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TODAY'S CATHOLIC

Pope Benedict beatifies Pope John Paul 'because of his faith'

BY CINDY WOODEN

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — "John Paul II is blessed because of his faith — a strong, generous and apostolic faith," Pope Benedict XVI said May 1 just minutes after formally beatifying his predecessor.

Italian police said that for the Mass more than 1 million people were gathered in and around the Vatican and in front of large video screens in several parts of the city.

Many in the crowd had personal stories about seeing Pope John Paul or even meeting him, and Pope Benedict ended his homily at the Mass sharing his own personal story.

"I would like to thank God for the gift of having worked for many years with Blessed Pope John Paul II," he said.

As prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith from 1982 until his election in 2005, Pope Benedict said he worked at the pope's side "and came to revere him."

"His example of prayer continually impressed and edified me: he remained deeply united to God even amid the many demands of his ministry," the pope said.

"Today his name is added to the host of those

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Ordination of two men to diaconate

SOUTH BEND — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades will ordain Jacob Meyer and Ben Muhlenkamp to the diaconate on Saturday, May 14, at 11 a.m. at St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend.

Their ordination to the diaconate is their final step before ordination to the priesthood next year.

Born in Wheaton, Ill., and now a resident of Niles, Mich., Meyer is the oldest of three children of Kurt and Julie Meyer. He attended Holy Cross School, South Bend, and is a graduate of Ball State University with a bachelor's degree in human resource management. Originally, Meyer had intended to pursue a business career but told his parents prior to graduation he wanted to become a Catholic priest. He then began his theological studies at Pontifical College Josephinum, Columbus, Ohio.

Muhlenkamp is from Geneva, and the son of Gary and Mary Agnes Muhlenkamp, the middle child in a family with five children, four of whom are girls. Raised on a dairy farm, he said he began thinking about the priesthood while he was in college at Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne (IPFW) studying for his bachelor's degree in organizational leadership and supervision. He, too, then began his theological studies at Pontifical College Josephinum.



CNS PHOTO/MASSIMO SESTINI, ITALIAN NATIONAL POLICE VIA CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

People pack St. Peter's Square and the Via della Conciliazione leading up to the square during the beatification of Pope John Paul II May 1 at the Vatican. The late Polish pontiff moved a step closer to sainthood during a joyous ceremony that drew more than 1 million people. This aerial view photo was provided by the Italian National Police.

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Pope John Paul II's beatification, Divine Mercy celebrated locally

BY TIM JOHNSON
AND TRISH LINNER

SOUTH BEND — Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades joined the faithful of the South Bend area at Holy Family Church to celebrate Divine Mercy Sunday and the beatification of now-Blessed John Paul II earlier that day in Rome.

Pope John Paul II promulgated the devotion of Divine Mercy Sunday, which occurs the second Sunday of Easter each year. St. Faustina, the devout 20th-century Polish nun who had received the Divine Mercy messages from our Lord, was the first saint canonized in the new millennium by Pope John Paul II.

Bishop Rhoades, speaking at the Divine Mercy Sunday devotions on May 1, spoke of the images of Divine Mercy: "In that now-famous image, we see two rays of light coming from the heart of Jesus, one red and the other white. The two rays, according to what Jesus told Sister Faustina, represent the blood and water. The blood recalls the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross and the mystery of the Eucharist; the water recalls the sacrament of Baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit. These two rays of light, representing the blood and the water, come from the merciful heart of Jesus. They show God's merciful love illuminating and spreading over the world."

Bishop Rhoades spoke of the day's Gospel, which "helps us to grasp the full sense and value of the gift of Divine Mercy."

The Risen Jesus appeared to the Apostles and transmitted to them "the mission of being ministers of Divine Mercy," Bishop Rhoades said.

Jesus entrusted the Apostles and the Church with the authority to forgive sins. Jesus breathed on the Apostles and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained," thus instituting the sacrament of Reconciliation.

"Through St. Faustina, our Lord promised an abundance of graces to the faithful who devoutly observe Divine Mercy Sunday," Bishop Rhoades said.

He spoke of the Church rejoicing that day with the beatification of Pope John II. The bishop noted Blessed John Paul II, instituted this Sunday of Divine Mercy and died on the eve of Divine Mercy Sunday six years ago.

Bishop Rhoades related that on April 3, 2005, Blessed John Paul wrote: "As a gift to humanity, which sometimes seems bewildered and overwhelmed by the



The image of Divine Mercy.

power of evil, selfishness and fear, the Risen Lord offers His love that pardons, reconciles and reopens hearts to love. It is a love that converts hearts and gives peace. How much the world needs to understand and accept Divine Mercy!"

Bishop Rhoades encouraged the faithful gathered at Holy Family Church to be messengers and witnesses of the Divine Mercy, "putting mercy into practice in our daily lives," he said.

Bishop Rhoades added, "St. Faustina was a witness and messenger of our Lord's merciful love. Blessed John Paul II was a witness and messenger of Divine Mercy. The Church and each of her members — you and I — are called to be witnesses and messengers of our Lord's merciful love. This is, as it were, our program of life."

Bishop Rhoades said the faithful are to be moved to love their neighbor "always and everywhere. Blessed John Paul II taught us that mercy is an indispensable dimension of love. The mercy of the Lord fills us with hope and teaches us how to build the new civilization of love. Lord Jesus, we put our trust in You, now and forever."

Celebration at St. Hedwig

Bishop Emeritus John M. D'Arcy joined with the congregation of St. Hedwig Church in South Bend to celebrate Mass and commemorate the beatification. St. Hedwig was dedicated in 1883 and founded by Polish immigrants seeking to keep their traditions, language and Polish community alive.

Father Len Chrobot, pastor of both St. Hedwig and St. Patrick concelebrated the Mass with Bishop D'Arcy and addressed the gathered during his homily.

He spoke of Pope John Paul II and his great love for the people of Poland and his homeland itself. "Pope John Paul was very grounded in his identity as a Polish priest. He spoke on many occasions on ethnic traditions and customs reminding people that the more you are aware of your identity, the more you can serve your country. People who are not rooted in anything often become amoral with nothing to ground them to their family and community."

Father Chrobot also spoke about the hardships the Polish people endured during the time the country was wiped off the map from 1795 until 1918. "Without the Polish language and traditions, the Polish people would cease to exist today. Keeping their culture alive was what kept them Poles and kept them fighting to be free Poles again," Father Chrobot said.

After a beautiful Mass that featured not only Polish hymns and prayers, but also Latin and English as well, Bishop D'Arcy spoke to the crowd of around 100 attendees. "Pope John Paul believed so strongly in knowing your heritage. He understood the oppression many Catholics

experienced simply for being Catholic. He knew keeping traditions alive were a spiritual link to your family and your history, no matter what ethnicity you were. My own parents came to America due to oppression in Ireland. Even though my mother had trained as a nurse, no one would hire her," Bishop D'Arcy said.

Pope John Paul II was a scholar and never stopped learning. "He always questioned priests he met about their hometowns and communities. He was so interested in what was going on in the parishes back home. He had a genuine love for the laity and knew first and foremost that we were servants to them. It was our job to bring them closer to the Father," Bishop D'Arcy said.

After the Mass, Bishop D'Arcy joined Father Chrobot and many parishioners for a reception.

Many parishioners joined the conversation about Pope John Paul including Tom and Jennifer Borek. "We've been inspired by Pope John Paul II for a long time. Some think it's hard to live the Word in today's world, but he has done more than that in times much harder than these," said Tom.



PROVIDED BY RANDY BLUM

Image bearers Jaime Botello and Cruz Enrique Juarez pose with the Divine Mercy photo that was used in the Sunday devotions at Holy Family Parish in South Bend. Joined by the faithful from parishes throughout the South Bend area, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrated Divine Mercy devotions at Holy Family Church and celebrated Blessed John Paul II, who was beatified earlier that day by Pope Benedict XVI. Blessed John Paul promulgated devotion to Divine Mercy.

Note of gratitude from Bishop D'Arcy

Greetings to all our priests, religious and laity,

I write to thank all those many, many people who wrote to me with promises of prayers after they learned that I had prostate cancer. Your kind wishes and your prayers and cards and most gracious notes touched me deeply. I also thank all those who spoke to me so kindly and promised prayers during my various public Masses over these several months.

