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# TODAY'S CATHOLIC

## Msgr. J. William Lester dies at 90



TIM JOHNSON

Msgr. J. William Lester, shown with the pilgrimage garb for those who attended the canonization ceremonies of St. Mother Theodore Guérin in October of 2006, stands in Vatican City outside St. Peter's Basilica.

### Diocese mourns the passing of untiring servant

BY VINCE LABARBERA

FORT WAYNE — Msgr. J. William Lester, P.A., a beloved and very respected senior priest who served the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for 65 years as a priest, died Saturday morning, Feb. 20, after a brief illness.

Msgr. Lester served in many parishes of the diocese as pastor and administrator. He also served as vicar general and chancellor, and rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. He was a former superintendent of Catholic Schools for the diocese and was principal of Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne and Huntington Catholic High School.

Arrangements are as follows: Wednesday, Feb. 24, reception of the body and rosary at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, at 4:30 p.m.; visitation from 4:30 to 8 p.m. with Evening Prayer and Vigil Service at 7 p.m. On Thursday, Feb. 25, visitation will take place at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception from 10 to 10:45 a.m., with a funeral Mass at 11 a.m. at the cathedral. Burial will be held at 3 p.m. at Fairview Cemetery in Bluffton where his mother is buried.

Originally from Gary, Msgr. Lester was born Nov. 25, 1919, to James W. Lester and Ida M. Effinger-Lester.

Msgr. Lester attended Holy Angels Elementary School there and studied for two years at Bishop Noll High School in Hammond. His remaining secondary education was at St. Lawrence Seminary, Mt. Calvert, Wis. He attended St. Lawrence College in Mt. Calvary, Wis. and his theological study was at Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., where he

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## Msgr. J. William Lester, a priest for all seasons

BY KAY COZAD AND TIM JOHNSON

FORT WAYNE — Always eager to serve the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend in any appointment, Msgr. J. William Lester's ministry garnered him respect from bishops, priests and the faithful. In a sense, a chapter of diocesan history is closed with the passing of this honored vicar of retired priests, co-vicar general and co-chancellor of the diocese, rector, pastor, associate pastor, superintendent, principal and parish administrator throughout the diocese.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy, retired bishop of the diocese remembers his friend and fellow priest Msgr. Lester as being intelligent and generous hearted. "He was always positive. ... Joyful. ... He was the best we had," says Bishop D'Arcy.

As one of the first priests he met following his appointment as eighth bishop of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend more than 24 years

ago Bishop D'Arcy says Msgr. Lester was "a priest with a lot of love." And he adds, "His clock was always set at high noon."

No matter the assignment, says Bishop D'Arcy, the energetic and eager Msgr. Lester was always willing to take it on and do his best. From filling in as interim superintendent of Catholic Schools to the clergy abuse situation, to closing parishes to his ecumenical work with the Jewish and Lutheran communities, Msgr. Lester loved a challenge and never was afraid to move into it, says Bishop D'Arcy. "He was good at facing challenges and straightening them out."

"He had a great love for the schools," adds Bishop D'Arcy. "He was a pioneer in education. He knew the schools and treasured them. Msgr. Lester was instrumental in the building of Bishop Luers, Bishop Dwenger and Marian High School in Mishawaka." The monsignor was especially fond of Bishop Luers and would be seen cheering at any number of sporting

events.

Msgr. Lester had a sister who was a member of the Holy Cross congregation in South Bend to whom he was devoted. He made the drive to South Bend to visit her up until a couple of months ago, reports Bishop D'Arcy.

The monsignor was beloved by his fellow priests and laity alike and of course his devotion to the White Sox was evidenced as he traveled to Chicago to attend a game or two each year.

One personal memory that touched the bishop's heart was that Msgr. Lester traveled to Boston to stand by him after his mother died and subsequently following his sister's death as well. "Those moments are important," says Bishop D'Arcy.

Of the life of service the beloved monsignor led, Bishop D'Arcy concludes, "He was a

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## TODAY'S CATHOLIC

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# May the grace of this special season be with you all



## IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

### Lent

We have begun our Lenten journey. On Ash Wednesday, I was happy to see the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception filled with people, a sign of the vitality of the faith of this local Church. I am sure that churches throughout our diocese were filled as people attended Mass and received the blessed ashes on their foreheads, a sign not only of our mortality, but a sign that also points to the resurrection of the body. I pray that all of us, through our practice of prayer and penance during these 40 days, will arrive at Easter with our hearts purified and renewed by God's grace.

### Msgr. J. William Lester

This past Saturday morning, one of the great and much loved priests of our diocese, Msgr. J. William Lester, was called home to the house of our Father. That evening, while speaking with one of our priests, he called Msgr. Lester "a giant" in our diocese. Monsignor's many accomplishments are well-known. I have only had the privilege of getting to know Msgr. Lester in the course of a few weeks, but I feel blessed to have met such a holy, humble and joyful priest. What struck me most about Msgr. was his joy in the priesthood, his joy in serving the Lord and His people. Of course, joy is one of the fruits of the Holy Spirit and a sign that Msgr. Lester lived his life according to the Spirit. We will certainly miss him. Please join me in praying this prayer for this wonderful servant of God:

O God, listen favorably to our prayers offered on behalf of your servant and priest, and grant that Msgr. J. William Lester, who committed himself zealously to the service of your name, may rejoice forever in the company of your saints. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### Catechetical Formation Day

This past Friday, our Catholic School teachers from throughout the Fort Wayne area met for Catechetical Formation Day (the teachers from the South Bend area will meet next Friday). It was wonderful to celebrate Mass with these devoted teachers who play such an important role in the Church. I thank them, on behalf of us all, for their commitment to the noble and holy mission of Catholic education. I spoke to the teachers about fostering the formation of the hearts of their students in the love of God. Of course, this is a primary task of parents. Indeed, all of us are called to help our children and young people to encounter Christ. We do this not only by our teaching them about Jesus, but also by our example of the imitation of Jesus, by living the Christian virtues, the greatest of which is love.



KAY COZAD

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades distributes ashes to the faithful on Ash Wednesday at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

### Mass at St. Mary's Church, Fort Wayne

As many of you know, I live in the former rectory of St. Mary's Parish in Fort Wayne. This past Sunday, the first Sunday of Lent, I celebrated Holy Mass at Saint Mary's Church. It was wonderful to meet so many good people and to learn about the wonderful works of mercy that go on at St. Mary's, including the famous soup kitchen. I thank Father Phillip Widmann, the pastor of St. Mary's, and all the parishioners for their warm welcome. I joked with the parishioners about my being their "tenant." I live next door to the parish's Ave Maria House, which provides a place for the poor to visit during the day for various needs. St. Mary's is a beacon of hope for many needy people in that area of Fort Wayne.

### Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion

On the first Sunday of Lent, after the Mass at St. Mary's, I was back to our beautiful Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for the Rite of Election of Catechumens and of the Call to Continuing Conversion of Candidates who are preparing for Reception into the Full Communion of the Catholic Church this Easter. It is exciting to see so many people, touched by God's grace, who will soon receive the sacraments of initiation and join us at the table of the Lord. Allow me to share with you one paragraph from my homily at that beautiful ceremony:

My advice to you today is very simple: "Love Christ and love His Church." When St. Andrew encountered Christ, the first thing he did was seek out his brother, Simon Peter, to tell him "We have found Christ." My brothers and sisters, you have found Christ! Finding Christ, following Him, and living in His love is the goal not only of the RCIA, it is the goal and quest of our life's journey. It gives us a joy that is ever ancient and ever new, a joy nothing else in this world can give us. Loving

Christ also means loving His Bride, the Church. To do so, we must always see the Church with the eyes of Jesus who "loved the Church" St. Paul tells us, "and gave Himself up for her."

I look forward to celebrating this same liturgy next Sunday in St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend, where there will be another large group of catechumens and candidates making this step towards initiation or full communion in the Catholic Church.

### Welcome back, Bishop D'Arcy

I was so happy to see Bishop D'Arcy again after his well-deserved few weeks back home in Boston. As I get to know the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, I marvel at the many accomplishments of my esteemed and beloved predecessor. I am very glad that Bishop D'Arcy continues to be very active in priestly and episcopal ministry, a great help to me and a real blessing to all the faithful of our diocese.

### Lent

I'd like to end this column as I began, with the theme of Lent. The Lord is calling us to penance and spiritual renewal. Let us hear and heed that call! I encourage all to participate in the various Lenten observances in your parishes. Attending Mass on weekdays, praying the Stations of the Cross, participating in Operation Rice Bowl, attending a Day of Recollection, etc., are all ways to enter more deeply into the spirit of Lent. And, of course, we together do our communal penance of abstinence from meat on Lenten Fridays. May the grace of this special season be with you all!

You may find Bishop Rhoades' columns or homilies at [todayscatholicnews.org](http://todayscatholicnews.org) under the columnist section.

# Blessed Brother André to become first saint of ND's founding order

NOTRE DAME — Blessed Brother André Bessette will be canonized, or formally declared a saint, in a ceremony to be held Oct. 17.

Blessed Brother André was a brother of the Congregation of Holy Cross, the religious order which founded the University of Notre Dame, and the founder of St. Joseph's Oratory of Mount Royal in Montreal.

Known popularly as the "miracle man of Montreal," Holy Cross Brother André Bessette, an unassuming porter who became legendary for his ministry to the sick and needy of Montreal, was formally recognized Feb. 19 by the Vatican as one of six candidates who will be canonized a saint later this year. Pope Benedict XVI announced the decision to canonize Brother André following a meeting of cardinals in Vatican City.

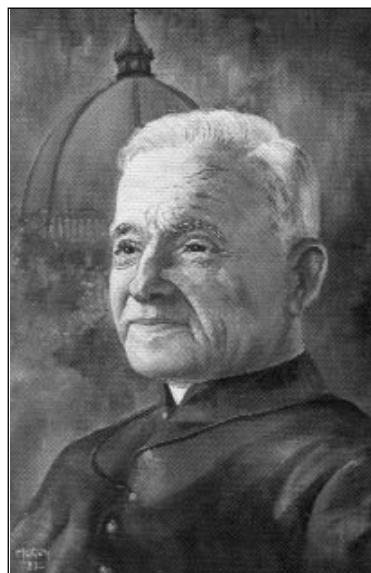
Born Alfred Bessette on Aug. 9, 1845, in Saint-Gregoire d'Iberville, Quebec, Brother André was one of 12 children. By the time he was 12 years old, his father, a lumberman, had been killed in a work accident and his mother had died of tuberculosis. Physically diminutive, chronically ill, uneducated and clumsy with his hands, the young Bessette nevertheless

worked as a farmhand, shoemaker, baker and blacksmith in Quebec for six years before leaving for New England, where he spent four years working in textile factories and farms in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

From his earliest childhood, he was quietly but conspicuously prayerful, an inclination which seemed only to intensify during his hardscrabble years as an itinerant laborer, and when he returned to Canada in 1867, he confessed an interest in formal religious life to his local parish priest, who sent him to a nearby community of Holy Cross brothers with a letter assuring its superior that "I am sending you a saint."

The largely illiterate 25-year old novice was put to work as a porter, or doorman, at Montreal's College of Notre Dame, an assignment in which he continued for the next 40 years.

In addition to welcoming visitors, he served as janitor, laun-



ARCHIVES OF THE HOLY CROSS BROTHERS, MIDWEST PROVINCE. USED WITH PERMISSION.

**Holy Cross Brother André Bessette**

derer, and sacristan, ran errands and provided the students with cheap haircuts. Throughout these years his reputation for humility and kindness grew, as did the numbers of visitors he received. Most of these were poor and sick people, to whom he offered not only his compassion and what material assistance he could provide, but also moral and spiritual advice. Many of his visitors attributed miraculous cures to him, but he

would insist, sometimes with annoyance, that any such cures were attributable to the prayers of St. Joseph.

Brother André's particular affection for St. Joseph, in addition to the need to accommodate the throngs of people seeking his help, advice and prayers, led to the foundation of Saint Joseph's Oratory, at first

a small structure constructed on Mount Royal with funds from small donations and Brother André's barbershop income and now a massive basilica, which attracts some 2 million pilgrims each year.

Brother André was entombed there after his death on Jan. 6, 1937. Between his death and burial, more than 1 million pilgrims came to pay tribute.

In 1978 he was declared venerable and was beatified in 1982.

"All of us in the Notre Dame family are delighted to hear of Brother André's canonization" said Notre Dame president Holy Cross Father John I. Jenkins. "His brothers in Holy Cross

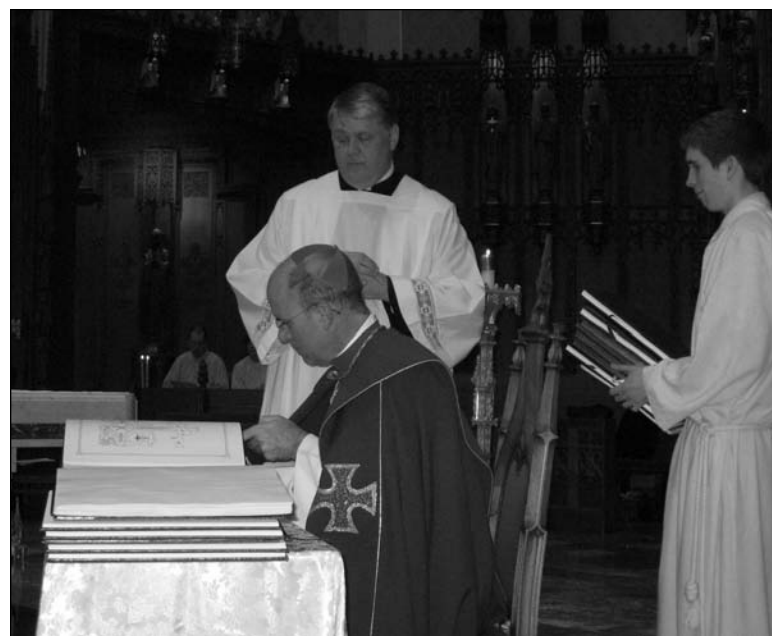
founded Notre Dame three years before he was born and continue to teach and serve here today, determined not only to educate minds and hearts, but to give witness to the kingdom of God. Brother André's life, now recognized as a true treasure of the church, and his continuing advocacy, renew, deepen and strengthen our foundational mission."

"We are honored and moved beyond words at Brother André's formal recognition as a saint," said Holy Cross Father David Tyson, provincial superior of the Indiana Province of Holy Cross. "Not only because this immensely humble man is the congregation's first recognized saint, but because he is such an extraordinary example for every Catholic of every age. Not for him the trappings of power and status, of money and prestige; he was famous first as a ferociously hard worker at the high school where he worked his whole life; he simply did everything and anything that was needed, from cleaning the floors to fixing shoes, from doing students' laundry to cutting hair.

"What an example of prayer in action, of active service to others as the most eloquent and powerful prayer of all." Father Tyson continued. "And that is the essence of the congregation — we serve the Christ in every being, with our hands and hearts and souls, with all our might. Brother André would be horrified were I to call him a hero, but his unrelenting focus on serving others, his blunt humor and utter devotion to God, the greatness of his simplicity — those are heroic virtues, and it seems wonderfully apt and instructive that the first Holy Cross saint was a man who insisted, sometimes testily, that 'to serve is sweeter than to be served.'"

Holy Cross Father Hugh Cleary, superior general of the Congregation of Holy Cross, added, "What a grace for our religious family, to count among its ranks such a model of the Christian life offered to the world, a true inspiration for a welcoming, compassionate presence. Such good news!"

**Brother Charles McBride, CSC, and Michael Garvey** contributed to this article.



MARK WEBER

The Rite of Election, the start of a journey of faith for 78 Catechumens and 120 Candidates for Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist at the Easter Vigil was held at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Sunday, Feb. 21 and will be repeated at the Cathedral of St. Matthew in South Bend on Sunday, Feb. 28. Here, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades adds his name to the Books of Elect, presented from each parish represented.

