vocation. Set their souls on fire with love for Your people. Grant them the wisdom, understanding and strength they need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus.

Inspire them with the vision of Your kingdom. Give them the words they need to spread the Gospel. Allow them to experience joy in their ministry. Help them to become instruments of Your divine grace.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns as our Eternal Priest. Amen.

— www.catholicdaughters.org

Excerpt from Pope Benedict XVI's Letter to Priests:

His example naturally leads me to point out that there are sectors of cooperation which need to be opened ever more fully to the lay faithful. Priests and laity together make up the one priestly people and in virtue of their ministry priests live in the midst of the lay faithful, "that they may lead everyone to the unity of charity, 'loving

one another with mutual affection; and outdoing one another in sharing honor.'" — Rom 12:10

Father Larry Kramer, pastor, St. Paul of the Cross, Columbia City:

The master teacher Benedict XVI in his letter to priests for the Year for Priests shared some details about the life of the heavenly patron of all priests, St. Jean Vianney, the "Cure of Ars." They centered around his work as a genuine pastor, not an isolated mystic. Vianney organized help for the poor of that impoverished sector of rural France and developed programs of spiritual development for the lay leadership in his parish.

Some time earlier in a part of Italy where the love of God had also been lacking, St. Paul of the Cross anticipated our modern Cursillo, Marriage Encounter, Christ Renews His Parish and similar movements by using lay people in key positions as witness speakers and spiritual mentors (the original and still the main role of godparents) in an era when that was rare.

Today as a pastor I find myself in a similar position, but as a facilitator rather than an innovator. Even if there were nothing called a "priest shortage," it has always been true that the priest cannot be everything that people need. People need the example and encouragement of people like themselves if they are to grow in the knowledge and love of God and God's people. I try to find such people and help them put their God-given talents to work for



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the kingdom of God. I find that in doing this I receive their help in understanding my own role with them and their value to one another in Christ.

Called and gifted

Father Kramer echoes — and lives out — what the U.S. Bishops recognized in Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium: That lay men and women in secular and consecrated life and men in ordained ministry are called to an ongoing dialogue as they take up their baptismal call to holiness, to community, to mission and ministry, and to adult Christian maturity. In "Lumen Gentium," we learn that, "The forms and tasks of life are many, but holiness is one — that sanctity which is cultivated by all who act under God's Spirit." — No. 41. It is through community, ministry and maturity that individuals and groups advance in understanding of their primary Catholic Christian vocation, that of holiness, of "ever intimate union with Christ." — Catechism of the Catholic Church, No. 2014

Challenged to respond

We are asked to respond to

these four calls:

- Through committed relationships of marriage and family and the concrete realities of life.

- Through generous service and conscious stewardship of resources.

- Through participation in a "new evangelization," sharing the Good News of the Gospel with others with new ardor, new methods and new expressions.

- Through Christian witness within the family, within our faith communities and within the life of society.

Our call to holiness through community, ministry and Christian maturity comes from living a life filled with God's Holy Spirit, living in a spirit of love, joy, peace and courage. Our responses, both lay and ordained, to the call to holiness are a gift to the Church and to the world.

As the U.S. Bishops conclude in Called and Gifted: "When we embrace our lives, with all their unresolved, mysterious ways, then we are led into the divine embrace of the Mystery that lies as the heart of life. We realize we are called to be faithful, not necessarily successful.

"It is at this juncture, perhaps more than any other, that the ordained and lay members of the Church can sustain each other in the path of fidelity to Our Lord Jesus Christ. The laity and the ordained need to pray for one another and offer mutual support. (Our) pastoral ministry can be more effective if we become true collaborators, mindful of our weaknesses, but grateful for our

gifts. Collaboration challenges us to understand that we are, in reality, joined in Christ's body, that we are not separate but interdependent." — Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium, "A Prayer," page 24, © 1995, United States Catholic Conference, Inc., Washington, D.C.

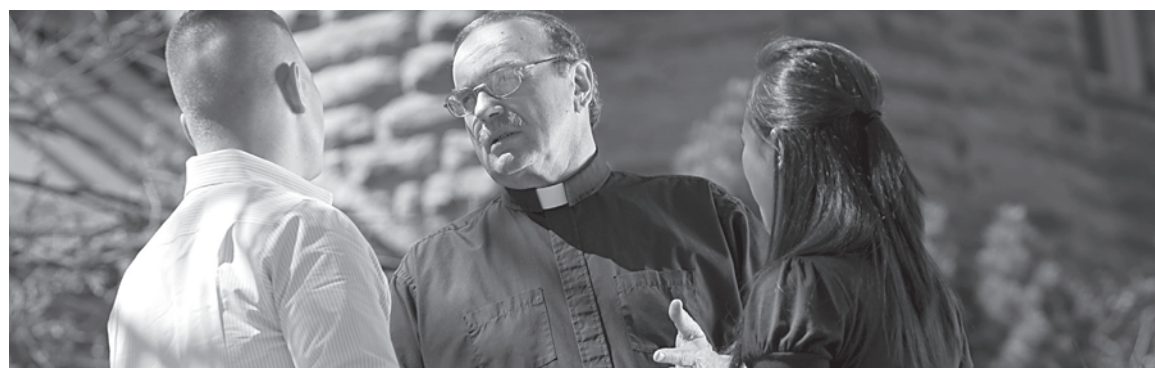
Reflection questions

- In what ways do you believe you "know" God in ordinary life?
- What are the most important elements of parish life that foster community for you?
- In what areas of your life are you responding to the call to ministry?
- As an adult Catholic, how do you keep growing and maturing in faith — spiritually and intellectually?

Closing prayer

God of love and mercy, You call us to be Your people; You gift us with Your abundant grace. Make us a holy people, radiating the fullness of Your love. Form us into a community, a people who care, expressing Your compassion. Remind us day after day of our baptismal call to serve, with joy and courage. Teach us how to grow in wisdom and grace and joy in Your presence. Through Jesus in your Spirit, we make this prayer. Amen.

— Called and Gifted for the Third Millennium, "A Prayer," page v, © 1995, United States Catholic Conference, Inc., Washington, D.C.



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THE CUTTING EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

When I first became a Sister of the Holy Cross it was the practice to meditate for an hour a day. To a 17-year-old extravert this hour seemed like an eternity. I operated under the notion that “good” prayer happened only when you were totally focused on God and God alone. With so much time, I found myself fighting many distractions. That is what I thought meditation or contemplation was.

In my feeble attempts to do this I would spend a lot of time chasing “other” thoughts from my mind. I got discouraged and thought I was not growing in my spiritual life.

After a few years of this, what I thought to be an impossible exercise, a wise spiritual director suggested to me that when these “distractions” invade my consciousness I hold them up in prayer. His advice liberated me and helped me see there was more to prayer.

That wise, holy man helped me to realize that our persistent distractions can become our prayer. God has a way of putting certain people and events in our minds for a reason. When our minds drift off and we continue to think about someone or some thing, perhaps we are being encouraged to pray for that person or event.

Another tip was that if our thoughts are about our “to do” lists or what we going to have for supper, it often helps to write those thoughts down in a notebook or on a piece of paper so we can deal with them at another time. Otherwise it is hard to focus on the Lord. It is like when you’re having a conversation with someone who is constantly looking at her watch. You get the idea that she has more important things on her mind.

It is also good to remember that we are whole persons. We are not simply creatures with bodies and souls, as if they can be separated from each other. Our person is integrated with our spirit. We must not divide our “prayer life” from the rest of life. Our relationship with God touches our whole life, not just when we say prayers or go to church. What is important to us in our daily lives is also important to God and we should discuss our lives with him.

