



TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Easter celebration

Beyond RCIA, welcoming Catholics to the faith

Pages 11-13

Palm Sunday

God's love for us

Page 3

Marian science

Excellence in research

Page 8

Carrying the Light of Christ

USF student receives

Father Tom O'Connor award

Page 9

Grow an Easter Garden

Theresa Thomas tells you how

Page 16

Easter message

Dear Friends in Christ,

May the peace and joy of the Risen Christ be with you!

After 40 days of penitential preparation, we celebrate with new hope and profound joy the radiant mystery of the Resurrection of the Lord. We hear anew the words of the angel to the women at the empty tomb: "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has risen, He is not here." — Mk 16:6.

Jesus has indeed risen. This is the heart of our faith. Because of this extraordinary event, which is both historical and transcendent, new light has shone on our human existence. Evil and sin are conquered. Death is not the end. Christ, victorious over sin and death, offers us a new heritage of life and glory!

Because of our Lord's Resurrection, we can exclaim with the Apostle Paul: "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" — 1 Cor. 15:55. At Easter, indeed every Sunday, we are reminded of Christ's victory over death. We can say with St. Paul: "... thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." — 1 Cor. 15:57.

We can learn so much from the profound reflections of St. Paul on the meaning of Christ's Resurrection. I especially recommend reading and meditating on his inspired words about Christ's Resurrection being the basis for our faith and the cause of our resurrection in Chapter 15 of his first letter to the Corinthians. At the end of that chapter, St. Paul exhorts the Corinthians to persevere with confidence in Christ's victory as they do the Lord's work.

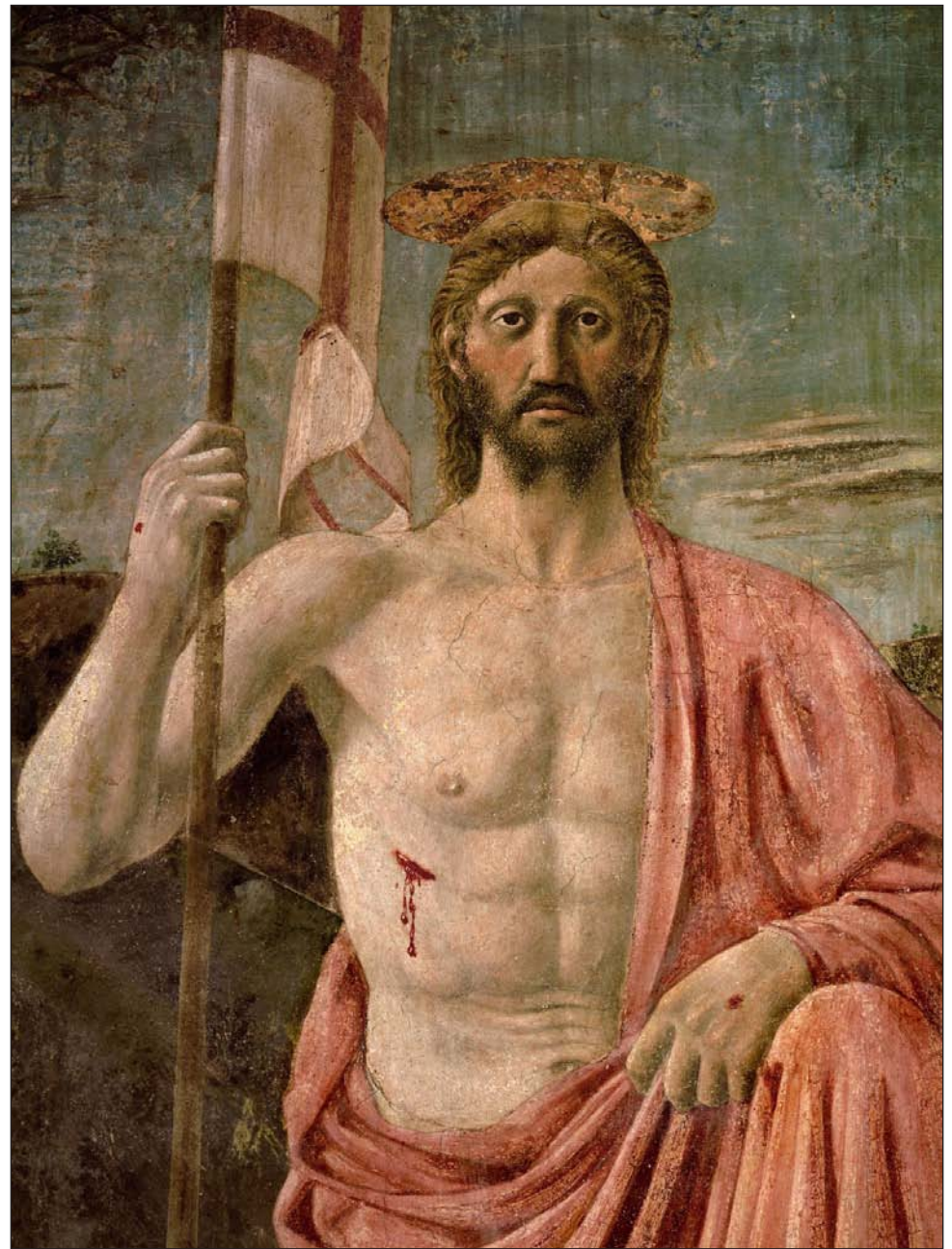
In our lives of faith, even in the midst of trials and sufferings, we too can be confident and have a spirit of hope because of our Lord's victory and our share in that victory through His grace. As we celebrate Easter, let us heed the great Apostle's words: "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." — 1 Cor. 15:58.

A happy and blessed Easter to all!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Kevin C. Rhoades

Most Reverend Kevin C. Rhoades
Bishop of Fort Wayne-South Bend



CNS PHOTO/ERICH LESSING/ART RESOURCE

The Risen Christ is depicted in this detail from the "Resurrection" by Italian Renaissance master Piero della Francesca. Easter, the feast of the Resurrection, is April 4 this year.

Annual Bishop's Appeal attains highest total in 23 years

BY VINCE LABARBERA

The 23rd Annual Bishop's Appeal in support of the ministries and services of the Catholic Church throughout the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend has resulted in a total collection of \$5,745,113 — the highest amount ever raised in the history of the campaign.

Despite the poor economy and a decrease in the total number of gifts, the 2009-10 appeal realized an increase of \$176,600 from the previous year. In addition, the annual fundraiser was 128 percent over the goal of \$4,500,000. This means if all pledges are kept, \$1,745,113 will be returned to parishes.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy said, "The annual appeal has always been parish centered and that is the big reason for its success — that and

our priests. I have always believed that the parish priests make it all possible. People here love their priests and follow them."

"Credit for the 23rd Annual Bishop's Appeal all goes to Bishop D'Arcy," said Harry W. Verhiley, director of the diocesan Development Office in charge of the annual campaign. Speaking of the bishop emeritus of the diocese, Verhiley continued, "The generosity of our diocese to his last appeal is an expression of gratitude to Bishop D'Arcy's selfless service to us."

"John and I believe the amazing outcome is the result of a combination of things," added Julie Kenny. She and her husband, John, served as general chairpersons of the recent campaign. "First and foremost is the love and support people in the diocese have for Bishop D'Arcy. It was a way of saying 'thank you' for

everything he's done. Second, Catholics who could give gave more realizing there were likely many who couldn't donate this time due to the economy. ... The faithful here are incredibly generous in sharing their gifts for the Lord's work."

The highest appeal previous to the 2009-10 campaign was the 2003-04 appeal amounting to \$5,623,163 followed by the 2008-09 appeal which raised \$5,568,513.

The local diocese consists of 80 parishes comprising 57,345 households in 14 counties. A total of 22,473 families contributed to this year's appeal — a 39 percent rate of participation. Most families participate by pledging an amount and then making payments, related Verhiley. "Pledging is the best way to double,

TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Official newspaper of the
Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend
P.O. Box 11169
Fort Wayne, IN 46856

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Published weekly except the fourth Sunday in June, second and fourth weeks in July and August, the first week of September and last week in December by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, 1103 S. Calhoun St., P.O. Box 390, Fort Wayne, IN 46801. Periodicals postage paid at Fort Wayne, IN, and additional mailing office.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856-1169 or e-mail: kvoirol@diocesefwsb.org.

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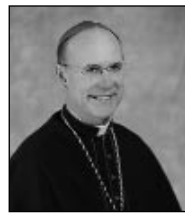
News deadline is the Monday morning before publication date. Advertising deadline is nine days before publication date.

LETTERS POLICY: Today's Catholic welcomes original, signed letters about issues affecting church life. Although we cannot publish every letter we receive, we strive to provide a balanced representation of expressed opinions and a variety of reflections on life in the church. We will choose letters for publication based on reader interest, timeliness and fairness. Readers may agree or disagree with the letter writers' opinions. Letters must not exceed 250 words. All letters must be signed and include a phone number and address for verification. We reserve the right to edit letters for legal and other concerns.

Mail letters to: Today's Catholic, P.O. Box 11169, Fort Wayne, IN 46856-1169; or e-mail: editor@diocesefwsb.org

ISSN 0891-1533
USPS 403630

Love is revealed most fully in self-giving sacrifice on the cross



IN TRUTH AND CHARITY

BY BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Palm Sunday

I am writing this column on Palm Sunday, the beginning of Holy Week. Though it has been a rainy day, it has been a good day to reflect on Our Lord's messianic entrance into Jerusalem. At Mass this morning in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, I preached on the Passion and Death of Jesus, the greatest act of love in human history, reminding the congregation of Jesus' command to love one another as He has loved us. Of course, that love is revealed most fully in Our Lord's self-giving sacrifice on the cross. Throughout Holy Week, we reflect on the immense love of our Redeemer. We are reminded, as St. Paul wrote, that "God proves His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us." — Rom 5:8.

Our calling, our common vocation, is to love as Jesus loved. This is how people are to know that we are disciples of Jesus Christ, by our love for one another. This includes loving our enemies as well as our friends. And true love means sacrifice, especially for the poor and the needy, the sick and the suffering, the rejected and the outcasts. It includes love for our unborn brothers and sisters, for our immigrant brothers and sisters, for our Jewish and Muslim neighbors, indeed, for all people created in God's image and likeness. We are called to imitate the One who vanquished hatred and death forever through love.

Holy Hour with priests

This past Tuesday, March 23, I was privileged to pray with the priests of our diocese during a Holy Hour of Eucharistic adoration at Sacred Heart Church in Warsaw. Afterwards, we enjoyed lunch together and a lively question-and-answer session. The more I get to know our priests, the more impressed I am by their dedication, joy and devotion in the service of the Lord and His Church. I am really looking forward to our Chrism Masses during which our priests will renew their commitment to priestly service. I will be speaking at the Chrism Masses about one of my top priorities as your bishop, the promotion of the discernment of priestly vocations. Please continue to pray for vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life in our diocese and throughout the world. I am convinced that God is indeed calling many of our young people to the priesthood and consecrated life. We all have a responsibility to promote these vocations. I think particularly of parents whom I encourage to inculcate in the home an atmosphere of faith and prayer and a love for the Church, the priesthood and the consecrated life. I



TIM JOHNSON

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades presents Danielle Collins the Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award at St. Mary's Church on March 26.

am entrusting this special intention for vocations to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of priests and the example par excellence of consecration to the Lord.

Diocesan School Board

This past Tuesday evening, I had the opportunity to meet for the first time with our Diocesan School Board. It was a fruitful meeting. As we looked at some of the challenges we are facing today, I was encouraged by the tremendous dedication of the school board members, just as I have been encouraged by so many people throughout our diocese who are committed to the mission of Catholic education.

Christ Child Society

On Wednesday, I celebrated Mass for the Christ Child Society of South Bend at St. Patrick's Church. That was my first visit to that beautiful Gothic church in downtown South Bend. I thank the pastor, Father Leonard Chrobot, for hosting the Mass and for supporting the wonderful works of the Christ Child Society. It was good to see so many people at this Mass, a testament to the good works of the society. I had not been very familiar with the Christ Child Society until I came to this diocese. I admire its noble mission: "the personal service and clothing of all needy children and infants in the love and spirit of the Christ Child." I am glad that we also have a chapter of the Christ Child Society in Fort Wayne. The foundress of the Christ Child Society, Mary Virginia Merrick, said, "In the spirit of the Christ Child, nothing is ever too much to do for a child." Thank you, all the members of the Christ Child Society, for your loving care for needy children.

USCCB Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth

On Thursday, I was in Washington, D.C., for my first meeting of this committee of which I am Chair-elect. The mandate of our committee is to "assist the bishops ... to respond to the faith needs of lay men and

women, married couples and families, lay ecclesial ministers, and young people in our pluralistic and culturally diverse society. The committee assists the bishops to promote the evangelization and faith formation of these persons, leading them toward a deeper commitment to Christ and His Church in the world." As you can imagine, this committee has many responsibilities. At our meeting on Thursday, we spent a good deal of time discussing the dissemination of the bishops' recent pastoral letter "Marriage: Love and Life in the Divine Plan." I highly encourage people to read this letter. It can be viewed on the USCCB Web site. At our meeting, among other matters, we also discussed the upcoming World Youth Day in Madrid, Spain, in August 2011. I was organizing a large group of youth to attend when I was in Harrisburg. Now I am happy that our Youth and Young Adult Ministry offices are working hard here to organize a pilgrimage from our diocese. I am looking forward to leading our young people on this pilgrimage.

Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award

Speaking of youth, this past Friday, I was happy to present the Father Tom O'Connor Light of Christ Award to an outstanding young college student, Danielle Collins, who is a junior at the University of Saint Francis. This award, created by St. Mary's Church in Fort Wayne, honors individuals whose lives and activities exemplify the ideals and attributes for which Father O'Connor was known. It was a joy to meet Danielle, to learn about her deep Catholic faith, a faith that motivates her to serve the poor and the homeless. I was especially moved when I learned that Danielle, whose younger sister died at the age of four, participates actively in the Compassionate Friends organization for persons who have lost children or siblings and helps them in their grief. Thank you, Danielle, for your witness of faith and love!

Confirmations

On Saturday, I administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 150 young people at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and St. Joseph parishes in Fort Wayne. This was like a little taste of Easter and Pentecost before Holy Week! It is always a joy to see God's grace present and operative in this sacrament of initiation. I am really looking forward to the many Confirmation Masses throughout our diocese in the coming weeks.

Annual Bishop's Appeal

I recently learned that the Annual Bishop's Appeal this past year raised over \$5.7 million, the highest in the history of the diocese. I thank Bishop D'Arcy and all of the donors to this important appeal which provides for so many of the ministries and services of the Church in our diocese. May the Lord bless you for your amazing generosity, especially during this time of economic troubles!

A blessed and happy Easter to all!

Learning how Jesus loves us

Bishop Rhoades celebrates Palm Sunday at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception

BY DEB WAGNER

FORT WAYNE — “In the account of our Lord’s Passion and Death, we learn how Jesus has loved us,” Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades said to the faithful who gathered for Palm Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne. Palm Sunday includes the reading of the Passion narrative and marks the beginning of Holy Week.

The Mass began with the blessing of palms in the Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel on the cathedral grounds followed by a short procession to the palm-adorned cathedral.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades added: “In the cross of Jesus, we see the depths of God’s love for us. There is no greater event of love in human history than the crucifixion of Jesus Christ, the manifestation of God’s total and perfect love for us.”