## Catechumens, candidates fill cathedral to capacity

BY BONNIE ELBERSON

FORT WAYNE — The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in downtown Fort Wayne was filled to capacity on the first Sunday of Lent with catechumens, candidates, their sponsors, families and friends. The event was the Rite of Election and Call of Candidates to Continuing Conversion, an important step in the catechumens' and candidates' journey on the path to full communion with the Catholic Church.

Catechumens are those unbaptized persons who are preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation — Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist — at the Easter Vigil. Candidates are those persons who were baptized in another faith tradition and are preparing to receive Confirmation and/or Eucharist at the Easter Vigil.

Celebrant for the liturgy was the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend's newly-installed Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

Bishop Rhoades greeted the assembly warmly. "It's wonderful to be with you this afternoon," he said, and noted it was his first opportunity to celebrate the Rite of Election in his new diocese. He will celebrate another such liturgy at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend on the second Sunday in Lent.

The bishop began with a brief explanation of the term "election" when used in the context of the catechumens' faith journey. Most people are familiar with the political overtones of the word, he said, but in this case "election" means that God chooses his people to believe in Him and to

live with Him in love. Today's catechumens will become the "elect" of God, that is, they will become God's people consecrated to give Him honor and glory, the bishop pointed out.

Just as importantly, the candidates in continuing conversion will also be received into the full sacramental life of the Catholic Church. Both catechumens and candidates are on a journey of faith, he said, attracted to the truth of the Gospel of Christ.

Bishop Rhoades put the day's events in a broader perspective for his listeners. Just as it is appropriate for them to come before their bishop, successor of the apostles, it is equally important for them to assemble in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, mother church of the diocese and symbol of the universal church, he said.

A highlight of the ceremony was the formal introduction of catechumens and candidates to Bishop Rhoades by their parish representatives as each person stepped forward with his sponsor for a handshake and personal greeting from the bishop.

He assured them, "The person of Our Lord Jesus Christ has called you ... He will be with you," and promised to keep them in his prayers as they continue on their path to full communion with the Church at the Easter Vigil.

In closing, Bishop Rhoades said, "It gives me great joy to be with you here in prayer." He told them, "You have found Christ. Following him and living in his love is the goal of our life's journey." He left them with this advice, "Love Christ and love His Church."

# LESTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

earned both bachelor's and master's degrees.

He was ordained to the priesthood on Aug. 24, 1945, by Bishop John F. Noll in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne.

Msgr. Lester has been associated with Catholic education in the local diocese since his first priestly assignment at St. Mary Parish, Huntington, in September 1945. The pastor, Father Thomas E. Dillon, served as the superintendent of schools at that time and the young Father Lester, as the associate pastor, assisted the pastor with much of the school administrative work. Two years later, Father Lester officially was connected to Catholic education when he was appointed principal of Huntington Catholic High School. He continued his support of Catholic education by accepting the appointment as principal of Central Catholic High School in Fort Wayne in 1951. He retained this position while also accepting the assignment as superintendent of schools in 1957, as well as rendering assistance to the religious sisters and children at St. Vincent Villa where he lived in Fort Wayne.

In 1960, Father Lester was invested as a monsignor, and in 1964 he was appointed to the diocesan building commission. In this capacity, he supported Catholic schools and helped ensure their continued existence through financial accountability. During his tenure, he was instrumental in organizing teaching requirements and licensing for lay teachers who were quickly replacing teaching religious sisters. He also had a hand in the plan and design of both Bishop Luers and Bishop Dwenger high schools, and Marian High School, Mishawaka.

In 1970, Msgr. Lester was named pastor of St. Jude Parish, Fort Wayne, and two years later



MARTIN PETIT

**Msgr. J. William Lester stands in the parking lot of what would become a human outline of the new St. Therese Church. In the year 2000, Msgr. Lester was temporary administrator of the St. Therese Parish and involved in the planning process of the new church building, which was dedicated in 2003.**

appointed diocesan director of lay activities for the Fort Wayne area. In 1978, he was appointed pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle Parish in Elkhart. In 1981, he began serving a two-year assignment in the Archdiocese of Miami under the direction of Archbishop Edward McCarthy.

He returned to Fort Wayne in 1983 and was appointed episcopal vicar for education with residence at Queen of Angels Parish. In 1985 — while carrying out his role of

director of continuing education for the clergy — he assumed the position of pastor of St. Aloysius Parish, Yoder, and at the request of Bishop John D'Arcy, newly appointed eighth bishop of the local diocese, agreed to again serve as superintendent of schools for one year.

In April 1986, Msgr. Lester — along with Msgr. James Wolf — was appointed vicar general and co-chancellor of the diocese, and about three weeks later both priests were named co-rectors of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne.

In July 1995, Msgr. Lester was elevated to Protonotary Apostolic (PA). In 2005, he was awarded a Light of Learning Award by the Catholic Schools Office and the Council of Catholic School Teachers, representing all of the teachers, administrators and students of the diocese.

Also in May of 2005, the diocese announced that Bishop

Dwenger and Bishop Luers high schools in Fort Wayne had created a \$1,000 scholarship in the name of Msgr. Lester to be awarded annually to two recipients entering the freshman class at both schools.

In more recent times of need, such as the death of a pastor and even the retirement of an auxiliary bishop, Msgr. Lester has agreed to step in to fill a vacancy temporarily. He had been serving as the vicar of retired clergy since April 10, 2000.

## A listing of Msgr. J. William Lester's assignments

- Sept. 13, 1945 — Appointed assistant, St. Mary Church, Huntington

- 1947 — Appointed principal, Huntington Catholic High School, Huntington

- June 26, 1951 — Appointed principal, Central Catholic High School, Fort Wayne

- March 1, 1957 — Appointed superintendent of schools and chaplain at St. Vincent Villa

- June 17, 1959 — Residing at St. Vincent Villa and render assistance to the Sisters and children

- May 31, 1960 — Invested as Papal Chamberlain

- March 24, 1964 — Appointed to Diocesan Building Commission

- July 1, 1970 — Appointed pastor, St. Jude Church, Fort Wayne

- Feb. 2, 1972 — Appointed diocesan director of Lay Activities for Fort Wayne area

- July 7, 1978 — Appointed pastor, St. Thomas the Apostle Church, Elkhart

- July 8, 1981 — Assigned for a period of two years to St. Vincent de Paul Seminary in the Archdiocese of Miami, Fla., under the direction of Archbishop Edward McCarthy

- July 11, 1983 — Appointed director of Continuing Education for the Clergy with residence at Queen of Angels rectory, Fort Wayne

- July 1983 — Appointed vicar for education

- July 1, 1985 — Appointed pastor, St. Aloysius Church, Yoder, while continuing the position of director of Continuing Education for Priests

- Appointed superintendent of Catholic Schools for one year until June 30, 1986

- April 15, 1986 — Appointed co-vicar general and co-chancellor of the diocese and co-pastor, Cathedral of Fort Wayne (with Father James J. Wolf) effective May 5, 1986

- May 29-Sept. 26, 1989 — Appointed temporary administrator, St. Michael's Church, Waterloo. Father Zimmerman died leaving the parish without a pastor. Monsignor continued as rector of the cathedral, Fort Wayne, and as co-chancellor and co-vicar general

- July 15, 1990 to June 1991 — Appointed temporary administrator, St. Matthew Cathedral (when Bishop Crowley retired) until Bishop John Sheets was assigned there.

- June-August 1993 — Appointed temporary administrator, St. Jude, South Bend

- September 1993 to January 1994 — Appointed temporary administrator, Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne

- August 1994 to January 1995 — Appointed temporary administrator, St. Joseph, Fort Wayne

- July 15, 1995 — Received title of Protonotary Apostolic

- Aug. 12 to Oct. 6, 1998 — Appointed temporary administrator, St. Patrick Church, Fort Wayne, while continuing as co-vicar general and co-chancellor

- Nov. 26, 1999 — Retired from chancery as co-vicar general and co-chancellor

- Jan. 3, 2000 — Retired from cathedral, Fort Wayne, as co-rector

- April 10, 2000 — Appointed vicar of retired clergy

- July 10, 2000 — Appointed temporary administrator, St. Therese Church, Fort Wayne

- Dec. 28, 2000 — Appointed temporary administrator, Queen of Angels, Fort Wayne

- March 27, 2001 — Appointed temporary administrator, St. Joseph Church, Fort Wayne

- August 2002 to May 7, 2003 — Appointed temporary administrator, St. Adalbert Church, South Bend

- Oct. 11, 2002 — Appointed to Presbyteral Council

- Nov. 1, 2002 to Sept. 30, 2007 — Appointed judge on the Marriage Tribunal

- June 29, 2003 to Aug. 23, 2003 — Appointed temporary administrator, St. Rose of Lima Church, Monroeville

- Oct. 1, 2003 to Aug. 15, 2004 — Appointed temporary administrator, St. Mary Church, Fort Wayne

- Aug. 16, 2004 — Appointed temporary administrator, St. Patrick Church, Fort Wayne

- Aug. 31, 2005 to July 2, 2006 — Appointed temporary administrator — Most Precious Blood Church, Fort Wayne

- November 2005 — Appointed (three years) to Presbyteral Council

- Aug. 4, 2006 to July 2, 2007 — Appointed administrator of St. Therese Church, Fort Wayne

- March 21, 2007 — Appointed to College of Consultors

- Aug. 8, 2007 to Dec. 8, 2007 — Appointed administrator, St. Vincent de Paul Church, Elkhart

- March 6, 2009 — Appointed to Personnel Board (three-year term)



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Tim Johnson contributed to this article.

# Conference explores dignity of women

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — The dignity and vocation of women and men were once again the focus of the fifth annual Edith Stein Project conference at the University of Notre Dame Feb. 12-13. The student-run conference has grown in scope and attendance since its inception in 2006, with 271 people registered for the 2010 conference. The approximately 30 speakers included students, recent graduates and scholars of national reputation.

Edith Stein was an early 20th century philosopher who championed the dignity of women. She converted to Catholicism and entered the Carmelite order, but was killed by the Nazis at Auschwitz in 1942 because of her Jewish heritage. Edith Stein was canonized in 1998 and is known as St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross. Organizers of the Edith Stein Project wrote in conference materials that they adopted her as their patron saint because of her "inspiration as a model of turning one's heart to God and as a woman who worked to live out her vocation through the genuine feminine spirit of self-gift."

The conference initially focused on women, but in recent years, an effort has been made to include men because conference organizers recognized that men and women must cooperate if both are to fully realize their dignity in society. The conference theme of "No Man is an Island: Creature, Culture and Community," provided a wide variety of topics, including the family, community, Christian economics, sexuality and vocation.

In a session on motherhood, Lisa Everett, co-director of the Office of Family Life for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, spoke on married motherhood, and Franciscan Sister M. Benedicta Duna spoke on virginal motherhood.

"Love is a child's deepest need, and he finds it first in the face of his mother," Everett said, so we need to recover in our culture the theory that a mother cannot be replaced with just any caregiver.

As the mother of seven, Everett acknowledged that mothering does involve "stretching," but she said parents should never fear the arrival of a child. "When a child is



ANN CAREY

**Speaking on married and virginal motherhood at the Edith Stein conference were Lisa Everett, far right, and Sister M. Benedicta, OSF, second from right. Elizabeth Kirk, far left, chaired the session, and Sister Margaret Mary Mitchel, OSF, second from left, assisted with Sister Benedicta's PowerPoint presentation.**

entrusted to us, in many ways it is Christ Himself, and we should never be afraid to welcome Him," she said.

Everett observed that the Blessed Mother is the ideal model for mothers. Jesus gave us his own mother — the last thing He did — she said, and "Her heart is large enough to contain the entire human race."

Sister Benedicta, a novice in the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration in Mishawaka, is a Notre Dame graduate and was one of the coordinators of the Edith Stein Project in 2007 and 2008 when she was a student.

Sisters give up the right to children of their own, Sister Benedicta said, but they are given "God's family," and virginity allows them to remain more free to bear fruit for that family.

Sister Benedicta said that motherhood is conferred on the sisters in her order through their charism of perpetual adoration. Taking a turn in the middle of the night to rise and pray for the needs of people before the Blessed Sacrament is like a mother rising at night to care for her children, she said.

"Mothering people spiritually means you take them into your heart and care for them spiritually," she explained, noting that the Blessed Mother is the model for generous spiritual motherhood.

Sister Benedicta said that the older sisters in her order teach the younger sisters what it means to be

spiritual mothers. She offered the example of Sister Arilda Kampa, who recently died at the age of 103. Sister Arilda had been a spiritual mother to countless students and friends who treasured that gift, she said. Spiritual motherhood gives value to little things, she continued, and in turn the sisters receive love back, which fulfills the female need for motherhood.

"As much as you give, so much more you get back," Sister Benedicta concluded.

Conference speakers from outside the South Bend area included Professor Jane Rodeheffer of Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Benedictine Mother Dolores Hart of the Abbey of Regina Laudis; Brian Gail, author of "Fatherless," Professor David Schindler of the Pontifical John Paul II Institute, Kevin Schmiesing of the Acton Institute, Katie van Schaijck of the Personalist Project and Melinda Selmys, author of "Sexual Authenticity."

Notre Dame seniors JoAnna Roman, Sarah Johnson and Katrina Peller were co-chairs of the conference, which is entirely student-organized. Several campus groups, organizations, alumni and other individuals provided financial support. The Identity Project of Notre Dame is the organizing club for the Edith Stein Project, with Elizabeth Kirk, associate director of the Center for Ethics and Culture, serving as faculty advisor.



## PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Friday, Feb. 26, 10 a.m. — Mass for all South Bend area Catholic School Teachers, Saint Joseph's High School, South Bend (correction for location)
- Sunday, Feb. 28, 2:30 p.m. — Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
- Monday, March 1 — Annual Meeting of Indiana Bishops and Major Religious Superiors, Fatima Retreat House, Indianapolis
- Tuesday, March 2, 12:30 p.m. — Mass for Archbishop Noll Center employees at Chapel of the Good Shepherd
- Wednesday, March 3 — Lunch with judges and magistrates of Allen County at Allen County Courthouse
- Wednesday, March 3, 7 p.m. — Mass closing mission at St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne
- March 4-16 — Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre and Sovereign Order of Malta

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## St. Mary Catholic Church HUNTINGTON Parish Mission

March 14, 15, 16, 17, 2010

"Here I Am Lord"

- Sunday, March 14 - 7pm:** VOCATIONS Msgr. Bernie Galic
- Monday, March 15 - 7pm:** FAITH Mary Glowaski
- Tuesday, March 16 - 7pm:** RECONCILIATION Father Dave Ruppert  
(Reconciliation available with multiple priests)
- Wednesday, March 17 - 7pm:** EUCHARIST Bishop John D'Arcy

✠  
Morning Sessions Mon., (8:45) Tues., Wed., after 8:00 am Mass  
Morning sessions are in Assumption Hall...conducted by Jennifer Kohrman, Associate Director for the Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization. Coffee & Donuts.