Prayer is not meant to be a discipline or a dirge. I sometimes hear some people say, “I have to go say my prayers” or “I must get my prayers in,” as if their prayer is merely an obligation. The idea is to integrate our prayer with our lives. God is interested in everything about us. I think he would rather hear about us rather than always receiving formal, already written prayers.

So the next time your mind wanders during Mass or when you sit down to pray, it might be something you should bring to your prayer. That is one way God speaks to us. Listen to him.



YOUNG ADULT PERSPECTIVES

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

Heeding Heidi: The empty gains of plastic surgery

Heidi Montag has given new meaning to the concept of one-stop shopping. The 23-year-old reality TV star — one of those who is famous for being famous — underwent 10 plastic-surgery procedures in one day, as pin pointed in *People* magazine and now scrutinized online.

Among the 10 procedures, a few are predictable, while others involve regions you’d never imagine a young adult would need refined: neck liposuction, chin reduction and pinning her ears back. “For the first time,” Montag gushes to *People*, “I can wear updos, instead of hiding (my ears) behind my hair.”

The twisted psychology of her extreme makeover is as easy to trace as the black marks drawn on her pre-op body. “I’m competing against the Britney Spears of the world,” she explains, lauding “the Heidi 2010 reinvention” and promising new versions in coming years.

She’s found inspiration on the pages of *Us Weekly* and *In Touch*, stashing away her favorite images, including shots of Angelina Jolie. “She has those really high eyebrows, and I love them.” She’ll find new ammunition in her quest “to feel perfect” this month, when *Sports Illustrated’s* annual swimsuit edition hits newsstands.

Their sandy sirens taunt average women, whose swimsuits and sun dresses are tucked in top shelves, whose love handles are safely distanced from New Year’s



TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

resolutions and warm weather.

I’m told *Sports Illustrated’s* spreads are considered the classier end of swimsuit modeling, if such a thing as class is possible when you’re in a string bikini. Especially troublesome is the magazine’s use of body paint in lieu of swimsuits, the paint

being code for nudity.

Indeed, a heap of distractions arrive in this short month, wedged between Miss America and the Academy Awards and complicated by Valentine’s Day. At every turn we measure

ourselves — on scales, in mirrors, across cubicles, between Facebook profiles. We swing from famine to feast, from relief to remorse. We balance tangled expectations with reality checks, roses with thorns.

It is the perfect time to enter into Lent, to look inward and upward. This month’s readings guide our journey, reminding us that others “are occupied with earthly things, but our citizenship is in heaven.”

St. Paul writes that Jesus “will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body.” That union is how we embody

true beauty — not in the removal of pimples or the loss of weight. The pursuit of perfection is not only an impossible mission, it’s an undesirable one because our humanity is our lifeline to the Savior. “Therefore,” St. Paul concludes, “stand firm in the Lord.”

His charge is not easy when so many cultural forces attempt to sway and bend us. But to continually bend is to become weaker and weaker, which appears to be the true impact of Heidi Montag’s

surgeries. Although she praised the results in her *People* interview, she repeatedly described herself as “fragile” — a telling statement of her physical and emotional well being.

“I see an upgraded version of me,” she says. “It’s a new person, and I feel like almost all of the things I didn’t want to be and who I turned into kind of got chiseled away.”

The problem is Heidi is working in the wrong direction. She’s

seeking inner peace from outer transformation. That canvas, of course, makes for quicker change. But the heavy lifting of Christianity, of Lent, and of life, begins inside. That’s where we do the real work and where we find the real joy.

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

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EDITORIAL

Making your Lent a good Lent

It's already the first Sunday of the season of Lent. Earlier this week, on Ash Wednesday, many of us received ashes. The priest uses the ashes from burnt palm branches to make the Sign of the Cross on the forehead of each parishioner, saying: "Remember, you are dust and to dust you will return."

Lent is defined by the Catechism of the Catholic Church as "the liturgical season of 40 days which begins with Ash Wednesday and ends with the celebration of the Paschal Mystery (Easter Triduum). Lent is the primary penitential season in the Church's liturgical year, reflecting the 40 days Jesus spent in the desert in fasting and prayer."

During the 40 days of Lent, the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert.

On Ash Wednesday and through the season, Lent calls on all Christians to pause to refresh their souls. Lenten practices such as prayer, fasting and penance, almsgiving and other works of charity, are emphasized to help people focus on their relationship with God and one another — living the way they are supposed to be living all the time according to the Gospel of Jesus Christ — waiting in joyful hope for the victory of Christ's Resurrection on Easter Sunday and the fullness of the Kingdom of God.

In this week's issue, our staff writer Kay Cozad offers 40 "to dos" during the Lenten season, incorporating one of the three Lenten practices. Throughout this Lenten season, *Today's Catholic* will provide, as in years past, faith sharing pieces produced by the Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization.

And throughout the diocese, parishes will offer Penance Services and the opportunity to partake in the sacrament of Reconciliation.

The theme of this year's Lenten message from Pope Benedict XVI is "The Justice of God Has Been Manifested through Faith in Jesus Christ."

In his message, the Holy Father said, "The Christian is moved to contribute to creating just societies where all receive what is necessary to live according to the dignity proper to the human person and where justice is enlivened by love."

When we convert to Christ, He gives us strength to break the bonds of selfishness and work for justice in the world. This is something we can all strive to accomplish these 40 days.

The hospitality of Christ

This year as the world turned its collective eye to our northern neighbor, Canada, last week it saw the enormity of man's hope and inspiration. As the XXI Winter Olympics began in Vancouver, British Columbia, winter sports enthusiasts marveled at each magnificent event from snow boarding to speed skating to curling. This peaceful gathering of athletes representing races, religions and cultures from across the globe inspired even the crustiest hearts. And so it should.

The global celebration of this significant sporting event guides us on more than just a journey down the slopes and represents more for us as Christians than just athletic prowess and success. In a 2002 homily Pope John Paul II remarked of sports, "(Sports) can make an effective contribution to peaceful understanding between people and to establishing the new civilization of love."

Of course we watch with anticipation as the athletes perform in events which are sometimes a lifelong dream come true. But behind the scenes this new civilization of love begins with individuals willing to offer the hospitality of Christ. The residents of Whistler, the resort town where many of the Olympic events were held opened their doors to the athletes and visitors with heartwarming hospitality. And a large contingent of clergy of multiple faiths came together to provide spiritual support for the athletes in this secular competition — like Msgr. Jerry Desmond of Our Lady of the Mountains who headed the Catholic contingent for the multifaith center in the athletes' Olympic Village in Whistler, where daily Mass and Reconciliation were available to all. This service and hospitality brings the universality of our Church in focus and is a reminder of opportunities we have to offer hospitality in our own back yards.

Hospitality has long been the hallmark of our Catholic religion. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states, "Love one another with brotherly affection ... Contribute to the needs of the saints, practice hospitality." — CCC No. 1971

Whether we are sports enthusiasts or not at all interested in the events shaping lives in Vancouver, living up to the ideals of the Olympics brings us back to the love of Jesus Christ. And that's a lesson worth learning.

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

Pro-life political party questioned

I recently read with befuddled amusement an editorial by the *Today's Catholic* Editorial Board (High noon for healthcare reform) in which the word "Democrats" was only used when preceded by the phrase "pro-life." To be sure, a pro-life Democrat is a rarity which requires exception when one does run across such an individual. However, the editorial is written in such a way as to present these Democrats as the last hope for the unborn, yet never mentions that the entire Republican caucus in the Senate voted on the side of life.