He said: “The story of the Passion begins with the Last Supper when Jesus gives us the amazing gift of the Holy Eucharist, His very Body and Blood. So much does He love us that He desired to leave us this great sacrament so that we can share in His sacrifice and be strengthened by this spiritual food in our journey through life. So much does He love us that He allows us to participate, like the apostles, in the sacred banquet, which gives nourishment for our souls.”

Bishop Rhoades said, “Pope Benedict calls the Eucharist ‘the great school of love.’ He says that ‘when we participate regularly and with devotion in Holy Mass, when we spend a sustained time of adoration in the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist, it is easier to understand the length, breadth, height and depth of his love that goes beyond all knowledge.’”

Bishop Rhoades spoke of Catholics’ obligation to love: “As Catholics, as loving disciples of Jesus Christ, we are called to join in this revolution, the revolution of love. Remember the words of Jesus: ‘Just as I have loved you,



DEB WAGNER

Palms decorate the pews at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Fort Wayne on Sunday. In his homily, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades spoke of God’s perfect love for us. In Romans St. Paul writes, “God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

you also should love on another.’ This is our calling; this is our common vocation, to love as Jesus loved. This is how people are to know that we are disciples of Jesus Christ, by our love for one another. This includes loving our enemies as well as our friends.

“And true love means sacrifice, especially for the poor and the needy, the sick and the suffering, the rejected and the outcasts,” Bishop Rhoades added. “It includes love for our unborn brothers and sisters, for our immigrant brothers and sisters, for our Jewish and Muslim neighbors, for all people created in God’s image and likeness. We are to proclaim the Gospel of love in word and in deed. This is how we testify to our love for Jesus, by loving one another as He has loved us. As followers of Christ, we are called to imitate the One who vanquished hatred and death forever through love.”

Bishop Rhoades, who just returned from a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, witnessed the tension, fears and animosity between the Jewish and Arab people. He said he asked himself if there will ever be peace in the Holy Land.

“Christ teaches us the way to

true and lasting peace — it is the way of mercy and reconciliation, the way of love,” he said. “And this applies not only to the situation among nations and peoples, it applies to each one of us in our individual lives, in marriage and family life, and life in the community of the Church and in society. We need to learn to love as Jesus loved, which includes love of enemies. Yes, it can be difficult. We can only love in this way with the help of God’s grace. The Holy Eucharist, the sacrament of love, gives us the strength we need to love as Jesus loved.”

Bishop Rhoades encouraged the faithful to make Holy Week a truly “holy” week by spending extra time in prayer and reading, meditating and reflecting on the Gospel of the Passion. He also encouraged the faithful to attend the Holy Week liturgies.

He said, “My prayer is that the Lord will fill you with a greater awareness of His love, that you will experience deep in your hearts the depth and intensity of God’s love for you. This is what motivates and empowers us then to love one another. The cross of Jesus Christ is the sign of the victory of God’s love!”

and pastoral assistance, evangelization and charities. Some ministries benefit parishes directly, especially when money is used for the training of future priests and for the care of retired priests and religious. Other diocesan programs that also benefit parishes include Catholic school support, religious education, Catholic Charities, Hispanic ministry, youth ministry, weekly television Masses for the homebound, crisis pregnancy assistance, and many more.

The average contribution was

\$255.65, an increase of \$10.69 from the 2008-09 appeal and the highest average gift amount in the appeal’s history. The largest gift received was \$75,000 and the smallest was one dollar. A total of 1,692 advanced gifts were received prior to the beginning of the appeal in most parishes last September — an increase of 252 donations from the previous drive. The average advance gift amounted to \$1,430.25, a decrease of \$88.58 from last year’s appeal.



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

Thursday, April 1: 7:30 p.m. — Holy Thursday Mass of the Lord’s Supper, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
 Friday, April 2: 1 p.m. — Good Friday celebration of the Lord’s Passion, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
 Saturday, April 3: 9 p.m. — Easter Vigil Mass, Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
 Sunday, April 4: 10 a.m. — Easter Sunday Mass, St. Patrick Church, Arcola
 Monday, April 5: 7 p.m., Confirmation Mass at Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne
 Tuesday, April 6: 7 p.m. — Little Flower Holy Hour at Mother Theodore Guérin Chapel, Fort Wayne
 Wednesday, April 7: 9:30 a.m. — Mass for Widows of Prayer, St. Mary’s Church, Fort Wayne
 Thursday, April 8: 11 a.m. — Mass at Mother Catherine Kasper Home, Donaldson
 Thursday, April 8: 2 p.m. — Dedication and Blessing of Lindenwood Retreat Center Extension, Donaldson
 Saturday, April 10: 5 p.m. — Dedication of new St. Margaret Mary Alacoque Church, Harrisburg, Pa.

Correction

The article “Notre Dame president looks forward to working with new bishop, strengthening culture of life” in the March 14, 2010 issue of *Today’s Catholic* contained a regrettable error. Father John Jenkins, the president of the University of Notre Dame, was erroneously quoted as saying that “the bishop is an extrinsic participant in the life of a university, but part of the university....” Father Jenkins said, as Pope John Paul II had taught, that “the bishop is **not** an extrinsic participant in the life of a (Catholic) university, but (an intrinsic) part of the university...” We apologize for this error.

Also, some readers questioned the placement of the article on page 2 of the newspaper. This was solely a decision of the editor, since the bishop was in the Holy Land and had not provided a full column for that issue.

African-American foundress and Franciscan foundress one step closer to sainthood

BY CARL GLATZ

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI advanced the sainthood cause of Mother Henriette Delille, a freeborn woman of African descent in 19th-century New Orleans, declaring that she had lived a life of “heroic virtues.”

By signing the decree March 27, the pope confirmed the recommendations of Vatican authorities who have studied the cause for several years.

She can be beatified once a miracle is attributed to her intercession. If her cause advances, she could become the first African-American saint.

Just before press time, Today’s Catholic learned that Pope Benedict XVI authorized a proclamation noting the heroic virtue of Mother Maria Theresia, the

foundress of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration. The order has their provincialate in Mishawaka and owns and operates the University of Saint Francis in Fort Wayne. Mother Maria Theresia was born Regina Christine Wilhelmine Bonzel in 1830. She is the German foundress of the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration.

Pope Benedict also approved the decrees of three martyrs: a Romanian bishop, a German priest and a Slovenian lay member of Catholic Action who were killed for their faith in the last century.

In 1842 Mother Henriette founded the Sisters of the Holy Family, a congregation of black sisters that cared for the poor and disadvantaged and taught slaves

VIRTUES, PAGE 4

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

triple or quadruple a one-time contribution,” he said.

Any amount pledged and paid by parishioners over and above the parish’s assigned goal is rebated back to the parish over a period of time as payments come in, Verhiley explained. Appeal funds are distributed to four major areas: education, family

Vatican intensifies defense of pope on sex abuse decisions

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican and other Church officials have amplified their defense of Pope Benedict XVI and his decisions regarding priestly sex abuse, and rejected accusations of a continued cover-up of such crimes.

After a series of reports in the *New York Times* and other media criticizing the pope for alleged "inaction" on sex abuse cases, Vatican authorities emphasized that it was the pope who, as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, pushed for harsher measures against abusers and made it easier for the Church to defrock them.

On March 27, the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, ran the full texts of two landmark documents that in 2001 placed the sexual abuse of minors by priests among the most grave sins, and established that allegations be handled by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, then headed by Cardinal Ratzinger.

The same day, the newspaper ran a front-page commentary by British Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Westminster that had appeared in the *Times* of London, expressing shame over priestly sex abuse but strongly defending the pope's efforts to curb it.

"What of the role of Pope Benedict? When he was in charge of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith he led important changes made in Church law: the inclusion in canon law of Internet offenses against children, the extension of child abuse offenses to include the sexual abuse of all under 18, the case by case waiving of the statute of limitations and the establishment of a fast-track dismissal from the clerical state for offenders," Archbishop Nichols wrote.

"He is not an idle observer. His actions speak as well as his words," he said.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, said the recent media focus on the sex abuse cases and the way they were dealt with by the hierarchy comes as no surprise.

"The nature of the question is such as to attract the attention of the media, and the way in which the Church deals with it is crucial for her moral credibility," he said in a commentary on Vatican Radio.

But Father Lombardi pointed to the "many positive signals" that indicate the Church has understood the problem and addressed it. For example, he said, a recent report showed that the number of reported sex abuse cases declined between 33 and 36 percent in U.S.

dioceses and religious institutes between 2008 and 2009.

"It must be recognized that the decisive measures currently being implemented are proving effective: the Church in the United States is on the right road to renewal," he said.

"This, we feel, is an important piece of news in the context of recent media attacks, which have undoubtedly proved harmful," the spokesman said.

Father Lombardi said impartial observers would recognize that the pope and the doctrinal congregation are continuing to guide bishops and help them "combat and root out the blight of abuse wherever it appears." The pope's strongly worded letter to Irish Catholics earlier this month demonstrated his commitment to "healing, renewal and reparation" in the Church, he said.

German Cardinal Walter Kasper, the Vatican's top ecumenical official, said the pope's letter to Irish Catholics was "courageous." It indicated that the Church was on an "irreversible" path toward greater transparency and severity in dealing with sex abuse by priests, the cardinal told the newspaper *Corriere della Sera* March 27.

Pope Benedict has never tried to protect abusers, and the criti-



CNS PHOTO/SUZANNE PLUNKETT, REUTERS

A supporter of Pope Benedict XVI holds a sign as other demonstrators call for the pope's resignation during a protest outside Westminster Cathedral in London March 28. After a series of media reports criticizing the pope for alleged inaction on clerical sex abuse cases, Vatican authorities emphasized that it was the pope who, as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, pushed for harsher measures against abusers and made it easier for the church to defrock them.

cism aimed at him is really an attack on the Church itself, Cardinal Kasper said.

"He was the first who, even as a cardinal, felt the need for new and stricter rules, which didn't exist before. That some newspapers are now using terrible cases to attack the pope head-on is something that goes beyond every limit of justice and fairness," he said.

Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher of the papal household, mentioned the sex abuse scandal in his weekly Lenten meditation. In his talk to the pope and Roman Curia officials March 26, Father Cantalamessa said the Church and its members are called to purify themselves and, if there is humility, then "the Church will end up more resplendent than ever from this war."

"The media's tenacity — and we have seen it in other cases — in the long run will bring about the opposite effect that they had hoped

for," he added.

Addressing the pope specifically, Father Cantalamessa reminded him that God told Jeremiah that before his detractors he would make him "a solid wall of brass. Though they fight against you, they shall not prevail. For I am with you to deliver and rescue you."

French bishops, assembled at their annual spring meeting, sent a "message of support" to Pope Benedict, saying they were with him "in the difficult period our Church is going through."

Italian Archbishop Giuseppe Betori of Florence told Vatican Radio March 26 that the media was manipulating information in order to falsely accuse the pope of inaction on sex abuse. He said he had dealt directly with the doctrinal congregation under Cardinal Ratzinger on abuse allegations, and found that the congregation demonstrated "the maximum attention and the maximum severity."

VIRTUES

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

and free blacks. This was during a time under Louisiana law when doing anything to "disturb" black people — in other words, educate them — could be punished by death or life imprisonment.

Today, the congregation's more than 200 members operate schools for the poor and homes for the elderly in Louisiana and several other states. They also have a mission in Belize.

Mother Henriette's sainthood cause was opened in 1988 and the New Orleans archdiocesan investigation was completed in 2005. Her cause was endorsed unanimously by the U.S. bishops in 1997.

Mother Henriette was born in 1812 and died in 1862. Her only recorded writing was penned in the inside cover of an 1836 prayer book: "I believe in God. I hope in God. I love God. I want to live and die for God."

Documentation for her sainthood cause included records from the 1820s that suggested that as a teenager, she may have given birth to two sons, each named Henry Bocno. Both boys died at a young age.

One death record from the St. Louis Cathedral sacramental register listed Henry Bocno as the son of Henriette Delille. Other records that were found gave conflicting information, such as one record referring to Henry as the son of "Marie." Another record named the mother as "Henriette Sarpy."

There is also a possibility that the teenaged Henriette brought in

an abandoned child and the priest mistook her for the mother, according to the archdiocesan archivist Charles Nolan.

In a 2005 interview, Nolan said the newly uncovered funeral records would not affect the cause, because even if she had given birth to two children out of wedlock, it happened two years before her Confirmation in 1834.

"When the second child died, she took a whole different course in life," Nolan said, noting she decided to dedicate herself "to live and die for God."

Benedictine Father Cyprian Davis, who wrote a definitive biography of Mother Henriette, said in 2005 that "there was this change in her life, there was this turning completely to God. That's really what counted — her life from that point on."

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Bishop Rhoades celebrates Mass with Christ Child members

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

SOUTH BEND — As Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades began his homily during the South Bend Christ Child Society's Spring Mass at St. Patrick Church on March 24, he asked those in attendance to reflect on the upcoming Holy Week and Jesus' prayer in Gethsemane: "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I will, but what you will."

The desire to escape suffering was voiced in the Mass' reading from the book of Daniel when three young men refused to worship the golden statue set up by King Nebuchadnezzar. "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego said to the king: 'If our god, whom we serve, can save us from the white-hot furnace and from your hands, O king, may he save us! But even if he will not, know, O king, that we will not serve your god or worship the golden statue that you set up,'" Bishop Rhoades emphasized.

Like Jesus, these young men do not compel God to save them, but to obey his will, Bishop Rhoades noted. "That is truly the attitude Jesus had in the garden when He prayed to the Father. It is the attitude that we are called to have when tragedy strikes in our lives or when we face difficulties and sufferings: Father, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I will, but what you will."

In the case of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, God did rescue them. Yet Bishop Rhoades explained that God did not spare his Son from crucifixion. "Indeed

the Father handed his Son over to sinners in order to reconcile us to Himself, so great is the Father's love for us. And Jesus embraced in His human heart the Father's love for all of us. As St. John says: 'Jesus loved them to the end.' Jesus laid down His life of His own accord, freely offering Himself as the Lamb of sacrifice."

So how could a loving God allow his Son to die? Bishop Rhoades answered it is specifically because God loves Jesus and us that the Passion occurs. "God the Father indeed loves the Son with a love beyond any we can imagine. We were reminded of this in the movie 'The Passion of the Christ' when, at the moment of Jesus' death on the cross, a tear falls from heaven. And, of course, we should consider the Resurrection of Jesus also as a revelation of God the Father's love since the Father raised His beloved Son from the dead."

Bishop Rhoades concluded the homily by reminding the congregation the sacrifice of Jesus is present each time we take the Eucharist. "In the Eucharist we are to unite ourselves to Christ's sacrifice. We unite our lives, our sufferings, joys, prayers and works with Christ's offering. It is important to remember that the Eucharist is the sacrifice of Christ and the sacrifice of the Church. Participating actively in the Eucharist, body, mind and soul, we enter into the mystery of God's love in a profound way."

After Mass, Christ Child members attended a business luncheon at the Gillespie Center, located at Saint Mary's College in South Bend. President Beth Barrett was

happy to announce that despite the current economic downturn, the South Bend chapter of Christ Child was successful in fundraising events and grants.