**Baby Sitting in Assumption Hall:** Sun., Mon., & Tues evenings  
(No baby sitting Wednesday Evening)  
Bishop D'Arcy will celebrate Mass Wednesday evening, followed by reception in Assumption Hall (St. Patrick's Day)

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## Church statistics show increase in Catholics, priests, seminarians

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The latest Vatican statistics show a slight increase in Catholics as a percentage of the world's population, and a slow but steady rise in the number of priests and seminarians worldwide. The statistics, from the end of 2008, were presented along with the new Vatican yearbook Feb. 20. The Vatican said the number of Catholics reached 1.166 billion, an increase of 19 million, or 1.7 percent, from the end of 2007. During the same period, Catholics as a percentage of the global population grew from 17.33 percent to 17.4 percent, it said. The number of priests stood at 409,166, an increase of 1,142 from the end of 2007. Since the year 2000, the Vatican said, the number of priests has increased by nearly 4,000, or about 1 percent. Looking at the way priests are distributed around the world, it said: 47.1 percent were in Europe, 30 percent in the Americas, 13.2 percent in Asia, 8.7 percent in Africa and 1.2 percent in Oceania. The number of seminarians around the world rose from 115,919 at the end of 2007 to 117,024 at the end of 2008, an increase of more than 1 percent, it said. The increase in seminarians varied geographically: Africa showed an increase of 3.6 percent, Asia an increase of 4.4 percent, and Oceania an increase of 6.5 percent, while Europe had a decrease of 4.3 percent and the Americas remained about the same.

## New bishop says prayers, vitality of local church will help him lead

OWENSBORO, Ky. (CNS) — Bishop William F. Medley, ordained as the fourth bishop of the Owensboro Diocese Feb. 10, seemed to slip easily into his new role as bishop and shepherd of Catholics in western Kentucky. After completing the ordination rite during the ceremony at the Owensboro Sportscenter arena, Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, the principal ordaining bishop, led Bishop Medley to the cathedra, the bishop's chair. As he took his seat, the congregation of more than 5,000 people gave him a standing ovation. When the new bishop spoke to the crowd, he joked that they had almost missed his opportunity to speak. "They almost didn't let me talk!" he said, explaining that he was instructed to keep his remarks brief. Bishop Medley's opening remarks were sprinkled with humor as well as humility and gratitude. "I speak what every person on earth should say every day — to God be the glory," he said. "I'm strengthened in confidence with all these holy people praying for me. The size and enthusiasm of this gathering tells of the vitality of the Church of western Kentucky."

# NEWS BRIEFS

## WOMAN PRAYS AT TOMB OF BLESSED MARY MACKILLOP



CNS PHOTO/DANIEL MUNOZ, REUTERS

A woman prays at the tomb of Blessed Mary MacKillop Feb. 20 at a chapel named after her in Sydney, Australia. Pope Benedict XVI will canonize Blessed MacKillop, Blessed Brother Andre Bessette, who is a Holy Cross brother, and four others Oct. 17. The Melbourne nun who co-founded the first religious order in Australia will become the country's first saint.

## Catholic agency ends foster, adoption services in District of Columbia

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington closed its 80-year-old foster care and public adoption program in the District of Columbia so the agency would not have to violate Church teaching by licensing same-sex couples as foster or adoptive parents. The program — which covered 43 children and their biological families, 35 foster families and seven staff members — was transferred to the National Center for Children and Families Feb. 1. Under a new law allowing same-sex marriage in the District of Columbia, Catholic Charities would have been required to place children with same-sex parents for foster care and adoption, which would violate Church teaching that marriage is a permanent union between one man and one woman. "Catholic Charities has been providing foster care in one form or another for decades. ... To transition this to another agency certainly was a real loss for us," said Edward Orzechowski, president and CEO of Catholic Charities. The National Center for Children and Families "shares our commitment to permanency for children, and our perspective that foster parents are real partners with us in serving these children," he

said. The law is currently under congressional review, but the district is scheduled to begin issuing marriage licenses for same-sex couples in March. Two members of Congress have introduced legislation that would require the district to hold a referendum on the same-sex marriage issue before licenses could be issued.

## Institute recruiting couples for study of natural family planning

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — Researchers at Marquette University's Institute for Natural Family Planning are recruiting couples interested in preventing pregnancy naturally for a study involving two Web-based methods of natural family planning. The study, which is funded by a \$595,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, will compare two methods of natural family planning. The "high-tech" Marquette Model of natural family planning uses the ClearBlue Easy fertility monitor to estimate the beginning and end of the time of fertility in a woman's menstrual cycle, while the "low-tech" method monitors cervical mucus as the sole biological indicator of fertility. For more information about the study, go to [www.marquette.edu/nursing/FederalResearchStudy.shtml](http://www.marquette.edu/nursing/FederalResearchStudy.shtml).

## Momentum builds to cancel international debt owed by Haiti

WASHINGTON (CNS) — It took a major earthquake, but momentum is building to cancel all of the remaining debt that Haiti has taken on from several international financial institutions. The years-long effort by organizations such as the Jubilee USA Network and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops to convince the institutions to relieve Haiti of its debt got a boost Feb. 5 when Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner announced that the U.S. would work with its worldwide partners to see that the impoverished Caribbean nation's indebtedness was forgiven. Geithner's announcement followed an earlier statement from Dominique Strauss-Kahn, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, who said Jan. 20 that the IMF would discuss with donors ways to "delete all the Haitian debt." The actions are significant because Haiti must focus all of its financial resources toward recovery and rebuilding large segments of the country that were destroyed during the Jan. 12 earthquake, said Melinda St. Louis, associate director of the Jubilee USA Network, a coalition of more than 75 religious denominations and faith communities, human rights, environmental and labor organizations focusing on the bibli-

cal concept of debt forgiveness. Geithner's announcement "is a very positive step," St. Louis told Catholic News Service. "Having their support is critical. We do have that high-level political commitment and we do consider that a victory."

## During Olympics, woman spearheads campaign to help homeless

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (CNS) — When most people think of the Olympic visitors flocking to this city, they imagine athletes and spectators from around the world. But that's not what sprang to mind for Carolyn Wharton of Star of the Sea Parish in White Rock, nearly 30 miles outside Vancouver. Instead, Wharton immediately thought of all the homeless people making their way to Vancouver for what they see as an opportunity to roam a greener pasture. Wharton noted that the homeless population of every Olympic Games host city increases by 300-400 during the games. Wharton is the coordinator of her parish's volunteer group, the Helpers of St. Anne. Every year they hand-make 25-30 convertible coats for homeless men and women — the thick and heavy garments convert to sleeping bags. Wharton decided to increase this year's quota. She had to get the coats commercially made because the workload was too high for Star of the Sea's volunteers. With that came great cost. "We raised over \$20,000 for the project" to have 144 multi-purpose coats made, Wharton said.

## Lent is for spiritual training, pope says before beginning retreat

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Before beginning his annual Lenten retreat, Pope Benedict XVI encouraged Catholics around the world to practice prayer and penitence in the weeks leading up to Easter. The entire period of Lent should be like "a long 'retreat' during which people can return inside themselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to overcome the temptations of the Evil One," the pope said at his noon blessing Feb. 21. He described Lent as a time of spiritual training, undertaken not with an attitude of pride, but in an effort to live more closely with Jesus through prayerful reflection and penitential practices. The importance of spiritual fortification in order to resist temptation was illustrated by the Gospel account of Christ's own temptations by Satan in the desert, the pope said. "Christ came into the world to free us from sin and from the ambiguous fascination of designing our lives without God. He did so not with high-sounding proclamations, but by fighting personally against the tempter, right up to the cross," he said. "This example is valid for everyone: the world is made better beginning with oneself, by changing, with the grace of God, whatever is wrong in one's own life," he said.

## Windsong Pictures, Inc. presents 11th film festival

FORT WAYNE — The 11th Annual International Windsong Film Festival hosted by Windsong Pictures and the IPFW Communication Department Award Winning Shorts 2010 Oscar Nominated Shorts Films from Around the World and Across the Country. This free event will be held March 8-13 at IPFW University.

"The Boyhood of Abraham Lincoln," a feature length film released in 2009 will open the festival on March 8 at 7:00 p.m.

"Hunger in Allen County" featuring St. Mary's Soup Kitchen and other local agencies produced by Amy McKee will screen on Friday, March 12, and Saturday, March 13, at 7 p.m.

For 35 years Windsong Pictures participants have served the community by helping those who are most in need by feeding the hungry. In that time Windsong Pictures has helped to raise over one million food items for those in need.

For more information call (260) 348-5510

## St. Mary Parish holds mission

HUNTINGTON — St. Mary Church, located at 903 N. Jefferson St., will hold its parish mission March 14-17. Msgr. Bernard Galic will speak on vocations on March 14, Mary Glowaski will speak on faith on March 15, Father Dave Ruppert on Reconciliation with service on March 16, and Bishop John M. D'Arcy will speak on the Eucharist on March 17. For more information call (260) 356-4398.

## St. John the Baptist to host parish mission

FORT WAYNE — Father Cyril Fernandes and the parishioners of St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne, will host a Lenten parish mission entitled "Come to Me." Each session will include prayer and renewal to prepare for Easter.

All evening sessions will begin at 7 p.m. in the church and include the following themes and speakers:

- Sunday, Feb. 28, "You are Mine," presented by Father Tony Steinacker, associate pastor from St. Charles Borromeo Parish, Fort Wayne.

- Monday, March 1, "I Call You," presented by Mary Pohlman, pastoral associate from St. Jude Church, Fort Wayne

- Tuesday, March 2, "You are Forgiven," presented by Father Larry Kramer, pastor of St. Paul of the Cross, Columbia City. The sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated this evening.

- Wednesday, March 3, "I Send You," presented by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades, who will celebrate Mass.

The morning sessions will on held on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday beginning at 9:15 a.m. in the Providence House. These

# AROUND THE DIOCESE

## STUDENTS HOLD BENEFIT CONCERT FOR HAITI



KAY COZAD

Thanks to the brainchild of St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth sixth-grader Jonathan Jehle, his father Ken, who is St. Joseph Parish's music director, and a score of other talented students and adults, an energizing musical concert was performed at St. Joseph Church on Feb. 19 to benefit the people of Haiti. Close to 300 people attended the concert, which showcased many of Jehle's guitar students, and included Father Drew Curry, associate pastor of St. Elizabeth Parish. The group performed traditional and contemporary hymns as well as pop songs like "Man in the Mirror" and "We Can Make a Difference" for over an hour. A free will offering, netting over \$1,700, was taken that will be donated to Catholic Relief Services to assist in their rebuilding efforts in Haiti.

sessions will be presented by Jennifer Kohrman, associate director of diocesan Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization.

## Be reborn through retreat offering

DONALDSON — Registrations are now being taken for the women's retreat, "A Call to Die and Be Reborn with Jesus through the Meals in the Gospel of Luke," which invites participants to experience the meals of Jesus in the Gospel of Luke in which he engages in the hospitality of others and invites them to transformation through the simple, yet powerful, intimate actions of sharing food and drink.

Facilitator will be Jay Freely Landry, pastoral associate at Little Flower Church in South Bend, where he directs adult faith formation, retreats, initiation, financial and seasonal outreach and justice ministries. He has been in parish and retreat ministry for 12 years.

The program begins Friday, March 12, at 5 p.m. and concludes Sunday, March 14, with lunch. The program fee is \$170 for single occupancy, or \$140 per person, double occupancy, and includes lodging and all meals. Registration deadline is March 5. For more information or to register, contact Lindenwood at (574) 935-1763 or e-mail rvanvactor@poorhand-

maids.org or visit www.lindenwood.org.

## Little Flower extends helping hand

SOUTH BEND — Little Flower Parish in cooperation with South Bend's Center for the Homeless has extended a helping hand to those in need this winter. In response to the center's need for towels the parish held a towel drive on Jan. 23-24 and Jan. 30-31. Through the generosity of the parishioners nearly 500 new or clean, gently used towels were collected and donated to the center.

## ND theologian Father Michael Driscoll elected president of the Catholic Academy of Liturgy

NOTRE DAME — Father Michael Driscoll, associate professor of theology at the University of Notre Dame, was elected an officer and president-elect of the Catholic Academy of Liturgy at its annual meeting in Milwaukee last month.

The Catholic Academy of Liturgy is an organization of Catholic professionals from the United States and Canada trained in the disciplines of liturgy, music and related studies.

Father Driscoll, a priest from the diocese of Helena in Montana,

joined the Notre Dame theology faculty in 1994. In addition to his scholarship in the areas of liturgy and sacramental theology, he has been active in pastoral ministry, working as choir director of the Helena cathedral and as a liturgical consultant throughout the country.

The founding director of Notre Dame's master of sacred music program, Father Driscoll directs the undergraduate minor in liturgical music ministry and the university's annual Summer Song program for the renewal of pastoral musicians. He also serves as an advisor to the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, a standing committee of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

## Marian student Emily Lohr state finalist in BioGENIus competition

MISHAWAKA — Marian senior and second-year research student, Emily Lohr, has been chosen as one of two Indiana State Finalists in the 2010 sanofi-aventis International BioGENIus Challenge. Lohr, with her project "Silicon Photomultiplier (SiPM) Research and Development: Quantifying New Detection Systems," will represent the state of Indiana at the Midwest Regional BioGENIus Competition in Minneapolis, Minn., on March 5.

There, she will compete against

representatives from the states of Indiana, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota to advance to the 2010 sanofi-aventis International BioGENIus Challenge in Chicago on May 2-4.

Lohr began working on her project during the summer of 2009 as Marian's student representative to the Notre Dame QuarkNet program.

The BioGENIus competition is sponsored by the Biotechnology Institute whose mission is to "engage, excite and educate the public, particularly young people, about biotechnology and its immense potential for solving human health, food and environmental problems." Under the Institute's direction, the sanofi-aventis International BioGENIus Challenge is an annual competition for high school students that recognizes outstanding research in biotechnology.

## Blessed Sacrament parish mission offered March 7-10

ALBION — Father Lourindo Fernandes and the parishioners of Blessed Sacrament in Albion, Indiana invite the public to "Homecoming," a Lenten Parish Mission running from Sunday, March 7, through Wednesday, March 10. Speakers include:

- Sunday, March 7, at 6:30 p.m.: "Growing as a Christian Family" presented by Lisa Everett, co-director of the diocesan Office of Family Life.

- Monday, March 8, at 7 p.m.: "Practical Tools for Christian Living" presented by Meg Hanlon, head of the theology department at Bishop Luers High School.

- Tuesday, March 9, at 7 p.m.: "Mending Relationships" presented by Father Derrick Sneyd, pastor of Immaculate Conception, Auburn. The sacrament of Reconciliation will be celebrated.

- Wednesday, March 10, at 7 p.m.: "Celebrate! Come Home!" presented by Father Mark Gurtner, pastor of St. Anthony de Padua, South Bend. Mass will be celebrated.

- Monday, March 8-Wednesday, March 10 at 8 a.m.: Mornings of Reflection will be presented by Natalie Kohrman, director of the diocesan Office of Spiritual Development and Evangelization.

Each evening's service will begin with a prelude of praise and worship at 6:30 p.m. The music group and choir from St. Paul of the Cross Church, Columbia City, and the Blessed Sacrament Youth Choir will be in attendance.

The one hour main service will start at 7 p.m. each evening and will consist of prayer, Scripture reading, song and reflection by the guest speaker. Informal sharing will follow. Refreshments will be served in the social center following the service.

A children's program will be held in the religious education facility Sunday and Monday night of the mission. It will be structured for three year olds through grade 4 students.

# Scholarship tax credit gets tangled in education funding debate

INDIANAPOLIS — With dwindling state revenues, funding cuts hit school corporations hard causing some to do what Department of Education officials told them to do “only as a last resort” — lay off teachers. Lawmakers headed into the 2010 legislative session hoping to give school corporations the ability to dip into other education funding sources like capital projects money, currently prohibited by law to use for salaries, to prevent additional teacher layoffs.

The House and Senate each offered proposals to restore some of the \$300 million education funding cuts.

House Bill 1367, authored by Rep. Greg Porter, D-Indianapolis, covered numerous education matters including a delay in the scholarship tax credit, but did allow school corporations to use their capital projects funding to make up the shortfall provided teachers received no pay raise. However it excluded the automatic incremental pay raise teachers have in their contracts. The incremental raise has been one of the major sticking points in the negotiations.