During the 2004 presidential campaign there were willing donors who wished to distribute Catholic voter guides to all of the churches in this diocese. These guides iterated Catholic teaching as well as with

what leeway a Catholic could vote with regard to abortion. These donors were denied the right to distribute the voter guides because diocesan officials felt uncomfortable with the fact that it would have virtually eliminated one's ability to vote for any of the Democrats on the ballot had the voters guide been used. In other words, the guide was not rejected because it was false, but rather because it presented an uncomfortable reality. It seems a bit odd that our diocesan paper now offers such friendly coverage of one party in particular.

If the *Today's Catholic* is going to be the accepted mouthpiece for this diocese, then in fairness it must clearly state the case that the Democrat party is the key repository of anti-life fervor in Congress and that these few pro-life members of its caucus could have saved all of this drama had they simply voted with the House Republicans when

their bill was originally voted on in the first place.

Finally, I respectfully disagree with the board and assert that it is anything but clear that passage of this bill will be a victory for the poor. We should not forget that the Catholic Church has been the strongest and most forceful non-secular voice against statism in the past century. This legislation is nothing if not an assumption of power by the state.

Andrew Landrigan M.D.
Roanoke

Note: Not all voter guides that claim to represent the teaching of the Catholic Church actually do so. Some oversimplify or omit important doctrinal or prudential considerations. Our Sunday Visitor, for example, produced a voter guide brochure for the 2008 election that was both approved by the diocese and distributed in parishes that chose to do so.

Healthcare reform and the pro-life agenda

Due in part to a Senate seat switching parties in a recent special election, healthcare reform legislation may be stalled in Congress for now. Many had hoped that long-overdue reform, extending affordable health coverage to tens of millions of people who lack it now, was on the horizon. And some, disappointed at the current impasse, are looking for scapegoats.

One charge is that the Catholic Church doomed healthcare reform by its opposition to federally funded abortion coverage. One *New York Times* reporter, commenting on the bishops' new letter urging Congress not to give up on authentic reform, described the bishops as switching to the "other side" of the issue after helping to bring the legislation near death.

The charge runs counter to a number of well-established facts.

First, the Catholic bishops have supported national healthcare reform for decades. Catholic teaching sees health care not as a commodity, but as a support for life and health that every human being deserves as a matter of right. The bishops wrote to Congress numerous times in the past year, urging progress toward authentic reform — reform that would make health care more affordable, ensure access to health care for immigrants, and respect life from conception to natural death while upholding rights of conscience.

They urged that the legislation comply with policies on abortion and conscience rights that have long governed other major federal health programs. Making this bill into a vehicle for weakening or changing federal policy on abortion, they warned, would threaten the real goal of expanding access to basic health care.

Second, opinion surveys showed that others agreed. Most American women and men don't want abortion in their health coverage, and don't want the government funding or promoting abortion. Legislation ignoring this strong sentiment would garner public distrust.

Third, the inclusion of clear language against federally funded abortion coverage is what saved healthcare reform legislation in the House of Representatives. The bill did not have the votes to pass, until the last-minute approval of the Stupak amendment allowed pro-life Democrats to support the bill in good conscience. The Senate refused this language, instead crafting a "compromise" that has failed to win support from groups on either side of the issue.

Fourth, it is the pro-abortion movement that has announced opposition to all current healthcare reform bills. The National Organization for Women, for example, opposes even the weak and loophole-filled Senate language on abortion, accusing Congress of "throwing women under the bus" to pass healthcare

LIFE ISSUES FORUM



RICHARD M. DOERFLINGER

reform legislation. It is not difficult to see which groups want to hold reform hostage to impossible demands.

What does the future hold? To Catholics, abandoning helpless unborn children is not an option. Nor is abandoning millions of people who lack access to health care. Members of Congress made some progress last year toward reform that respects the life, health and conscience of everyone. They should not abandon the task, but try to work together on authentic reforms that can earn the support and trust of Americans who appreciate the dignity of each and every human life. The bishops would be the first to applaud that effort.

Richard Doerflinger is associate director of the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. To learn more about the bishops' pro-life activities, visit www.usccb.org/prolife and www.usccb.org/healthcare.

The importance of ceremony

I have become curious recently as I read the obituaries as to what appears to be a growing trend toward no visitation or service after a death. "As per his wishes there will be no services," or "A private service will take place at a later date," they read. I suspect the thought of putting those left behind through the pain and cost of arranging and hosting a funeral seems futile to those who are near death.

Or perhaps this deritualization is due to our mobile and decidedly fast-paced culture that encourages efficiency and convenience for family members who now live across global boundaries. Making time for funeral travel in our busy world has become inconvenient and cost prohibitive.

It is becoming more common recently to unceremoniously dispose of the dead and return to normal life as quickly as possible. Many choose cremation, burial with no ceremony or a private gathering with no allowance for

public grief.

Of course we must honor the burial wishes of our loved ones. But we must also acknowledge and embrace the fact that funeral ceremonies are for the living — those left behind to begin their arduous work through grief in an effort to eventually live and love fully again. Funerals offer a safe place to express sadness and embrace the pain of loss together.

Writing the obituary and arranging the funeral ceremony are the first affirmations of the reality that a loved one has died. The obituary notifies the community to come together to participate in the funeral that meets the family's need for compassionate support, love and understanding.

Meaningful funeral ceremonies are not about closure, but rather are about beginning the grief experience. Experiencing the gathering of family, friends and community members allows the bereaved to begin to acknowledge and express the pain of their loss through story



KAY COZAD

HOPE IN THE MOURNING

telling, the giving and receiving of compassionate actions and the sharing of tears and laughter. This is an essential part of healing.

In the days following my husband's death, I found myself in a flurry of activity. Writing the obituary was a painstaking activity. And it was literally gut wrenching to choose the right casket in which to place my husband's body. But that experience led me to the next step and the next in creating a meaningful tribute to him. Such began my grief journey.

Showing Trent's body was of

HOPE, PAGE 16

Jesus alone offers strength and life



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

First Sunday of Lent Lk 4:1-13

The Book of Deuteronomy provides the first reading for this first Sunday of Lent. Deuteronomy recalls the flight of the Hebrews from Egypt, where they had been slaves. This trip, called the Exodus, was filled with risks and hardships. The Egyptians pursued them. The Sinai Peninsula, through which they passed, was unforgiving, harsh and sterile of the necessities of life.

Even so, Deuteronomy is not a story of doom and gloom. It is hopeful. Always ahead is the Promised Land. Always God intervenes with mercy, provisions and guidance.

God's unfailing mercy was not forever accompanied by the people's faithfulness. They rebelled against God, and they doubted God. Nevertheless, God again and again came to their aid.

For its second reading this weekend, the Church provides us with a reading from Paul's powerful Epistle to the Romans. The apostle wrote this epistle, or letter, to the Christians living in Rome, the imperial capital and the center of the Mediterranean world in the first century.

These Christians of Rome, a group of converts from Judaism and former pagans, lived in a culture that was utterly at odds with

the Gospel. The conflict was decidedly more pronounced since Rome literally was the center of the culture. In short time, the political and legal order turned against Christianity.

Paul urged these people to be strong by uniting themselves to God through faith in Jesus. Reassuringly, and strong with his own determined faith, Paul tells the Romans that if they trust in the Lord, none will be put to shame. Paul expressly mentions the Resurrection, the miracle by which Jesus, crucified and dead, rose again to life.

Finally, Paul insists, God's mercy and life, given in Christ, are available to all, Greeks, or foreigners, as well as to Jews, who were part of the Chosen People.