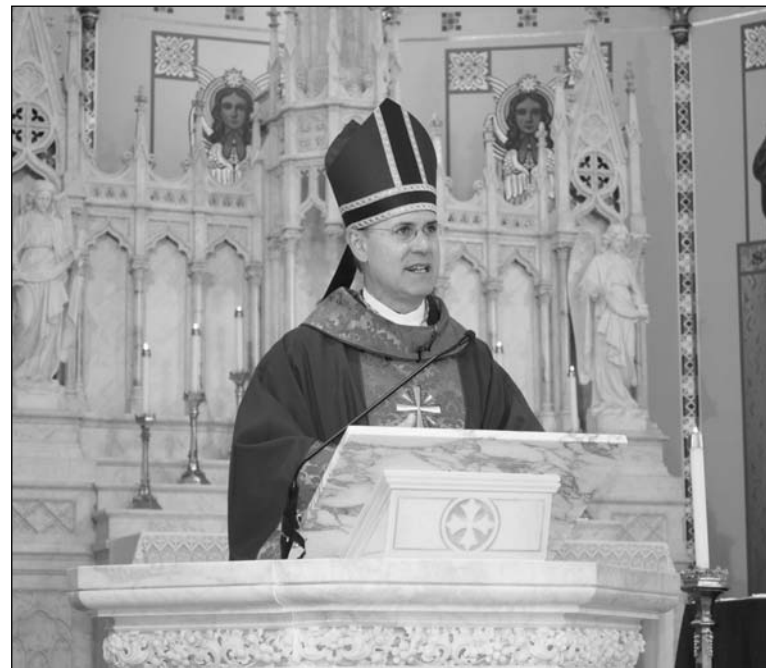
"Challenging poverty one child at a time is a mission that resonates even in a recession. We have been particularly blessed with grants from Our Sunday Visitor and the Order of Malta along with some private foundations," she stressed.

Fundraising events included Cloth a Child One and Two, which collected over \$47,000 and \$33,500 respectively, and the Holiday Benefit luncheon which collected \$50,500. Private grants hovered around the \$50,000 mark.

Barrett also noted this year that over 4,200 children were clothed at the South Bend Christ Child Center. In addition, 500 layettes, and 3,000 Layettes of Hope, and 250 coats through the Elkhart Initiative were distributed to those in need in the local community.

A new scholarship program is being investigated by the chapter. "Many other Christ Child chapters already offer scholarships for children who have received services from Christ Child, for parents who are enrolled in college, or for home management programs that can help lead clients out of poverty. This is a practical and effective way for the organization to challenge the cycle of poverty," said Barrett.

The South Bend Christ Child board members elected at the luncheon for the 2010-2011 year are Mary Kay Bean, Pat Hillebrand, Mary Kay McGrath, Kathy Seidl and Rosie Wray.



KAREN CLIFFORD

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades delivers the homily during the South Bend Christ Child's spring Mass at St. Patrick's Church.

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Cardinal George praises expanded health care but fears remain on abortion

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops praised new health reform legislation for expanding health care to more Americans but said the bishops and the Catholic community will be watching closely to ensure that the new law does not expand federal funding of abortion. “We are apprehensive as we look to the future, even as we applaud much of the increased care that will be available,” Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago told Catholic News Service March 23, shortly after U.S. President Barack Obama signed into law the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. “So we will watch basically and try to continue to enter into conversations as a moral voice — never as a political voice; we’ve been very careful to insist upon the moral principles that everybody should be cared for and no one should be deliberately killed,” he added. Cardinal George acknowledged in the interview that “the unity of the Church has been wounded” in various political actions and conversations surrounding the health reform debate. The USCCB opposed the Senate bill that passed the House March 21, while some Catholic groups and members of Congress supported it. “We are certainly concerned about division in the Church, because bishops have to be the people who are concerned about its unity, about keeping people together around Christ,” he said. “The bishops know that they don’t speak for every one of the 61 million Catholics in the country, but what we do is we speak for the Catholic faith itself,” he said. “And those who share the faith will gather around.”

Christ’s passion is model for Christian pilgrimage

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Celebrating Palm Sunday Mass for 50,000 people at the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI said the passion of Christ is a model for every Christian’s spiritual pilgrimage through life. Following Christ is not easy, the pope said March 28. It’s an uphill path that often goes against contemporary trends. “People can choose the easy way and avoid every hardship. They can descend toward the bottom, the vulgar. They can sink in the swamp of lies and dishonesty. Jesus walks ahead of us, and goes toward the heights,” he said. The papal liturgy, celebrated in St. Peter’s Square on a beautiful spring day, began with a procession led by an international group of young people, who carried palm and olive branches in commemoration of Christ’s triumphal entry into Jerusalem a few days before His Passion and Death. The pope, who turns 83 in April, rode in a white jeep to the altar, holding

NEWS BRIEFS

YOUNG PEOPLE CHEER DURING PALM SUNDAY MASS



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Young people from Spain cheer as they are acknowledged during Palm Sunday Mass in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican March 28. The Mass marked the 25th anniversary of World Youth Day. The next international Catholic youth gathering will be take place in Madrid, Spain, in August next year.

a garland of braided palm fronds. It was the first of nine Holy Week events for the pontiff and it came as he and other Church officials faced questions and criticism from some quarters for their handling of the priestly sex abuse crisis.

Annual audit shows decline in sexual abuse reports

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Reported cases of child sexual abuse in U.S. dioceses and religious institutes declined between the 2008 and 2009 audits to evaluate how church institutions are complying with the U.S. bishops’ 2002 “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.” The 2009 annual report also showed that costs to dioceses and religious orders for lawsuits and other allegation-related expenses also decreased. In addition, it reported on how dioceses and religious orders are complying with provisions calling for education about sexual abuse for children and all who work with them, and for handling all allegations of sexual abuse, among other obligations included in the charter. According to the 2009 report released by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops March 23, a total of 513 victims came forward with 513 credible allegations against 346 people who were under the authority of dioceses or religious orders.

That represents a decline from 2008 in all three figures of between 33 and 36 percent. The vast majority of those allegations related to incidents dating back decades, the report said. The U.S. bishops adopted the charter in response to a wave of reports of sexual abuse of minors involving Church personnel and criticism of how the Church had handled allegations of abuse in the past. In 2004, the combined number of reported allegations of abuse for religious orders and dioceses was 1,092 allegations against 756 people by 1,083 victims, figures which have generally declined each year since then. Data collected by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University found 398 new credible allegations of abuse were reported by dioceses and eparchies in 2009; the allegations were made by 398 victims against 286 individuals. In reports from religious orders, there were 115 people who made 115 allegations involving 60 priests or brothers.

Archbishop says coverage of ‘horror’ of abuse needed but must be fair

NEW YORK (CNS) — Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York told Catholics March 28 that the “tidal wave of headlines” about the sexual abuse of minors in Europe and new stories about an old case in Wisconsin

have “knocked us to our knees once again.” “Anytime this horror, vicious sin and nauseating crime is reported, as it needs to be, victims and their families are wounded again, the vast majority of faithful priests bow their heads in shame anew, and sincere Catholics experience another dose of shock, sorrow and even anger,” he said at the end of Palm Sunday Mass. “What deepens the sadness now is the unrelenting insinuations against the Holy Father himself, as certain sources seem frenzied to implicate the man who, perhaps more than anyone else has been the leader in purification, reform and renewal that the Church so needs,” he said. After a series of reports in the *New York Times* and other media criticizing the pope for alleged “inaction” on sex abuse cases, Vatican authorities emphasized that it was Pope Benedict XVI, who, as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, pushed for harsher measures against abusers and made it easier for the Church to defrock them.

As rains arrive, CRS eyes new shelter strategies for homeless Haitians

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With the rainy season on the doorstep in Haiti, Isaac Boyd, an emergency shelter expert for Catholic Relief Services, and a coalition of relief agencies from around the world are

trying to tackle the impossible. Their focus is on getting the hundreds of thousands of people who remain homeless after the Jan. 12 earthquake into better housing, even if it is nothing more than a sturdy tent on safe ground. The rainy season peaks in May, but sporadic drenching rains already are occurring, turning many of the temporary tent camps around Port-au-Prince, the Haitian capital, into muddy quagmires. Boyd and some of the world’s leading emergency shelter experts fear the flimsy shelters that people now call home will be inundated by the soon-to-come daily downpours, compounding an already taxing humanitarian crisis. So the experts are scrambling to identify alternatives. The situation is worsened because the devastation was so widespread in the capital region, leaving few safe structures for people to occupy.

Pope’s trip to Portugal will take him to Fatima, two other cities

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — On his first visit to Portugal, Pope Benedict XVI will meet with political leaders and celebrate Masses in three cities, including at the Marian shrine in Fatima. The May 11-14 trip will mark the 10th anniversary of the beatification of Blessed Francisco and Jacinta Marto, two of the shepherd children who saw Our Lady of Fatima in 1917. The pope arrives in the Portuguese capital of Lisbon, where he meets with civil authorities and celebrates an outdoor Mass in the evening. He travels to Fatima May 12 for a series of encounters with bishops, priests, religious and the other pastoral workers and a Mass at the shrine the next day. On the last day of his trip, the pope will celebrate Mass during a six-hour stop in the city of Porto.

New York’s old cathedral elevated to status of minor basilica

NEW YORK (CNS) — St. Patrick’s Old Cathedral in lower Manhattan, which is both an active parish and a landmark of New York archdiocesan history, has been named a minor basilica. Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan announced the designation at the Mass he celebrated on St. Patrick’s Day, March 17, at the old church’s successor, St. Patrick’s Cathedral in midtown Manhattan. Dedication ceremonies will take place on a date to be announced. “It’s very exciting,” Msgr. Donald Sakano, the pastor, said in an interview with *Catholic New York*, the archdiocesan newspaper. He said the new title recognizes the old cathedral’s history as well as its commitment to service now and in the future. A Church designated as a minor basilica must be a center of active and pastoral liturgy with a vibrant Catholic community and may have unique historical, artistic or religious importance.

Professor to discuss philosophical and theological aspects of consciousness

FORT WAYNE — Dr. Earl Kumfer, professor of philosophy and theology at the University of Saint Francis, will speak on "Consciousness: A First Person Perspective" on Tuesday, April 13, at 7 p.m. in the North Campus Auditorium, 2702 Spring St.

Kumfer will lead an enlightening discussion that explores how conflicting notions of consciousness impact end of life issues and the interaction of mind, body and soul.

This free public lecture is sponsored by the Department of Philosophy and Theology and the School of Arts and Sciences of the University of Saint Francis.

For additional information, contact Angie Springer at (260) 399-8066 or aspringer@sf.edu.

Saint Mary's College tuition increase rate lowest in five years

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary's College has set the percentage increase for 2010-2011 at its lowest rate in five years. Tuition at the college will increase 4.75 percent to \$30,360. The room and board will average \$9,480, an increase of 3 percent, consistent with the past five years. Tuition, room and board are the college's main sources of revenue, comprising 80 percent of the college's operating revenue. The remaining 20 percent is supported by gifts from Saint Mary's generous alumnae and friends and by earnings of the college's endowment.

"While the economy has improved slightly and our endowment has rebounded, we continue to manage the college's operating costs as efficiently as possible," Saint Mary's vice president for finance, Richard Speller, said in a letter to parents of students returning for the 2010-2011 academic year. "Our continuing focus will be on supporting academic programs."

The college remains committed to maintaining its excellent liberal arts education, while making it as affordable as possible. Nearly one-third of the college's operating budget is devoted to financial aid. The end result is that, for some students, the cost of attending Saint Mary's is lower than that of attending a public university. In addition, the benefits of personal attention and close faculty/student working relationships that are possible at a small school last a lifetime.

Lindenwood holds women's day

DONALDSON — Registrations are now being taken for the women's day titled "Friendship." The day will be fun, Scripture-based, and participants will be able to attend three breakout ses-

AROUND THE DIOCESE

STUDENTS OBSERVE PLANT GROWTH AT GREENHOUSE



PROVIDED BY ST. MATTHEW SCHOOL

Students from Janice Horan's fourth-grade class at St. Matthew School participated in a place-based education project connecting classrooms and communities on March 12, when they planted seeds at South Bend's greenhouse. They will return to visit the greenhouse to observe the plant growth. St. Matthew fourth-grader Hannah said, "On our tour, it felt like we just walked into a rain forest. ... It was a great time learning and helping. I can't wait to go work again." This program is funded by a grant from the Hoosier Environmental Council and the University of Notre Dame.

sions offering different aspects of friendship.

The breakout sessions will be led by Dorothy Stewart of Hartford City, who has been director of women's ministries at her church for 21 years; by Sister Michelle Dermody, a sister of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, of Donaldson, who has a master's degree in theology and a degree in education; and by Kathy Light of Valparaiso, who is an "empty-nester" and found herself being led by the Holy Spirit into congregational ministry as her youngest left home.

The keynote speaker for the afternoon will be Nancy Schmetter of Plymouth, who has 10 years of public school teaching experience and 20 years of experience as a psychotherapist working with children and families. Part of Nancy's training and research has focused upon the importance of friendship in the healing process. Her presentation, "The Dance of Friendship" covers the myriad ways that friendship is key to our humanity and our survival.

The program is Saturday, April 17, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The program fee is \$30 and includes the noon main meal. Registration deadline is April 7. For informa-

tion or to register contact Ruth Van Vactor at (574) 935-1763 weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., e-mail rvanvactor@poorhandmaids.org or visit ww.lindenwood.org.

Retreat planned for childless couples experiencing subfertility or infertility

ARCOLA — Carrying the cross of infertility often leaves a couple feeling isolated in their pain. An Evening of Hope for childless couples experiencing subfertility or infertility is planned for Sunday, April 25, from 4-8 p.m. at St. Patrick Church, Arcola.

The retreat speakers, Father Drew Curry and Dave and Suzy Younger, will focus on providing spiritual nourishment, support and hope for the subfertile and infertile couple.

The evening will begin with the celebration of the Mass and include dinner and time for establishing new friendships. To register contact Beth Ann at (260) 745-4044 or e-mail gramstutoring@yahoo.com. Couples should leave their name,

contact information and number of people attending. Registrations deadline is April 20.

This event is supported by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend Office of Family Life.

Lindenwood holds program on 'Are Not Our Hearts Burning?'

DONALDSON — Registrations are now being taken for the quiet day of reflection program "Are Not Our Hearts Burning?" based on the book, "With Burning Hearts: A Meditation on the Eucharistic Life," by Henri Nouwen.

Themes that will be covered are mourning our losses, discerning the presence, inviting the stranger, entering into communion and going on a mission. The day will include a video featuring Henri Nouwen, music that reflects the different themes, and time to reflect on some of these questions: What are your losses and how do you mourn them? What is your unique role to take in God's story? How do you bring the mercy to others that you receive at Eucharist?

Sister Joetta Huelsmann, a sis-

ter of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, walks with others as a spiritual director, has led numerous retreats, and is currently director of John XXIII Retreat Center at Hartford City.

The program will be held Monday, April 19, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The program fee is \$27 and includes the noon main meal. Registration deadline is Monday, April 12. For more information or to register, contact Lindenwood at (574) 935-1763 weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., e-mail rvanvactor@poorhandmaids.org or visit www.lindenwood.org.

Notre Dame professor gives presentation at Ancilla's Lampen lecture series

DONALDSON — Dr. Gabriel Said Reynolds, associate professor of Islamic studies and theology at the University of Notre Dame, was the guest speaker for the latest edition of the Lampen Lecture Series, held in Cana Hall at the PHJC Ministry Center in Donaldson.

His lecture, entitled "Future of Muslim/Christian Relations," examined the basic facts of Islam, the meaning of the Quran, and how Christians and Muslims view each other and their respective beliefs.