Senate Bill 309, authored by Sen. Ron Alting, R-Lafayette, allows school corporations to transfer funds from their school corporation budgets, but stipulated a pay freeze for teachers including the incremental raise. The Senate version also placed stricter limits on the amounts of funding shifts and prohibits funding transfer from the debt service fund.

When House Bill 1367 moved to the Senate, the Republicans removed all the contents of the bill including the scholarship tax credit delay and added their version of the education funding solution, the contents of Senate Bill 309 and Senate Bill 258 requiring reading proficiency standards.

In the House, two members of the House Education Committee, Rep. David Cheatham, D-North Vernon, and Rep. Robert Behning, R-Indianapolis, hammered out a bipartisan amendment to attach to Senate Bill 309,

## INDIANA CATHOLIC CONFERENCE

BY BRIGID CURTIS AYER

which was now in the House Education Committee. The compromise amendment prevented teacher layoffs and instituted a one-year pay freeze.

When House Education Committee chairman, Rep. Greg Porter, D-Indianapolis, author of House Bill 1367 realized Senate Republicans stripped his bill in the Senate, he offered a surprise amendment to reinsert the contents of his bill, House Bill 1367 into Senate Bill 309 during the Feb. 17 committee hearing. The Democrats who hold a slim majority on the committee, voted in support of Rep. Porter's amendment and it passed.

Glenn Tebbe, Indiana Catholic Conference executive director, “What was so upsetting and surprising about this was the House Republicans and House Democrats had worked out a compromise. When the language to House Bill 1367, including the scholarship tax credit delay, came back into the bill, it really threw a wrench into the whole education funding debate.

“The scholarship tax credit, which saves the state money and will offer hundreds of children better educational opportunities, unfortunately, has become a political football in the education funding debate,” said Tebbe.

Behning said, “The single most important thing in the classroom for the success of Hoosier children is a highly qualified, dedicated teacher. Our goal is to keep these teachers on the job and that's what my compromise amendment did.”

In 2009, Indiana teachers earned on average nearly \$50,000. As part of their contract, teachers automatically get on average a 2.6 percent salary

increase and may receive salary raises on top of the incremental raise. Democrats support a “pay freeze” as long as it doesn't include the incremental pay increase. Republicans want a total pay freeze.

According to Behning, the one-year incremental teacher pay freeze would save the state \$60 to \$90 million. The state could also save approximately \$30 to \$70 million annually if school corporations would accept the state health plan rather than their own private health insurance.

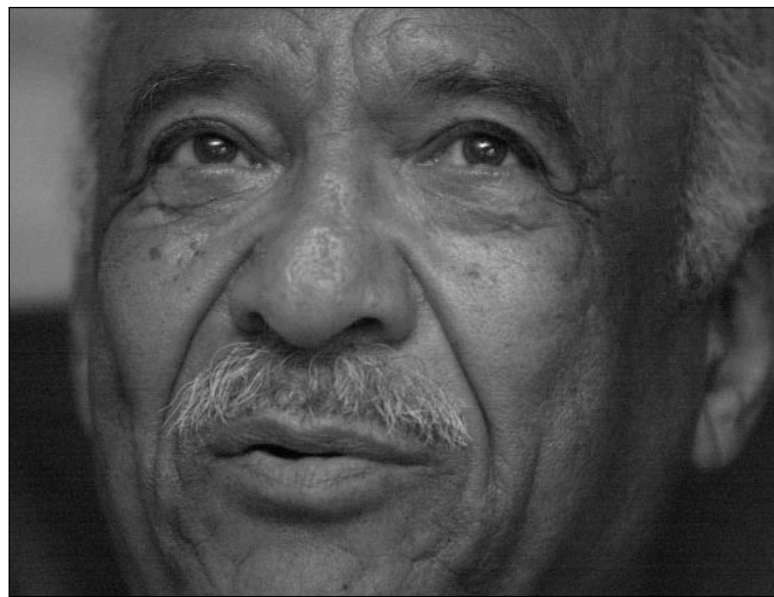
“Indiana is facing one of the worst economic times since the Depression. State employees have been under a pay freeze for three years and they get no incremental raise either,” said Behning. “Teachers are quasi-state employees. What we are asking is reasonable — a pay freeze for 2010-2011 school year so that teachers can stay on the job, and we prevent further teacher layoffs.”

Shortly after Rep. Porter's amendment passed the House Education Committee, his amendment was challenged by House Republicans. Rep. Porter's failure to give proper notification on his amendment violated the House Majority rules. As a result, House Speaker Rep. B. Patrick Bauer, D-South Bend, ordered another hearing on Senate Bill 309 which is scheduled for Feb. 22.

In an unusual development, Chairman Porter deleted several sections of HB 1367 including the delay of scholarship tax credit. The amended SB 309 now includes some aspects of the funding flexibility that was agreed to last Wednesday, Feb. 17. The revised bill, SB 309, passed committee in a bi-partisan vote of 9-3.

“The educational goals of the Republicans and Democrats will have to be ironed-out in conference committee,” said Tebbe.

The Indiana General Assembly must adjourn by March 14, but is expected to end the first week of March.



MAY LEE JOHNSON

Dr. Roland Chamblee Sr. has been practicing medicine for over 40 years and is a longtime Catholic.

## Dr. Chamblee serves all of God's children

BY MAY LEE JOHNSON

SOUTH BEND — He came to South Bend in 1953 and worked continuously to make it a better place to live — both in his church and in the wider community.

Dr. Roland Chamblee Sr. has been practicing medicine for over 40 years and is a longtime Catholic. The doctor worked in his private practice at the Chapin Street Clinic and St. Joseph County Health Department. He traveled to Africa as well to provide medical attention for those in need there.

Chamblee, who has been active in civil and social rights throughout his career, is now retired and enjoying life.

He credits his late wife Dorothy and a Catholic priest for leading him to the Catholic Church.

“You see my father was Baptist and my mother was Episcopalian,” said Chamblee. “I guess being Catholic was close to my mother's religion so I picked what was best for me. My wife was Catholic so I joined the Church over 60 years ago and I'm still here.”

Though Chamblee has been an active member of Little Flower Parish in South Bend for 40 years, he credits a priest-friend for also guiding his faith development.

“Father Daniel Peil, former pastor of St. Augustine Parish, was a wonderful friend and mentor,”

Chamblee said. “He was one of most honest, kind and giving persons I had ever met. I credit him for my spirituality and faith.”

As far as Chamblee is concerned, his faith works also include doing his part to improve the quality of life in South Bend.

“It's a big job for South Bend as well as the world,” said Chamblee. “My entire life work has been to improve the lives of others, both physically and mentally. I have tried to help wherever help was needed. I still care very much about the quality of lives.”

At 86 years old, Chamblee is known for his understanding and enthusiasm.

One former patient, Maggie Burns, said, “I put Dr. Chamblee right up there with the other civil rights leaders, only he lived here in South Bend. He always gave me and members of my family his undivided attention. But he also helped fight the injustice we had to deal with right here in South Bend. It's a better place because of all the good works of Dr. Chamblee.”

Chamblee admits, in his practice, racial discrimination wasn't much of a problem. But he said it was evident elsewhere.

“I would treat anyone,” the doctor said. “It didn't matter to me whether the person was black, white or green ... My faith has always taught me to treat others like you want to be treated.”



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# Will new tax laws affect your estate plan?

For the first year in decades, American tax law has repealed the federal estate tax for 2010. As of Jan. 1, federal estate taxes are repealed for any deaths that occur during this calendar year, regardless of the size of that individual's estate (state estate/inheritance taxes may still apply). Although the law was originally passed in 2001, almost no one believed that Congress would actually allow the estate tax to end in 2010, even for just one year.

In December 2009, the House voted to indefinitely extend the federal estate tax with a top tax rate of 45 percent and a \$3.5 million exemption amount per individual. (The exemption is the amount that can pass free of federal estate tax.) However, when the Senate failed to act, the estate tax was repealed for 2010. This might sound like good news, but it could be a major problem for the surviving spouse and cost the beneficiaries significant tax dollars.

## Funding the Bypass Trust in 2010

Many individuals create estate plans that establish trusts upon the first spouse's death in order to accomplish a number of important goals. Typically, these trusts are termed "Bypass Trust" and "Marital Trust." The "decedent's" assets are used to fund a bypass trust for the family and a marital trust for the surviving spouse. Through "formula language," which estate planning attorneys draft in wills and revocable trust documents, a bypass trust is funded with the maximum amount that can pass free of federal estate tax, and a marital trust is funded with the balance.

For example, in 2009, suppose "husband" passed away owning assets valued at \$5 million. Upon his death, his estate documents establish a bypass trust for his children and a marital trust for his wife through formula language. Since the exemption amount was \$3.5 million, the bypass trust would have been funded with \$3.5 million in assets and the marital trust with the balance of \$1.5 million.

Let us assume this same example for 2010. Since there is no federal estate tax in 2010 and thus, no exemption amount, the bypass trust would be funded with \$5 million and the marital trust with \$0.

Because of the nature of the formula language used in these types of estate plans, and now with an unlimited amount exempt from estate taxes in 2010, the amount a surviving spouse inherits could easily be \$0.

## Another tax for beneficiaries in 2010

Under this new tax law, the "step-up in basis" is eliminated. Prior to 2010, when a "beneficiary" received property from a "decedent," the "beneficiary's" basis in that property was the value of the property on the date of the "decedent's" death. Thus, if "decedent" owned ABC stock valued at \$100,000 on the date of death and the stock transferred to a "beneficiary" through inheritance, the "beneficiary's" basis in that stock was \$100,000. If "beneficiary" sold that stock for \$100,000, then "beneficiary" would pay no capital gains tax.

Under current law, if "beneficiary" would inherit the same stock from "decedent" and "decedent" bought it 20 years ago for \$30,000, "beneficiary's" basis would be the carryover basis of \$30,000. If "beneficiary" sold the stock for \$100,000, then "beneficiary" would have a capital gain of \$70,000 and would have to pay capital gains tax!

A small reprieve exists in that the executor of the estate can increase the "beneficiary's" basis by up to \$1.3 million and another \$3 million for assets left to the surviving spouse.

## What will happen after 2010?

In 2011, the federal estate tax is scheduled to reappear with tax rates up to 55 percent and the exemption amount at \$1 million per individual. The carryover basis will go away, and the "step-up in basis" will resume. Congress still may decide to change the tax laws before 2011 and reinstate federal estate taxes yet this year. However, if that were to happen, the exemption amount and top tax rate are unknown. In addition, Congress may also decide to reinstate the "step-up in basis" for beneficiaries before the end of 2010. This may or may not happen, leaving Americans in a state of tax-limbo.

## What are your next steps?

Review your will or revocable living trust with your estate planning attorney as soon as possible to determine if any of your estate plans need to be changed to reflect the temporary repeal of the federal estate tax.

## For more information

Contact your estate planning attorney or Elisa Smith at (260) 422-4611, Ext. 3312 or [esmith@fw.diocesefwsb.org](mailto:esmith@fw.diocesefwsb.org) for more information about the recent tax changes.



ELISA M. SMITH

## PLANNED GIVING

**Note:** This information is for educational purposes only and is not intended for tax advice. Consult your professional advisor. In accordance with Internal Revenue Service Circular 230, unless otherwise stated, any discussion of a federal tax issue in this communication is not intended to be used for the purpose of avoiding federal tax penalties.

Elisa M. Smith, CPA/PFS, is director of Planned Giving for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

## BISHOP RHOADES VISITS SAINT ANNE RETIREMENT COMMUNITY



MARK WEBER

Bishop Kevin Rhoades first visit to Saint Anne Home and Retirement Community on Feb. 12 included a concelebrated Mass for retired priests with many residents present, each of whom were greeted by the bishop. During the Mass, Msgr. Raymond Balzer, a newly named monsignor, was presented with the scroll sealed with a purple ribbon, which officially declared him as a monsignor. After Mass, lunch was served for Bishop Rhoades, Msgr. Balzer, Fathers Robert Traub, Paul Miller, William Peil, Paul Bueter and Saint Anne Chaplain, Father Jack Overmeyer.

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# God seeking the sinner

BY MSGR. BRUCE PIECHOCKI  
AND ELIZABETH FAGERBERG

## Opening/Closing Song:

Father, We Thank Thee, Who Hast Planted (Gather Comprehensive No. 568); Hosea (No. 386)

## 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.

(From the Web site: [www.catholicdaughters.org](http://www.catholicdaughters.org))

### Excerpt from Pope Benedict XVI's Letter to Priests

The saintly Cure of Ars reflected something of the same

## Spiritual pilgrimage with the Stations of the Cross

BY KAY COZAD

Last week *Today's Catholic* began this year's Lenten journey by offering the history of the popular devotion of the Stations of the Cross and meditating on the first two stations. This week stations three and four are investigated.

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

respond? Pray for divine strength today to rise again.

**Prayer:** Jesus, by Your cross You have redeemed the world. Show me, Lord, by Your sacrifice that I might rely on Your grace to rise again each time I fall. I place my trust in You. Amen.



### The fourth station: Jesus meets His mother

Jesus glanced into the crowd and saw His grief-stricken mother standing helpless in her beloved Son's suffering. Her heart was broken at the injustices of His injuries and rejection. Nonetheless Mary walked with Jesus unto his death on the cross, so that we might be healed of our sins. Pray to the Blessed Mother that she might continue to intercede on behalf of all mankind for our salvation.

**Prayer:** Blessed Mother, you watched as they scourged and tormented your Divine Son and walked with Him to His death. Your love for Him is everlasting. You are my model for true discipleship. Even as you grieve, intercede for me that my faith in your Son will bring me salvation. Amen.



### The third station: Jesus falls for the first time

Though Jesus is divine, He is also man. As He carried our sins and failings, He fell beneath the heaviness of the cross to show us that He knows failure as we do. He fell so that we might rise again to holiness. Consider a time when you fell — into failure or away from faith. How did you



## Sharing Faith

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can be found at  
[www.diocesefwsb.org/OSD](http://www.diocesefwsb.org/OSD)

idea when he said: "It is not the sinner who returns to God to beg his forgiveness, but God himself who runs after the sinner and makes him return to Him. This good Saviour is so filled with love that he seeks us everywhere."

### Commentary from Msgr. Bruce Piechocki, Pastor, Our Lady of Good Hope, Fort Wayne

I live out the words of Pope Benedict both as a minister of Reconciliation and as one who sins. As a minister of Reconciliation, I am humbled by the way in which God uses my clumsy words and efforts to draw people to seek forgiveness. Whether it be in conversation or preaching, it seems so often that words I regard as insignificant are the very words people claim led them to seek God's forgiveness and healing. During celebrations of the sacrament of Penance, there have been many times I have heard myself sharing words that I would never have thought to say in a million years. I know that it is God at work, not me!

As a fellow sinner, it is often the words or examples of persons much closer to God than I who open my heart to my own need for forgiveness. The Lord Jesus is not content to let me go my own way. He uses others to get my attention, sometimes even using their faith and lives to give me a spiritual kick in the backside when I am too blind or stubborn to realize that my own need for forgiveness and my complete dependence on God.

### Reconciliation as personal encounter

When we celebrate the sacrament of Reconciliation, it is not only our sins that we need to remember but the love of Christ as well. To simply remember our sins and feel bad about our human failures is really only the beginning. We are to grow in awareness that our Father is calling us to a relationship of love with Him. He has so much more in mind for us!

Pope John Paul II highlighted the sacrament of Reconciliation as a personal encounter of conversion and healing. He insisted on "a rediscovery of Christ as *mysterium pietatis*, the one in whom God shows us his compassionate heart and reconciles us fully with himself. It is this face of Christ that must be rediscovered through the Sacrament of Penance." — *Nova Millennium Ineunte*, n. 37.

Christ shows us His face so that we can live like Him, and the only way we can live like Him is if He is in us. Becoming holy is a participation in God's own life, and it begins with our baptism. If we come to believe that Christ is alive in us, then the sacrament of Reconciliation is not just a matter of spending some time with God to "clean the slate," but it is actually deepening our union with Him. Truth be told, God is giving us His holiness, so we need to give Him our time in prayer and in regular celebration of the sacrament of Reconciliation.