St. Luke's Gospel gives us a scene also seen in Mark and Matthew, namely a story of the temptation of Christ by the devil.

Here the two figures, Jesus and the devil, stand in contrast. The devil, so often depicted at least in myth and lore as so very powerful, as indeed the devil is powerful, is indecisive and struggling. While the devil himself clarifies the identity of Jesus, Satan cannot grasp the full meaning of Christ's identity. The devil foolishly seeks to tempt Jesus not to be faithful to God but rather to worship Satan.

Jesus is "full of the Holy Spirit." Jesus is serene and strong. He is in control.

He is the Son of God. He also is human, because the devil used food to tempt Jesus. Fasting was a discipline for Jesus.

Nevertheless, defeated for the moment, the devil does not relent but only lies in wait for another opportunity.

Reflection

On Ash Wednesday, the Church invited us to use the season of Lent as a means to holiness.

In so doing, it is not asking us to begin a walk along an imagined primrose path. Rather, it is frank in telling us what holiness requires. It clearly unfolds reality before us. We live in a world in which evil abides.

The devil is real. Popular lore in this time has taken to the image of the devil. The occult fascinates people. There are here and there darker implications of this interest in Satan.

The reading from Mark clearly presents to us the fact of evil. It reveals the devil. It also shows the conflict between Jesus and the devil. Finally, it shows that in this tension Jesus prevails.

Jesus alone offers strength and life. No evil can outdo the Lord. Nothing offers greater reward.

Lent invites us to use Lent to fortify ourselves to live in a conflict between good and evil. It calls us to Jesus.

READINGS

Sunday: Dt 26:4-10 Ps 91:1-2, 10-15
Rom 10:8-13 Lk 4:1-13

Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4 Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6
Mt 16:13-19

Tuesday: Is 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-7, 16-19
Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10 Ps 51:3-4,
12-13, 18-19 Lk 11:29-32

Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25
Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8 Mt 7:7-12

Friday: Ez 18:21-28 Ps 130:1-8
Mt 5:20-26

Saturday: Dt 26:16-19 Ps 119:1-2,
4-5, 7-8 Mt 5:43-48

CATEQUIZEM

By Dominic Camplisson

In this, the second month of the year, we get a double offering of twos in this quiz.

1. What is the second book of the Bible?

- a. Genesis
- b. Exodus
- c. Deuteronomy

2. Which book's name can be translated as second law

- a. Genesis
- b. Exodus
- c. Deuteronomy

3. What was the reason that once a week the Israelites wandering in the desert gathered twice as much manna?

- a. They were greedy
- b. So they would not have to work on the Sabbath
- c. So they could get fat and prepare to hebrewnate

4. Numbers 20 recounts how Moses struck one of these twice to get water

- a. a rock
- b. a glacier
- c. a faucet

5. In Genesis we read that God made the two great lights. What are they?

- a. Mars and Venus
- b. The Star of Bethlehem and star of David
- c. The sun and the moon

6. What did Moses bring down from the mountain in two tablets?

- a. Antacid
- b. The seven sacraments
- c. The Ten Commandments

7. Why did Moses have to make two trips to get these to the people?

- a. He could only carry one at a time.
- b. He broke the first set when he saw them worship the Golden Calf.
- c. He was paid mileage so it seemed like a better plan.

8. Which two books in the New Testament were originally one

- a. Matthew and Luke's Gospel
- b. Luke's Gospel and Acts
- c. Acts and intermission

9. Deuteronomy 25 warns against having two types of weights. Why?

- a. It encouraged people to diet.
- b. It was a warning against cheating.
- c. It could cause fatigue if their bags were to heavy.

10. In Matthew 6, Jesus warns that no man can serve two of these

- a. pies
- b. sentences upon a condemned man
- c. masters

11. This man was definitely one of two as his name means twin

- a. Thomas
- b. Peter (Simon)
- c. Judas

12. According to Ephesians how do two become one

- a. dieting
- b. super glue
- c. marriage

13. This 19th century council had a second council in the same place about a century later

- a. Roman
- b. Lateran
- c. Vatican

14. This liturgy involves two processions, a lesser and a greater, around parts of the nave of the church

- a. the Byzantine
- b. the Catholic Calvinist
- c. the Jain

15. But "double procession" is a theological term, accepted mostly in the West, which refers to the

- a. fact that the Holy Spirit proceeds in and out of the Church
- b. fact that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father and the Son
- c. fact that the Trinity has two aspects, divine and human

ANSWERS:

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

Embrace the gamut of emotions bestowed upon us

All right, keep this to yourselves. Don't tell anyone. This is our little secret.

There is only one network television show that I watch.

"American Idol."

Shhhh. That's just between you and me. Nobody else knows.

Actually, when I reveal this to people, particularly men, they make a face that is best described as disdain. The initial reaction is followed by a snort or a grunt, clearly indicating that I must have some defective male gene if I tune in to Simon Cowell's cynical, mean-spirited diatribes directed at aspiring singers.

I am a sportswriter, after all. I should be watching that critical February college basketball clash between Gardner-Webb and Charleston Southern, or perhaps the important inter-conference hockey battle between the Vancouver Canucks and Columbus Blue Jackets.

Nothing against the Bulldogs (Gardner-Webb), the Bucs (Charleston Southern), the Canucks or the Blue Jackets, but I find the competition on "American Idol" more compelling, particularly since a February basketball game between Gardner-Webb and Charleston is a Big South Conference regular season game.

Checking the score the next day will suffice. Not checking the score the next day likely won't leave a void in my life either.

I watch "American Idol" for its competitiveness, my appreciation for quality music and, quite frankly, an appreciation for sheer elation. "American Idol" is like a sporting event from a competitive standpoint, so that provides a flavor of athletic conflict upon which I thrive. Music is an ever-present component in my life. I appreciate a quality singing voice and the ability to sing well in a competitive situation.

But what really draws me to it is the elation, the celebrations among participants and families

after they've been selected for a spot in a Hollywood tryout, signified by the golden ticket.

Have you ever seen one of these celebrations? It is sheer joy, total elation, unbridled happiness.

For many, it is a dream come true, a fulfillment of a long-held goal, or even an escape from an unsatisfactory life. Tears are shed, babies are hugged, and the families mug for the cameras to show just how thrilled they are. It is the epitome of joy.

It reminds me of my day-dreams growing up. As an athlete, I fantasized about hitting the game-winning shot or driving in the game-winning run. Getting mobbed by your teammates is the ultimate experience for an athlete.

I've also had the incredible privilege of watching the high school baseball players that I coach form a pile of celebrating humanity in the middle of the infield when we won the semi-state to advance to the state title. These are indelible images in my mind.

Having those emotions of joy and expressing them are gifts from God. I've always said — half jokingly, half serious — that I don't trust stoic people. I don't really mean that. Stoic people are good people too, and certainly during a majority of our lives, staying on an even keel is the correct emotion to choose. But I would be a lost soul without the ability to express elation.

It's always bugged me when people criticize those who thank God after a big victory. They say, "God doesn't care who wins." I won't dispute that, but it doesn't mean we shouldn't be thankful for the blessing God has bestowed on us. Those who genuinely make the sign of the cross or look to the heavens after a big play or a big victory simply are saying, "I am blessed, I appreciate the blessing, thank you for the blessing."

Now the flip side of elation, of course, is utter devastation. While I would never wish despair upon another human



FROM THE SIDELINES

TIM PRISTER

being, the fact of the matter is that in life, particularly when we have lost a loved one, we experience the exact opposite of elation. That emotion is a gift from God as well.