"This lecture by Dr. Reynolds was a mind expanding experience," said Sister Carleen Wrasman, a Poor Handmaid of Jesus Christ sister, coordinator of mission integration and campus ministry. "Extensive knowledge of Islam allowed him to nuance his presentation and answers in a way that showed deep commitment to Christianity and respect for Islam. 'Christians,' he said, 'are the ones best made to have sympathetic views toward Muslims.'"

This particular edition of the Lampen Lecture Series was a special evening presentation and was open to the public.

The Lampen Lecture Series was named for Sister Joel Lampen, first president of Ancilla College, who opened the doors of Ancilla to the local community.

Father Seculoff accepts appointment

NEW HAVEN — Father James Seculoff, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in New Haven, has accepted the appointment as spiritual director of the Fort Wayne-South Bend Division of the World Apostolate of Fatima. The appointment was made by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.

In a letter accepting the appointment, Father Seculoff wrote, "I will encourage (local members of the World Apostolate of Fatima) to continue to promote devotion to our Blessed Mother, especially praying of the holy rosary. It seems to me that the basic message of Fatima is reparation for sin, particularly Eucharistic reparation."

Science research excels at Marian High School

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

MISHAWAKA — When you hear terms such as protein secretion from tuberculosis, microbial fuel cathodes, the Ebola Matrix protein and the analysis of chrome plating solutions, one might think of scientists within a major research center such as the Mayo Clinic or M.I.T. But these ideas come from a local group of young scientists in the science research classes at Marian High School.

The Marian High School Science Department headed by Chair Ken Andrzejewski (a Marian graduate of the Class of 1981), has enjoyed great success throughout the years. The science teaching staff brings a wealth of education to the program. The six science teachers include: Teresa Pairitz with 13 years of experience, Dr. Doug Sisk with eight years of experience, Mark Kirzder with eight years of experience, Lonna Hernandez with 11 years

of experience, and Ann Rutherford with five years of experience.

Andrzejewski began teaching at Marian 25 years ago and required that all students do a science project as a part of his curriculum. In the science department's early years, competition outside of Marian was encouraged through the school's science club. In 1990 Marian student David Durham's science project advanced to the International Science Fair in Tulsa, Okla. Since that year a Marian student has gone almost every year to the International Science Fair, Andrzejewski notes.

In the 1995-1996 school year a research class was added to the school's curriculum based on a proposal written by Andrzejewski. During the ensuing years the class size has grown and has been changed and modified. In recent years, a second year of advanced research was added.

According to Mary Kay

Dance, director of admissions and public relations at Marian, "The advanced research classes gives interested students the opportunity to do a long-term research project with college professors at the University of Notre Dame, Saint Mary's College, Bethel College and Indiana University-South Bend."

Junior Jasmine Podell explains the process of mentoring with local college professors.

"In the fall of the year that you take the class, you contact nearby colleges that would be willing to take in high school students to assist their research in their lab. ... If they say yes, you go to their lab and find out what they are currently working on. From there you can design your project based on collaboration with your mentor."

Podell actually began working with her mentor Dr. Marya Lieberman at the University of Notre Dame the summer before her class began because she was



KAREN CLIFFORD

Ken Andrzejewski meets with his advanced research class and discusses upcoming science competitions.

enrolled in the Research Experience for High School Students. Four of Marian's science teachers are involved in Notre Dame's Research Experience for Teachers (RET) during the summer months.

Podell's research delved into analyzing the plating of objects that are dipped in a chromium solution to make the object's surface harder and less resistant to rusting. "Over the summer I found out what was in that chromium bath. It helped me to understand the entire process of research and it was the first time I worked in a lab with the advanced technology that they offer at Notre Dame," she says.

Helping the environment is the thrust of senior Claire Sieradzki's science fair project on converting waste into energy through membrane aeration for microbial fuel cathodes.

"A microbial fuel cell simultaneously produces energy while oxidizing organic matter. Oxidizing organic matter is cleaning water. There is a proposal to use these cells in wastewater treatment centers. But there is a loss of efficiency with the microbial fuel cell because of how the cathode is aerated. My research implements a new way to aerate the cathode," says Sieradzki.

She continues, "I used hollow fiber membranes, which are micro porous membranes. They improve the efficiency of microbial fuel cells not only in the voltage it increases but also in the fact they don't deprive them of pressure that the traditional bubble aeration process requires."

Junior Michael Hunckler, who is a diabetic, has a vested interest in medical research. He would like to see cures for diseases such as diabetes and infectious viruses. His science project asks, "How

does the Ebola Matrix Protein (VP40) form Virions at the Lipid Membrane?" The protein in the Ebola virus is what causes the virus to spread. While the project sounds hazardous, Hunckler stresses it is not. "I only work with the VP40 protein in the science project and not the virus. There is no disease in the VP40 itself," Hunckler stresses.

Senior Tim Trippel's science project investigates finding new genes that are responsible for the virulence of tuberculosis.

"Bacteria secrete proteins to tell other cells what to do. The gate or pathway is the EX1 secretion 'machine,' which lets the proteins out of the cell. When this machine isn't working tuberculosis cannot cause disease in humans," says Trippel.

Trippel has developed a process to find

a way to detect if this machine is functioning in mutant cells. "One of the ways to do this is MADLI - TOF Mass Spectrometry, which weighs small particles. If you can see the proteins then you know that the machine is working, if it isn't, the proteins will not be able to come out."

The science department has participated in several competitions and received 18 student research grants this year. The names of the students receiving grants and placement at competitions will be featured in an upcoming article in *Today's Catholic*.

Andrzejewski sums up the goals of the science classes. "It's basically a way to get students to learn their potential, and to see what they can do at a young age. And hopefully it will foster in the students an increased interest in science as a college major and beyond."

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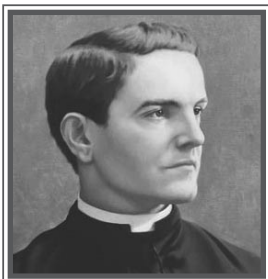
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Light of Christ award winner is compassionate friend

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — “I’m not feeding people like Father Tom did, but comforting people in a different manner,” says Danielle Collins, this year’s recipient of the Father Tom O’Connor Light of Christ Award. The award was created in 2006 by St. Mary’s Church to honor individuals whose life activities and faith exemplify the type of servant leadership for which Father O’Connor was known during his years as priest in Fort Wayne.

Collins, a 21-year-old junior at the University of Saint Francis, was surprised to learn that she had been chosen to receive the award. “It’s overwhelming — in a good way,” she says.

Hailing from Villa Park, Ill. where her parents Mary and James still reside, Collins says St. Alexander is her family’s home parish and the school that began her Catholic education. She graduated from Montini Catholic High School, where she was involved with campus ministry, before coming to the University of Saint Francis (USF).

In keeping with her lifelong interest in the creative aspect of art, this conscientious student studies graphic arts and Web design in a full-time program at

USF that will equip her to someday fulfill her dream of becoming a graphic arts instructor for a Catholic high school. And coming from smaller class sizes in both elementary and high school, USF’s family atmosphere has been an added perk.

“I wanted them to know me by name. And that’s what I’ve found here,” she says.

In addition to her full load of graphic arts classes, Collins takes additional classes to earn a minor in theology, a subject dear to her heart.

“My faith has always been really important to me,” she says. And that faith has sustained her through the challenges of life as well as in the many activities in which she is involved.

As a member of the USF student government Collins holds seats on several committees including Service Integrating Root Values (SIRV) where she is involved in organizing and connecting students for service projects such as Habitat for Humanity, the Trick-or-Treat canned goods drive and USF Feeds the Fort.

Campus ministry keeps this energetic young woman immersed in service events as well and as a peer minister. As sacristan she sets up for Mass on campus each Sunday evening as



KAY COZAD

Danielle Collins, a junior at the University of Saint Francis is this year’s recipient of the Father Tom O’Connor Light of Christ Award.

well as scheduling for each liturgy. She helps organize each semester’s campus retreat sponsored by campus ministry and as service outreach assistant she is

excited about being part of the opening in August of the new service engagement center where students will be able to connect to appropriate service opportunities and track their service hours as well.

Off campus, when Collins returns home for summer, she continues to volunteer for the nonprofit bereavement support organization Compassionate Friends, whose national offices are in her home town area. Collins and her parents have been associated with Compassionate Friends since the death of her younger sister, Meghan, who died when Collins was only five.

Compassionate Friends is volunteer supported and every year holds a global candle lighting ceremony to honor those children who have died. Collins organized the candle lighting ceremony on the campus of USF in 2007 to coincide with the global effort.

Additionally, for the past two summers Collins has been involved in working with registration for the national conferences the organization hosts. Recently she manned the phone lines at the national office and took bereaved parents questions. “It was hard, but I feel like I comforted them,” she says. She understands that her experience of loss helps create a special

bond with those bereaved parents who call searching for solace. “They just need to tell their story,” she reports and adds that she was there to listen.

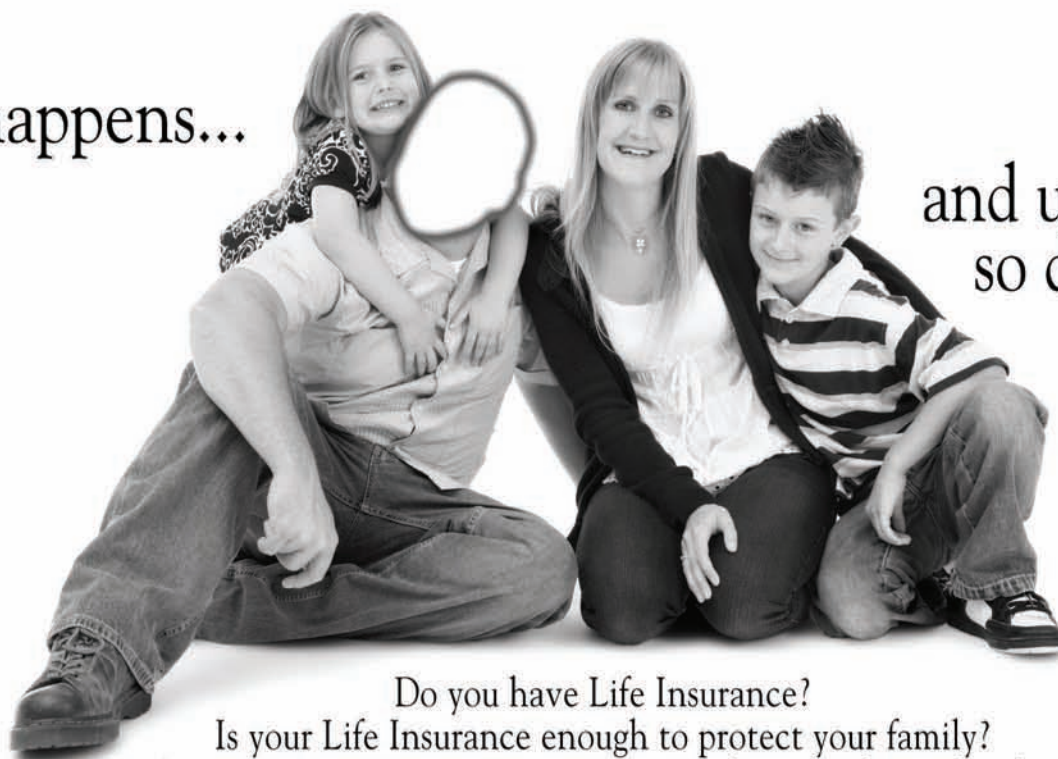
Recently, amidst all that this young award winner does to serve her community and church, she was selected to make a pilgrimage to Rome and Assisi through the Association of Franciscan Colleges and Universities. Of the trip she says, “I have more of a connection to both saints (Sts. Francis and Claire). The trip strengthened my faith.”

Of her life this remarkable young woman says, “Everything I do — the extracurricular service and my class work — I balance it. My experience wouldn’t be the same without the balance. I value my education as much as the activities I’m a part of. They go hand-in-hand for who I am.”

Of the award honor Collins feels, “It was very nice of them to recognize me as a college student.” She says naturally, “I enjoy helping others. I feel like it’s what I’m supposed to do. I grow from it. ... Everything happens for a reason.”

The Father Tom O’Connor award was presented to Collins at a luncheon at St. Mary Parish on March 26.

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HUMAN LIFE INTERNATIONAL PRIEST PRAYS FOR LIFE



TOM UEBBING

Father Thomas Euteneuer, president of Human Life International, celebrated a Palm Sunday liturgy at the prayer garden adjacent to South Bend's abortion business. Concelebrating with him were three Holy Cross priests from Notre Dame, Father Edward O'Connor, Father Kevin Russeau and Father Stephen Koeth. A Eucharistic procession followed the liturgy stopping at the entrance to the abortion clinic and litanies to the saints were chanted. The 40-Days-for-Life group in South Bend welcomed Father Euteneuer to the community.

STUDENTS ASSEMBLE BASKETS FOR VINCENT HOUSE



PROVIDED BY ST. JOSEPH-ST. ELIZABETH ANN SETON SCHOOL

The National Junior Honor Student group at St. Joseph-St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School assembled approximately 70 Easter baskets for the resident children of Vincent House on March 22. The baskets, the contents of which were donated by the families of the school, were delivered on March 26. The students who participated are from left in front Michelle Adgalanis, Anesa Lazoff and Megan Leman. In back are Matt Gigli, Makenna Zwick, Nicole Keesling and Tyler Adgalanis.

Medjugorje

2010 National Conference



Ivanka Elez, one of the six visionaries, will be the featured speaker at this year's conference.

University of Notre Dame
May 21, 22 and 23



Speakers include

Dana is one of Ireland's most successful entertainers and has received acclaim through best-selling Catholic recordings, top-rated TV appearances, and conferences throughout the world. She joined young Catholics in singing when Pope John Paul II visited Denver for World Youth Day. Dana wrote the theme song, "We Are One Body," for this event.



Richard Bingold is a Catholic lay evangelist whose story of conversion has touched the hearts of thousands of people around the world. He is the founder of the Miraculous Pilgrim Rosary Healing Ministry and author of the book "Gift Giver." Richard has been to Medjugorje seventy-nine times and travels far and wide to help spread the messages of Our Lady.



Traci Matheu was raised with a solid foundation in the Catholic faith but later all but turned her back on it. A trip to Medjugorje with her family played a key part in re-claiming her faith. Traci has dedicated her life now to serving the Church and the call of Our Lady. She is a popular and inspiring speaker and author of a new book titled "A Survivor of the Lost Generation of Catholics." She is a stay-at-home mom and lives with her husband and three children in the Chicago area.



Fr. David Simonetti was ordained to the priesthood in 2005 by Cardinal George. He has been to Medjugorje three times. Father is the spiritual director of the Pope John Paul Eucharistic Adoration Association in Chicago and is a regular contributor on EWTN and Relevant Radio. He has produced a number of popular DVDs, including "Return to the Father" and "Stay With Us Lord." Father is pastor of St. James Church in Sauk Village, Illinois.



Milona von Hapsburg, an Archduchess in Austria's former ruling family, went on a three-day pilgrimage to Medjugorje and ended up abandoning her job in a fashionable Geneva auction house and staying in Medjugorje for ten years doing volunteer work. Most of the time she was an interpreter for Fr. Slavko and the visionaries. Currently, Milona is active in Mary's Meals, a project that provides warm, daily meals to school children in Romania, Asia and Africa.