We must learn to let go of our own mind and our own way of life so that we can take on the mind of Christ. Then we will welcome the opportunities offered in the sacrament of Penance to let Him inhabit us, instruct us, correct us and console us.

### Reflection questions

Our Father is more anxious to forgive than we are to ask. Why do we find it hard to take Him at His word?

What hinders us from celebrating the sacrament of Reconciliation?

Do we use the daily opportunities that surround us to practice forgiveness?

Do we notice when we are being forgiven by others?

### Closing Prayer:

Lord, our God, help us to walk with You on the pathway of the beatitudes and to live out Your mission in today's world. Bind us to all men and women so that together we may bring the Good News to the ends of the earth. Open our hearts and our communities to the needy, the afflicted and the oppressed. May we radiate the Living Christ and transform our lives in the hope of the Resurrection. This prayer we make to You, our living God, now and forever. Amen.

— Prayer for Mission No. 2: adapted from the Web site: [www.catholic.org/prayers](http://www.catholic.org/prayers).

## CRAYONS DONATED TO HAITI



PHOTO PROVIDED BY MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD SCHOOL

Preschool through second-grade students at Most Precious Blood School in Fort Wayne are doing their part to help with the Haiti Relief efforts by melting down broken crayons to make fun shaped swirly crayons which they sold during their lunch periods. All proceeds go to Haiti. Pictured are some kindergarten students selling their crayons to fellow classmates during a lunch period.

# Aerial photographer, commercial appraiser and Franciscan

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

GRANGER — Aerial photographer Dick McCloskey sees things from a different angle than most of the general population as he flies in an aircraft in the skies of Indiana and Michigan. In the past few years McCloskey has also viewed his faith from a different angle, with a perspective from the teachings of the Secular Franciscan Order.

The St. Pius X parishioner is a cradle Catholic who was, by his own admission, a “very luke-

lected formation director of the Immaculate Conception Fraternity. His responsibilities include guiding the formation of aspiring members and the ongoing formation of the professed members of the fraternity.

The qualities of simplicity, a spirit of poverty, love of the poor, and devotion to Jesus through His Blessed Mother found in the order fit McCloskey’s persona, he emphasizes. “Franciscans are intensely spiritual in a laid back, joyful way. We support each other spiritually in our individ-

photographed using GPS unless they are familiar with the location. McCloskey uses a high definition digital camera that is hand-held with the assistance of a stabilizing gyroscope and then takes pictures through the open window of the airplane.

One of the most challenging parts of taking the pictures through the open window is the outside temperature. “Have you ever stuck your hands and face out of the window when the outside air temperature is 20 degrees and you are traveling at 120 MPH?” he laughs.

Faith also impacts his aerial photography business. “It allows me to take off from terra firma in a small airplane knowing that God will take good care of us. I have been able to use my photography to support good causes. We took a complete series of photos of the construction of St. Pius X Education Center from ground breaking to the dedication service. I have also given many samples of my photography for silent auctions to raise money, such as the Center for the Homeless, St. Monica’s Home and School Association

and Habitat for Humanity.”

McCloskey stresses that God is always at the center of his vocations and his desire to be of service to others.

“Every time I take off I say a prayer of thanksgiving for the gift of flight. Once I took a friend of mine flying who had never been off the ground in an airplane. She was very frightened, but as we left the ground the first thing she said was ‘Oh, look at my Master’s creation!’ I now thank Him for His gift of creation every time my wheels leave the runway.”



PROVIDED BY DICK MCCLOSKEY

Dick McCloskey demonstrates how he takes aerial photography through the window of high-wing Cessna 172 aircraft.

warm Catholic for many years.” In October of 2005 McCloskey and his wife Anne went on a pilgrimage to Italy with other St. Pius X parishioners. While in Assisi, McCloskey had some time of his own and went to the crypt where St. Francis is buried.

“I had a profound feeling of a presence that I still can’t explain. The presence was telling me — not in words, but in my innermost feelings — that it was time to take my faith seriously. When we came home I made an appointment with Father Bill Schooler to go to Confession. My last Confession had been in 1963, 42 years previously,” McCloskey explains.

A relative on Anne’s side of the family is a Secular Franciscan. McCloskey told this relative of the experience he had at St. Francis crypt and she invited him to the Secular Franciscan meeting at the convent in Mishawaka. During that meeting he felt the same presence he had experienced at Assisi. “I just knew that St. Francis was leading me back to Christ and the Church,” he recalls.

McCloskey entered the formation process in April 2006 and made his profession in the Secular Franciscan Order (SFO) on July 13, 2008. He was recently

ual ministries. We are all about looking for Christ in other people and in each other. Franciscans are people of service. We find Christ in others by serving them,” he says.

Among McCloskey’s paid vocations is his 36 year career as a real estate appraiser. In 1998 he learned to fly small airplanes and now holds a private pilot certificate with instrument and sea plane ratings. This eventually led him to put aerial photos in his appraisal reports.

“I thought that I might be able to combine flying with aerial photography to support my flying hobby. I started AeroVision Aerial Photography in 2002 as a result of this thought process.”

As an aerial photographer McCloskey sells his photos to various markets, including real estate brokers and developers, construction companies, government agencies and various individuals. At first he would fly and shoot pictures by himself.

“I quickly found that it is very difficult, but not impossible, to get good photos while flying the airplane. I now have a pilot, Wes Kautzman, who flies while I shoot. However, I get to do the landing since that is the only thing better than flying,” he beams.

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## Thursday nights at Henry's mean family

BY MARK WEBER

FORT WAYNE — Given her patrician bearing and quiet dignified manner, one would not suspect that this genteel great grandmother of 88 years would hit the same Main Street bar in Fort Wayne every Thursday night.

Meet Irene Freistroffer, longtime Cathedral parishioner and daily communicant, swimmer, chauffeur, hospital hostess, retired career woman and matriarch of a family of eight, all living, all over achievers, and all residing in Fort Wayne ... and, oh yes, she hits Henry's bar on Main every Thursday because her son John, owns the place and the rest of the family knows she will be there in case they care to drop in to share a little family news.

Irene Gabersek moved from Chicago to Fort Wayne as a teenager, when her father took a job here as assistant brew master of Centlivre Brewing. Irene and her brothers and sisters were all baptized Catholics but were not raised in the faith, because their parents, both Catholics, fell away over a misunderstanding which remains unexplained.

Regardless, Irene, following graduation from North Side High School, took it upon herself to seek out a priest for instructions and has been active in the church ever since.

Irene's had a part-time job in a Kroger store in high school. After graduation, she worked for an attorney and then as secretary to the president of Fort Wayne National Bank. She was a diocesan employee for a year, as a clerk in the tribunal office, and worked for the city of Fort Wayne for 25 years as office manager for the street department, retiring from this position at age 75.

Irene Freistroffer has an all star family of eight, unique in the fact that all of her sons and daughters are still in Fort Wayne.

Mary (Keefer) is the principal of Bishop Luers High School and has had that position for 16 years and before that taught religion there for three years.

Henry Freistroffer is president and CEO of Craftline Graphics and co-owner of Columbia Street West, a bar/restaurant on The



IRENE FREISTROFFER

Landing in Fort Wayne.

Tom Freistroffer, a Notre Dame football star in the Parseghian era is owner of Freistroffer Appraisal and Real Estate.

Daughter Fry (Schindler) R.N., is vice president and co-owner of Bandido's Mexican Restaurants in Fort Wayne, Portland and Lima, Ohio.

Laura (Sweigert) is office manager for Freistroffer Appraisal and Real Estate.

Donna (Brook) is Fort Wayne District Council president for the St. Vincent de Paul Society, and treasurer for the St. John's/St. Patrick Conference of St. Vincent de Paul and waitress manager for Henry's bar and restaurant in Fort Wayne.

John Freistroffer is owner of Henry's bar and co-owner of Columbia Street West.

Joe Freistroffer is manager of Three Rivers Barricade.

Putting first things first, Irene Freistroffer had all eight of her children before she learned to drive an automobile. She was taught to drive by her sister-in-law, and has been behind the wheel ever since and drives daily to the cathedral for morning Mass.

Irene travels by air, too, and has visited Rome, Japan, Medjugorje and Ireland, but considering the warp and woof of the Freistroffer family fabric, her favorite time and place is undoubtedly Thursday nights at Henry's.

## Planned gift represents longtime friendship with priests

BY ELISA SMITH

FORT WAYNE — When James C. Metzler decided to make a gift of his home to the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana, he chose to honor his close, longtime friendships with priests.

Metzler gifted his home on Dec. 18, 2009, through what is termed a "gift annuity for a home." In this type of arrangement, he retains a life estate (the right to live in and/or use the property during his lifetime) as well as receives an annual annuity payment. At his death, the life estate and the annuity payment end, and the home transfers to the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indiana. It is Metzler's intention that the home then be used as a residence for retired priests of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

Metzler, a parishioner of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, has a special friendship with former pastors, Msgr. J. William Lester and Msgr. James Wolf, and current pastor of the cathedral, Msgr. Robert Schulte. "We go out to dinner and have interesting discussions on the weekends," said Metzler.

Metzler and the priests also enjoy sports together and used to attend Notre Dame vs. Purdue University football games togeth-



TIM JOHNSON

In December, James Metzler, center, gifted his home to the Catholic Community Foundation of Northeast Indian. In the photo are, the late Msgr. J. William Lester, Bishop John M. D'Arcy, Metzler, Elisa Smith and Msgr. Robert Schulte.

er until Metzler adopted his schipperke dog, Astro. "Msgr. Lester cheers for the White Sox, the Bears and Notre Dame, whereas I'm a Cubs, Cowboys and Purdue fan," expressed Metzler, a Purdue University graduate. Last summer, Metzler drove his corvette in the Three Rivers Parade. Sitting alongside him and waving at the crowd was Msgr. Schulte.

Metzler's home was originally owned by his parents. His father was a Catholic but his mother was not. She converted to the Catholic faith in the early 1960s, and Metzler too converted when he was 19 years old. He spent one year in the seminary at St. Joseph College in Rensselaer. "My family has always befriend-

ed priests," stated Metzler. "Spending a year in the seminary, I felt close to the priests also."

Now retired from ASI (American Silicones, Inc.), Metzler is very active at his parish. He serves as a Eucharistic minister at the cathedral, head of the lector program, member of the finance council and sacristan.

Metzler feels that making a planned gift to the Church represents a final step in living a life of stewardship. "I don't have family to leave it (the home) to," said Metzler. "And Mom and Dad had it going to the Church."

"The priests struggle financially," he mentioned, "so if I can help them out, I like doing that. Besides, the guys are, in some ways, a lot like me!"



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# Bill Siri: 50 years as a Vincentian with the St. Vincent de Paul Society

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

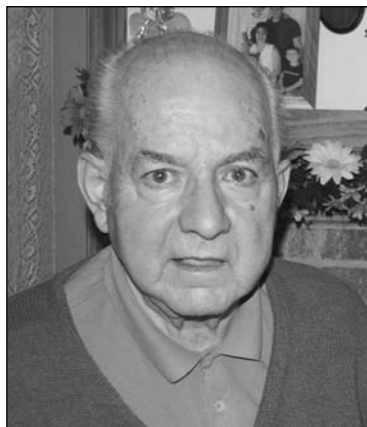
SOUTH BEND — Bill Siri and the St. Vincent de Paul Society (SVDP) go back over 50 years. According to Queen of Peace SVDP Conference president Chip Healy, Siri exemplifies the concept of “giving back” to the community.

“As treasurer of SVDP, Bill would call around for someone to deliver the goods to the family but since we were still light in numbers Bill would assign himself to find a partner and fill grocery needs to those looking for help if no one else was available. He also drove members of our parish who were unable to drive themselves to doctor appointments. In every kind of weather, and any type of personality, Bill would smile and ask what more he could do for a client,” says Healy.

Siri began volunteering with SVDP at St. Jude Parish, South Bend, in the 1960s with the intent of “doing something besides my regular job.” During his years with SVDP he has delivered food pantry items and food vouchers from area grocery stores to needy families in the local area. Siri recalls that he and other SVDP volunteers helped to build a wheelchair ramp for a person to whom he delivered food and grocery store vouchers. And sometimes, his mere presence in someone’s home would bring cheer to a household.

“I remember delivering to a couple where the husband was a paraplegic and incapable of speech. The wife really appreciated the volunteers coming to visit so that she felt a part of the community,” Siri recalls.

Healy emphasizes that Siri also accepts leadership roles readily for the Queen of Peace SVDP conference. “In time, as our group began to grow, I realized that in order to create an exciting and motivational atmosphere for members I would need help in directing particular groups in projects that define our ministry. Bill agreed to relinquish his role as treasurer to become my vice president. Aside from his nearly 50 years of Vincentian service in



BILL SIRI

several other parishes over the years, he silently commanded the respect and admiration of our members by his kind and gentle manner and his willingness to share his knowledge from experience. These attributes make him absolutely irreplaceable as vice president.”

Siri has several health issues that make movement extremely difficult and uncomfortable for him Healy notes. “Bill survived a car crash when he was younger that left him with a broken neck and several other injuries that have had a lifetime effect on him. Yet he refuses to slow down, much less step back.”

In appreciation of his contributions to SVDP, Queen of Peace established the Bill Siri Vincentian Service Award. According to

Healy the award was created “so that people realize there are those who walk in their midst’s that live a near perfect Catholic lifestyle and cannot properly function if they are not putting the will of God first in their lives. This is an exclusive award that may only be awarded a time or two in a generation. Its purpose isn’t to go out and find a worthy recipient. Its objective is to recognize people who have worked and dedicated their entire lives to the service of God through his people.”

In September of 2009, the Queen of Peace Conference of Young Vincentians was established. Affectionately known as “the Mini Vinnies,” the group collected food and made Christmas baskets last year, and made wooden crosses for nursing home residents. They are currently making care baskets for the people of Haiti.

Laurie Haverty, Queen of Peace leader of the Young Vincentians, expresses Siri’s influence on the youth group. “Bill is truly an inspiration to our youth at Queen of Peace. The school children see him frequently as Bill comes to the pantry to prepare food for delivery to homes. He also has taken time out to talk to our children about the value of service as a Vincentian. He is a wonderful role model for all parishioners young and old at Queen of Peace.”

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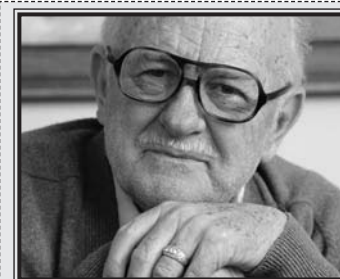
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## EDITORIAL

## Saying goodbye, thank you to Msgr. Lester

The passing of an icon such as Msgr. J. William Lester leaves us grieving and celebrating the life of a model priest whose commitment to serving the Church was done with enthusiasm, joy and eagerness.

During this Year for Priests, how appropriate that we celebrate the life of Msgr. Lester. His passing just after the installation of Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades has linked Msgr. Lester with five of the nine bishops, which also includes Bishop John F. Noll, who ordained Msgr. Lester to the priesthood 65 years ago; Bishop Leo A. Pursley; Msgr. William McManus; and our bishop emeritus, Bishop John M. D'Arcy.

Msgr. Lester was often colloquially called an "Energizer Bunny." In more recent years, as his health occasionally posed obstacles, Monsignor's zest for life and his high energy found him bouncing back quickly on the road to recovery and still willing to serve wherever and however needed.

Education was the heart of Msgr. Lester's ministry. His father, who was not a Catholic, was an educator who once operated a commercial school in Bluffton, the home of monsignor's mother, Ida. James Lester was later employed by the state in the public schools sector, and the family lived in Gary where Monsignor Lester was born and grew at Holy Angels Parish and attended school there under the watchful and devout Catholic eye of his mother. Msgr. Lester has a sister who is a religious, Holy Cross Sister Jeanette Lester.