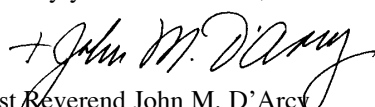
I have completed the necessary invasive procedures in the beginning followed by 39 radiations. I believe it has gone well and I will be meeting with the oncologist soon to receive the results. I believe the outlook is positive.

I thank you with all my heart for these wonderful messages and most of all for your prayers. May I ask that you continue to pray for me and for my health so that I can continue to serve this beloved diocese for years to come if it is God's holy will.

I am trying to discern which was the most debilitating — the many weeks of radiation or the terrible stumble by the Red Sox right out of the gate. Now we both seem to be healing.

I pray for all of you every day.

Sincerely yours in our Lord,


Most Reverend John M. D'Arcy
Bishop Emeritus



PUBLIC SCHEDULE OF BISHOP KEVIN C. RHOADES

- Sunday, May 8, 11 a.m. — Mass at St. Bernard Church, Wabash
- Monday, May 9, 3 p.m. — Meeting with Priests ordained 10 years or less
- Tuesday, May 10, 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass at St. Vincent de Paul Church, Fort Wayne
- Wednesday, May 11, 10:30 a.m. — Meeting of Presbyteral Council, Sacred Heart Parish, Warsaw
- Wednesday, May 11, 6 p.m. — Knights of Columbus Religious Appreciation Dinner, Reed Road, Fort Wayne
- Thursday, May 12, 1 p.m. — Spring Sharathon, Redeemer Radio, Fort Wayne
- Friday, May 13, 11 a.m. — Hispanic Apostolate Meeting, St. Patrick Parish, Ligonier
- Friday, May 13, 7 p.m. — Confirmation Mass at St. Joseph Church, South Bend
- Saturday, May 14, 11 a.m. — Mass with Ordination of Deacons, St. Matthew Cathedral, South Bend
- Saturday, May 14, 7 p.m. — Graduation for Education for Ministry program, St. Francis Convent, Mishawaka

Vatican says bin Laden's death cause for reflection, not rejoicing

BY JOHN THAVIS

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican said the killing of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, a man who sowed division and hatred and who caused “innumerable” deaths, should prompt serious reflection about one's responsibility before God, not rejoicing.

The Vatican statement May 2 came the day after President Barack Obama announced that U.S. forces had killed bin Laden in an attack on his hideout in northwest Pakistan. In several U.S. cities, the news prompted street demonstrations and expressions of jubilation.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, released a brief written statement reacting to the news.

“Osama bin Laden, as we all know, bore the most serious responsibility for spreading divisions and hatred among populations, causing the deaths of innumerable people, and manipulating religions to this end,” Father Lombardi said.

“In the face of a man's death, a Christian never rejoices, but reflects on the serious responsibilities of each person before God and before men, and hopes and works so that every event may be the occasion for the further growth of peace and not of hatred,” the spokesman said.

The Vatican missionary news agency, Fides, reported that Christian schools and other institutes were closed and churches put on guard in



CNS PHOTO/RUSSELL BOYCE, REUTERS

Police stand near a wanted poster of al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden, printed by a New York newspaper, in New York, in this Sept. 18, 2001, photo. Bin Laden was killed in a U.S. helicopter raid on a mansion near the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, early May 2, officials said, ending a nearly 10-year worldwide hunt for the mastermind of the 9/11 attacks.

Pakistan's main cities out of fear of possible repercussions on the Christian minorities there. Pakistani

Christians are often identified in extremist literature with the West and the United States.

Paul Bhatti, a government adviser for religious minorities in Pakistan, told Fides that “the situation is tense.”

“In fact, there are strong fears of reactions — senseless reactions — against the Christian

minorities. The government is giving the maximum attention to prevention measures,” he said.

Father Mario Rodrigues, direc-

tor of the Pontifical Mission Societies in Pakistan, said after a meeting with government officials May 2: “They put us on alert, requesting the closure of our institutes and making available additional police personnel around the churches. The Christians of Pakistan are innocent victims in this and other situations. Any pretext is used to threaten them or launch an attack.”

Rodrigues said some experts predicted that bin Laden's killing would weaken the Taliban and their ideologies, which could help diminish anti-Christian persecution in the long term. But he said radical Islamic groups were flourishing in Pakistan, and other extremist leaders could arise.

What is needed, he said, is a serious policy of interreligious tolerance at every level — cultural, social, political and legislative.

EUCCHARISTIC PROCESSION AT ND



DIANE FREEBY

Holy Cross Father Tom Eckert carries the Blessed Sacrament through the Basilica of the Sacred Heart during Sunday's Seventh Annual Eucharistic Procession at the University of Notre Dame. Although the event was moved inside due to windy conditions and the threat of rain, the surprise change of venue did not dampen the spirits of those gathered to adore Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. The procession closed with prayer and Benediction, along with the “Hymn to Our Lady.” The traditional picnic was held afterward, with steak sandwiches and drinks provided by the Notre Dame Knights of Columbus. Next year's Eucharistic Procession will be held April 22, 2012.

In the face of a man's death, a Christian never rejoices, but reflects on the serious responsibilities of each person before God.

At vigil, young and old remember Pope John Paul as spiritual model

BY JOHN THAVIS

ROME (CNS) — With songs, videos, testimonials and prayers, Catholics of every age and many countries gathered in Rome to remember Pope John Paul II on the eve of his beatification.

"I feel him present here in the Circus Maximus," the pope's former secretary, Polish Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz of Krakow told the crowd in Rome's ancient racetrack April 30. "I feel him returning tonight."

The vigil began with a two-minute video clip of Pope John Paul talking to young people in 2000, struggling at first to find the words and then bantering easily, to the delight of the crowd.

The video set the evening's tone of remembrance, and it was followed by a torchlight procession to an image of Mary, evoking the late pope's special devotion to the mother of Jesus. The vigil featured a live satellite

link-up to five Marian sanctuaries around the world, including the pope's former Archdiocese of Krakow, Poland.

Pope Benedict XVI closed the event with a prayer to Mary and a blessing, telecast live from the papal apartment at the Vatican.

The crowd on a wet evening in the Circus Maximus was small at first but swelled to an estimated 200,000, many of whom planned to pray the entire night in preparation for the beatification Mass in St. Peter's Square the next morning. One of the many home-made banners read in English: "Karol, we are here with you."

Brother Tristan Abbot of the Cayman Islands, a member of the Society of Our Lady of the Holy Trinity, was among those who came to remember and pray. "John Paul II is our hero. He taught us what it is to love. ... We want to emulate him. We want to have his courage," he said.

Lady Joy Okechukwu from Abuja, Nigeria, came to Rome



CNS PHOTOS BY PAUL HARING

Pilgrims attend a vigil on the eve of the beatification of Pope John Paul II at the ancient Circus Maximus in Rome April 30.

with 41 people from her archdiocese. Asked why she considered Pope John Paul II a saint, she said: "His humility, his kind heartedness, his love for the Blessed Virgin Mary. I love her too."

Thousands of candles glimmered in the darkness as a Philippines choir sang "Ave Maria." In an amateur video montage made by Rome students, young people said in simple language what they appreciated about the late pope — especially his spiritual depth and his ability to reach out to all kinds of people.

his prayer with the needs of the others. I don't think there was room in his prayer life for his own intentions," Navarro-Valls said.

Cardinal Dziwisz, the pope's personal secretary for some 40 years, said he knew he was living and working next to a saint — even before his election as pope in 1978.

The cardinal said he could remember only two times when Pope John Paul showed anger. One was during a trip to Sicily in 1993, when the pope vehemently denounced the Mafia in language



A pilgrim holds a Polish flag during a vigil on the eve of the beatification of Pope John Paul II at the ancient Circus Maximus in Rome April 30. Karol Wojtyla, who went on to become the first Polish pope, was beatified May 1 in St. Peter's Square.

The crowd cheered French Sister Marie Simon-Pierre, whose cure from Parkinson's disease was accepted as the miracle that paved the way for Pope John Paul's beatification. The nun beamed as she recounted her unexpected healing.

She said when she was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2001 at the age of 40, she found it difficult to watch Pope John Paul, who suffered from the same disease. "I saw in him the image of my illness. But I admired his strength and courage," she said.

When the pope died, she felt a great emptiness, as if she had lost someone who could sustain and support her. Two months later, her condition had worsened. Then, after prayers to the late pope, she awoke early one morning feeling well rested.

"I felt something had changed in me, and I was healed," she said. The crowd in the Circus Maximus erupted in applause.