Fr. Mark Gurtner, JCL, went to Medjugorje as a teenager and felt a call to the priesthood a short time later while a student at Indiana University. He is a gifted teacher and preacher with the ability to make clear, concise points that instruct and inspire. He received a canon law degree from Catholic University. Fr. Gurtner is head of the Diocesan Marriage tribunal and is pastor of St. Anthony de Padua Parish in South Bend.



Dan Davis is a seminarian in the Diocese of Fort Wayne - South Bend. For the last few years he has been attending the National Medjugorje Conference with his entire family. Dan's pilgrimage to Medjugorje last August confirmed him in his call to the priesthood and helped him prepare for life in the seminary. Our Lady's call from Medjugorje continues to be a major influence in his life.



Conference Schedule

Friday, May 21
5:00 pm... Doors open
7:00 pm... Conference begins
Guest speaker
Candlelight rosary procession to the Lourdes Grotto

Saturday, May 22
7:15 am... Doors open
8:00 am... Morning session
Holy Mass
Procession and Consecration
Guest speakers (all sessions)
1:30 pm... Afternoon session
6:30 pm... Evening session
Eucharistic Adoration and Benediction

Sunday, May 23
7:15 am... Doors open
8:30 am... Morning session
Guest speakers
1:00 pm... Holy Mass
2:30 pm... Conference ends

Sponsored by: Queen of Peace Ministries, Box 761, Notre Dame, IN 46556

Phone: (574) 288-8777

Web site: www.QueenofPeaceMinistries.com

e-mail: maryconference@sbcglobal.net

Lindenwood holds Contadora Doll workshop

DONALDSON — Registrations are now being taken for the Contadora Doll Workshop. A Contadora doll is a doll that tells a story of our spirit life, our traditions and our family life. It is our personal, communal, and ancestral story.

The workshop will be a prayerful day, and a time of embracing your story through doll making.

Bring small pictures, charms, fabrics, and other items that tell your story.

Facilitator is Sister Nancy

Raboin, a sister of the Poor Handmaids of Jesus Christ, who completed her training in spiritual guidance through the Siena Retreat Center in Racine, Wis., and provides retreats for participants wishing to explore their spirituality through creativity. She is an artist in residence that makes art as her prayer.

The program will be held Saturday, April 17, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. The program fee is \$25 and includes the noon main meal. Registration deadline is Monday, April 12. For more information or to register, contact Lindenwood at (574) 935-1763 weekdays 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or visit www.lindenwood.org.

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He
Is
Risen!

WELCOMING ALL INTO THE FOLD

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

GRANGER — Every year many Catholics who have not attended Mass on a regular basis return to the Easter and Christmas Masses. But the question always arises: How do we get them to “come home” and attend on a regular basis?

At St. Pius X Parish, Granger, one of the two largest parishes in the diocese, through the input of clergy, staff and laity, several ideas have been implemented to help those coming back to the faith feel welcome.

For many returning, the welcome begins at the church’s doors. At St. Pius, hospitality ministers greet all and assist those with physical challenges as they prepare for the day’s Mass. Deacon John Tugman, who trains the hospitality ministers, emphasizes the importance of this first impression.

“When I do training sessions for hospitality ministers I start with the Gospel story of the prodigal son and the way he is welcomed home by his father, despite the insult he had given to his father by taking his inheritance early and then squandering it. If this father would welcome back such a son, then we should follow his example and welcome everyone to St. Pius, just like we would welcome an eagerly expected guest into our home,” he says.

Having a place to sit during Mass is very important, especially in large parishes. After Labor Day through the end of May, St. Pius offers two Masses at 10:30 a.m.; one in the main church and one in the new school gymnasium. Msgr. Bill Schooler, pastor of St. Pius X, notes that during Christmas there are three 5 p.m. Masses, with the additional Mass celebrated in the



KAREN CLIFFORD

Hospitality minister Gary Cyr explains the process of registering new families to a guest.

old gymnasium.

Msgr. Schooler also stresses the importance of music in making newcomers feel welcomed.

“Jeremy Hoy, the director of liturgy and music at St. Pius, is very careful to provide excellent music at all Masses, and not just the major ones at Christmas and Easter.”

Often those that come back to the Catholic Church bring with them a spouse or a family member that is not in full communion with the Church. Both Msgr. Schooler and the associate pastor, Father Bob Lengerich, encourage those not in full communion with the Catholic Church to come forward for a blessing during Communion.

Sherie Wilcox, who went through the Rite of Christian Initiation and the Easter Vigil in 2006, describes the importance of receiving the blessing. “Being invited forward for a blessing during Communion was a huge part of the beginning of my conversion to the Catholic faith. I felt the love and support of Father Bill with just the simple prayer ‘May the Lord bless you and keep you.’ With that first of many blessings, I knew I had found a home. I was no longer a spectator in the pew.”

After Mass concludes, newcomers are encouraged to register to become parishioners in the parish with a hospitality minister located in the narthex. Once regis-

tered, new parishioners receive a packet, which includes a welcome letter from the pastor, a staff listing, site map, parish directory, school brochure, quarterly newsletter, stewardship information, counseling information from a local counseling center and a refrigerator magnet with the church’s phone number, Mass times and Web site.

The church bulletin is another tool for welcoming newcomers and parishioners each week. It alerts them to upcoming church, school and ministry group events.

At St. Pius, there are ministries for all age groups. In addition to the Catholic education found at St. Pius X School, the Children’s Catechetical Development, and Catechesis of the Good Shepherd offer religious education to children and young teens. During the

8:45 and 10:30 a.m. Masses children are dismissed to celebrate an age appropriate Liturgy of the Word. During the summer a week-long

Vacation Bible School for children ages 3 1/2 through grade 5 with a preschool program and a school-age program run simultaneously.

For youth between sixth through 12th grades, there are active middle and high school youth groups and youth sports programs.

The Young Adult Ministry is for adults in their 20s or 30s, single, divorced or married, with or without children. Sean Allen, director of the young adult ministry points to young adults as

being the least likely to attend Mass regularly.

“This is also a time period in which many Catholics frequently leave the Church (and come back). The fact that St. Pius has a ministry specifically engaging and reaching out to young adults is something that sets St. Pius apart from other parishes in the local area,” he says.

Music ministries at St. Pius are for all ages and include six choirs (two for handbells), instrumentalists and a cantor ministry.

The numerous outreach ministries such as Elizabeth Ministry, Center for the Homeless Casserole Program, Matthew 25-House Project and Fountainview Nursing Home offer support to those within and outside of the parish. Social groups such as the senior group and adult basketball and volleyball

At St. Pius, there are ministries for all age groups.

give parishioners a time to get to know each other in a fun and relaxing atmosphere. The newly formed Rolling Fellowship offers all levels

of bike riders a opportunity for fellowship and fitness and includes an avid bike riding monsignor.

Perhaps the best way to welcome back those who have been away from the Church is by personal invitation. At the vespers service before his installation, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades summed up this concept. “I invite you and all the people in our diocese to be renewed in this holy task of spreading the faith and inviting others to enter into the joy of our Catholic faith.”

A personal reflection on coming home to the Catholic Church

GRANGER— *Today’s Catholic* recently met with Monica Topa, a parishioner from St. Pius X Parish. Topa, a Catholic who had not been active in the Catholic Church for many years and recently returned, shares her journey home with readers.

Today’s Catholic: When did you become Catholic?

Topa: I am an American born in Brazil, raised in a Catholic family and schools until I went to college.

Today’s Catholic: Was there a time when you were inactive in the Church?

Topa: Yes, after my divorce. Unfortunately we have a tendency to blame people around us for our own mistakes. For each of our actions we receive some consequence. They are not punishment; they just reflect our own choices. Sometimes we choose to make God’s words an option, to elevate our desires above His will. We

ignore all the signs, we don’t hear His words and we give up our faith thinking He should protect us better. How easy is that? I was angry to not receive Communion. I felt rejected and unwelcome in my own religion. That was until I understood the consequence of my own actions and the real meaning of this sacrament. I found the humility to hear and trust in the One who cares the most about me.

Today’s Catholic: What drew you back to the Church?

Topa: My daughter was one of the reasons I came back to the Church. In second grade, we prepared her for first Communion. I wanted to give her support and a foundation in the religion I was raised in. I have always sought the faith. Sometimes I saw the faith sparkling in people’s eyes. I wanted that for me.

Today’s Catholic: How did St. Pius welcome you home?

Topa: I moved from Dallas to Granger in 2008. In my second weekend attending Mass at St. Pius X, I was invited to attend the women’s Christ Renews His Parish retreat planned for the following weekend. It was a Halloween weekend, which gave me the perfect excuse to not show up. To my surprise, my husband who is not Catholic, told me to go and make “good friends.” That was just the Holy Spirit working. Now I know God prepared me for the moment.

When I came to the retreat, I didn’t know what I was expecting to find. God, having Father Bill as His tool, made me understand the beauty of forgiveness. He made me understand it was time to rest. I never felt so welcome and embraced in my entire life. It was like returning home after so many years. I was deeply touched in my heart by the Holy Spirit and that moment changed my life forever.



KAREN CLIFFORD

St. Pius X parishioner Monica Topa shares her personal reflection on her journey in the Catholic faith.

My faith is stronger and I want to serve Him in any way I can.

I first needed to confess my sins and understand what forgiveness, compassion and family really means. My husband showed me that. After six years of marriage I can tell that I love him and my family more than anything in life. God was so generous giving me a second chance to be happy, to build the family that I always wanted. He showed me forgiveness a long time ago when He put so many blessings into my life. The biggest challenge was to learn how to forgive myself.

What we have in life sets the stage for how we act out the rest of our lives. Throughout our lives we will face problems, the roots of which go back to our own experiences. Sharing our stories and allowing God to use them beyond our dreams gives us purpose.

mis'tə-gō'ji

Mystagogy is a lifelong journey of growing closer to God, deepening our faith

BY JOYCE RACINE

Mystagogy — it's Greek root is the same as the root of mystery. Many of us are entertained and intrigued by the challenge of a mystery that invites us to solve a crime or puzzle. This accounts for the popularity of mystery novels, movies and TV shows; mystery dinner parties and theater.

Our contemporary understanding of a mystery is something to solve.

In the biblical and Church traditions, a mystery is not something we solve — it is something we enter into with God in a sense of wonder, respect and awe. We accept the mysteries of our faith even though we may not fully understand them.

Even more than belonging to the Catholic Church, we are the Catholic Church. Christ is the head of His Church. We are His arms, legs, ears and heart alive in the world today. The Holy Spirit works in and through us.

Transformed, strengthened and sent forth by the sacraments of initiation, our newly-received Catholics enter into mystagogy, which is a lifelong journey of growing closer to God and deepening understanding and practice of the faith. During the seven weeks from Easter to Pentecost it is an intensive experience for our new Catholics of being Church.

To understand mystagogy, we need to summarize the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). It is a process of grow-

ing into the faith by praying, learning and practicing with believers. A person is usually drawn to the Catholic Church by invitation or the example of someone they know. This could be you.

There is no pressure or expectation that because someone wants to learn about the Catholic faith they will join at their earliest opportunity. Joining the Catholic Church is a lifetime commitment, entered into by adults who have learned what it means to be Catholic and who freely choose to live their lives as Catholics.

In the first RCIA step, inquirers meet in the homes of parishioners. This is a time to ask questions, tell stories and see how these Catholics pray and live their faith.

Those who wish to continue their journey celebrate rites at Sunday Mass where the community welcomes them and promises to pray with and for them. Thus begins the catechumenate, which is the period of formal instruction in the four pillars of the Catholic Faith: what we believe (the Creed); what we celebrate (the sacraments); how we live (following Jesus); and how we pray.

Lent begins with rites celebrated in the parish and with our bishop at the cathedral. This final 40 days of preparation is called "Purification and Enlightenment."

It moves from learning about the Church to being the Church. It sets aside texts and practices prayer, fasting and almsgiving with the rest of our parish community through the Sunday



PROVIDED BY HEATHER CISZ

Parishioners of St. Jude Parish walk the neighborhood approximately the same distance Jesus did in a recitation of the Stations of the Cross.

Scriptures and our parish Lenten program.

At St. Jude Parish in Fort Wayne, we carry a heavy wooden cross through the neighborhood approximately the distance Jesus carried His cross to Calvary and stop at 14 homes to pray the stations. We travel off campus for an overnight retreat. Candidates who are already baptized receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The elect, who are not yet baptized, will have their sins washed away

in Baptism. The RCIA hosts our parish seder meal. We make ready for Holy Week, the Chrism Mass, Triduum and their sacraments of initiation.

Following initiation into the Church at the Easter Vigil, Mystagogy begins with a seven-week immersion into what it is to believe, celebrate, live and pray as Catholics within the larger community of the parish and the Universal Church.

The Sunday Scriptures and

homilies teach how to live their new faith. Their sponsors, the RCIA team and entire parish community encourage and support them. We begin with an evening of reflection on the Easter Vigil, the initiation sacraments and the graces and responsibilities of being called and sent. They enter into full participation in the Mass now that they are no longer dismissed after the Liturgy of the Word, formerly called the Mass of the Catechumens.

Throughout the catechumenate representatives of the myriad of parish ministries served refreshments and presented commercials of the varied opportunities for spiritual growth and ways to become active in service to the parish and in our parish outreach.

An Evening of Discipleship reintroduces these ministries and invites them to discern their role in the parish community. In a review of the sacraments of Eucharist and Reconciliation, the newly-baptized receive for the first time the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

In a session on apologetics, Father Tom Shoemaker encourages them to think about and articulate their answers to questions frequently asked of Catholics. We have an Evening of Prayer and, in preparation for Pentecost, a reflection on the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The seventh week we celebrate an outdoor Mass and potluck. They are then sent forth to love and serve just as you and I are.

Mystagogy is a lifelong process: You and I are still living, learning, growing in and called to share our faith.

Joyce Racine is the RCIA director at St. Jude Church in Fort Wayne.

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Notre Dame professor shares his journey to the Church

BY DR. DAVID FAGERBERG

NOTRE DAME — The editor has issued to me a gracious invitation to say something about my journey into the Catholic Church 20 years ago. I can't imagine my story being of too much interest to anyone besides God and my bishop, because an academic's story will be a little bland. It will lack any of the pizzazz that a good conversion story should have.

In a nutshell it goes like this. In graduate school, I read a lot of books with the intention of becoming a liturgical presence in Lutheranism. Then, somewhere in the middle of chapter five of my dissertation, I wrote myself into the Catholic Church. Doctoral dissertations do not normally have that kind of impact on either the reader or the writer, so you can imagine I was startled.

I thus say of myself that I am not a "cradle Catholic," I am a "credo Catholic."

A convert is jealous of cradle Catholics. Without knowing it, you absorbed things about Catholic doctrine, liturgy, morality and the spiritual life. (These are the four pillars of the catechism.) You are like a person who can't remember having learned to walk, but here you are strolling along.

But a convert is someone who

does remember learning to walk. He was conscious during his first tentative steps in Catholic truth. And sharing that consciousness might make cradle Catholics appreciate what they have. That's my reason for agreeing to tell my story.

I could consider many examples of truths I became conscious of, but will choose only one today. Coming into Catholicism gave me the sensation of stepping into something longer and larger than my own perspective. I have a viewpoint, that is true. It is largely the viewpoint of the age in which I live. But the Catholic truths reach back to the Apostles, and around the globe.