After two years at Bishop Noll High School, the seminary called. And the Diocese of Fort Wayne, which encompassed all of northern Indiana in Msgr. Lester's youth and early priesthood, would be graced with his presence and administrative skills.

Beginning with Huntington Catholic High School in 1947, principalships seemed to fit Msgr. Lester well. In 1951, he became principal at Central Catholic. Students there have fond and engaging stories about their fine principal. He remembered the students, who they married, their maiden and married names, years after graduation.

In 1957, he went from principal to superintendent. One of the things he studied was the baptismal records and sacramental records at parishes in Fort Wayne. He presented the study's findings to Bishop Noll, who was residing on Bishop's Island in Sylvan Lake, during the summer. The bishop told Msgr. Lester, "Well, it looks like we're going to have to build some schools." Bishop Luers High School, Bishop Dwenger High School in Fort Wayne and Marian High School in Mishawaka can trace their origins to Msgr. Lester's study. At Bishop Luers, Msgr. Lester even coordinated the services of the Franciscan order to staff the school.

Msgr. Lester also found himself as a "father" figure to 23 Cuban boys who came to Fort Wayne as part of Operation Peter Pan in the early 1960s. They lived at the St. Vincent Villa in Fort Wayne, where Msgr. Lester resided while superintendent.

In a 2009 interview, Msgr. Lester chuckled, "I became close friends with the boys through counseling, summer trips and stopping fights when needed." Many have gone on to business and educational success. One of the boys is Auxiliary Bishop Filipe DeJesus Estevez. Another was ordained to the priesthood.

In recent years, Msgr. Lester has been noted as the "go to" man, assisting Bishop D'Arcy at parishes in need of a caring, loving administrator. If there was a board, including the *Today's Catholic* advisory board or the editorial board, Msgr. Lester was there to offer guidance and knowledge. He was the walking encyclopedia of diocesan history.

He lived in "alleged retirement" at Saint Anne Home in Fort Wayne while still helping out wherever and whenever possible. He will be missed by bishops, priests and faithful all across the diocese. But we also celebrate his life and thank our Heavenly Father that the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend was graced by his presence, love and service. Eternal rest grant unto Msgr. Lester.

### Do you have a memory to share?

*Today's Catholic* would like to run a tribute section to Msgr. Lester from our priests, former students, former parishioners and readers who would like to share fond memories in the March 7 issue of this paper. We ask that comments be kept to 100 words or less, include a first and last name of the writer, town and a telephone number — in case we have questions. Please e-mail the tributes to editor@diocesefwsb.org by the afternoon of Friday, Feb. 26, to meet our deadline.

**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

## Reader encourages silence

The commentary by George Weigel in the Feb. 14 issue of *Today's Catholic* should be read and reread and then reread during the homily at every Mass, in every church, in every state of this country for at least the next six months and then maybe it may sink in! Unlike the ancient Jews, we all are allowed into the "Holy of Holy's" every day of every week, to be in

the presence of the living God, to sit bodily right there with the body and blood of Jesus Christ. In that tabernacle, in front of us all, every time we walk into His house, is He who saved us all. Really there, in the flesh, and we talk and converse, chuckle and comment about everything under the sun. What is happening? Don't we believe anymore? At 59, I grew up in the Catholic church. I went to Catholic schools, where attendance at Mass was everyday. We knew as we walked through that door, there was no talk-

ing, no laughing, no playing. We were going into the presence of God, and He deserved our undivided attention! The Mass is not there to showcase the musical skills or wonderful voices that some individuals have. I was always taught (and still believe) it was to refresh and renew my faith, and to share some time with the Lord ... in His presence. Save the rest until you're out the door!

William W. Learned Jr.  
Auburn

## How men are harmed by abortion

An important but often unacknowledged angle of the abortion debate involves the serious effects that legalized abortion has on men.

A recent scandal surrounding John Edwards, former North Carolina Senator and U.S. presidential candidate, brought this issue into plain view. Edwards publicly acknowledged an extramarital affair with Rielle Hunter in the summer of 2008, a few months after pulling out of the presidential race. Even after admitting to the affair, however, he continued to deny having fathered Hunter's daughter, Quinn, until January of 2010 when he finally admitted that he was, in fact, her father.

A former aide to Edwards has just published a tell-all book describing how Edwards tried to coerce Hunter to get an abortion. Commentator Jill Stanek analyzed the situation this way: "Fortunately, Hunter resisted this all too typical coercive attempt by a sexually exploitative and irresponsible man to abort his own baby. Of course Edwards is a pro-abortion, which as we see is incredibly self-serving for men. Edwards was ready to sacrifice his own baby for political and personal expediency."

Edwards' extramarital activities remind us how legalized abortion has the clear and pronounced effect of supporting sexual infidelity, providing "cover" and encouraging men to become less responsible and accountable for their personal choices. It enables men to get away with sexual license.

Abortion hurts men in other, more direct ways as well. The fact that upwards of 3,000 abortions occur each day in the U.S. implies the obvious corollary that about 3,000 men lose a son or daughter each day to abortion. Some of these men may have encouraged or pressured their partners to abort; others may have strongly resisted; still others may not have known they were fathers until afterwards.

What is not widely acknowledged is that men can and do suffer emotionally and spiritually from their loss. It seems fair to say that men are not often encouraged to acknowledge their emotions around this issue — whether relief, grief, anger or resentment.

As post-abortion healing ministries like Rachel's Vineyard have expanded in recent years, many women along with their husbands or male partners have come to seek help in dealing with the negative effects of their abortion. A growing number of men have found themselves regretting their involvement in an abortion, and various Web sites now include testimonies from men who have lost a child this way.

Many of the testimonies are poignant, raw and searingly honest. Phil McCombs, a *Washington Post* staff writer shared his own post-abortion struggles in a 1995 article in the *Post*:

"I feel like a murderer, which isn't to say that I blame anyone else, or think anyone else is a murderer. It's just the way I feel and all the rationalizations in the world haven't changed this. I still grieve for little Thomas. It is an ocean of grief. From somewhere in the distant past I remember the phrase from Shakespeare, the multitudinous seas, "incarnadine." When I go up to the river on vacation this summer, he won't be going boating with me on the lovely old wooden runabout that I can't really afford to put in the water but can't bring myself to discard, either. He won't be lying on the grass by the tent at night looking at the starry sky and saying, 'What's that one called, Dad?' Because there was no room on the earth for Thomas."

Another anonymous father wrote a letter, excerpted here, to his deceased son as part of his own journey towards healing and peace: "My dear John Peter — This past weekend I did something I should have done a very long time



## MAKING SENSE OF BIOETHICS

### FATHER TAD PACHOLCZYK

ago. I confessed to your death by abortion. John, you would today be a young man of 20, vibrant and alive... Tears come again John, as they did Saturday night... In the fall, John, when the leaves fall from the trees I shall think of you, for you too fell from life. In the cold of winter, John, the snow shall remind me of you: for like the snow you were and are white and pure. In the spring, John, I shall think of you: for the birth of spring shall remind me that you, too should have been born into this world. John, I shall think of you in the summer: I shall imagine your laughter. I shall see you as you might have been, a little boy running and playing, scraping your knees from a fall. I shall miss, John, all that I might have gained from your life. My little one, John Peter, I can only now ask you to forgive me as Jesus and God have done. May you rest in the arms of God — Dad."

The deep emotional scarring of both men and women that follows in the wake of legalized abortion should be a growing concern for all of us, and should challenge us to craft a more just society where every man, woman and child is unconditionally protected, respected, welcomed and loved.

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

# It's up to the Irish to heal scandal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — For Vatican and Irish participants, the two-day meeting on the handling of priestly sex abuse cases was a major accomplishment, combining a frank admission of mismanagement with truly collaborative discussions on how to avoid such mistakes in the future.

But for much of the wider public, especially in Ireland, the meeting Feb. 15-16 fell short of expectations and was remarkable for what it didn't do: no bishops were fired, no abuse victims were heard and Pope Benedict XVI made no plans to visit Ireland and build bridges to alienated Catholics.

"Papal whitewash" and "The pope has 'washed hands' of our abuse" were two not untypical headlines in Irish newspapers.

The encounter highlighted the dilemma facing the pope and other Vatican officials as they try to defuse the pastoral crisis in Ireland. By convening the bishops, the pope clearly signaled his deep interest and concern over the scan-

dal. But because the meeting was not designed to produce "marching orders" or even policy decisions, it was bound to leave some disappointed.

Managing expectations on a topic this explosive is never easy. In this case, the anticipated agenda of the meeting was inflated by media reports that spoke of a shake-up of the church hierarchy in Ireland or a grand papal gesture. Even the word "summit," used by the press but not by the Vatican, suggested there would be high-level conclusions.

Instead, the results were much more about information-sharing than decision-making. There were several reasons for that:

- Irish bishops have already implemented much-lauded guidelines and policies to protect children from abuse, including full cooperation with civil authorities. As one Vatican official put it: "They already have a very good system in place. Now they have to follow it."

## THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

In that sense, the issues on the table were different from those discussed in the 2002 meeting between U.S. bishops and Vatican officials, when the debate was over specific points of proposed sex abuse norms.

- Some of the big questions hovering over the Irish-Vatican meeting dealt with personnel. Archbishop Diarmuid Martin of Dublin, who has pushed for more transparency and accountability among the Irish bishops, has predicted "a very significant reorgani-

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# Jesus is our hope



## THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

### 2nd Sunday in Lent Lk 9:28b-36

The Book of Genesis is the source of the first reading. The central figure is Abraham, who is highly important to understanding the Hebrew sense of self-identity, and to the unfolding of salvation itself. Jews regard Abraham to have been the father of their people. It is not that he just was an ancestor in human biological terms. He solidified within the Hebrew concept of nationhood the notion of faith in God and loyalty to God. Indeed, Abraham is regarded as the great exemplar of faith.

Obliquely referring to Abraham's faith, and to the course of salvation, Pope Pius XI said that Christians essentially are Semites, descendants of Abraham in a spiritual sense. He is a special figure in the religious traditions of Muslims.

Scholars believe that Abraham was an actual person. He is not the figment of imagination, nor a figure constructed in some literary effort. He actually lived.

In this reading, God communicates with Abraham. So, God is in Abraham's world, but God is above and beyond Abraham's world. Therefore, Abraham does not relate to God as if God were an equal.

God has command over nature and the living beings of nature.

God can order Abraham to capture animals and then to sacrifice them. Since the animals that Abraham captured were sacred, as they were intended for sacrifice to praise God, Abraham protected them from being taken by birds of prey. It is not as if birds of prey were inherently evil, although Jewish tradition later would proscribe eating the flesh of any bird of prey, or any other predator. Rather, they simply were victims of their own instincts and unaware of the most important of all realities, that God is and that God lives.

Abraham himself is vulnerable. Darkness overtakes him. The sun sets. He is terrified. Without God, he is at risk, powerless before the elements, helpless before whatever might come.

The second reading is from the Epistle to the Philippians. Philippi was one of those cities, Greek by background, its name honoring the father of Alexander the Great, in which a Christian community had formed.

Paul wrote to these early Christians to direct and encourage them by deepening their knowledge of Jesus. He insists that human beings are imperfect, even without their willful sinning. Human bodies are "lowly," he declares. Christ elevates and restores humans. In Jesus, by the grace of God, human beings never die if they earnestly follow the Lord.

St. Luke's Gospel provides the last reading. It is Luke's story of the Transfiguration, a story found also in Mark and Matthew.

Brilliant and powerful, the story tells that the Apostles Peter, James, and John were with Jesus at a very important moment. In this case, were with Jesus. They certainly saw the humanity of Jesus. Yet in

this situation, they saw the divinity of Jesus. The Lord showed them this divinity. On their own, they were unable to see it. Strong symbols from Hebrew tradition conveyed the reality of this divine identity. God spoke from a cloud. Gleaming light surrounded Jesus.

Finally, Jesus was the tradition of salvation. On either side of Jesus were the prophets Moses and Elijah.

## Reflection

As we progress in Lent, the Church offers us several important lessons. First, as humans, we are limited. Second, in our human limitation we are shortsighted. Third, we all shall die. Finally, we are promised life, in Jesus, the Son of God. Jesus is our only hope. He is our only access to true and eternal life.

Jesus does not trap us into union with God. We must turn to God. Abraham is our model. Jesus is the key. This process of facing facts, of conversion, and of turning totally to Christ is the purpose of Lent.

## READINGS

**Sunday:** Gn 15:5-12, 17-18 Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14 Phil 3:17-4:1 Lk 9:28b-36

**Monday:** Dn 9:4b-10 Ps 79:8-9, 11, 13 Lk 6:36-38

**Tuesday:** Is 1:10, 16-20 Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21, 23 Mt 23:1-12

**Wednesday:** Jer 18:18-20 Ps 31:5-6, 14-16 Mt 20:17-28

**Thursday:** Jer 17:5-10 Ps 1:1-4, 6 Lk 16:19-31

**Friday:** Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Ps 105:16-21 Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

**Saturday:** Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Ps 103:1-4, 9-12 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

## CATEQUIZEM

By Dominic Camplisson

As the devastation to Haiti continues to dominate the news this quiz looks at the U.S. Church's reaction.

**1. As early as the 13th of last month (January) the U.S. bishops urged in a letter a special \_\_\_\_\_ for January 16th and 17th for Haitian relief**

- a. conference      b. collection      c. flight of helicopters

**2. This was specifically to support this group**

- a. the Haitian army  
b. the entourage of Papa Doc Duvalier  
c. Catholic Relief Service (CRS)

**3. What was unusual about this document of the Catholic bishops?**

- a. it originated in the U.S., not Rome  
b. it was made public and not subject to the Great Seal  
c. it was available in four languages including Creole

**4. The Church in the USA also noted that the earthquake has cost the life of this senior churchman**

- a. Archbishop of Port Au Prince, Joseph Serge Miot  
b. The Cardinal elect from the Dominican Republic, Jose Alvarado, who had been on a pastoral visit across the border  
c. General Ferdinand deForce of the Swiss army delegate

**5. Since there was also a collection already scheduled for Jan 23/24th for Latin American the U.S. Bishops urged that churches**

- a. do both and not choose to have just one or the other.  
b. roll them together in a super collection.  
c. take the money for Latin America and send it Haiti instead

**6. Cardinal Francis George also wrote to these bishops**

- a. the bishops of France who have cultural links to Haiti  
b. the Haitian bishops  
c. the bishop of all francophone provinces in Canada and USA

**7. This letter was delivered by Archbishop Dolan of the U.S. bishops at this.**

- a. the Third Vatican Council  
b. funeral of the Archbishop of Port-Au-Prince  
c. the Mass for the papal visit o Haiti delayed until April

**8. In his letter Cardinal George noted that Jesus too had wept in solidarity with a friend who had died. Which person was he referencing?**

- a. There is no way to know      b. Peter      c. Lazarus

**9. As well as discussing relief efforts Cardinal George noted that the Committee for the Church in Latin America was ready to assist with rebuilding these ecclesial structures**

- a. roads      b. churches      c. runways

**10. Looking forward the bishops called for this type of approach (after immediate relief efforts)**

- a. a movement towards annexation or even statehood for Haiti  
b. the repatriation of most Haitians to the East of the USA  
c. a long term strategy

**11. Specifically this (9 above) should focus on**

- a. poverty reduction  
b. the replacement of Creole with French  
c. the replacement of Creole with English

**12. U.S. Bishop Howard Hubbard urged debt relief and trade preferences. Also extension of Temporary Protected Status for Haitians living in**

- a. tents      b. the USA      c. refugee camps in Guantanamo

**13. These folks were identified by Catholic Service Agencies as needing special protection.**

- a. Catholic Haitians      b. Priests      c. Unaccompanied minors

**14. Part of the concern is that without extra protection these people might be victims of**

- a. human trafficking or kidnapping  
b. proselytizing  
c. conversion to other religions like Santeria

## ANSWERS:

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

# The Vatican and the Russians

In late 2009, the Holy See and the Russian Federation agreed to full diplomatic relations at the ambassadorial level, bringing the total of such exchanges to 178 — a remarkable achievement, considering that, in 1978, the Holy See had full diplomatic relations with only 84 states. Less than 100 years after the Entente powers banned the Holy See from the post-World War I peace conference by a secret clause in the Treaty of London that brought Italy into the war on the side of Great Britain and France, the Holy See — the juridical embodiment of the ministry of the Bishop of Rome as universal pastor of the Catholic Church — is fully engaged in the complex worlds-within-worlds of international diplomacy.