Earlier, Joaquin Navarro-Valls, Pope John Paul's spokesman, told the crowd that he would sometimes find the pope kneeling in prayer, surrounded by small pieces of paper, which he would read one by one. They were prayer intentions that arrived by the thousands — relatives of the gravely ill, parents of drug addicts, people looking for answers.

"All the pain of the world came to him. And he nourished

that surprised even his close aides.

"It frightened all of us," Cardinal Dziwisz recalled.

The other time he saw the pope angry, he said, was just before the start of the U.S.-led war against Iraq in 2003, when the pope publicly warned that military action would never resolve the problems. "He was right," Cardinal Dziwisz added.

The vigil included recital of the luminous mysteries of the rosary, an innovation of Pope John Paul, led by pilgrims at the five sanctuaries connected via video, in Poland, Tanzania, Lebanon, Mexico and Portugal. The five mysteries were dedicated to intentions dear to the late pope: young people, the family, evangelization, hope and peace among peoples, and the church.

Eight churches in the center of Rome were being kept open all night so that people could pray until the opening of St. Peter's Square at 5:30 the next morning for the beatification Mass.

Contributing to this story were Cindy Wooden and Carol Glatz in Rome.



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Parishes invited to join advocacy network to support the unemployed

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As Paul Kravitz struggled for months to find work in the computer field without success, it was his parish in suburban Stratford, Conn., that came to the rescue. Not with a full-time job — unfortunately — but, thanks to St. James Parish's Faith for the Future ministry, with prayer, emotional support and sharing the frustrations of unemployment with others. "Prayer has helped," says Kravitz, 50, who lost his job as a computer programmer in 2008 during a shuffle of ownership of the software he handled for the hotel industry. "Definitely it's something that keeps me going." A secular Franciscan, Kravitz says it has been a struggle to support his wife and three children with intermittent work, especially now that their home faces foreclosure. Coming together with others facing similar difficulties each week helps Kravitz see that he's not alone. Kravitz has been with the program almost since its beginning in 2009 during the starkest days of the deepest economic recession since the Great Depression. Now he's one of the group's facilitators and helps conduct the meetings involving a dozen or so people seeking much more than work. Earlier this year the St. James ministry joined Faith Advocates for Jobs, a new campaign of the Washington-based Interfaith Worker Justice. The group has assembled a tool kit that explains the campaign's goals, examines the role of churches in supporting the unemployed, offers tips on forming support groups, provides prayer resources and suggests ideas for action at meetings.

Pittsburgh Church celebrates with new auxiliary bishop

PITTSBURGH (CNS) — Expressing hope that he will be a credit to the people from whom he has come, Bishop William J. Waltersheid was consecrated as the ninth auxiliary bishop of Pittsburgh in joyous ceremonies April 25 at St. Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh. "I'm really just a kid from the coal region — that is who I am," he said in addressing the gathering. "But someone who has known the love of God in his life from the very beginning." The congregation of some 1,200 included 15 bishops, hundreds of priests from the dioceses of Pittsburgh and Harrisburg, numerous women and men religious, and representatives of other faiths. Pittsburgh Bishop David A. Zubik was the principal ordaining bishop. The co-consecrators were Bishop Joseph P. McFadden of Harrisburg and Auxiliary Bishop Daniel E. Thomas of Philadelphia. "It's a great day for the Church of Pittsburgh," said Bishop Zubik prior to the ceremony. "We're receiving such a humble, prayerful, positive man. I think the

NEWS BRIEFS

BIRMINGHAM BISHOP SURVEYS DESTRUCTION IN ALABAMA



CNS PHOTO/MARY D. DILLARD, ONE VOICE

Birmingham Bishop Robert J. Baker and Deacon Terrance Rumore survey the damage and destruction in Tuscaloosa, Ala., April 29, following a string of deadly tornadoes that hit several southern states. More than 340 people lost their lives in the storms and tens of thousands of homes were without power. Catholic Charities was among the agencies providing immediate aid to those affected by the violent storms.

excitement is in the air, both for the people of Pittsburgh and the people of Harrisburg." Bishop Waltersheid had been serving as secretary for clergy and consecrated life in the Diocese of Harrisburg when his appointment was announced Feb. 25. Having his episcopal ordination on Easter Monday provided the perfect setting, Bishop Waltersheid said, because it highlighted the fact that the attention should be on Christ — and on the Church that the bishop loves with his whole heart.

Vocal Chicago priest suspended after remarks on possible reassignment

CHICAGO (CNS) — Father Michael Pflieger, the outspoken pastor of an African-American parish on Chicago's South Side, has been suspended from the priesthood after saying he would leave the Catholic Church if he were to be reassigned. Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago informed Father Pflieger of the suspension in a letter dated April 27 and made public by the archdiocese. The cardinal told the priest that he had "already left the Catholic Church and are therefore not able to pastor a Catholic parish" after saying in national and local media interviews that he would refuse any assignment other than as pastor of St.

Sabina Church. Father Pflieger's remarks, Cardinal George wrote, "short-circuited" efforts that had been under way for weeks assigning Father Pflieger as president of Leo Catholic High School so he could continue working in the same neighborhood in which he was a pastor for nearly 30 years. "A Catholic priest's inner life is governed by his promises, motivated by faith and love, to live chastely as a celibate man and to obey his bishop," Cardinal George wrote. "Breaking either promise destroys his vocation and wounds the Church." Parishioners and supporters planned to rally in support of Father Pflieger and met with the media April 28 at the cardinal's residence.

Catholic couple blazes new trails in adult cardiac stem-cell research

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Dr. Eduardo Marban, director of the Cedars-Sinai Heart Institute in Los Angeles, and his wife Linda Marban, research manager for Cedars-Sinai's Board of Governors Heart Stem Cell Center, are blazing a new trail in adult cardiac stem-cell research. In a first-ever clinical trial, a small sample of a patient's own heart tissue is used to grow specialized heart stem cells. The stem

cells are then injected back into the patient's heart in an effort to repair and re-grow healthy muscle in a heart that has been injured by heart attack. The trial could start a new era of treating heart disease, which is the No. 1 killer of men and women in the United States. If cardiac regeneration is possible, then people who suffer heart attacks might be able to achieve greater post-heart-attack productivity and health and, for the most extreme cases, not require heart transplants. The moral implications of the trial are also profound; no embryo is involved at any stage of the process. "I come from a culture that's deeply Catholic," said Eduardo Marban, who came to the United States from Cuba with his parents when he was 6 years old. "For me, that we could develop a treatment that was not ethically problematic, that was consistent with the Hippocratic Oath and the tenets of Catholicism, was very gratifying. We not only get a unique chance to do good, but we do it without trampling on anyone's ethical principles."

Catholic offertory giving may have rebounded after recessionary lull

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic parishes seemed to have weathered the recession of 2008,

according to a study issued April 27. The study, "Holy Toll," conducted by the Hartford Institute for Religious Research, part of the interfaith Hartford Seminary in Connecticut, noted that more than half — 57 percent — of Catholic parishes said their offertory collections had declined either "a lot or a little" during the recession. According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, the recession began in December 2007 and ended in June 2009. The Catholic numbers, gleaned from earlier research conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University in Washington, also said 13 percent of parishes studied indicated their offertory revenues had dipped but then rebounded, while 30 percent said they saw no change or had grown. Asked about their current financial situation, an equal percentage of parishes — 40 percent each — said it was "good or excellent" or "tight," while the remaining 20 percent said their parish was experiencing "some" or "serious" difficulty. The Catholic numbers would appear to mirror that of 26 other denominational groups, the vast majority of them Christian, studied in "Holy Toll: The Impact of the 2008 Recession on American Congregations." Frank Butler, president of Foundations and Donors Interested in Catholic Activities, or FADICA, told Catholic News Service in an April 26 telephone interview that the size of Catholic parishes compared to congregations of other faiths may help shield it from the impact of an economic downturn.

NCEA convention opens with New Orleans flavor, call to conversations

NEW ORLEANS (CNS) — More than 7,000 Catholic educators kicked off the National Catholic Educational Association's annual convention with a New Orleans flavor April 26. After an opening speech by Boston College theology professor Father Michael Himes and a Mass celebrated by New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond, conventioners were ushered out of the main hall of the New Orleans Convention Center by the rousing sounds of the St. Augustine High School Marching 100, St. Mary's Academy and St. Mary's Dominican High School bands and mini-floats topped with riders throwing beads and trinkets. "We started with a bang," said Lisa Taylor, associate superintendent of Catholic schools in the Archdiocese of New Orleans and local convention coordinator. "We wanted to get people all excited, and I think we did!" Atlanta Archbishop Wilton D. Gregory, chairman of the NCEA board of directors, said NCEA has been a trusted voice in Catholic education for more than 100 years. Archbishop Aymond, a former chairman of the NCEA board, also said educators must be leaders who give direction and service in the name of Christ.