G. K. Chesterton helped me to understand this when he spoke of the Church as a truth-telling thing. You don't just take lessons from her; you listen to her still speaking.

Chesterton writes, "Plato has told you a truth; but Plato is dead. Shakespeare has startled you with an image; but Shakespeare will not startle you with any more. But imagine what it would be to live with such men still living. ... The person who lives in contact with what he believes to be a living Church is a person always expecting to meet Plato and Shakespeare tomorrow at breakfast. He is

always expecting to see some truth he has not seen before."

The idea of a living Church changes the experience of obedience. It's not harsh because it's not given to a dead thing, but to a living thing. I remember coming across a passage from Romano Guardini where he wrote, "Catholic obedience is always dignified. It is not obsequious, or a weak leaning on the support of another. Catholic obedience is free, honorable and reasonable," he said.

Now, I find all these attitudes contained in the Catholic experience of liturgy. There is a kind of

obedience demanded. We are asked to do the liturgical text, rubrics and tradition the way they are given to us. Don't tinker with them, rather learn from them.

We do not come to liturgy to express ourselves, but to be formed by the Gospel. We do not come to liturgy to try out our new ideas, but to be taught eternal truths. One of my teachers would say, "Liturgy is not an expression of how people see things; rather it proposes, instead, how God sees all people." In liturgy we receive a God's-eye view of things!

This means that the liturgy is not the plaything of the priest presiding over it, or the committee preparing it, or the musicians serving it or the assembly celebrating it. The liturgy greets us, welcomes us into itself, and sends us out as changed and renewed people. If we may say so, we don't do the liturgy, "it does us."

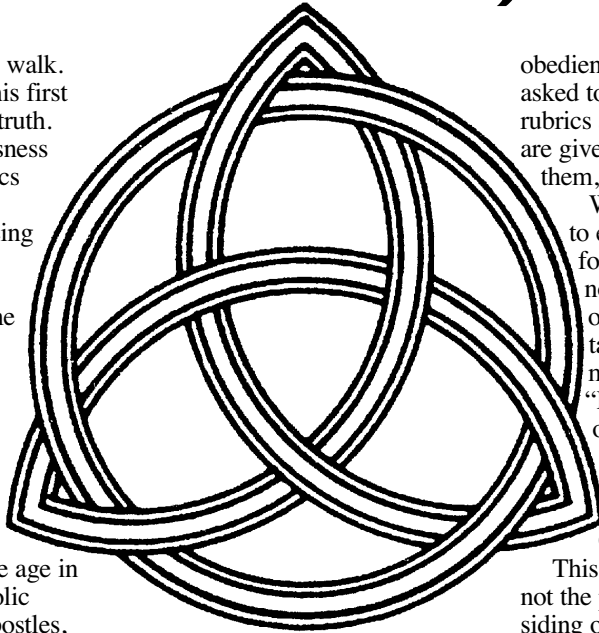
In about the next year and a half the U.S. Catholic Churches will receive a new English translation of the Latin missal. It is the same liturgy! No changes in structure — we will be doing the same thing. But the translation will be different. It will take what we've learned from 40 years of using vernacular, and be deliberate about certain values.

These values are outlined in a document called "Liturgiam Authenticam." It says that the authentic liturgy flows from the ancient spiritual tradition, but needs to be adapted with pastoral wisdom. The translation from Latin should be (a) marked by sound doctrine, (b) free from any particular ideology, (c) be able to carry the weight of the sacred mystery and (d) transmit the faith of the Church.

To accomplish this, the words will express the original Latin as accurately as possible. This means some changes to our habits. And maybe our tongues will trip the first few times we say "consubstantial" in the creed. Maybe it will take a few tries to remember to say "And with your spirit."

But if we open ourselves to the translation, without grumbling, we will discover something. The prayers are portals to a long-standing tradition. We will find echoes of ancient meaning in them. I know how I could say it, today, but how did the Church say it over the centuries?

David Fagerberg is a theology professor at the University of Notre Dame and director of the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy.

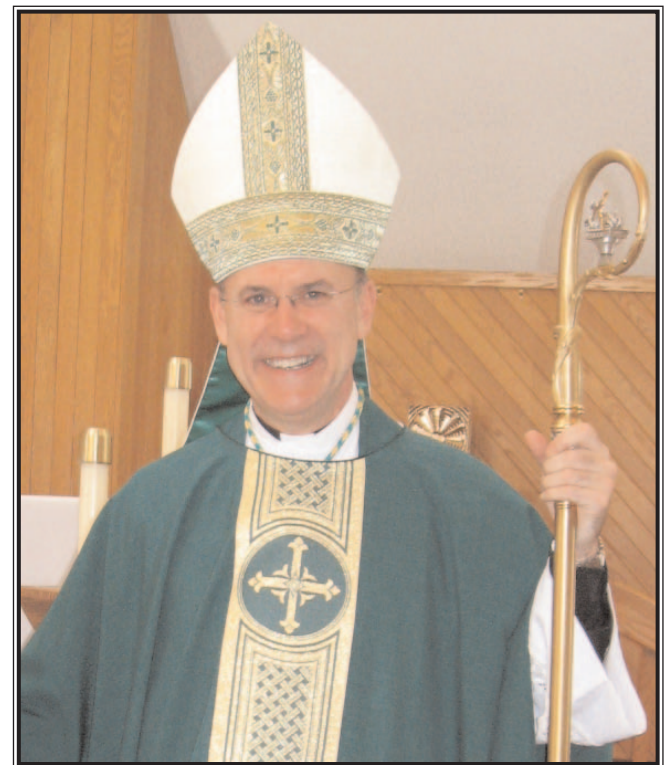


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Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades



EDITORIAL

In all things charity

The following is a guest editorial by Sister Mary Ann Walsh, the director of media relations of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. It was posted on the USCCB blog last week.

The heat in the aftermath of passage of healthcare reform reveals the depth of feeling among those for and against the landmark bill that affects all Americans. Such heat, however, cannot justify the verbal and physical violence that has ensued.

If we needed health care because of the crisis affecting the sick, especially the weakest among us, we need even more a move toward civility, if not for our own betterment then at least for the betterment of our children.

Politics has become a kind of blood sport. News junkies over the weekend heard reports of crowds shouting racist remarks and individuals spitting at African American lawmakers, including John Lewis, who suffered violence years ago when he marched for Civil Rights. Surely he — and all of us — has a right to expect that that chapter of despicable, racist violence long over.

We've seen reports of homes and offices of lawmakers vandalized and heard of death threats. Anonymous messages are being left on voicemails — I even got one from a nun, for goodness sake. If that isn't proof that we've gone astray I don't know what is.

The wonderfully unedited Web may share some blame as it gives free reign to those who say whatever suits their strategic purpose, truthful or not. Their presentations "usually anonymous" underscore a significant failing of the Web, lack of editors and accountability.

We've seen columnists write with vitriol as they demonize those with whom they disagree. There's a viciousness which goes beyond what can be called acerbic writing.

We need to address this climate.

The intolerance and incivility did not begin with legislation passed Sunday night. It is not unrelated to the divisions that exist in our country and, sadly, even in our Church.

It starts with how we view others' as enemies rather than as fellow travelers on the journey of life. It includes whether or not we're willing to give another the benefit of the doubt, accepting that their intentions are good, even if their goals differ from ours.

It involves accepting the fact that each of us is a child of God and precious to Him and our brother or sister.

It involves how we speak and terms for one another.

Last Tuesday, March 23, Cardinal Francis George, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, noted the bishops' disappointment that the health reform legislation did not include all they sought, especially adequate protection of rights of conscience and guarantees that federal funds would not go for abortion services. But he also noted that politicians on both sides of the aisle had worked nobly for the protection of life and decried those who would vilify them. Even in disappointment, the bishops were civil and generous. Their position is worth emulating.

In 1959, Pope John XXIII, in his first encyclical, "On Truth, Unity and Peace, in a Spirit of Charity," quoted a maxim attributed to St. Augustine, "In essentials, unity, in non-essentials diversity, in all things charity."

In all things charity surely is the message we all need today. It's not a bad start to Holy Week.

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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. Word length may not exceed 250 words. Address letters to: Today's Catholic • P.O. Box 11169 • Fort Wayne, IN • 46856-1169 or e-mail to: editor@fw.diocesefwsb.org

Teen has answer

I am a 15-year-old young man attending high school. As a known Catholic in my school, I sometimes get questions from fellow students. I often get the question, "Why is it bad to swear?"

They ask because it is not one of the Ten Commandments, and God, Jesus, never really address the issue in the Bible.

Thinking about this stumped me. So I did a little research until the most obvious answer popped into my head. We are supposed to live our lives like Jesus did. Would Jesus have sworn when he stubbed his toe? He most likely did not.

The more we think about leading

our lives like Jesus, the better we become as a person and understand why it is wrong to do things such as swearing.

Warren Travis
Auburn

CNEWA thanks diocese for collection

Dear Msgr. Schulte,

Thank you very much for your check in the amount of \$4,076.57, representing CNEWA's share of the 2009 World Mission Sunday collection of the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.

May God bless and reward all the good people whose love and concern contributed to this generous

assistance for the work of the Eastern Catholic churches.

As you may know, we regularly send all of our share of the World Mission Sunday collection to the Holy See's Congregation for the Eastern Churches to support its operations and good works on behalf of the peoples and churches under its jurisdiction.

Be sure that you have the gratitude of Cardinal Leonardo Sandri, prefect of the congregation, and Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, president of CNEWA, in addition to my own.

May God ever bless and be with you.

Gabriel Delmonaco
U.S. National Secretary

Recognizing Jesus

The story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus that we read during the Easter season is one of my favorites. I often wonder if I would have recognized the Lord walking the path with me. Hopefully I would but, like the disciples, I may have not.

During the Sundays after Easter the Scripture readings tell of several appearances Jesus made to the disciples after His Resurrection and how the faith of His followers (like Thomas) was challenged and deepened.

Today the resurrected Jesus is all around us in our daily lives. He is present in the persons we encounter. It is up to us to recognize Him.

Usually it is not too hard to see Christ in those we like and who attract us. We can easily recognize Him in those kind, compassionate, likable people who touch our lives.

It is more difficult to see the Lord in the less attractive or unpleasant people we meet. Many times we consciously or unconsciously ignore Christ's presence in the street people, in the addicted and those who don't live up to how we think a "good" person should act.

A still vivid example in my life happened recently. I was with

a group of very good, wonderful Catholics and a poor person who had one too many drinks wandered into the room where we were meeting. It was a cold, bitter night and he was obviously walking. He asked for some directions to where he could get a newspaper to check out the job openings. After we sent him back in the cold, several people made jokes and other not so kind remarks about him. I still feel bad that I did not do something concrete for him. Ironically, the talk that night was about Jesus'

unconditional love for each person. Somehow we seemed to forget that his love included that man as well.

In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus preaches about the last judgment when He tells us that whatever we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do for Him. And it works the other way too. When we ignore any

of our brothers and sisters, we also ignore Him.

When I drive around the city and see people with signs that read, "Will work for food," I feel very guilty when I don't stop or try to help them. It is so easy to be swayed by those who say things like, "There are a lot of con artists out there," or "It is too dangerous, you may get robbed



THE
CUTTING
EDGE

SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

or hurt." I can rationalize, but down deep it causes a dilemma for me and I can just hear the words of the Lord saying, "I was hungry and you did not feed Me."

Recognizing Jesus in the poor and needy is crucial, but we are also challenged to see Him in the people in our everyday lives; in the fellow student it seems nobody likes; in the coworker who never stops complaining; or in the neighbor who keeps loud music on late into the night.

It seems to me that a good practice during this Easter season is to try to really see Jesus in those we encounter and to treat everyone with the same respect we would give Jesus if we saw Him in person, and remind ourselves that Christ loves them just as much as He loves us. Imagine what the world would be like if each one of us would really do this?

Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC, is a vocation director and works for the Sisters of the Holy Cross communications department.

Recalling a time of grace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Church is preparing to mark the fifth anniversary of the death of Pope John Paul II, an event that stirred intense emotion, expressions of faith and worldwide attention in April 2005.

At the Vatican, a Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI will offer an occasion to look back and remember a pontificate that has not, and could not, be forgotten. Pope John Paul shaped the policies and charted the directions for the Church in the 21st century, and his German successor has very much stuck to the same course.

The next big event commemorating Pope John Paul is expected to be his beatification, which could occur as early as next fall. But in hundreds of other ways, from the documents he wrote to the vocations he inspired, his legacy lives on daily in his church.

Pope Benedict references Pope John Paul often, as when he recently praised the Sahel Foundation established by the late

pope or quoted amply from one of his letters to young people in his own message for World Youth Day.

From the beginning, Pope Benedict made clear that he would carry out his papal ministry under the banner of continuity.

“We feel reverberating within our hearts his repeated invitations to advance without fear on the path of fidelity to the Gospel, to be heralds and witnesses of Christ in the third millennium,” Pope Benedict said in 2006.

Pope Benedict will celebrate a memorial Mass for Pope John Paul March 29, because the April 2 anniversary of his death falls on Good Friday. The liturgy is in St. Peter’s Basilica, not the much larger square outside, and there’s been no Vatican effort to turn this into a mega-event for the mass media.

That doesn’t mean the huge crowds and the global interest of five years ago have been forgotten, however. Pope John Paul’s final days are recalled by many as a

THE VATICAN LETTER

JOHN THAVIS

time of special grace.

The late pope made his final public appearance March 30, 2005, when he was recovering from a tracheotomy to relieve breathing problems. He blessed pilgrims in St. Peter’s Square and tried in vain to speak to them. After a few minutes, aides wheeled him from view and drew the curtains of his apartment window for the last time.

Those who witnessed the scene sensed it was a farewell, and an incredibly poignant one. The

LETTER, PAGE 16

Meet the Risen Christ



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

Easter Jn 20:1-9

The Church celebrates the Easter Vigil late in the evening on Holy Saturday. The liturgy for the Vigil has its own set of readings. These readings are those read during Masses on Easter itself.

The Acts of the Apostles provides the first lesson. Acts is in effect a continuation of St. Luke’s Gospel. Scholars say that this Gospel and Acts were the work of the same author. Beginning with the Ascension, Acts reports what life was like for the infant community of Christians in Jerusalem, and then it recalls the initial spread of Christianity.

Important in the early chapters of Acts is a series of sermons delivered by Peter. The place of Peter is interesting — and revealing to anyone concerned about the structure of the Church, then or now.

Always Peter spoke for the Apostles and for the Christian community. In this Sunday’s reading, Peter briefly gives a synopsis of the life of Jesus. Sent by God, Jesus was crucified, the victim of human scheming. He rose after death. He commissioned the Apostles to continue the work of reconciling God and humanity. The Apostles were witnesses of all that Jesus did.

The Epistle to the Colossians, the second reading, places Christ at God’s right hand. It says that Christians already have “been raised” because they have taken Christ into their hearts. Having given themselves to Jesus, they have died to earthly things and to earthly ideas.

St. John’s Gospel, source of the last reading, goes into some detail about the Resurrection and its aftermath. The first figure mentioned in the story is Mary Magdalene. She was a beloved figure in early Christianity, because she was so intensely loyal to Jesus. For example, according to John’s Gospel, she stood beneath the cross of Calvary rather than abandon the dying Lord. It was a risky gesture. She might have been construed to be an accomplice in treason against the Roman Empire, subjecting herself to the same fate as that of the Lord. Yet, she was there.