Those complexities just became, well, more complex, thanks to some distinctive features of contemporary Russian history and one long-standing feature of Russian culture. The latter is the close relationship between the Russian Orthodox patri-

archate of Moscow and the Kremlin, which has endured through czars, commissars and now presidents and prime ministers; the former involves the strange post-Cold War situation of Russia.

To say that Russia has never comes to grips with the legacy of 74 years of communism is to understate the problem. Lenin's mummy — the ghastly relic of one of the 20th century's greatest mass murderers — remains on display for the veneration of the obtuse and the confused in Red Square. Parades celebrating the birthday of Stalin, whose homici-

dal record topped Lenin's, are not uncommon. Documentary filmmakers who dare to tell the truth about communism's depredations are burned in effigy. History is re-written in order to mask, even deny, the horrors of the GULAG system (which, as Anne Applebaum demonstrated in her Pulitzer Prize-winning book, was not an accidental feature of Stalinism but an essential component of Stalinist "economics").

Vladimir Putin, the true center of power in Russia despite having been compelled to trade the presidency for the office of prime minister, has made it clear that he is not satisfied with a Russia shrunk to the country's size at the time of Peter the Great. Yet neither Putin nor his successor as president,

Dmitry Medvedev, seems much interested in dealing with Russia's colossal demographic and public health problems, which include a rapidly shriveling native population (thanks to catastrophically low birth rates and declining life expectancy, both exacerbated by environmental

degradation and rampant alcoholism). Meanwhile, Russia's "market" economy resembles a Mafia operation rather more than the "free economy" of which John Paul II wrote in *Centesimus Annus*.

The flashpoints in Putin's efforts to reconstitute the old Soviet "near abroad" as de facto or de iure parts of a Greater Russia are clear: the Caucasus, central Asia, and Ukraine.

Ukraine is the strategic key to all the rest; without Ukraine, Russia cannot be a superpower. One of the chief repositories of Ukrainian national consciousness



## THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

is the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, Byzantine in its liturgical life and polity but in full communion with Rome. Declared illegal under communism (in a brutal 1946 maneuver aided and abetted by the Russian Orthodox Church), the Greek Catholic Church of Ukraine was the world's largest underground religious community for four and a half decades. Its flourishing after communism, and its dedication to building a Ukraine that models the free and virtuous society proposed by Catholic social doctrine, is one of the most heartening stories unfolding in the former Soviet Union.

Vatican diplomats and ecumenists have had their difficulties with the Ukrainian Greek Catholic cause — in part because of Ukrainian passions and indiscretions, but also because of a tendency to bend over backwards towards the Russian Orthodox patriarchate of Moscow for ecumenical reasons. But now comes the diplomatic rub. There is little reason to think that the patriarchate of Moscow will be anything but a willing, indeed enthusiastic, partner in any effort by the Russian state to reconstitute Greater Russia. If, at some point, Putin & Co. try to ingest a large chunk of eastern Ukraine, the Holy See's diplomats are going to face an enormous challenge, with grave implications for internal Catholic unity, ecumenism and international relations.

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

To say that Russia has never comes to grips with the legacy of 74 years of communism is to understate the problem.

## What happened to St. Dorothy?

Why are certain saints no longer on the calendar? My first name is Dorothy and I am so hurt she is no longer on the saints' calendar. My maiden name is Blais and I always enjoyed so much my double feast days (sort of) in February. I know there is still St. Blaise, but what happened to St. Dorothy? Maybe there are other saints who have "disappeared" too. D. H.

It is completely within the discretion of the Holy Father to determine which saints and blessed are to be on the Universal Liturgical Calendar. The criterion that he would use to determine this, I would assume,

is whether those saints and blessed have importance for the entire Church. Some saints and blessed were taken off the calendar, I presume, because it was determined that, while a particular saint or blessed is most important for a certain segment of the Church, the saint or blessed was not well known or did not impact the life of the entire Church.

Saints and blessed can be included on a regional basis in the liturgical cycle. For example, Blessed Andre Basset is included in the liturgical calendar for the United States, but he does not appear on the universal calendar. My guess would be that St.

## THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION

Dorothy does appear on a regional liturgical calendar some place in the world where she is known or has had an impact.

Father Mark Gurtner, pastor of St. Anthony Parish, South Bend, answered this week's question.

## SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for February 28, 2010

Luke 9:28-36

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Second Sunday of Lent, Cycle C: the mountain top glimpse of Jesus' glory. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

EIGHT DAYS	MOUNTAIN	PRAYING
DAZZLING	WHITE	BEHOLD
TWO MEN	MOSES	ELIJAH
APPEARED	ACCOMPLISH	PETER
SLEEP	MASTER	LET US MAKE
THREE	A CLOUD	A VOICE
CHOSEN	SPOKEN	ALONG

## WITH GLORY

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

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## LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

zation of the church in Ireland." But the resignation of bishops has always been considered a personal decision involving the individual bishop and the pope, and would never be done by committee — or even by "summit."

• Likewise, the suggestion by some Irish media that abuse victims should have been brought down to Rome for the encounter was never seriously considered at the Vatican. Church leaders said it would have seemed like a publicity stunt. They pointed out that when Pope Benedict met with abuse victims in the United States and Australia, it was arranged quietly and without fanfare. If something similar happens in Ireland some day, they said, it will also happen away from the media glare.

One outcome of the Vatican-Irish meeting was perhaps too subtle to measure on the media applause meter, but significant nonetheless. By all accounts, there's been a shift in attitude inside the Roman Curia since 2002. At that time, the sex abuse crisis in the United States still found many Vatican officials in denial or very defensive; today, according to the Irish bishops, virtually all of the 10 Vatican department heads in attendance offered genuine support and help.

The Vatican now knows that

priestly sex abuse is not a passing episode limited to one or two countries. As if that needed demonstrating, a new clerical sex abuse scandal was emerging in Germany even as the Vatican meeting took place — and the Vatican newspaper wrote about it. Cardinal Sean Brady of Armagh, Northern Ireland, said the Vatican seemed to understand that this is "not an Anglophone problem."

Compare that to the famous remark made by Cardinal Dario Castrillon Hoyos at a Vatican press conference in 2002. After noting that many of the journalists' questions were posed in English, he said that fact alone "already says something about the problem and gives it an outline."

Cardinal Castrillon, a Colombian who was head of the Congregation for Clergy at the time, worried that accused priests weren't getting a fair hearing, suggested that priests were being unfairly singled out as a category of professionals when it comes to sex abuse and implied that money was a factor in the cases coming to light.

His replacement at the clergy congregation, Brazilian Cardinal Claudio Hummes, has taken a much different approach. While defending the majority of priests as honest and admirable pastors, Cardinal Hummes recently said instances of priestly sexual abuse were "extremely serious and ... criminal facts" that need to be brought to the attention of the civil justice system and not just to Church authorities.



# Sports

**BISHOP DWENGER HOSTS WRESTLING CAMP** Bishop Dwenger High School will be hosting a wrestling mini-camp for boys in grades 1-8 March 1-20. Times vary depending on grade. Equipment required is gym shoes, shorts and T-shirt. Cost is \$20 with checks made payable to John Bennett. Practices will be held Monday through Thursday from 6-7 p.m. for first through fourth graders and 7-8 p.m. for fifth through eighth graders. For information call (260) 496-4700 or visit [www.bishopdwenger.com](http://www.bishopdwenger.com).

## St. Joseph Mishawaka claims tournament championship

BY JOE KOZINSKI

MISHAWAKA — Sunday would feature two compelling stories of adversaries trying to navigate their way to a highly coveted prize — the Inter-City Catholic League post-season tournament championship.

St. Joseph (Mishawaka) was undefeated, winners of the St. Martin DePorres Division and defending ICCL tournament championships and St. Pius, second place in the division and runner-up in the classic last season.

The Wildcats of St. Joe took a different route this season after losing Michael Whitfield to graduation and Marian High School's varsity. They would be reloading not rebuilding.

St. Pius would return the nucleolus of talented players that competed in the finals last year and seemed to be peeking right at tournament time.

St. Pius also possessed a seventh grade point guard, Greenan Sullivan, who had been simply stellar the entire run to the championship game.

The tournament draw would pit the Lions of St. Pius against the best the league had to offer. As Coach Shawn Sullivan calmly described it before the contest, "This is our third championship in as many games."

Greenan Sullivan had scored 22 in a 4 point come-from-behind victory over the Crusaders, a 13-point showcase in an over time thriller where he hit a big three and converted free throws in a 2-point win over the Kings, and another 14 points in a come-from-behind two point conquest over the Eagles.

The Wildcats' course was not as rocky, they handled an over-matched St. Thomas team by 19 and then just held on to squeeze a one point victory over a very talented St. Anthony ball club.

The game lived up to the billing as the two heavy weights traded blows — St. Joe with a trapping press and active zone defense and St. Pius with the dribble penetration of Sullivan and the finishing abilities of their

two big men — Denton Gillis and Eric Mossey.

With the game close and with two minutes and 30 seconds to play, the fans knew that there was a lot of basketball to be played. The questions to be asked was could Sullivan and his mates find some more magic or would the battle-tested Wildcats hold on.

The answer would be what all coaches preach to their

players — "Free throws win games." The Wildcats responded to the heavy pressure by going 9-13 from the line, six for seven from

Michael Rice in the fourth quarter to seal the fate of both teams and bring the championship plaque into the arms of St. Joseph (Mishawaka) by a final, 40-32.

"The key word in describing us is team," commented St. Joe Coach Steve Ravotto. "Playing together with total effort and determination is what we stress everyday at practice."

"The last two games we had six players that were within one point of each other scoring and that is the effort we needed to compete with St. Pius," remarked Ravotto. "Greenan has a lot of talent and he makes the players around him better, at half time our focus was placed directly on him and our kids worked hard to contain him."

"It surprised us a little this season. We started off struggling and didn't know what type of a team we'd have," stated Ravotto, "A light switch turned on and we just kept getting better."

The Colors Division also crowned a tournament champion with Christ the King (White) defeating St. Monica (Purple) after erasing an early 10 point deficit by the score of 37 to 28.

St. Monica's Will Whitten netted 21 and the Kings Alex Mabry had 16 in the victory.

The Fort Wayne CYO-ICCL championships will be held at Mishawaka Marian High School on Sunday, Feb. 28, beginning at 1 p.m.



## St. Charles Cardinals claim 'large school' CYO league championship

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

FORT WAYNE — An exciting tournament is guaranteed when the top three "large school" teams finish with identical league records. St. Vincent, St. Charles and St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth each ended with four wins and one loss in the Gold League regular season to share medal honors. The top-seeded team, St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth, was determined by the most points scored. Therefore, the other two were in the opposite bracket and forced to meet on Friday night, Feb. 19, in the semifinals of the girls' Catholic Youth League (CYO) 74th annual tournament.

As promised, the showdown between St. Vincent and St. Charles was everything it has been for the past four years ending with St. Charles advancing to the championship game by defeating the Panthers, 44-37.

"We had not beaten St. Vincent for two years," explained a thrilled Coach Kurt Patterson from St. Charles. The natural rivalry has heated up since the girls were in fifth grade when the Panthers took the CYO title. The Cardinals won the tournament as sixth graders and the Panthers again as seventh graders. But this year, it was the

Cardinals' turn.

First, however, they had to get by the talented ladies from St. Joseph/St. Elizabeth, and Patterson knew that would be no easy task.

"We were physically tired and mentally drained from the big win the night before," admitted Patterson. On two different occasions, the Cardinals had beat the Panthers this season, once before Christmas in the regular season match up, 27-24, and once after the new year in a "no-count" contest, 22-20.

"We maintained focus and did just enough to win. St. Joe/St. Elizabeth is a great effort team," Patterson added.

The Panthers jumped out to a 6-4 lead in the first quarter with Addie Riembold paving the way. But the Cardinals fought back in the second, led by Abby Sordelet's trey and clutch plays from Jordan Schneider to put St. Charles up, 13-11, at the half. The lead changed hands again and again with both teams scoring 5 points in the third quarter as the two crowds battled to out-cheer each other.

The Panthers continued their valiant effort in the final quarter trying to claw their way past the Cardinals. With 23 seconds on the clock, point-guard Jessica Golden

never flinched as she swished two free throws to bring her team within a bucket, 20-22. Back to the line with 7.6 seconds, Golden made another from the charity stripe, but it was not meant to be for the Panthers.

The Cardinals won the 2010 championship, 22-21. Sordelet and Schneider teamed up for 13 of St. Charles' points, while the Panthers' Riembold led all scorers with 12.

Panthers' Coach Don Golden was very pleased with his team's run this season.

"We were very well-rounded with outstanding post play, good ball handling and outside shooting and we were solid off the bench. It was very much a team effort," he summarized.

Although his girls lost to St. Vincent by two points in the championship show down of the University of Saint Francis holiday tournament, they beat Memorial Park along the way.

"Beating Memorial Park was huge. It gave us a big boost to what was a very successful season," said Golden. "This is a very tight-knit group who like each other very much. It will be so tough next year when they all separate to different high schools," explained Golden.

## Comets gleam at the top of ICCL girls basketball division

BY CHUCK FREEBY

SOUTH BEND — Six different players have led St. Monica/St. Jude's girls basketball team in scoring this year. They have also led the Comets to the top of the Martin DePorres Division.

St. Monica/St. Jude's remained unbeaten in divisional play Sunday with a 30-13 triumph over Princess City rival St. Bavo at Corpus Christi's Cougar Den. While the Comets again relied on a balanced attack, Coach Frank Millar admits one change did help.

"We've typically been averaging four points a game in the first quarter," says Millar. "We did talk about playing relaxed and having fun today, and it seems to have worked."

Indeed, St. Monica/St. Jude

used a mix of defenses to confound the Panthers and race to a 13-2 first quarter lead. Devon Smith scored all of her team-high 6 points in the stanza.

Kiersten Reed led a St. Bavo comeback early in the third. She scored four of her game-high 9 points on back-to-back lay-ups, cutting the deficit to eight. St. Monica/St. Jude responded with a full court press, resulting in a 9-0 run to put the game away.

Lia Del Prete and Jamie Young added 5 points apiece, as seven different Comets scored.

"We've had good balance all year," notes Millar. "No one girl stands out. We rotate a lot of girls in and out. We want — and we need — everyone to contribute."

The other contenders in the Martin DePorres Division all kept pace with weekend sweeps.

Allison Ketcham and Tagin Schultheis each scored 25 points combined in wins over St. Michael and Queen of Peace. Christ the King Colors used solid defense in wins over St. Bavo and St. Michael. St. Pius cruised to double-digit triumphs over St. Anthony (Colors) and St. John/Our Lady of Hungary.

In the John Bosco Division, St. Joseph, South Bend, remained on top with easy triumphs over St. Anthony and Holy Cross. St. Matthew stayed one game behind in the division race, rallying from five down in the fourth to beat Christ the King, 24-22. Lizzie Asdell led the Blazers with 10 points.