Fort Wayne's premier golf tournament to launch on May 23

FORT WAYNE — The Women's Care Center will host its first annual golf tournament on Monday, May 23. Called the Tippmann-McArdle Women's Care Center Classic in honor of its chairmen John Tippmann and Don McArdle, this prestigious tournament will be held at Sycamore Hills Golf Club, 11836 Covington Rd.

Four-person teams will play a Texas Scramble with gross and net team prizes and proximities. A hole-in-one golfer will be awarded a 2011 Mercedes-Benz provided by Mercedes Benz of Fort Wayne. The foursome entry fee is \$2,500. Hole sponsorships are available for \$500. General donations are welcome.

Registration begins at 11 a.m. followed by lunch and a 12:30 p.m. shotgun start. An awards presentation and reception will be held from 5 to 7 p.m.

"I can't think of a better cause to play for than this," said John Tippmann. "The Women's Care Center provides essential services for so many moms and babies in our region."

"The community is really rallying around this event. We've received support from so many local businesses and organizations. It's so exciting to be part of this," added Don McArdle.

Proceeds from the tournament support the Women's Care Center, a pregnancy resource organization whose mission is to help pregnant women choose life, to support and educate new mothers, and to help them take care of themselves and their new babies. The Center has three locations in Fort Wayne and offers one-on-one birth preparation, a nine-week "Baby Basics" program, goal counseling, parenting classes, and a Crib Club to earn vouchers redeemable for cribs, car seats, baby clothing and diapers.

"Right now we are serving about 65 women per day, every day. The support we are receiving through this tournament is greatly needed and appreciated," remarked Anne Koehl, the center's director.

Registration deadline is May 13. To learn more about playing, volunteering or becoming a sponsor, please call Anne Koehl at (260) 483-8918, Don Dimberio at (260) 341-3907, or Bobby Williams at (574) 274-0313 or visit www.womenscarecenter.org.

Pope Benedict XVI's 'Jesus of Nazareth' subject of Little Flower book study

SOUTH BEND — A four week book study investigating Pope Benedict XVI's "Jesus of Nazareth," will be offered at Little Flower Parish in the parish center. The group will meet on Mondays, May 16, 23, 30 and June 6 at 7 p.m. or Tuesdays May 17, 24, 31 and June 7 at 9:15 a.m. There will be no meeting on Memorial Day but on the Tuesday evening

AROUND THE DIOCESE

ST. CHARLES HOSTS READ-A-THON FOR TURNSTONE



PROVIDED BY ST. CHARLES SCHOOL, FORT WAYNE

Fourth-grade students at St. Charles Borromeo School in Fort Wayne recently hosted a read-a-thon to benefit Fort Wayne's Turnstone organization, which helps children and adults with physical disabilities. The students found sponsors and then read for 100 minutes at school. In the photo, from left, are Turnstone representative Andrew Achenbach, top money raisers for the read-a-thon, Krystka Bugajski, Olivia Rorick, Josh Schipper, Anna Burkhardt and Turnstone's Kevin Hughes.

that follows for that week. RSVP is necessary by contacting Jay at (574) 273-9722 or lfcoutreach@sbcglobal.net. To order a soft back book at \$11 or hardback at \$16 from Jay provide mailing address and choice of soft or hardback. Participants are asked to read the first quarter of the book before the first meeting.

Ancilla alum Szymusiak to deliver address at college commencement

DONALDSON — Ancilla College alum Mary Szymusiak, '95, who is the president and CEO of Wheatfield-based company Tefft Bridge and Iron, will deliver the 2011 commencement address during the college's commencement ceremony on May 7 at 11 a.m. at the Ancilla Domini Chapel.

A former junior high and high school teacher in the North Judson-San Pierre School District, Szymusiak has remained heavily involved in the Ancilla community alongside her husband, Jim. Both have spent numerous years helping with the PHJC Bazaar and attend Mass on campus each Sunday. They also frequently visit many of the retired Poor Handmaids at Catherine's Cottage.

"Ancilla College is excited to have one of its outstanding alumni

come back and deliver the 2011 Commencement Address," said Ancilla College President Dr. Ron May. "Mary Szymusiak is an example of what our alumni can do after graduating from Ancilla. In addition to serving as president and CEO of Tefft Bridge and Iron, she is deeply involved in community activities."

Accolades for Dwenger student Ashlyn Rang

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School senior Ashlyn Rang has recently been awarded the Joe Saine Sportsmanship Award through the United States Tennis Association, Midwest Division, Northern Indiana. This award is in honor of Joe Saine's many years of service and dedication to the sport of tennis and is presented each year based on overall sportsmanship.

Rang also was selected to be the 2010-2011 Indiana High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) "role model" through the Tobacco Free Allen County recognition program, honoring high school student athletes who have been selected to participate in the IHSAA advocate "role model" program. The program is designed to educate and encourage youth and adults to refrain from using tobacco products, drugs and alcohol.

Three high schools in Allen County were selected to identify a student from a specific sport to participate in the role model program for the 2010-2011 academic year. Selection is based on athletic ability and leadership, academic achievement (3.0 cumulative GPA), demonstrated commitment to community service, agreement to be tobacco and drug free for the entire school year, commitment to make a minimum of six presentations during the school year and to provide feedback on each presentation.

High school students inducted into Home School Honor Society

FORT WAYNE — Three Catholic home-schooled high school students were formally inducted into the Rho Epsilon Chapter of Eta Sigma Alpha, the National Home School Honor Society, on April 19 in Fort Wayne. Along with four other area home-schoolers, they were honored with a certificate from the national office, and the 2011 graduates were presented with gold honor cords.

To be eligible for induction, these home-schooled students earned at least a 3.5/4.0 grade point average; scored in the 90th percentile of a nationally standardized test administered by testers other than

the parents; and completed at least 25 hours of community service, including 10 hours of exceptional family service.

The Catholic home-schooled students are Melissa R. Mailand, junior, St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel; Margaret M. McGovern, junior, St. Patrick, Arcola; and Ellen D. Shannon, senior, Sacred Heart, Fort Wayne.

Ellen Shannon will begin her college education at Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne (IPFW), where she has been awarded the Chancellor's Distinguished Scholarship.

A graduation Mass for Catholic homeschoolers will be held at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Fort Wayne, on Friday, June 3, at 1:30 p.m. The Mass will be celebrated by Franciscan Father David Mary Engo of the Franciscan Brothers Minor. A graduation ceremony will follow at 3 p.m. at the University of Saint Francis's North Auditorium, where Father Engo will address the graduates.

USF Junior Boot Camp helps college search

FORT WAYNE — High school juniors ready to begin college searches can learn more about the process at Junior Boot Camp at the University of Saint Francis (USF), 2701 Spring St., on Wednesday, May 11, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Registration and a welcome will be in Achatz Hall of Science off Leesburg Road. The group will then move to the Pope John Paul II Center, where participants can choose to attend three informative sessions on subjects including choosing a major, living on campus, student life, trying out for college athletics, financial aid and other college-related topics. A student panel will also examine relevant issues for college-bound juniors.

USF hosting Transfer Student Open House

FORT WAYNE — Students interested in transferring to the University of Saint Francis (USF) can receive information about USF programs and admission procedures at a Transfer Student Open House on the campus on two separate dates: May 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and June 8 from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the Pope John Paul II Center off Leesburg Road.

Admissions Office staff members will answer questions about USF transfer procedures and academic programs.

Members of the Financial Aid Office will estimate possible financial aid packages for prospective transfer students and answer questions about loans, aid and scholarships. Last year, USF devoted \$12 million to academic and need-based scholarships, in addition to the state and federal financial aid students received. Ninety-eight percent of USF students receive some form of financial aid.

Parents interested in transferring to USF can bring their children along, as activities will be available for them.

DECATUR ARTIST WINS POSTER DESIGN CONTEST



PROVIDED BY ST. JOSEPH SCHOOL, DECATUR

St. Joseph Catholic School, Decatur, middle school art students recently participated in a diocesan-wide Burger King poster design contest. The art of seventh grader, Alyssa Laughlin, shown above, was chosen as the winning entry. Jana Bloom is Laughlin's art teacher.