Arriving at the tomb before daybreak, but finding it empty, she hurries to Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved. (Tradition long has assumed this disciple to be John, although this disciple is never identified by name in this Gospel.)

Peter and the disciple then rush to the tomb themselves. They were overwhelmed. Grasping what exactly had happened at the tomb was not easy. Love and faith made the process easier. Seeing that the tomb was empty, he believed that Jesus had risen.

Reflection

The Church joyfully and excitedly tells us that the Lord lives. He rose from the dead. It is a proclamation of the greatest and central belief of the Church, namely that

Jesus, the Son of God, overcame even death.

However, the lesson is more than simply to affirm once again the Church’s trust in the Resurrection, actual and physical, of Christ. It calls upon us to response. Such was the message in Colossians, the second reading. Such is the important lesson in the references to Mary Magdalene, Peter and the disciple whom Jesus loved. They had to believe. They had to have faith.

We must be open to God ourselves. Limited and bruised by sin, we must be healed and strengthened to receive the grace of faith. Hopefully, Lenten penances these past weeks have healed and strengthened us and made within us this openness.

In the meantime, the Church shares with us the testimony of Peter and the Apostles, not just bystanders as the mission of Jesus occurred, but rather the Lord’s especially commissioned agents to tell us about our own salvation. Their testimony, so guarded by the Church, is our avenue to knowing and meeting the Risen Christ.

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 10:3-4a, 37-43 Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 Col 3:1-4 Jn 20:1-9

Monday: Acts 2:14, 22-33 Ps 16:1-2a, 5, 7-11 Mt 28:8-15

Tuesday: Acts 2:36-41 Ps 33:4-5, 18-20, 22 Jn 20:11-18

Wednesday: Acts 3:1-10 Ps 105:1-4, 6-9 Lk 24:13-35

Thursday: Acts 3:11-26 Ps 8:2ab, 5-9 Lk 24:35-48

Friday: Acts 4:1-12 Ps 118:1-2, 4, 22-27a Jn 21:1-14

Saturday: Acts 4:13-21 Ps 118:1, 14-15b, 16-21 Mk 16:9-15

CATEQUIZ'EM

By Dominic Camplisson

The tomb of Jesus features prominently in the Easter story. This week’s quiz looks at what we know about the tomb.

1. A particular tomb plays a key role on the acquisition of the Holy Land by the Jews. Whose was it, and why was it important?

- Adam’s tomb was purchased by his son Cain, showing Adam was doomed.
- Abraham bought a tomb for Sarah, thus owning property in the Holy Land for the first time.
- Joseph bought the pyramid from Seti II, thus have the first multistory tomb.

2. Tombs were often caves, or, in later times when unused caves were scarce

- cut out of rock
- made of balsa wood
- sealed metal boxes, modeled after the Ark of the Covenant

3. In Old Testament times, what types of coffins were used in Palestine amongst the Jews?

- They used pine or Madera, being the only two widely available woods.
- Coffins could be made from any material that was not ritually impure.
- Coffins were not widely used, bodies were placed in sealed tombs.

4. Generally these folks were denied a proper tomb burial, instead being buried under piles of stones:

- women
- Jews
- criminals

5. A special box used specifically for bones is known as

- an ossuary
- a reliquary
- a pyx

6. In Old Testament times, what was done with the remains after a period of time?

- The bodies were cremated.
- The bones were removed to a smaller chamber and the tomb reused.
- The bodies were set upon the river Jordan to float into the Dead Sea.

7. What was done with the body after death?

- It was cremated at once due to the extreme heat.
- It was washed and had a cloth placed over the face.
- It was entombed in oil to preserve it.

8. Why was there extra haste associated with the burial of Jesus?

- They had to get his body back to Galilee within the three-day limit.
- He had to be removed from the cross so that there would be no crucifix as a symbol.
- The Sabbath was fast approaching.

9. Jesus’ tomb is also known by this name:

- the Holy Sepulcher
- the Urn of Uncion
- the Church of the Nativity and Death

10. What do the women notice about the body of Jesus in the tomb on Easter Sunday?

- It was pure white.
- It was unharmed and bears no wounds.
- Nothing — it is not there.

11. What do we learn about how the Resurrection took place inside the tomb?

- Nothing, we only know it happened, not how.
- The heat given off suggests a fusion event.
- The lack of change in the tomb indicates a time shift.

12. What item is thought by many to have been the winding sheet of Jesus from the tomb?

- the Icon of Vera
- the Baphomet
- the Shroud of Turin

13. Where are Jesus’ actually earthly remains?

- under the Vatican
- nowhere on earth; he ascended into Heaven after the Resurrection
- in an unknown grave somewhere near Jerusalem

ANSWERS

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

Grow an Easter garden

The joy of Easter will soon be ours. This is the perfect time of year to start an Easter garden. Gardening holds connotations of new life, and is a natural companion activity to celebrating the Easter season. Even if you've never held a hoe in your life before, you can successfully develop a green thumb and indulge yourself in this natural pleasure.

The benefits will be evident in the beauty of your yard, on your dinner table through the summer, and if you branch out into canning, through the winter months too. Gardening can also be a spiritual, prayerful experience, and a way to really get in touch with God through His creation. Plus, you get to revert to being a child again and dig in dirt, which is probably something you couldn't otherwise justifiably do.

Last year our family embarked on our first real and extensive gardening project. We had tried growing vegetables and some hardware store-bought flowers here and there over the years, but had never really — dug in.

However, last summer, my dear husband plowed out a large plot, enclosed it with a pretty white picket fence in front, and added an arbor, on which we eventually coaxed some blue and purple Morning Glories to climb. I don't think doing this much nonessential preparation work was initially what he had in mind when I suggested we simply grow vegetables, but God bless my husband, he was a great sport in making my elaborate backyard vision. He even made a lovely pathway.

We added a statue of St. Francis and then ordered some heirloom seeds for vegetables and flowers. After that, our sunroom became a slow-growing, virtual jungle for a few weeks before

transplanting was safe. The results were wonderful!

Each of the children was assigned one section to weed, and we all took pleasure in walking through the garden on summer evenings, plucking ripe produce or just enjoying the flowers interspersed within.

Non-hybrid, heirloom seeds are a popular choice for gardeners, especially for those who want nature's best benefits. Unlike hybrid, big seed company seeds, saved heirloom seeds can yield a harvest year after year. Most agree that heirloom seeds produce crops that are tastier and higher in nutrients, although not as uniform in color or shape as the grocery store cousins. Search the Internet for "heirloom seeds" to find suppliers, and be sure to include flowers. I love giant marigolds, which grew as tall as my 3 year old last year, and which were an effective and beautiful insect deterrent.

So far, I've been describing a plain old garden. Now, here's the Easter twist.

Traditionally, an Easter garden, which can be large or small, has two main elements. It includes a mound of dirt with a small cross placed upon the mound. Some also add a woven 'crown of thorns' from bramble or bare, thorny vine. This, of course, reminds us of the death of Christ. The other element of an Easter Garden is the abundant flowers (and sometimes a homemade empty "tomb") which appear on Easter Sunday. (You can put just a few representative flowers there on Easter and add more when the climate warms). This, of course stands for Christ's Resurrection and the joy we experience because of it. You can creatively construct your Easter garden in a small area of where your regular garden will be, in your



Theresa A. Thomas

EVERYDAY CATHOLIC

near-the-house landscaping or even in a little dish, open or ala terrarium style.

Traditional Easter flowers include the lily, the primrose, and daffodil (narcissus), which symbolizes new birth and which folk legend says bloomed the day of the Resurrection.

Some families add actual figurines to their small, in-home Easter garden during the Triduum. If you have trouble finding these commercially (or want to save a few dollars), your children can draw some figurines on cardboard, color them and cut them out. Cover them with clear plastic to make them durable if they're going outdoors.

Some Catholics like to ask their parish priest to bless the plot that will become their garden and add a statue or two to help them pray. You can flip through magazines or surf the Internet to get inspiration for your garden project.

So include a garden in your Easter plans this week. It can blossom into something you and your family will enjoy. Starting an Easter garden and continuing with a traditional one will provide your family with beauty and food, as well as the tools to grow spiritually, through Easter ... and beyond.

Theresa Thomas, is the mother of nine children and wife of David. E-mail her at TheresaThomasEveryDayCatholic@gmail.com

assembled to pray and sing songs beneath the pope's window. Some 48 hours later, the vigil had grown to include some 100,000 people.

On the afternoon of April 2, according to his aides, the pope murmured in Polish, "Let me go to the house of the Father." They were his last words. Six hours later, at 9:37 p.m., Pope John Paul died.

The announcement was made to the vast crowd in St. Peter's Square shortly before 10 p.m., at the close of a candlelit prayer service. Many in the crowd wept. Then, after a long wave of applause, the square was enveloped in silent prayer. The bells of St. Peter's Basilica tolled a death knell.

In Pope John Paul's native Poland, the bells tolled and air-raid sirens were sounded. On Polish TV, commentators were in tears as they announced the pope's death.

What happened in the hours and days to follow surprised Vatican officials. For one thing, people did not leave St. Peter's Square after the death announcement — they stayed and prayed well into the early morning. And

by the next day, it was clear that many, many people wanted to pay their respects to Pope John Paul in person.

Eventually, more than 2 million mourners came to view the pope's body as it was laid out in St. Peter's Basilica. They came from every continent. Some waited in line as long as 12 hours, and many took photos on their cell phones when they approached the papal bier. That broke with tradition, but it seemed fitting.

The unprecedented global media coverage hit a peak at Pope John Paul's funeral, presided over by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, the dean of the College of Cardinals and soon to be the next pope. In retrospect, the transition seemed to have already begun, though the conclave was still 10 days away.

In his homily at the funeral Mass, Cardinal Ratzinger drew long applause when he imagined Pope John Paul standing at the "window of the Father's house" and blessing the crowd below. Even after five years, many Catholics keep that image in their hearts.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for April 4, 2010

Luke 24:1-12

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Vigil of Easter, the visit of the women to the tomb of Christ. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

WEEK	THE STONE	THE TOMB
BODY	TWO MEN	TERRIFIED
BOWED	FACES	HE IS NOT HERE
HE SAID	GALILEE	HANDED OVER
SINNERS	MARY	MAGDALENE
JOANNA	MOTHER	PETER
GOT UP	CLOTHS	AMAZED

TERRIFIED

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

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LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

Vatican later described it as "the last public 'station' of his painful Via Crucis."

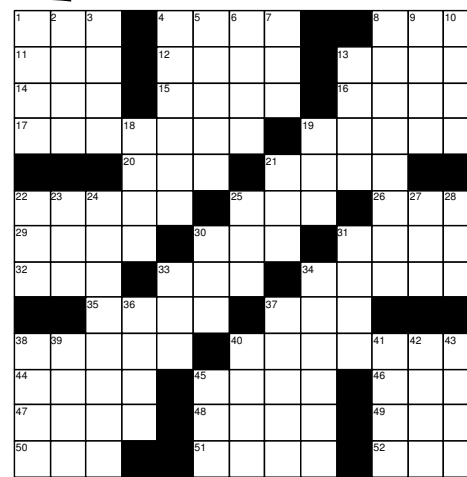
The next day, the pope suffered septic shock and heart failure. He was treated immediately with antibiotics and respiratory equipment, but his condition deteriorated. Vatican officials later said it was the pope himself who decided to be treated at the Vatican instead of being taken to the hospital again.

An Italian cardinal who visited the dying pope described the scene in the papal bedroom: Assisted by several doctors and his personal staff, the pontiff lay serenely on a bed in the middle of his room, comforted by cushions, occasionally opening his eyes in greeting to the handful of visitors allowed inside.

Outside, in St. Peter's Square, the first groups of faithful — many of them young people —

The CrossWord

April 4 & 11, 2010



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Based on these Scripture Readings: Acts 10:34, 37-43; Col 3:1-4; Jn 20:1-9 and Acts 5:12-16; Rv 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19; Jn 20:19-31

ACROSS

- 1 Swish
- 4 Parent groups
- 8 Clock time
- 11 IOU part
- 12 Curve
- 13 Cosine's partner
- 14 Peter did to tomb
- 15 Carry
- 16 Famous red Viking
- 17 Electrical generators
- 19 Son of Man holds keys to
- 20 Cut
- 21 In ___ (together)
- 22 Large instruments
- 25 Biblical hind
- 26 A commandment falsehood
- 29 Greek god of war
- 30 "The ___ from heaven"
- 31 Commandments "___-logue"
- 32 No room here
- 33 Child's plaything
- 34 Bulls of Bashan do in Ps 22
- 35 Revelation author
- 37 ___ dolorosa
- 38 Part
- 40 Miracles of Jesus
- 44 Cartoon company
- 45 Spoken
- 46 Tub
- 47 Leg bone

- 48 ___ upon a time
- 49 Compass point
- 50 2,000 pounds
- 51 Bard's king
- 52 Revolutions per minute

DOWN

- 1 Jesus Christ is ___
- 2 "___ in a manger"
- 3 Pennsylvania (abbr.)
- 4 John's island
- 5 Unit
- 6 ___ of the Apostles
- 7 Her
- 8 "Signs" in John's Gospel
- 9 Hissy fit
- 10 High ___
- 13 Blessed those who have not ___
- 18 Alack's partner
- 19 Egg color
- 21 ___ of man
- 22 Thai
- 23 Ashes pot
- 24 David's brother
- 25 The first ___ of the week
- 27 Sorbet
- 28 Feed
- 30 First day of wk.
- 31 Jesus rose from the ___
- 33 Christ ___ Lord
- 34 Glue
- 36 Daniel's fiery furnace
- 37 As loud as a trumpet
- 38 The first and the ___
- 39 Repeat
- 40 Decrease
- 41 Forever and ___, Amen
- 42 File
- 43 Plant trunk
- 45 Sun's name

Answer Key can be found on page 19

Sports

ICCL girls head to semifinals, championships

BY CHUCK FREEBY

ELKHART — Last-second shots, upsets and traditional favorites all have been a part of this year's March Madness. It's true whether you're talking about the NCAA or Inter-City Catholic League girls basketball tournament.

St. Jude eighth-grader Cassie Young delivered the game winning shot with just three seconds remaining as St. Monica/St. Jude eliminated Holy Cross with an 18-16 triumph at St. Thomas' Spartan Gym. Young is trying to complete a trifecta, as she has already been a part of championship softball and volleyball teams this season.

To accomplish that feat, St. Monica/St. Jude will have to knock off tourney favorite St. Joseph (South Bend) in the semifinals. Coach Brian Weaver's

squad remained perfect on the season, using a stifling defense to thwart Holy Family, 25-13.

On the other side of the bracket, Christ the King (Colors) emerges as this year's "Cinderella Team." After going just 6-5 in the regular season, the Colors squad earned a Final Four berth, by knocking off the Christ the King varsity squad, 17-15, in a hard-fought matchup at Saint Joseph's High School.

Brent Imus' Kings now face perennial power St. Joseph-Mishawaka. The Wildcats avenged a regular-season loss to St. Matthew, downing the Blazers, 31-23. As they have all year, Tagin Schultheis and Alison Ketcham led the way for St. Joseph.

The semifinals and championships will be played this week at Marian High School.