**For all the weekend scores**, check out the girls basketball section at [icclsports.org](http://icclsports.org).

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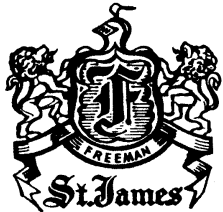
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# Diocesan high schools make a splash this swimming season

BY MICHELLE CASTLEMAN

Whether in the pool or on the deck, members of the four diocesan Catholic high school swim teams represented their teams well in the IHSAA sport of swimming this season. Unlike many of the teams they compete against, these schools do not have pools on their premises making it a challenge for these athletes to practice their sport. Finding time six days a week, some teams twice a day, at Notre Dame, Crossroads Children Home or a neighboring high school, usually meant early mornings and long days.

But as Coach Jeff Siples of the Bishop Luers Knights explained, "As a rule, swimmers are very focused." And the dedication and determination of these young participants paid off this season.

The Lady Knights recently finished with their best times in nearly every event at their sectionals advancing two swimmers, sophomores Erin Hipskind and Nikki Keller and one diver, Maria Beck, to the state competition.

"I was very proud of the way our kids represented Bishop Luers both in the pool and on the deck," concluded Siples.

"Another common saying among swim teams," Siples added, "is 'Plan your swim, swim your plan.' Swimming is a very psychological sport. A swimmer's total time is all about his plan." Siples loved coaching one particular swimmer in the distant race, the 500, which is all about strategy. Siples coaches the race as 10 individual races, down and back.

"It was terribly exciting to see her work hard and plan to drop each split then achieve her individual goal," Siples said.

Like most teams, Siples has many team members who do not swim year-round. He admits, "None of our swimmers may earn an Olympic medal." But he continues to coach for the joy of see-

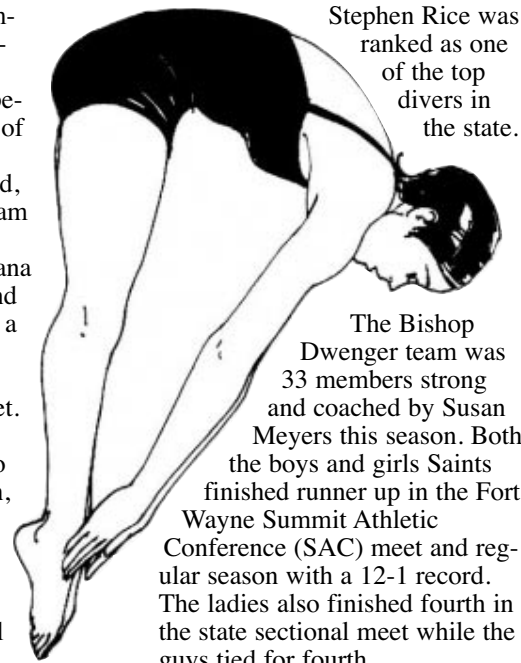
ing the sense of accomplishment in his swimmers.

In swimming competition, a meet consists of 12 events. At Saint Joseph's in South Bend, Tony Kowals boys' team advanced in eight of these races at the Indiana state sectional meet and finished third place as a team.

"We had an outstanding sectional meet. Everything went perfectly. Although we do not have a lot of depth, we will be taking a good group to the state meet," explained Kowals. Indianapolis' IUPUI natatorium will be the site of the upcoming state level competition.

Swimmers advancing include two freshman, Trevor Carroll and Luke Fifer, who won two individual events each. Junior Tony Carroll won the backstroke and junior Tom Polega won the butterfly. The relay teams advancing are made up of the Carroll brothers, Fifer and senior captain Tom Brandt. Captains Brandt and Kyle Pope lead their team in prayer before each meet. The girls' team from Saint Joseph's also had a very successful season and are around 22 members deep. It is reported that their coach Bonnie Schrem listed a relay team and swimmers in the 200 and 500 events at the state competition.

Jim Niedbalski is at the helm of the Marian High School group in Mishawaka. His Knights included 22 females and 17 males. According to Niedbalski, the girls' sport has only been around for the past 10 years and the boys have been competing for the past six. Although they struggled some during the regular season finishing with a 2-10 record, junior David Schaefer set two school records at the sectional preliminaries and freshman



Stephen Rice was ranked as one of the top divers in the state.

The Bishop Dwenger team was 33 members strong and coached by Susan Meyers this season. Both the boys and girls Saints finished runner up in the Fort Wayne Summit Athletic Conference (SAC) meet and regular season with a 12-1 record. The ladies also finished fourth in the state sectional meet while the guys tied for fourth.

Named to the all-SAC team for the Saints were: distance swimmer, Molly Coffee (200 free, 500 free); sprinter Marissa McDonald (50 free, 100 back); Jeffrey Federspiel (200 free, 500 free); Stephen Weust (50 free, 100 free); Eathan Welch (200 Individual Medley (IM), 100 Back) and Justin Frain (200 IM, 100 fly).

Eric Bohnke felt he would be successful as an assistant coach if he could convince at least one or two of his Saints to make swimming their life-long passion. "You can be in the water at any age," he explained.

Bohnke also stressed faith first, family second, school third and swimming fourth. "They were a wonderful group. I was very proud of their winning season and how they improved their times each meet," concluded Bohnke. One parent also noted how impressive it was to see all members of the Saints team join in a ring of prayer before each meet. "This is great to see and really helps us all understand why they are at Bishop Dwenger," he summarized.

## MAURY'S

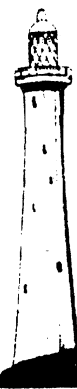


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**WHAT'S HAPPENING** carries announcements about upcoming events in the diocese. Send in your announcement at least two weeks prior to the event. Mail to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne 46856; or e-mail: fhogan@fw.diocesefwsb.org. Events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

## DEVOTIONS

### All night Lenten vigil

Fort Wayne — Sacred Heart Parish, 4643 Gaywood Dr., will have an all-night vigil on Friday, March 5. Latin Mass at 5:30 p.m., 6:30 p.m. the Way of the Cross, 7 p.m. exposition with adoration until Benediction at 7 a.m. First Saturday devotions followed by English Mass at 8 a.m. Confessions will be from 7:30-11 p.m. and Saturday from 8:30-9:30 a.m. For information call (260) 744-2519.

### First Saturday devotions held

March 6th First Saturday Devotions of Reparation will be held in these locations: Fort Wayne — St. Joseph, 7:15 a.m., St. Charles, 8 a.m., Sacred Heart, 7:30 a.m. Arcola — St. Patrick, 7:15 a.m. Garrett — St. Joseph, 9 a.m. St. Louis Besancon — 8:10 a.m. New Haven — St. John, 6:55 a.m. Warsaw — Sacred Heart, 8 a.m. North Manchester — St. Robert 8 a.m. For addition or change to listing call (260) 749-9396.

### Prayer for Priests

Mishawaka — Join the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, 1515 Dragoon Tr., on Thursday, March 4, from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. in a special day of prayer for priests. Morning prayer and Mass, 7 a.m. Rosary, evening prayer and Benediction, 5 p.m. Eucharistic Adoration throughout the day.

### Little Flower Holy Hour

Fort Wayne — Father William Kummer will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour at St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel on Tuesday, March 2, at 7 p.m. to pray for priests and vocations. Father Kummer is pastor of St. Michael Parish in Plymouth.

## FISH FRIES

### Fish fry

Clearlake — St. Paul Chapel, 8780 E. 700 N., will have a fish fry with macaroni and cheese Friday, Feb. 26, from 5-7:30 p.m. in the chapel community room. Tickets are \$7.50 for adults, children 5-12 \$4 and children under 5 free. Sponsored by the St. Paul Boosters.

### Saint Joseph fish fry and bake sale

Roanoke — St. Joseph Parish will have a fish fry and bake sale Friday, Feb. 26 from 5-7:30 at the American Legion, 1122 N. Main St. Tickets are \$7 for adults, \$4 for children 4-12 and children 3 and under free. Baked goods and carry-out available.

### St. Therese plans fish fry

Fort Wayne — St. Therese Parish will have a fish fry Friday, March 5, from 4:30-7 p.m. featuring Dan's fish, choice of macaroni and cheese or scalloped potatoes, applesauce or cole slaw, dessert, and drink. Tickets are \$8.50 for adults, \$4.50 for children 6-12 and children 5 and under free. Seniors, 60 and older, just \$8 for meals purchased before 5 p.m. All proceeds support the St. Therese athletic department.

### Fish fry

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 553 will have a fish fry Friday, March 5, from 5-7:30 p.m. at the Knights hall, 553 E. Washington St. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$3 for children under 12 and children under 5 free.

### Knights plan fish fry

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

### Queen of Angels fish fry

Fort Wayne — Queen of Angels Parish will have a fish fry on Friday, March 5, from 4:30-7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8 for adult, \$4 for children 6-10 and free for children 5 and under. Drive through and carry-out available.

### Fish dinner at St. Hedwig

South Bend — A fish dinner served buffet style will be Friday, March 5, from 4-7 p.m. in the Hedwig Memorial Center. Tickets are \$9 for adults and carry-out, \$3 for children 6-12 and free for children 5 and under. A cash bar will be available and there will be a 50-50 raffle.

### St. John the Baptist Tyner 100 fish fry

South Bend — St. John the Baptist will have a fish fry on Wednesday, March 10, from 4-7 p.m. at Holy Family parish center. Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$3.50 for children 5-12. Carry-out available.

### Fish fry

Arcola — The Rosary Society of St. Patrick Parish will have a fish fry Friday, March 12, from 4-7 p.m. in the parish hall. Ticket are \$8.50 for adults, \$4 for children 6-10 and free for children under 6. Peanut butter and jelly sandwiches will also be available. Carry-out and drive through offered.

## MISC. HAPPENINGS

### All family rosary

Fort Wayne — The all family rosary will be recited on Sunday, Feb. 28, from 3-4:15 p.m. at St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel. The intention is for all families.

### St. Aloysius holds Kindergarten roundup

Yoder — St. Aloysius School, located at 14623 Bluffton Rd. in Yoder, will hold its preschool and kindergarten roundup on Tuesday, March 2. Registration for preschool is from 6:30-7:15 p.m. and kindergarten registration is from 7:30-8:15 p.m. For more information call (260) 622-7151.

### Las Vegas night and blood drive planned

South Bend — Holy Family Parish will have a blood drive Saturday, March 6. The parish will also have a Las Vegas night on the same day from 6-11 p.m. Big 6, poker, black jack, tip boards and a TV raffle. Tickets are \$7 per person and are available at the door. Free food, beer, pop and coffee. Must be 21. First prize \$1,000.

### Educating with our minds, words and hearts

Mishawaka — St. Joseph School will have an open house Monday, March 8, from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Complimentary dinner will be served for those attending. Tours of the school and questions will be answered by school board members. For information call (574) 261-9180.

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Mary Ann Mackey, 79, St. Mary of the Annunciation

### Decatur

James F. Omlor, 67, St. Mary of the Assumption

### Fort Wayne

Marjorie M. Koorsen, 95, St. Vincent de Paul

Eileen L. Kohne, 83, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel

Cathee R. Verduce, 71, St. Charles Borromeo

Msgr. J. William Lester, 90, Cathedral of the Immac. Conception

Cecelia Ann Voirol, 76, Cathedral of the Immac. Conception

Steve R. Nichols, 60, St. Jude

Robert J. Rose, 88, St. Jude

Rosemary R. Murray, 93, St. Vincent de Paul

### Granger

Lawrence C. Luther Sr., 71, St. Pius X

### Mishawaka

Mary DePaepe, 100, St. Bavo

### Notre Dame

Sister Mary A. Mullen, CSC, 87, Our Lady of Loretto

### South Bend

Mary E. Baraso, 95, St. Casimir

Germaine E. Cervin, 85, Queen of Peace

Walter T. Kopczynski, 83, St. John the Baptist

William Hecklinski, 80, Christ the King

Mary L. Witucki, St. John the Baptist

### Marquette Chorus to perform

Fort Wayne — Most Precious Blood Parish, 1515 Barthold St., will present the Marquette University Chorus in Concert Saturday, March 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the church. Admission is free but a free will donation will be taken up for the Marquette University Chorus.

### University performs play

Fort Wayne — You Can't Take It with You, a Pulitzer Prize-winning comedic play will be performed at the University of Saint Francis north campus auditorium March 19, 20, 26, and 27 at 8 p.m., March 21 and 28 at 2 p.m. Tickets can be purchased at the door for \$10.



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## TRIBUTE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

priest for all seasons. He loved the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend. He gave his whole heart to it. I will remember his counsel in challenging situations and his willingness to take on anything."

Msgr. Robert Schulte, diocesan vicar general and rector of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne has known Msgr. Lester since his seminarian days, though he admits he came to know him better after his ordination into the priesthood. The two served on several committees together through the years as well as the personnel board and presbyteral council.

Mgr. Schulte says of Msgr. Lester's prowess, "He was very insightful on issues in the diocese. I liked to say he had a 'corporate memory.' He remembered a lot of things about the history of the Catholic schools over 60-70 years. He had a lot of understanding of education and memory of the schools and the role they played in the diocese. That was his area."

Msgr. Lester knew all the priests and Msgr. Schulte marvels at his memory of the laity as well.

Msgr. Lester was in residence when then Father Schulte was appointed rector of the cathedral. During the ensuing years, the two got to know each other on a per-

sonal level. "He was a good priest," recalls Msgr. Schulte. "He prayed the Office every day, and I would see him in his office praying the Breviary before bed. He was a very devoted priest. He tried to serve the Church any way he could."

Even after the flight of stairs to his second floor bedroom became too much for Msgr. Lester, causing him to take up residence at Saint Anne Home, the two monsignors remained in regular contact. Msgr. Schulte says, "He was scheduled to have Mass at the cathedral and was always anxious to get back when I asked him."

Those who knew Msgr. Lester marveled at his almost superhuman energy level. "He had a lot of energy even as he got older," says Msgr. Schulte. "He would go from one thing to another."

Mari Raatz, who is an administrative assistant for the diocesan Office of the Vicar General/Chancellor, was hired by Msgr. Lester in 1994. "We hit it off instantly," Raatz says. "I have had 15-and-a-half years working for him. We were very close."

"Above all, Monsignor loved Christ, loved being a priest, and loved serving the Church," she adds. "He was the kindest, gentle, loving, hardworking, faithful person I have ever known. In all the years I have known Monsignor as a boss and a dear friend, I have never seen him angry, gruff or short tempered. He was always so loving and positive and full of life. I will miss him very much."

STATEMENT FROM BISHOP EMERITUS JOHN M. D'ARCY

## The death of Msgr. J. William Lester

The great and generous heart of Msgr. Bill Lester, a heart which was always yes — and never no — that splendid heart finally stopped beating last Saturday, and this remarkable priest went home to God.

This was no ordinary man. As I try to prepare some words for a fitting homily at the Mass of Christian Burial, the words do not come easily. The tears come quickly, but the words do not.

A wise counselor, a joyful pastor, a builder of schools, a Catholic educator and a highly intelligent priest. I know of no one who has done more for this diocese than this son of Holy Angels Parish in Gary.

He welcomed and became a father to the Cuban boys who came to our diocese in 1961. Two became priests and one a bishop. He proposed the building of our diocesan high schools and led the fund raising. He, along with Msgr. Jim Wolf and others, led the restoration of the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception.

In the painful matters which came upon the Church in recent years, he was a steadfast and wise advisor, always seeking the truth with compassion and love.

When a parish was in difficulty for whatever reason, he would readily accept the mission from his bishop — the more difficult, the better. His wise counsel and sure and enlightened leadership would soon set the parish on the right course.

I am touched with great sadness at his passing, but oh so grateful to God for his friendship and his wise pastoral counsel these past 24 years.

Safe home dear Bill, safe home. May the angels lead you into Paradise, may the martyrs receive you at your coming.

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