We hope to limit the frequency of devastation during our time on earth, but it is a part of life and we must find a way to pick ourselves up, rise above it and move on. We often find an inner strength, a determination or a level of motivation that we might not have tapped into had we not experienced the extreme downside of life.

The reality is that there is more devastation felt on "American Idol" than there is elation. Careful editing makes sure that we see an ample amount of both.

In real life, just like in the competitive cocoon of a show like "American Idol," we run the gamut of emotions. God gave us those emotions. Use them, learn from them, build a better you from them, and above all, be thankful for them.

Life is like a rollercoaster. Hold on tight, roll with the ups and downs, and enjoy the moment that God has provided for you. We are auditioning for something much more important than a trip to Hollywood.

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

bilial and even eulogy choices, the symbolism of which was not lost on any who attended.

I was pleasantly surprised to find that so many people from all areas of my husband's life came to honor him and support his family. I recall telling a friend during the visitation, "If Trent were here today, this would be the best party. Everyone I love is under one roof." Trent's funeral gave my community a way to unite, remember and support his family. And the show of support gave me hope for the future.

Grief expert Alan Wolfelt teaches that "When words are

inadequate, have a ceremony." And I have found that it is never too late to create a meaningful ceremony that can lead to healing on the path of grief. My girls and I continue to participate in rituals that are meaningful to us on special anniversary dates. And I delight in their inspired ventures when they create a new ceremony to honor their dad.

Kay Cozad is a certified grief educator and news editor of *Today's Catholic*. She can be reached at kcozad@todayscatholicnews.org.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for February 21, 2010

Luke 4:1-13

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the First Sunday of Lent, Cycle C: Jesus in the desert with no food and Satan. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

SPIRIT	RETURNED	THE JORDAN
WAS LED	FORTY DAYS	TEMPTED
THE DEVIL	ATE NOTHING	HUNGRY
STONE	BREAD	TOOK HIM UP
WORLD	GLORY	WORSHIP ME
THROW	ANGELS	GUARD YOU
HANDS	FOOT	AGAINST

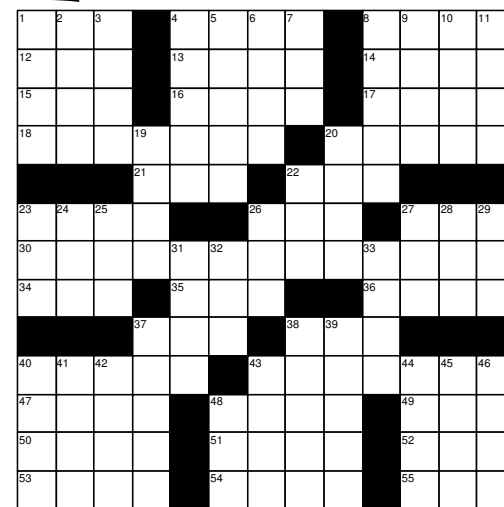
RULERS OF JUDAH

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

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The Cross Word

February 21 & 28, 2010



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Based on these Scripture Readings: Ps 91; Deut 26:4-10; Rom 10:8-13; Lk 4:1-13; Gen 15: 5-12, 17-18; Phil 3:17-4:1; Lk 9:28-36 (3rd & 4th Sundays of Lent)

ACROSS

- 1 Compass point
- 4 Window glass
- 8 Baths
- 12 Alternative (abbr.)
- 13 Black
- 14 Scribes tried to ___ Jesus
- 15 Weapon
- 16 Walked
- 17 Air (prefix)
- 18 "My father was a wandering ___"
- 20 Moses led them from
- 21 God's hand and ___ freed them
- 22 Kentucky Geologic

Survey

- 23 Alack's partner
- 26 Heavy mist
- 27 Shade
- 30 Abraham's act of ___
- 34 Ball holder
- 35 Remnant
- 36 Euphrates runs through here
- 37 ___ stretched arm
- 38 College football conference (abbr.)
- 40 "Put to ___"
- 43 Curing
- 47 N.A. Indian
- 48 St. Benedict the ___
- 49 Commandment number
- 50 Remove from office

- 51 Corn disease
- 52 Time period
- 53 President (abbr.)
- 54 St. Gaugericus
- 55 Cut grass

DOWN

- 1 Heroic tale
- 2 Mumble
- 3 Gas burner
- 4 With James and John
- 5 Abraham's first name
- 6 Time of midday prayer
- 7 ___ time (Last days)
- 8 Deer
- 9 Birds of ___ attacked Abraham's altar
- 10 Retired Persons' group
- 11 Blemish
- 19 Squash
- 20 Easter symbols
- 22 Hawaiian evergreen
- 23 Our Father Who ___
- 24 Bear false witness
- 25 Ripen
- 26 Mist
- 27 She
- 28 North American country
- 29 Lawyer's title
- 31 the one ___ faith
- 32 Feed
- 33 St. Nicholas
- 37 Misses
- 38 "Love" (French)
- 39 Jesus fasted ___ days
- 40 Go to the store
- 41 "My ___ has not yet come"
- 42 Church's vaulted area
- 43 A few
- 44 Detail
- 45 Martyred early Christians
- 46 Chew
- 48 Chinese flavoring

HOPE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

sacred importance to me. The viewing encouraged visitors to confront the reality of his death and begin to say their last good-byes. I made sure there was ample private time in which my two young daughters could say their goodbyes to their daddy as well. My desire to give testimony to the value and meaning of Trent's life with those who loved him most led to significant music, memora-

Answer Key can be found on page 19

Sports

DWENGER STUDENT SIGNS WITH ROOSEVELT UNIVERSITY Roosevelt University head women's basketball Coach Robyn Scherr-Wells added the first out-of-state student-athlete to her roster with Tessa Garner who has committed to play for the Lakers next season. Garner, a 5-foot-9 shooting guard, is the team captain at Bishop Dwenger High School where she is currently averaging 7.3 points, 3.0 rebounds and 2.6 assists per game for the Saints.

Squires enjoy a Blue League regular season perfect record

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — In his fifth start with the Squires, Coach Jim Knapke and his Hessen Cassel boys have finished the Catholic Youth League (CYO) Blue League regular season with a perfect 6-0 record for the third season in a row and are the number one seed heading into the 74th annual tournament, which is slated to start this weekend at St. Charles.

First, the Squires will face the winner of the St. John, New Haven vs. Huntington game. Looking for a "three-peat," Knapke predicts his team could eventually meet up with Tony Sorg's Gators in the 2010 championship. Sorg and Knapke, whose older sons team up together for the Bishop Luers Knights, met back on Jan. 23 and Hessen Cassel won by just 7 points, 36-29, the closest margin of the Squires' small school league season.

Knapke feels that matching St. Al's intensity will be a key if challenged by the Gators again.

"We will need to control the ball, control our turnovers and rebound," added Knapke.

"St. Al's always plays hard," he warned.

The defending Blue League and 2009 Diocesan champs have Mike Scott, Tom

Ottenweller and Jim Bosler as assistant coaches this season.

Their combined roster lists 11 players, four of whom are eighth graders.

Losing all five starters from last year's team to graduation left the Squires returning only two members with any varsity experience.

"It has been a transition year," explained Knapke, who also picked up two new players to his system. "But this group is very smart and very unselfish. They listen well and work hard at practice," he concluded.