Saint Mary's College announces incoming vice president for mission

NOTRE DAME — Saint Mary's College announced that Holy Cross Sister Veronique Wiedower has been appointed to the position of Vice President for Mission, effective June 1. She will lead the Division for

Mission, a division of the college that seeks to integrate Gospel values, the richness of the Catholic tradition and the heritage of the founders, the Sisters of the Holy Cross. Three offices promote the division's mandate: The Office of Civic and Social Engagement (OCSE), the Center for Spirituality (CFS) and Campus Ministry. The position is a joint appointment of the president of

the college and the president of the Congregation of the Sisters of Holy Cross.

Sister Veronique graduated from Saint Mary's College in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in music. In 1979, she graduated from the University of Notre Dame with a master's degree in theology (liturgical studies). She has served in many ministries across the country.




2011 Spring Sharathon

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	Wednesday, May 11	Thursday, May 12	Friday, May 13
7:00 am	Women's Care Center Dr. Landrigan, Anne Koehl	Truth: The Next Generation Fr. Jason Freiburger	Ave Maria House St. Mary Soup Kitchen
8:00 am	Christ Child Society	St. Therese Fr. Dave Ruppert	Allen County Right to Life Steve Jones, Cathie Humbarger
9:00 am	St. John the Baptist – FW Fr. Cyril Fernandes	The Huntington Hour Fr. Ron Rieder Huntington Catholic School	Immaculate Conception Fr. Derrick Sneyd
10:00 am	Queen of Angels Fr. Gary Sigler	The Tippman Hour Fr. Larry Tippmann John Tippmann, Sr.	St. Jude Fr. Tom Shoemaker
11:00 am	St. Joseph Hessen Cassel Fr. Thom Lombardi	Most Precious Blood Fr. Joe Gaughan	World Apostolate of Fatima Fr. Adam Schmitt
Noon	St. Vincent de Paul Fr. Andrew Budzinski	Cathedral Immaculate Conception Msgr. Robert Schulte	St. Charles Borromeo Fr. Tony Steinacker
1:00 pm	St. Catherine – St. Joseph Fr. Ken Sarrazine	Bishop Kevin Rhoades	Franciscan Brothers Minor Fr. David Mary and Brothers
2:00 pm	St. Mary's – Decatur Fr. Dave Voors, Fr. Gabriel Msuya	St. Joseph – Fort Wayne Fr. Tim Wrozek	Bishop Luers Hour
3:00 pm	Catholic Schools Dr. Myers, John Gaughan	Our Lady of Good Hope Msgr. Bruce Piechocki	Bishop Dwenger Hour
4:00 pm	St. Mother Theodore Guerin Fr. George Gabet	The Deacons Hour	St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Fr. Drew Curry
5:00 pm	Saint Anne Home	Serra Club Hour Deacons Matt & "Tink" Coonan	Rekindle The Fire
6:00 pm	St. Rose of Lima Fr. Steve Colchin	Franciscan Sisters Minor Sr. Mary Clement	St. Mary – Avilla Fr. Ed Erpelding

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Holy Cross Sister 'discovers a God full of joyful surprises'

BY SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS, CSC

NOTRE DAME — Sister Veronica Fajardo is honest when she is asked about her vocation as a Sister of Holy Cross when she says, "I usually smile but can't give only one answer. It took time to discover my vocation. Throughout my life I've known that God has been present in a special and real way.

Veronica Fajardo was born in Granada, Nicaragua, the youngest of three children, two girls and one boy. During her early years in Nicaragua, her family was involved in the parish, participating in the church processions and other events. The family prayed the rosary every evening with grandparents, aunts and uncles. Practicing their faith was comforting during a time Nicaragua was in chaos due to the civil war that began in 1979.

Sister Fajardo's family immigrated to the United States in the early 1980s searching for a better life, running away from war and devastation. Her father arrived in Los Angeles in 1981 and two years later, the rest of the family arrived.

Sister was only eight years old, but remembers the experience vividly: "We traveled by bus most of the way until we got to Mexico. Then we traveled by boat, van and car until we finally reached Tijuana, Mexico. Crossing the border was no small task. We were separated from our mother and that was one of the scariest days of my life. I was blessed to have trav-



SISTER MARGIE LAVONIS

Holy Cross Sister Veronica Fajardo is surrounded by some of her happy students.

eled with my sister, because if not, it would have been much more frightening."

The family arrived safely in Los Angeles where their lives changed completely. "We had to learn English and get used to a new culture and a new way of living. Starting a new life was challenging, yet we were hopeful. We wanted to make a better life in our new home. God continued to be faithful to us, and we were involved in the parish like we had, in Nicaragua," she says.

During her teens she became more involved at Assumption Parish. Doing service was gratifying to her. She recalls, "I worked with a group of sisters from

my parish after school and on weekends. They reminded me of an aunt who was a sister in Nicaragua. I admired her desire to give herself fully to God. I thought about becoming a nun too, but in my mind you either were a teacher or a nun. I was also interested in dating so religious life was not a priority."

After high school Fajardo went to Loyola Marymount University and majored in liberal studies and Spanish. After college she taught in a public school and the religious education program in her parish. It took two years to finally share her thoughts and experiences with a sister who put her in contact with the vocation director for

the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, where she began the discernment process.

During the discernment process she met monthly with a spiritual director to discuss how she could pray during this time of searching.

"I contacted the sisters in Los Angeles. I liked that they lived in the inner city. They were welcoming, free-spirited, lively, good listeners, and shared stories about their lives and their ministries. I felt that I was also able to be myself around them," says Sister Fajardo.

She became a pre-candidate that year. The following years she was a candidate, completed the two-year novitiate, and made first vows with the Sisters of the Holy Cross. She is currently prepared to make her perpetual vows.

Of her association with the Sisters of Holy Cross Sister Fajardo says, "During the time I have been with the sisters I have had opportunities to be in differ-

ent ministries and have gone to various countries and been blessed with the presence of the people of God. I have ministered with immigrants, women, children with exceptional needs, the sick and people in prison. People around the world have shown me the great love of God.

"I have had the opportunity to visit different states and even spent 18 months in Africa as part of my cross-cultural experience," she said. "I have also been able to return to Nicaragua to visit and it has made my family and parish community in Granada very proud to hear that I am a missionary and continue to discover my vocation. God keeps giving me 'hints' along the way. I recognize that this is what is right for me in my life so I want to persevere in this journey to continue to discover a God full of joyful surprises!"

Sister Veronica Fajardo is one of three Sisters of the Holy Cross professing their perpetual vows at Saint Mary's in July.

Dwenger student awarded Gold Medal Portfolio

FORT WAYNE — Bishop Dwenger High School senior Seth Boyden has been recognized as a 2011 National Scholastic Art and Writing Award Winner. Boyden has received the Art Portfolio Gold Medal. Only 15 students nationwide receive this prestigious award, the very same award that Andy Warhol won when he was in high school. This is the first ever Gold Medal Portfolio in the region. Boyden also received three silver medals in the film and animation category.

Over 90,000 students, from all over the nation, competed in this year's event submitting 185,000 pieces of work. Boyden will travel to New York City on May 31 to be recognized for this prestigious award at Carnegie Hall. He will also receive a \$10,000 scholarship to be used for his continued studies. Boyden plans to attend California Institute of the Arts in Valencia.

Boyden notes, "The teachers at Dwenger have been supportive of my goal to have a future in the field of animation. Particularly when developing my college portfolio, I was put

through nothing less than an artistic boot camp to prepare the artwork. Teachers in other areas allowed me into their classrooms to develop my figure drawing techniques. Dwenger created a flexible environment that fit my spirit of inventiveness."

Forever Learning Spring Festival set for May 17

SOUTH BEND — The Forever Learning Institute will host its spring festival on Tuesday, May 17, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Little Flower Parish Center, 54191 Ironwood Rd., South Bend.

The institute will be celebrating the end of the spring semester and feature The New Horizons band from Elkhart, with over 60 members. The band will be playing music from their spring program. Students will demonstrate line dances, Hawaiian dances and Zumba exercises.

The institute will also have information and displays for some classes including arts and crafts and a special class, which will be held at the Snite Museum in the fall.

The event will include snacks and beverages. Anyone interested in their classes is invited to attend. There is no charge.