ANGELA WENZEL GOLF SCRAMBLE SCHEDULED The first Angela Wenzel Memorial Golf Scramble will be held Saturday, May 22, at Blackthorn Golf Course, 6100 Nimitz Pkwy. Proceeds will sponsor a scholarship at Carroll University in honor of Angela Wenzel (Blondell), who passed away in 2009 at the age of 29, from inflammatory breast cancer. Fees include lunch, green and cart fees, \$55 voucher for free green fees at Blackthorn Golf Course, snacks, prizes for winning team and hole contests on a variety of holes. Registration and breakfast will be from 8-8:30 a.m. with shotgun start at 9 a.m. To register contact Brian Blondell at (574) 310-3924 or baseballjunke24@aol.com by May 1.

St. Vincent to implement Play Like a Champion Today

FORT WAYNE — Play Like a Champion Today is an innovative program designed to promote a more positive climate in youth sports. Play Like a Champion Today helps Catholic youth coaches build an engaging climate for team development and an effective system for building

positive relationships with parents.

This program, which is supported by the University of Notre Dame, will be implemented at St. Vincent De Paul Catholic School for all sports beginning this fall.

Parents are invited and encouraged to attend the initial

presentation of the program. The cost of the program is \$10. The presentation will be held on April 18 from 4:30-5:30 in the parish hall. For additional information, contact Paul Cassabon, athletic director, at (260) 489-3537 Ext. 218 or paulcassabon@saintv.org.

FIFTH GRADE ICCL BASKETBALL CHAMPS



PROVIDED BY HOLY CROSS CRUSADERS

The Holy Cross Crusaders won the ICCL girls basketball fifth-grade tournament March 14. Members of the team in the front row are Hannah Thomas, Alexis Felty, Sophie Smith, Kayla Toll and Abby Nolan. In the back row are assistant coach Cindy Thomas, Holy Cross Father Mike Mathews, Jennifer Cromartie, Tiffiney James, Emma Applegate, Mary Madden and head coach Carrie Applegate.

Liturgical Music Coordinator

Part-time

Holy Cross and Saint Stanislaus, a vibrant Catholic faith community of 1,000 families and two churches in South Bend, Indiana, seeks a part-time Music Coordinator to plan and prepare liturgical music and to serve as an accompanist at some liturgies. The position will average 15-20 hours weekly on a flexible schedule, including evenings and weekends. Familiarity with Roman Catholic liturgy and with the role of music in the liturgy is required, as is proficiency as a piano accompanist. A degree in music and/or theology and experience in a Catholic parish setting is preferred. Vocal training, experience as a choral director and proficiency as an organist are also desirable. Salary commensurate with education and experience. For a complete position description, please visit the parish website: www.hcssparish.org

Send cover letter and resume with references to:

Mark DeMott, CSC

Holy Cross and Saint Stanislaus
920 Wilber Street, South Bend, Indiana 46628

Resumes may also be sent via e-mail to
mdemott@hcssparish.org

Application deadline: Monday, April 5, 2010

Start date: May 3, 2010



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POSITION OPENING

St. Joseph Parish
(South Bend) seeks a
**Director of
Stewardship and
Development**

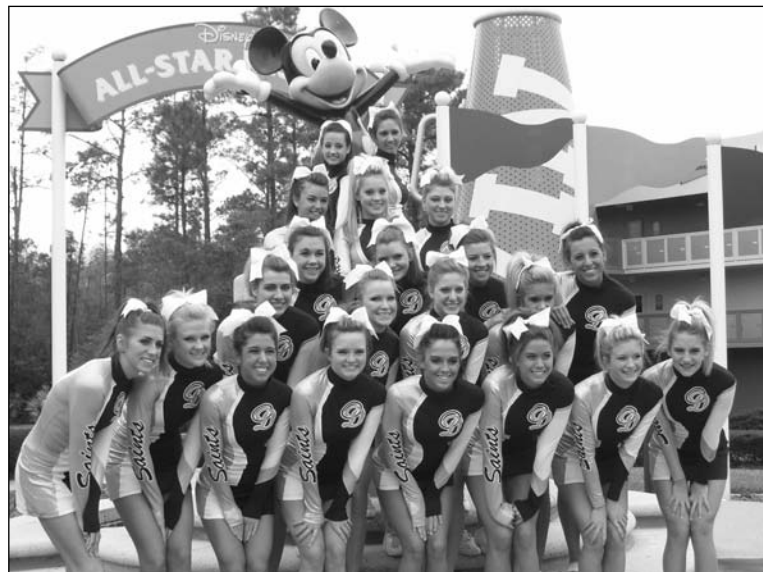
This position furthers the mission of St. Joseph Parish by promoting the concept of Stewardship as a way of life. The position also oversees St. Joseph Church and School development efforts.

Qualified applicants will be practicing Catholics with high organizational and computer skills. Number of hours/week negotiable. Salary is commensurate with education and experience. For more details, please visit www.stjoeparish.com

Qualified candidates should send a cover letter and resume with references to:
**St. Joseph Parish
226 N. Hill Street
South Bend, IN 46617**

Questions may be directed to
**Father John DeRiso, CSC
at
(574) 234-3134, ext. 20.**

BISHOP DWENGER CHEERLEADERS TAKE RESERVE GRAND CHAMPION



PROVIDED BY AMY GONZAGOWSKI

The Bishop Dwenger Varsity Cheerleaders competed in Orlando, Fla., on Feb. 27. The girls were crowned Reserve Grand Champions at the Contest of Champions Nationals. Their score was the second highest of all 56 teams entered. Members include: seniors Ashley Densberger, Jennifer Downey, Sarah Gorman, Leah Helmer, Nikki Martino, Andrea Pelkington, Jordan Potosky and Amanda Tomlinson; juniors Morgan Eifert, Audi DiDomenico, Grace Grutsch, Victoria Myers, Alyssa Sines, Jessie Paladino, Alana Richardson and Molly Sturm; sophomores Katie Dillon, Kendra Giant and Kelsey Lee; and freshmen Erin Grutsch and Claire Schenkel. The girls are coached by Amy Gonzagowski, Doris Derheimer and Vicki Kuker.

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WHAT'S HAPPENING?

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

MISC. HAPPENINGS

Easter egg hunt

Fort Wayne — An Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, April 3, at St. Henry Parish Center, 5711 St. Henry Lane from noon to 2 p.m. for children ages 12 and under. Refreshments will be served with games, egg hunt and a pinata.

Knights plan fish fry

Fort Wayne — The Knights of Columbus Council 451, 601 Reed Rd., will have a fish fry on Friday, April 2, from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under. Fish, two sides and beverage are included.

Spaghetti dinner

South Bend — The Knights of Columbus Council 5570 will have a spaghetti dinner, Thursday, April 8, from 4-6 p.m. at the council, 5202 Linden Ave. Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$2.50 for children 5-12.

Consignment sale

Yoder — St. Aloysius School is currently accepting consignors to sell clothing, accessories and footwear for children infant through juniors. Baby equipment, furniture, toys, games and DVDs are requested. Consignors will receive between 60 and 70 percent. The sale will be held in the school gym, 14607 Bluffton Rd., Saturday, April 24, from 8 a.m. to noon. Please contact Jennie Haiflich at (260) 615-6236 or stalkidsale@gmail.com for information.

Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center hosts open house

Donaldson — The Lindenwood Retreat and Conference Center will host an open house Sunday, April 18, from 1-4 p.m. Guests will tour the renovated bedrooms, the new meeting rooms and office spaces. Refreshments will be served. The center is located at 9601 Union Rd.

Little Flower Holy Hour

Fort Wayne — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will celebrate the Little Flower Holy Hour on Tuesday, April 6, at 7 p.m. at the St. Mother Theodore Guerin Chapel to pray for priests and vocations.

Prayer for Priests

Mishawaka — Join the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, 1515 Dragoon Tr., on

The CrossWord

April 4 and 11, 2010



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REST IN PEACE

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Joan Larimore, 80,
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John R. Larimore, 83,
St. Anthony of Padua

Arcola

Eugene F. Lamboley,
72, St. Patrick

Elkhart

Celia M. Chmiel, 93,
St. Thomas the Apostle

Helen L. Perron, 79,
St. Vincent de Paul

Evelyn J. Taller, 84,
St. Vincent de Paul

Fort Wayne

Ann M. Michael, 50, St.
Joseph-Hessen Cassel

Virginia H. Stillman, 85,
St. Charles Borromeo

Paul R. Keeley, 88,
Most Precious Blood

Joseph Angel Laguna,
53, St. Patrick

Randall G. Muldoon,
48, St. Joseph-Hessen
Cassel

David J. Skelly, 77, St.
Elizabeth Ann Seton

Vincent Cittar, 86, Saint
Anne Home Chapel

Beverly K. Walden
Long, 79, Our Lady of
Good Hope

Florence Choka, 87,
St. Peter

Huntington

Sister Evelyn Marie
Davis, OLVM, 93,
Victory Noll

Mishawaka

Clara A. Gardini, 94,
St. Bavo

Catherine M. Goeller,
94, St. Monica

Barry L. Hahaj, 67, St.
Joseph

South Bend

Sister Geraldine
Demeter, 96, Corpus
Christi

Marcella K. Keating,
102, St. Joseph

Barbara Ann Walker,
79, Holy Cross

Joseph N. Nyerges, 85,
St. Matthew Cathedral

Regene E. Wray, 91, St.
Matthew Cathedral

Sophonri B. Schmuhl,
96, St. Matthew
Cathedral

Wabash

Beulah Lilves, 89,
St. Bernard

Thursday, April 8, 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 all day.

Rummage Sale

South Bend — Our Lady of Hungary School HASA will have a rummage sale Friday, April 24, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Divine Mercy Chaplet

and

Nine Day Divine Mercy Novena

Begins Good Friday, April 2

and ends the following Saturday, April 10

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Father Thomas Berg

Executive Director, Westchester Institute

Dr. Maureen Condic

Senior Fellow, Westchester Institute

Free registration can be accessed at www.nd.edu/~prolife/conference/

For questions, contact

Gabrielle Speach at gspeach@nd.edu

or Kelly Jones at kjones14@nd.edu

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



Join Us!
 Novena Divine Mercy Chaplet
 Good Friday to Mercy Sunday
 3 PM in St. Jude Church
 FORT WAYNE
 Starts Good Friday, April 2

Tenth Worldwide *Mercy Sunday*

April 11, 2010 Divine Mercy Sunday Devotion

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM: Exposition and Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 (Reconciliation during these two hours or anytime during Lent)

3:00 PM: Divine Mercy Chaplet

• Procession and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament

• Homily - Father Thomas Shoemaker

President: Father Robert D'Souza

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**MERCY
 SUNDAY**

April 11, 2010

Chaplet 2:30 PM

Holy Mass 3:00 PM

Confessions 1:30 to 3 PM

Eucharistic Adoration

2:00 to 3:00 PM



Holy Family Church

56405 Mayflower Road

South Bend



Everyone Welcome!

Bienvenidos a todos

BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB

This month's featured selection:

"Miles from the Sideline" By Maura Weis

Reviewed by Kay Cozad

"Miles From the Sideline," by Maura Weis, *Today's Catholic's* choice for book of the month, is a courageous testimony of the healing power of faith and love. Written by the wife of former Notre Dame head football coach Charlie Weis, the 169-page tome takes the reader on a personal journey unknown to a large portion of society — the journey of a parent of a special needs child.

Maura Weis begins her tale with the an introduction into her daughter Hannah's life.

Diagnosed with polycystic kidney disease in the womb, Hannah was not expected to live long after her birth. But the Weis' faith in God's Providence was rewarded when in April of 1995, their daughter came home with them after only three days in the neonatal ICU following her birth. The next two years were filled with health and developmental issues, yet Hannah continued to be a pleasant and cheerful child. Then tragedy hit.

Maura Weis' personal account of the family's dealings with the medical community is sometimes disheartening and frustrating, a testimony to the nature of seeking diagnosis and treatment for a disability. But they never gave up. As the family learned to embrace Hannah for the gift that she was, they experienced a transformation that only comes with this kind of challenge.

Sprinkled throughout the pages of this remarkable tale are vignettes of life with the Weis family that gives the reader a glimpse into the true nature and personality of young Hannah. "With everyone, Hannah longs to make herself known and loved," writes Weis, who is talented at turning a phrase. Yet like so many with disabilities, Hannah was challenged with a sensitivity to crowds which caused her to experience meltdowns that only proved to deepen her mother's conviction that love and compassion were the only responses.

Also prevalent throughout the text is the strong and encouraging tone of respect for the sanctity of life. The author uses her literary voice to speak up for the respect

and mercy due all of God's children, including those who appear to be different than the norm. And for some that lesson is hard earned. So many people seem to only see Hannah's autism, as if that defined her, says the author. That, she adds, only causes them to miss her charm and beauty. The companionship and compassion of those the Weis family surrounded themselves with is the beacon of hope in this book.

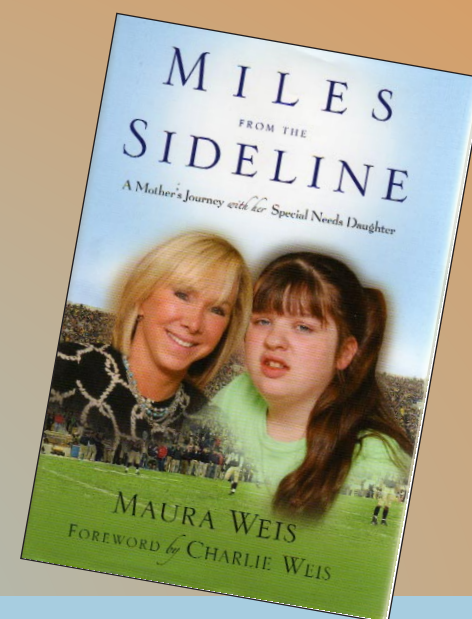
Weis writes of her grief over the loss of her perfect daughter and how she navigated those feelings in the midst of parenting a special needs child with love. She provides insightful and useful ways to address self care issues, including exercise, "me time" and prayer. Throughout the book, even in the most painful of experiences, this loving mother maintains her deep spiritual connection with God and offers optimism in the face of each new challenge.

Finally it is learned that after years of erroneous medical diagnosis that Hannah suffers from a rare seizure disorder. However, the family, after being transformed by this special little girl, has learned to live life to the fullest without specific labels. They have continued hope for the future and watch and learn as Hannah lives her life with enthusiasm and joy.

Of her daughter, Weis writes, "She, like so many other children and adults with special needs, has to work harder than I do just to accomplish what is considered 'normal' to the rest of us. She struggles just to get through life, and yet she makes the best of it as she carries her disability with her every day. She is my hero."

The Hannah and Friends foundation, initiated in 2003, to raise public awareness of the special needs community is explained in this book. Visit www.hannahandfriends.org for more information.

"Miles From the Sideline," by Maura Weis is a must read. Every reader, whether acquainted with a person with special needs or not, will gain insightful information about compassion and respect for all life by reading this well written personal story of triumph over challenge.



Questions for discussion

- The Catholic faith holds the sanctity of all life, from conception to natural death, dear. What is your experience of the sanctity of the lives of those with special needs? How does your faith drive your response to their needs?

- The meltdown described on pages 112-114 depicts the "cloud cover of unkindness and insensitivity" the Weis family experienced from others when Hannah became over stimulated in the crowd. Have you ever been part of that kind of unkindness? How can you respond with more compassion next time?

- Everyone has a story. How does the Weis's story of struggle and faith resonate with your life? How would a deeper connection with God in joy as well as adversity transform your way of life?

- How does Maura Weis's experience of learning to live in the now compare to your way of living? How does that shape your perception of the joys and struggles of life?