Boys

St. John 7 38-Most Precious Blood 8 13 (Fairfield 4, Brough 12)

St. Louis/St. Rose 29-Most Precious Blood 7 26 (Kahlenbeck 11, Castleman 10)

St. Charles 8 29-St. Therese

16 (Gardner 8, Feher 14)

St. Aloysius 59-St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth 7 20 (Helmuth 21, Aramula 13)

St. Jude 7 34 -St. Joseph-Decatur 7 29 (McBarnes 10, Haxton 12)

St. Charles 33-St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel 29 (Gabet 10, Beard 20)

Girls

St. Charles 36-St. John 8 (Fisher 10, Whitman 5)

St. Therese 43-Most Precious Blood 13 (North 19, Lawler 8) Hessen Cassel 47-Huntington 5 (Beckman 14, M. Simms 3)

Blue League boys season standings

Hessen Cassel	6-0
St. Aloysius	5-1
St. Therese	3-3
New Haven	3-3
Huntington	3-3
St. Louis/Rose	1-5
Most Precious Blood	0-6

Gold League boys season standings

St. Vincent	6-0
St. Joseph/Elizabeth	5-1
St. Jude	4-2
St. Charles	3-3
St. Joseph-Decatur	2-4
St. John FW	1-5
Queen of Angels	0-6



Free throws make difference in close games

BY CHUCK FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — If you need a few thrills, just hang around the Christ the King colors girls basketball team.

The Kings played two dramatic games last weekend. Friday night, Christ the King (colors) knocked off previously unbeaten St. Joseph (Mishawaka), 19-18, before losing in triple overtime to Queen of Peace Saturday by a 26-24 count.

"It was a lot of fun," said assistant coach Mike Presnal, who ran the team Friday night. "I challenged the girls at practice saying 'you can be good or you can be great ... it's really up to you.' They really stepped it up in practice last week."

Defense was key for the Kings colors squad in the Friday upset, as guard Shannon Hendricks shadowed St. Joseph sniper Tagin

Schultheis. The Wildcat guard, who had been averaging 15 per game was limited to 10.

"Tagin Schultheis is one of the best shooters in the league and we tried to take her out of her game," explained Presnal. "The best way to do that was just to keep the ball out of her hands."

Summer Horan hit the go-ahead shot on a post move in the final minute for Christ the King, but Coach Presnal also lauded his daughter, Lucy, who scored 11 points and Aurora Imus, who hit two key free throws in the stretch.

"We tell the girls that free throws make the difference in close games, and that was the case this weekend," stated Presnal. "We hit a high percentage Friday night and won. We missed about 15 of them Saturday and lost."

In the Saturday contest, Queen of Peace's Sarah Hanson hit the game-winning free throws in the

third overtime as part of a 10-point effort. Hendricks played another superb defensive game for the Kings, tallying 11 points.

As for St. Joseph (Mishawaka), the Wildcats rebounded the next day with a 39-34 win over St. Pius, behind 21 points from Allison Ketcham.

St. Joseph (South Bend) now stands as the lone unbeaten team in the league, using a balanced attack to rack up wins over Corpus Christi and St. Thomas this weekend.

Holy Cross also managed a weekend sweep, picking up wins over Christ the King and St. Jude/St. Monica. Point guard Paige Douglas was the leading scorer on the weekend for the Crusaders, tallying 18 points in the two games combined.

Also, Maggie Gibson scored 16 in St. Matthew's triumph over St. Anthony.

ICCL semifinals winds down

SOUTH BEND, MISHAWAKA — With two days of tournament hardwood action last weekend, the pairings for the semifinal games have narrowed to determine the Inter-City Catholic League (ICCL) boys' varsity basketball champions.

In two games to be played Saturday, Feb. 20, St. Anthony will take on St. Joseph-Mishawaka at a 2:30 p.m. game at Marian High School in Mishawaka, followed by St. Pius, Granger, vs. St. Joseph-South Bend at a 3:30 p.m. game at Marian.

In first-round tournament action on Saturday, Feb. 13, St. Anthony beat Our Lady of Hungary, 40-35. St. Anthony was paced by Matt Royeca's 17 points, and Oliver Page added 11 points. Dominique Sanders had 13 points in the loss.

St. Pius of Granger defeated Holy Cross, 40-36. Greenan Sullivan of St. Pius led all scorers of the first round tournament day with 22 points. St. Pius' Denton Gillis chipped in with 10 points. Holy Cross' Corey Kuminecz tossed in 12 points.

Christ the King defeated Queen of Peace, 49-25. Winners were led by Matt Gergely with 10 points. Tony Marcotte of Queen of Peace tossed in 14 points.

Holy Family beat Corpus Christi, 46-22, with Holy Family's Jimmy Catanzarite tossing in 10 points in the win. And

St. Thomas defeated St. Matthew, 31-17. Ryan Schfer led St. Thomas with 12 points. St. Monica defeated St. Jude, 32-18.

In the second-round tournament games action on Sunday, Feb. 14, St. Joseph-Mishawaka defeated St. Thomas, 47-28, and St. Joseph advances to tournament semifinals. Evan Fraso of St. Joseph's had 14 points in the win.

St. Anthony defeated St. Monica, 44-34, and St. Anthony advances to the semifinals to play St. Joseph-Mishawaka. Joe Molnar paced St. Monica with 14 points, while the winner's were led by Matt Royeca with 15 points and Brian Mischler with 12 points.

St. Joseph-South Bend beat Holy Family, 40-17, with St. Joseph's Tommy Clark tossing in 19 points to lead all scorers. With this win, St. Joseph advances to play St. Pius X in the semifinals.

In a game that went to overtime, St. Pius narrowly beat Christ the King, 32-30. St. Pius advances to play St. Joseph-South Bend in the semifinals. With the score deadlocked at 26 at the end of regulation, St. Pius' Greenan Sullivan hit a key 3 pointer and two foul shots to put St. Pius in the lead. He ended up scoring 15 points, with teammate Eric Mossey tossing in 10 points. Christ the King was paced by Matthew Monserez with 15 points.

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Those interested should send a cover letter and resume to dossearh@evdio.org.

The deadline for priority consideration is March 5, 2010.

At Olympic venues, chaplains prepare to serve faiths — and see events

BY MALIN JORDAN

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (CNS) — During the 2010 Winter Olympics, most ski runs on the Whistler Blackcomb venue will remain open, and Msgr. Jerry Desmond from Our Lady of the Mountains Catholic Church in Whistler plans to take advantage of the opportunity.

An avid skier, Msgr. Desmond said he does not plan to buy any tickets for Olympic events.

However, he is going to strap on his skis and sneak a peek at some of the alpine events like the giant slalom and the super-G.

He plans to take one of the lifts at Whistler Creekside up the mountain to ski down to an ideal spot to watch certain portions of the events.

"I don't plan to buy any tickets, but I'll go up the hill to watch the downhill skiers," he explained.

"You can watch the skiers from the

top of one of the other runs."

Msgr. Desmond is also heading up the Catholic contingent for the multifaith center in the athletes' Olympic Village in Whistler.

"We're going to have daily Mass at the center and three Masses on Sunday," Msgr. Desmond said, adding, "Confession will be available as need be."

The Olympic Village buildings, including the multifaith center, are part of Whistler's newest neighborhood. After the Feb. 12-28 Olympics and March 12-21 Paralympics, the buildings will be converted into housing.

In Vancouver, an interfaith working group is operating a multifaith center in the Olympic Village during the Winter Games and Paralympics.

Pat Gillespie, a member of the interfaith working group, told *The B.C. Catholic*, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Vancouver, that the center would be "a place for ath-



CNS PHOTO/MALIN JORDAN, THE B.C. CATHOLIC

Msgr. Jerry Desmond stands outside Our Lady of the Mountains Church in Whistler, British Columbia, Jan. 27. The pastor added extra Masses to serve the many visitors that are in Whistler for the 2010 Winter Olympic Games.

letes, team members, officials and the volunteer workforce to come for devotion, Scripture, quiet prayer and other services."