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-John Paul II



Sean Forrest



Gus Lloyd



Kids Korner Adoration

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Bishop Rhoades witnesses academic excellence at Marian H

BY ANN CAREY

MISHAWAKA — A February snowstorm that closed area schools derailed Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades' planned visit to Marian High School two months ago, but spring showers did not dampen his April 26 rescheduled visit.

"This is a great time to come during the Octave of Easter to celebrate an Easter Mass with you," for Christ's Resurrection is "the great crowning truth of our faith," Bishop Rhoades told the students in his homily at the all-school Mass that started the day.

Concelebrating the Mass with the bishop were the pastors of two nearby parishes, Msgr. Michael Heintz, rector of St. Matthew Co-Cathedral, South Bend, and Father Barry England, pastor of St. Bavo Parish, Mishawaka. Also concelebrating was Father Jake Runyon, Marian chaplain and parochial vicar at St. Matthew.

Located on the southwest edge of Mishawaka, Marian draws students from several cities in addition to Mishawaka, including South Bend, Elkhart, Granger, Bremen, Goshen, Bristol, Lakeville, Plymouth, North Liberty and Osceola, as well as from southern Michigan.

Marian is the youngest of the four diocesan high schools, but will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2014. The land for the original Marian campus was donated to the diocese by the Sisters of St. Francis of Perpetual Adoration, whose Immaculate Heart of Mary Province is at Mount Alverno, directly south of the Marian campus. The sisters have maintained a close relationship with the school since its opening, with Sister Marie Morgan presently serving on the theology faculty.

The first Marian students arriving at the new school in 1964 probably would not have guessed that the Marian campus would grow to 72 acres with the acquisition of adjacent land for athletic fields and tennis courts. The original building also has been expanded, and an ongoing renovation project is updating classrooms with state-of-the-art technology and furnishings.

In his homily, Bishop Rhoades noted Marian's academic excellence. Indeed, Gov. Mitch Daniels had been at Marian the previous week to give senior Tim Trippel the Governor's Award for the Top Young Scientist in the State of Indiana and a college scholarship for \$10,000. At the Hoosier Science and Engineering Fair, both Trippel and senior K.G. Koch earned an all-expense-paid trip to the International Science and Engineering Fair in Los Angeles, Calif.

In the past 10 years (2000-2010), Marian had 31 National Merit Finalists scoring in the top 1 percent of the nation and 42 Commended Students scoring in the top 5 percent on the PSAT/



Marian High School is located in Mishawaka and will celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2014.

PHOTOS BY KAREN CLIFFORD

NMSQE. Marian was named an "exemplary" school based on consistently high scores on the Indiana State Test of Educational Progress (ISTEP) and the Graduation Qualifying Exam (GQE).

When last year's End of Course Assessment (ECA) scores were released by the state, Marian was in the top 6 percent of the 412 high schools in the state.

Ninety-seven percent of Marian graduates immediately go on to college, and during his visit, Bishop Rhoades chatted with some of the Marian students about their college plans.

On the topic of spiritual life, Bishops Rhoades praised the work of Marian chaplain, Father Jake Runyon, as well as all the faculty and staff involved in liturgical celebrations and campus ministry. Marian Principal Carl Loesch leads the student body in prayer every day at the beginning of the school

day, and again at the end of the day, and each class begins with a prayer or Scripture reading.

Father Runyon, or a priest from a nearby parish, celebrates Mass in the recently remodeled school chapel three days a week and hears confessions every Wednesday. The chapel is open all day every day for individual prayer, and Eucharistic Adoration takes place in the chapel every First Friday of the month. Father Runyon also celebrates an all-school liturgy every month, where the Marian Liturgical Choir under the direction of Mrs. Jeanette Dripps provides the music. Bishop Rhoades took note of the choir's excellence at the end of the Mass he celebrated.

After Mass, Bishop Rhoades visited with two theology classes of seniors. When he learned that the "Great Catholic Thinkers" class would soon study the works of Pope John Paul II, the bishop

reminded the students that the pope would be beatified on May 1. He told about having the opportunity to be an altar server for Pope John Paul six times when he was a seminary student in Rome.

Bishop Rhoades related that just being that near to the pope was an "incredible" experience, and "I knew he was a saint." Before celebrating Mass, the pope would kneel in prayer in the sacristy, Bishop Rhoades said, "and it was like he was connected to another realm-like in ecstasy." Even at Mass, the bishop continued, "I felt he had a real connection to God."

On a more earthly level, the activities of Marian students were also highlighted on the day that Bishop Rhoades visited the school. After the Mass, Robyn Burroughs of Riley Children's Hospital, presented an award recognizing the efforts of Marian students to raise over \$22,000 to benefit the hospital

through dance marathons over the past three years. Seniors Tess Gunty and Laura Herron also were recognized for their national awards in the Scholastic Art and Writing competition: Gunty for creative writing and Herron for photography. Both girls will receive their awards at Carnegie Hall in New York in June.

With 30 clubs active at the school, students have a wide choice to meet their interests, from the Right to Life Club to Speech and Debate, to the Ski Club. Marian also fields 23 varsity sports, with 72 percent of the student body participating in at least one varsity sport.

Bishop Rhoades enjoyed lunch in the Marian cafeteria with student council members before ending his day at Marian in meetings with the theology faculty and Principal Loesch.

High School



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades celebrates an all-school Mass during his visit to Marian High School.

Marian Facts

1311 S. Logan St.,
Mishawaka, IN 46544-4798

Opened: 1964

Students: 670

Faculty: 45

Alumni on Faculty and Staff: 17

Student-teacher ratio: 21 to 1

Graduation rate: 97.3 percent

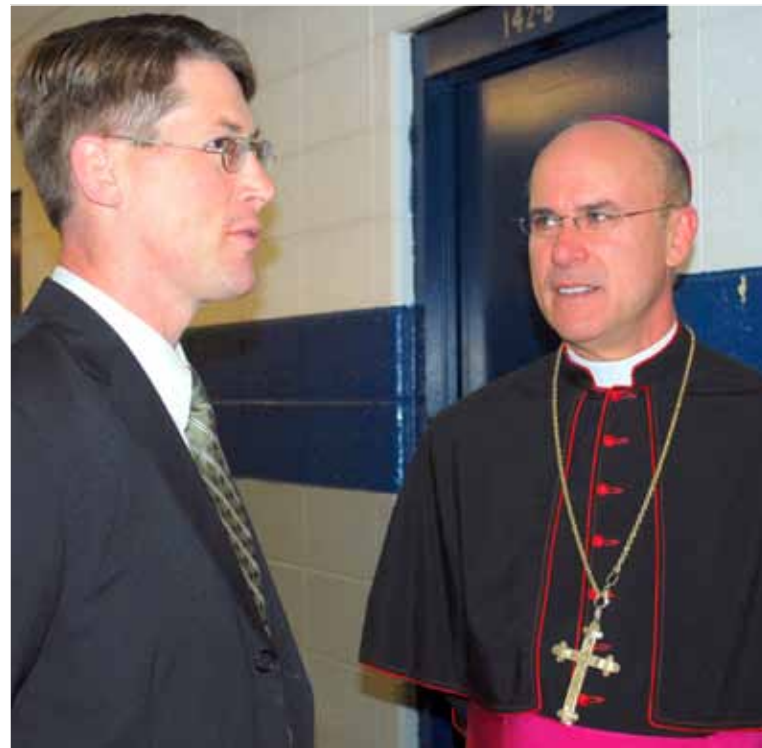
Website: www.marianhs.org



Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades joins Marian High School Student Council members at lunch.



Dean of Students Janet Hatfield presents Emily Heller with a senior award.



Marian Principal Carl Loesch speaks to Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades about upcoming school events.

Love from others inspires vocation for seminarian Jacob Meyer on journey towards priesthood

BY KAREN CLIFFORD

GRANGER — It was not until young adulthood that seminarian Jacob Meyer knew that God was calling him to become a diocesan priest. But along his faith journey, from Holy Cross School in South Bend to altar server at St. Pius X Parish in Granger, Meyer received support and guidance from teachers, priests, parishioners and family that inspired him to pursue a religious vocation that will begin with his ordination into the transitional diaconate on May 14 at St. Matthew Co-Cathedral in South Bend.

Born on May 25, 1984, in Wheaton, Ill., to Julie and Kurt Meyer, Meyer is the oldest of three children. His family's love and support have been the foundation of his love for the Catholic

Church. "Those many nights around the dinner table speaking about religion with my mom, dad, sister and brother, and how important the faith is to our family, helped me understand that I wanted to give my whole life to spreading the Gospel," he says.

His grandmother Joanne Bauer, a parishioner at St. Pius X, was particularly influential in his faith journey. "When I think about faith, I think of her, praying her rosary in the morning in her chair, always fervently devoted to the Church," Meyer emphasizes.

When Meyer attended Holy Cross School, his faith support group expanded and his lifelong love of architecture began. "I learned what it meant to be a Catholic. The beautiful church at Holy Cross itself was a source of my love of church architecture. But even more so the priests,



KAREN CLIFFORD

Seminarian Jacob Meyer leads the Gospel procession at the 2011 Easter morning Mass at St. Pius X in Granger.



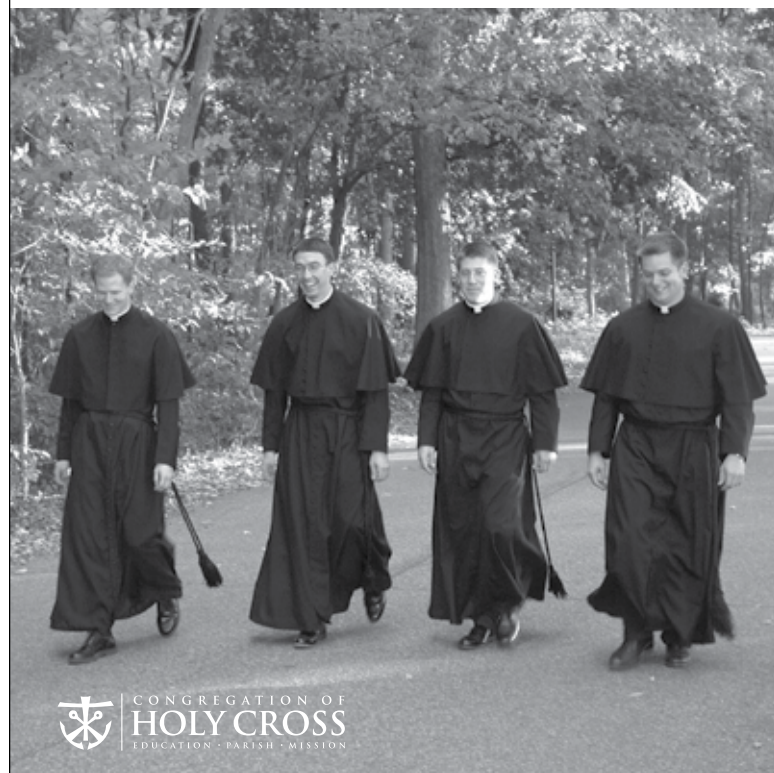
PROVIDED BY JACOB MEYER

Jacob Meyer at his First Communion.

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religious sisters and my teachers instilled in me the sense of wonder at the mysteries of faith," he says.

Meyer remembers that his religious teacher, Mrs. Klee, was especially influential in developing his love of the Church. "She taught me so much about the faith and allowed me to lead others to it."

Between his junior and senior year of high school Meyer visited Germany. "For the first time I experienced the universality of the Church. Here I realized the glory of the holy Church, and remember thinking, what faith these people must have had to build such monuments to the glory of God," he recalls.

A graduate of Ball State University with a bachelor's degree in human resource management, Meyer had originally decided on a career in business. But he told his parents a few weeks prior to his graduation that he wanted to pursue a vocation as

a Catholic priest.

His mother Julie recalls the moment when Jacob shared this decision. "We were not surprised by his decision to enter seminary. It fits him perfectly. We know that God chooses the person and we feel blessed that He called Jake."

Meyer's support group expanded to include college friends. "When I first decided to apply to the seminary I was worried about how my friends would react. My fraternity brothers have continued to be one of my greatest sources of support. They may not always understand, but have always been there for me," he says.

When Meyer first began looking into the priesthood he considered applying to the Archdiocese of Chicago, but Msgr. Bill Schooler, pastor of St. Pius X Parish, asked Meyer to meet with him before making this important decision.

"All my friends were graduat-

ing and moving to the 'big city' and I love Chicago, but Msgr. Schooler posed the question: 'Jacob, where is home for you? And where will home always be?' The answer of course is here in this diocese and from that point on, I was sold and it was the best decision I ever made," says Meyer.

"Since then, Msgr. Schooler has been a constant source of support and guidance for me and all the seminarians of our diocese — teaching me, but also letting me get my feet wet in practice around the parish, encouraging in times of success and being merciful when I mess up," he laughs.

Parishioners from the St. Pius X community also provide another support group for Jacob's faith journey. "Our parish is really a special place. Being at the seminary and speaking with men from all over the country about their parishes back home I become more and more grateful for this amazing community," he says, adding, "I love being home at the parish, seeing everyone at Holy Mass, and being a part of the parish community. It gives me a sense of what I am studying for."

For those interested in discerning a vocation in the priesthood, Meyer offers some reflections.

"You can never go wrong with spending time before our Lord in the Exposed Blessed Sacrament. Ask the Lord to make your vocation clear before you and to enlighten your choices. Also, if there is a desire in your heart, no matter how faint, search it out. Do not try and do it alone."

He concludes, "All vocations are discerned with the Church. Talk to a priest. Finally, do not be afraid. When I first began the application process to the seminary I was worried about all types of roadblocks I thought would get in the way, and it is amazing how the Lord made each of them disappear."

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Ben Muhlenkamp to be ordained to diaconate

BY LAURIE KIEFABER

COLUMBUS, Ohio — “Wasting time with God” is one of Ben Muhlenkamp’s favorite pastimes. The 29-year-old seminarian, who hails from Geneva, will be ordained to the diaconate May 14 at St. Matthew Cathedral in South Bend.

“Taking that hour (every day) where you’re wasting time with God is really important,” Muhlenkamp said between classes at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. “You waste an hour just hanging out. You’d think you lose that hour, but you get that back throughout the day. It really brings strength.”

Just finishing his fifth year at the seminary, the son of Gary and Mary Agnes Muhlenkamp began thinking about the priesthood while still in college at Indiana University-Purdue University at Fort Wayne (IPFW), studying for his bachelor’s degree in organizational leadership and supervision.

“I was working with the youth at St. Vincent’s in Fort Wayne,” he said. “While I was there, I really grew in prayer life with the Lord and started to fall in love with ministry. I saw how great the need was. A lot of these teens needed some direction.

“A thought entered my mind at St. Jude, Fort Wayne, while doing holy hours. As I would go to the adoration chapel to pray for these teens, my thought was ‘Maybe you should go be a priest.’”

While the seed was planted, Muhlenkamp pondered and avoided it at the same time.

“I liked the gal I was dating at the time,” he said.

Attending World Youth Day 2005 in Cologne, Germany, took him away from normal routine. He also met Father Dan Scheidt, pastor of Queen of Peace Church in Mishawaka.

“I asked him a million questions,” he recalled. “Then I started thinking, ‘Maybe I need to look into this.’”

“By October, I thought I’ll go to seminary and, hopefully, in six months they’ll kick me out and I won’t have to worry about it anymore. I would just realize it wasn’t for me. ... This thought wouldn’t go away.”

Muhlenkamp has no regrets since he began studying for the priesthood.

“From the moment I talked to the vocation director until now ... I had a peace I can’t explain,” he said. “That peace hasn’t gone away. I didn’t have that peace before.”

The young man said while his



JOE ROMIE

Ben Muhlenkamp, who will be ordained a deacon on May 14, is shown at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on Holy Thursday.

five years in the seminary have been challenging, they also have gone by fast and he’s learned a lot. Most students take 15 to 18 credit hours per semester, and the coursework has been tougher than at IPFW.

“It astonishes me how often I find people pray for me,” he said. “... Every day, one family prays for me. That’s very humbling.”

Students also pray for each other and attend a formation con-

ference weekly. During this conference, seminarians meet with another priest to discuss issues they will encounter and the need for friendship with other priests as a support.

“We talk about how to pray, how to tell when you’re getting into a bad spot with your prayer,” Muhlenkamp said. “Usually they talk about our spiritual life and how we can become more authentically human. They also look at areas where priests sometimes fail. It might be exercising or not eating healthy, not taking time off and working nonstop.”

At seminary, students also deepen their relationship with Christ.