David Wells, coordinator of the interfaith working group, said the games are periods of stress and high emotion for athletes. He said athletes lean on their faith in these moments in two ways.

"First, those whose faith is a strong part of their life," he said, "that doesn't change in competition, and second, those who face a specific challenge and seek counsel, encouragement and prayer."

Wells, who has been involved in past Olympics, said athletes grow intensely focused before their competitions and spend time alone.

"During (the event) they may seek prayer or encouragement, and afterward they tend to be more relaxed but often are with family and friends," he said.

Twenty-seven Christian chaplains

have volunteered in Vancouver and Whistler; representatives of Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism and Judaism also serve at the centers. Pope Benedict XVI has invoked "the abundant blessings of almighty God" on all those involved with the Olympics and Paralympics.

In letters to Archbishop J. Michael Miller of Vancouver and Bishop David Monroe of Kamloops, in whose dioceses the games are taking place, the pope sent his good wishes to participating athletes, organizers and community volunteers who are "generously cooperating in the celebration of this significant international event."

He recalled how his predecessor, the late Pope John Paul II, said in a 2000 homily that sport "can make an effective contribution to peaceful understanding between people and to establishing the new civilization of love."

"May sport always be a valued building block of peace and friendship between peoples and nations," Pope Benedict added.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

Center for Spirituality announces spring lecture series

Notre Dame — The Center for Spirituality at Saint Mary's College, announces its spring lecture series: Catholicism at the Crossroads. There are three lectures. All are free and open to the public. The first lecture is Catholicism at the Crossroads: How the Laity Can Save the Church by speaker Paul Lakeland, professor of religious studies at Fairfield University on Tuesday, Feb. 23, at 7:30 p.m. in Stapleton Lounge, Le Mans Hall. The second lecture will be Near Occasions of Grace: The Gift and Task of Thinking Catholic by speaker Colleen M. Mallon, OP, assistant professor of theology at the Aquinas Institute of Theology on Tuesday, March 23, at 7:30 p.m. in Stapleton Lounge, Le Mans Hall. The third lecture is The Eucharist and a Decade of Liturgical Reform: 1999-2010 by speaker Father Michael Driscoll, associate professor of theology, University of Notre Dame on Thursday, April 8, at 7:30 p.m. in Carroll Auditorium, Madeleva Hall.

Casino night and hog roast

Monroeville — St. Joseph School HASA is hosting a Casino Night and Hog Roast at the Monroeville Park Pavilion, 421 Monroe St., Saturday, March 13. Doors open at 5:30 pm. The featured event is a Texas Hold 'em tournament beginning at 7 p.m. You must pre-register by calling Brian at (260) 623-3404. There is a \$30 buy-in for the tournament. All proceeds will benefit St. Joseph School tuition reduction program. Must be 21 years or older. Indiana License # 119545.

St. Bernard announces Parish Mission

Wabash — St. Bernard Parish Mission, "Take This Moment," will be Sunday, March 7 through Wednesday March 10 each evening at 7 p.m. in the church. Nightly topics include "Take a Moment For ...Prayer," "...Faith," "...Forgiveness" and "...Love." Mission speakers will be Father Tom Shoemaker, Father Bill Kummer, Bishop John M. D'Arcy and Father Glenn Kohrman. Light refreshments in the school basement follow each

service except Tuesday. Morning sessions, with Jennifer Kohrman from the Diocesan Office of Spiritual Development, will be at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 595 S. Huntington St. beginning at 9 a.m. following Mass at the church.

Bishop Luers show choir invitational

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will welcome show choirs from 19 high schools to its 36th annual competition on Saturday, March 6. Day competition begins at 7:30 a.m. and runs until 6 p.m. The evening competition begins at 7:30 p.m. Tickets good for both performances are sold at the door for \$10. For more information call Bishop Luers at (260) 456-1261.

Rosary Society plans card party

South Bend — The St. Hedwig Rosary Society will have a card party Sunday, March 7 at 1 p.m. in the Hedwig Memorial Center. Lunch will be served. Donation of \$5 by advance sale only. Call (574) 273-1484 or (574) 273-9028.

Fatima movie to be shown

Fort Wayne — The World Apostolate of Fatima will host a showing of "The 13th Day," a movie based on Sister Lucia's memoirs and independent eye-witnesses, Sunday, March 7, at Our Lady of Good Hope Church. Doors open at 1 p.m. The film starts at 1:30 p.m. Admission is free; registration is required as seating is limited. Call Carol Bunt at (260) 627-5585 for reservations.

FISH FRIES

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 19, from 5 to 7 p.m. Adults \$7.50, children (5-12) \$3. Chicken strips for \$7.50 and shrimp for \$8.50 will be available.

St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth students raise funds for Haiti

Fort Wayne — A concert will be held at St. Joseph Church, on Friday, Feb. 19, at 7 p.m.,. Freewill donations raised will be given to Catholic Relief Services for the people in Haiti. There

will also be a fish fry going on from 5-8 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

Fish fry planned

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus, Council 553 will have a fish fry Friday, Feb. 19, from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Knights' hall, 553 E. Washington St. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$3.50 for children under 12 and free for children under 5.

Fish fry at St. Jude

Fort Wayne — St. Jude Parish will have a fish fry Friday, Feb. 19, from 5-8 p.m. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$5 for children and free for children under 5.

Fish fry at Luers

Fort Wayne — Bishop Luers High School will have a fish fry sponsored by the Athletic Booster Club Friday, Feb. 26, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. in the cafeteria. Fish prepared by Dan's of Huntington. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults, \$5 for children ages 6-11, and \$1 for 5 and under. Cheese pizza also available. Carry-out and drive-through available.

Lenten Fish Fry

New Haven — St. John the Baptist Holy Name Society will have a fish fry Friday, Feb. 19, from 4-7 p.m. Adults \$7.50, children 5-12 \$4. Children under 5 free.

Knights plan fish fries

Granger — The Knights Council 4263 will have a fish fry Friday, Feb. 19, from 4-7 p.m. in the St. Pius X gymnasium. Adults \$7.50, children 6-11 \$3.50 and children under 6 free.

The CrossWord

Feb. 21 and 28, 2010



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REST IN PEACE

Bristol

Margaret L. Kramer, 81, St. Mary of the Annunciation

Donaldson

Sister Mary Dolores Greifer, PHJC, 91, Catherine Kasper Home Chapel

Fort Wayne

Dorothy Jane Junk, 87, St. Vincent de Paul

Nathaniel Donald F. Campbell, 81, St. Charles Borromeo

Richard H. Schrader, 80, St. Charles Borromeo

John C. Hartman, 71, St. Jude

Dorothy A. Heckber, 78, Queen of Angels

Marjorie L. Shindler, 94, Cathedral of the

Immaculate

Conception

Garner A. Wilkinson, 88, St. Charles Borromeo

Granger

Rudolph J. Wilfing Sr., 81, St. Pius X

Mishawaka

Lawrence J. Arndt, 75, St. Joseph

Josephine Van Paemel, 97, St. Bavo

Gena M. Logli, 97, St. Bavo

Monroeville

Richard A. Martin, 71, St. Rose

Notre Dame

Sister Raymond Mary (Sullivan), CSC, 79, Our Lady of Loretto

New Haven

Berniece E. Vachon, 71, St. John the Baptist

South Bend

Thaddeus V. Zmudzinski, 92, St. Casimir

Gerald C. Libertowski, 67, Holy Cross

Lucille Helak, 84, Holy Cross

Mary T. Burkhart, 90, Christ the King

Harriet D. Klawinski, 104, St. Hedwig

Joseph L. Nemeth, 77, St. Matthew Cathedral

Theresa M. Sieradski, 79, St. Anthony de Padua

Wabash

Blanche Estep, 90, St. Bernard

Fish fry and salad bar

South Bend — St. Adalbert Parish will have a fish fry and salad bar on Friday, Feb. 19, from 3:30-7 p.m. in the Heritage Center. Tickets are \$8 for adults and carry-out, \$3 for children 5-12 and children under 5 free.

Knights plan fish fry

Mishawaka — Queen of Peace Parish will host Knights of Columbus Lenten fish fries on Feb. 26 and March 19, from 5-7 p.m. Tickets are \$7 pre-sale (\$8 at the door), \$4 for children 6 to 12. Fish plus homemade potato salad, slaw, mac and cheese, bread and drinks. Desserts available for donation. Drive-through available.

Fish fry planned

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 553 will have a fish fry at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 553 E. Washington St., Friday, Feb. 26, from 5-7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$3.50 for children under 12 and free for children under 5.

Knights plan fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of

Columbus Council 5521, 61533 S. Ironwood Dr., will have a fish fry on Friday, Feb. 26, 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.

Holy Name Society plans fish fry

South Bend — Our Lady of Hungary will have a fish fry Friday, Feb. 26, from 5-7 p.m. in the school, 735 W. Calvert. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults and \$4.50 for children 6-12. Children under 6 free. \$7 pre-sale tickets may be purchased at the rectory and before and after Sunday Masses.

Fish fry

Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Parish will have a fish fry, Friday, March 12, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$5 for children 6-12 and \$1 for children under 1. Carry-out available.

St. Hedwig plans fish fry

South Bend — St. Hedwig Parish will have a fish fry Friday, March 5, from 4-7 p.m. Tickets are \$9 for adults, \$3 for children 6-12 and free for children under 5.



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Tet tiger chases devil

Vietnamese Mass opens New Year

BY MARK WEBER

FORT WAYNE — As super blasts of firecrackers, an Asian gong and folks dressed in lucky red filled St. Patrick Church in Fort Wayne, the Vietnamese Catholic Community celebrated Tet, the Lunar New Year on Sunday, Feb. 14.

A Mass, richly colored with Vietnamese costumes and customs, and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades presiding, was followed by a reception, entertainment and Vietnamese style chicken, pork, beef, fish, meatballs, egg rolls, rice, soup and dessert and fellowship which got the year off to a rousing and successful start.

Bishop Rhoades was joined on the altar by St. Patrick pastor, Society of the Divine Word Father Chau Pham; associate pastor Society of the Divine Word Father Thomas Ascherman; Holy Cross Father Martin Nguyen; and Society of the Divine Word Father Vinh Trinh, a missionary from Colombia who is visiting at St. Patrick.

The drums and gong chase the devil out of the new year, explained Father Chau Pham, and red is a lucky color, adding that the festivities also celebrate being out of Vietnam for 35 years following the fall of Saigon.

Bishop Rhoades placed an emphasis on the respect and veneration of Vietnamese ancestors, grandparents and parents and urged prayers for them, especially those who have passed on the Catholic faith to us.

"We have many priestly and religious vocations from the Vietnamese community in our country," he said, "a testament to the strong faith of Vietnamese families. I hope and pray that you will preserve the faith in your homes and continue to pass on to your children the rich Catholic



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades hands out red envelopes containing "lucky money" for children who were present to bring in the Year of the Tiger at St. Patrick Parish in Fort Wayne.



Tiffany Tran, left, and her cousin Jessica Tran, admire the Vietnamese design on Bishop Rhoades miter, a gift from the Vietnamese community in Harrisburg, Pa.

PHOTOS BY MARK WEBER

Society of the Divine Word Father Vinh Trinh secures a tree holding spiritual fortunes which were selected by adults at the Lunar New Year Mass.

faith of your ancestors, including the thousands of Vietnamese martyrs who shed their blood for Christ."

After the final blessing, adults were called forward to select a red envelope, "their spiritual fortune," the Word of God, a personal Scriptural verse to inspire the recipient for the Year of the Tiger.

Then Bishop Rhoades and the other celebrants handed out red envelopes, lucky money, for the

children.

Something for everyone to take home was the bishop's reminder that, "The church in Vietnam, which has suffered so much persecution through the centuries, is strong and vibrant. It has shared in the passion of Jesus and has been blessed by the blood of the martyrs. I pray that our Vietnamese children and young people learn the stories of their ancestors in the faith and remain faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ for which they suffered. And I hope that the Vietnamese community here at St. Patrick's and in our diocese will promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life among our young people. We have a great need and I ask you to please help me by praying for vocations and encouraging vocations in your families."

SCHOOL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the Gospel of Mark because it reveals the beginning of the Catholic Church when Jesus appeared to the eleven, sending them forth to share God's Word with all the world. Bishop Rhoades examined the similarities between the first students of Jesus, his disciples who learned by observing what Jesus did, and the students who learn about Jesus yet today. Bishop Rhoades explained that a disciple means "student."

"Jesus was their master. He was their teacher," continued Bishop Rhoades. "They didn't know it at the time, but He was preparing them not to be just disciples. ... He

was preparing them to be Apostles. In other words, He was preparing them not just to be students but he was preparing them to continue His work and to continue His mission in the world because He knew He was going to ascend to His Father in heaven ... and He was going to leave them behind to begin the Catholic Church. And the Church was to continue the mission of Jesus, to continue to teach the Gospel to all creatures."

Bishop Rhoades reminded the children that the word "apostle" in Greek means "one who is sent."

"Jesus didn't just say I want you to stay around and talk among yourselves about Me. No, He said 'I'm sending you!' He said, 'Go into the world.'"

Bishop Rhoades earlier mentioned what a privilege it is to attend a Catholic School, pointing

out the sacrifices made by parents and teachers alike to provide children with quality Catholic education. He exhorted the children to make the most of their opportunity.

"You are all disciples, students of Jesus, the Master," he said. "It's a wonderful time in your life and I encourage you to learn as much as you can, to study your religion well, and also to pray ... to not only learn about your faith in your head, but also to become friends of Jesus by talking to Him and listening to Him in prayer; by going to Mass every Sunday and holy day; by praying every day, not only in school but also at home when you get up in the morning and when you go to bed at night. And with Jesus as your closest friend, your best friend, and then when you receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit at Confirmation, Jesus is saying to

you, like He said to those original Apostles, 'Go! Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to all creatures.'"

Bishop Rhoades said everyone, no matter their age, can help spread the Gospel by word and deed. He reminded them that by being kind to others, by reaching out to the poor and visiting the sick, by consoling someone who is hurting, they are living out their faith.

Bishop Rhoades also talked about the suffering people in Haiti, and how the many prayers by and contributions from Catholic schools are ways to share God's love.

"That's how we can be apostles, by living our faith by the deeds that we do," he said. "And that attracts others. When they see us as being holy and good and loving to our neighbor, that brings them to Christ. That's a way of

evangelization."

Bishop Rhoades blessed the children and promised to pray for them. He asked them to continue to pray for their priests and bishop, that they may be faithful apostles.

"I'd like to encourage you as you continue your Catholic schooling, to continue to grow in your faith and your love of the Lord Jesus Christ," concluded Bishop Rhoades. "Remember, Jesus is your teacher and your master, and you are His students, His disciples. But He also wants you to be His apostles. He wants to send you out, to go out into the world and to bring His Gospel of love to other people."

For more photos from the Mass, go to www.todayscatholicnews.org and click on the photo gallery.