“People come to learn and fall in love with Jesus,” Muhlenkamp said. “They learn how to live this type of life. I won’t leave here knowing everything; I will learn the rest of my life, but, hopefully, I have grown as a person and can give myself as a gift to others.”

While studying has been good, Muhlenkamp is looking forward to being a deacon.

“It’s time to exercise the ministry I’ve been preparing for for such a long time,” he said. “It’s exciting, but at the same time I’m really starting to feel it’s not my job to be a seminarian all my life; it’s ministering to people.”

Muhlenkamp also sees a

deeper meaning behind his role as deacon.

“To be ordained a deacon is to be ordained a servant,” he said. “It’s a ministry of service essentially. ... I think that’s very beautiful when I think of a servant. I think of Jesus washing the disciples’ feet. It’s supposed to be a humble service — praying for people to come to know the joy of being a Catholic and helping them see the beauty of the sacraments.”

“I get a real fire in my heart to share the beauty of the faith. That’s what excites me and that’s why I’m excited about being ordained a deacon.”

After his May ordination, Muhlenkamp will be placed at a parish in the diocese for the summer and go back to school after that. While attending his last year of classes, he will serve in a parish in Columbus, Ohio.

“God willing, the bishop will call me to the priesthood next June,” Muhlenkamp said.

Muhlenkamp’s family has been supportive of his vocational decision.

“We are just praying he will be a blessing to everyone,” Mary Agnes Muhlenkamp said. “As a mother, you hope for the best for all your children and the Lord will use them as He will.”

*As they step forward
to prepare the way of the Lord...
our prayers and felicitations go forth to*

**JACOB MEYER AND
BENJAMIN MUHLENKAMP**

*as they are ordained as
Transitional Deacons
in the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend.*

FROM THE VOCATIONS OFFICE

• MSGR. BERNARD GALIC • FATHER JACOB RUNYON
• MARY SZYMCAK AND FELLOW SEMINARIANS

Franciscan Brothers Minor inaugural novice class to make temporary profession of vows in restored church

BY KAY COZAD

FORT WAYNE — A visit to St. Andrew Church on New Haven Avenue in Fort Wayne may hold a delightful surprise. The church, having sat empty since its closing in 2003, fell into disrepair, with peeling paint and weathered flooring. But with the arrival of the Franciscan Brothers Minor in March of 2010, that all changed. Father David Mary Engo, superior of the ever growing community of friars, says he was amazed at St. Andrew's buildings when he first came to Fort Wayne. "I was surprised at the beauty of the church and how everything fit into the charism of our group."

The Franciscan Brothers Minor live a life of austerity and prayer based on the 15th century teachings of their benevolent founder St. Francis of Assisi. And like their patron saint, though the church and rectory, now known as Our Lady of the Angels Oratory, was in disrepair, the brothers determined that they would "repair the church and get it functioning."

The initial plan, after funds were raised, to paint the interior of the church building entailed chipping the peeling paint away on scaffolding that took the inspired painter Don Krauss and his two sons to the heavens. Father Engo says, "They scraped and painted maintaining the original colors and decals."

Subsequently, a week was



PHOTOS BY KAY COZAD

Father David Mary Engo preaches his homily at morning Mass in the newly renovated St. Andrew Church. The original paint colors and decals were maintained and refurbished by local painters. The pews were a gift from St. Anthony of Padua in Angola.

spent working on the sanctuary floor, while Bob Shutt handcrafted the communion rail. The Brothers Minor worked together to build the side and main altars, with the assistance of Greg Gruss, who oversaw the physical construction there. Eventually, carpet was removed, and floors were sanded and stained by Vince Tippmann and the friars, after which the detailing work, including placing the altar and molding around the church, was finished. "Then we had two days of cleaning,"

says Father Engo, adding with his quick wit, "And two days to clean ourselves up!"

The brothers were delighted to receive the gift of beautiful fine wood pews from St. Anthony of Padua in Angola which filled the church by the end of January.

The church hosts a number of ornate statues that Father Engo reports have traveled to them from all over the world. The Our Lady of Fatima likeness comes from Portugal, the St. Anthony and St. Therese statues were a gift from



Seven Franciscan Brothers Minor have been trained in the Franciscan life for a year and a half and will profess temporary vows at a special Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades in the restored St. Andrew's Church on May 31. They are, in front, Brother Leo Maria, second row, Brothers Pascal, Juniper Mary, Felix Marie, Lawrence Mary and third row, Brother John Paul Mary, Father David Mary Engo and Brother Giles Mary.

St. Aloysius Parish in Yoder, and the beautiful statue of St. Francis that adorns the church is from St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel Parish.

One of the statues, a life-size rendition of St. Michael, was purchased with funds raised by nine-year-old Michael Garrett who fondly supports the Franciscan Brothers Minor. And Bishop Dwenger senior Daniel Weiss is handcrafting a statue of St. Felix of Cantalice for the newly-decorated church.

Father Engo feels blessed to have this building to offer daily Mass, except on Sundays, for the neighboring Catholics. "We don't have Sunday or holy day Mass so people will go to their own parishes," says Father Engo. Mass schedule includes Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday at 7:45 a.m. and Thursday Mass at 8:30 a.m., followed by a prayer vigil for life across from the area abortion clinic. The brothers also offer first Saturday devotions in the church at 9 a.m., followed by Eucharistic Adoration and Confession. The church is also used for high school retreats, youth group meetings and Eucharistic Adoration. Father Engo says, "Everyone is welcome."

Because this church is the community's motherhouse, Father Engo says it will be the site of the May 31 Mass for First Profession of Vows. Seven of the 16 brothers will be the community's first class of novices who will make their temporary vows at the special Mass that will be celebrated by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades. These seven men have been living and studying within the community for a year and a half being trained in the Franciscan life. They are Brothers Leo Maria, Pascal Mary, Juniper Mary, Felix Marie,

Lawrence Mary, John Paul Mary and Giles Mary, each of whom will commit to a life of poverty, chastity, obedience and total consecration to Mary for the next three years. "The significant part of this is they are the first to take vows. It is a foundational moment for us," says Father Engo.

To signify this commitment to the Franciscan life, these men will don belted cords with four knots symbolizing the four vows they professed and remove the capome, or novice hood from their habit. Their place in the community, says Father Engo, will change as well. "They will be engaged in a more regular life as friars. They will be in active ministry rather than just in classes in formation," he explains.

Also included in the evening of celebration will be Solemn Vespers followed by the Rite of Investiture of the third class of novices, who have been living and studying in the community for six months or less. Father Engo says the postulants will receive their habits, new names and become novices. The Franciscan Brothers Minor community has doubled its numbers since its move to Fort Wayne and have an additional 51 men who are "seriously discerning" this vocation.

As the flourishing community grows in numbers, Father Engo's vision for Our Lady of the Angels Oratory continues to expand. "The next phase? The Knights of Columbus from St. Joseph-Hessen Cassel have committed their time and efforts to repair the church hall," he says. That will include a functional kitchen, addition of two classrooms and applying wood paneling along the walls. Father Engo also hopes to begin construction on a hermitage site for the brothers' use in silent retreat.

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Rev. Mr. Jacob Meyer

*Congratulations to you and
Rev. Mr. Benjamin Muhlenkamp
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"Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be.
The Father will honor whoever serves me."

-John 12:26

Richard Doerflinger receives Evangelium Vitae Medal

BY ANN CAREY

NOTRE DAME — Richard Doerflinger received the inaugural Evangelium Vitae Medal and its accompanying \$10,000 prize at an April 28 banquet at the University of Notre Dame for his “remarkable contributions” to the pro-life cause. Doerflinger is associate director of the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The citation awarding Doerflinger the medal proclaimed that he was chosen for the first-ever honor because: “In an age when the sanctity of life from its earliest to its final days is assaulted, you have courageously, tirelessly, and quietly worked to build and sustain the ‘unconditional respect for the right to life of every innocent person,’ ‘one of the pillars on which every civil society stands.’”

Quotations in the citation are taken from Pope John Paul II’s 1995 encyclical “Evangelium Vitae” (The Gospel of Life), for which the medal was named.

The medal citation noted that in his work for the U.S. Bishops’ conference, Doerflinger has fought for over 30 years against “a mentality of permissiveness on life issues by educating and assisting those in positions to implement policies and enact legislation that acknowledges and upholds the sanctity of human life.”

In his remarks after the medal was bestowed on him, Doerflinger talked about some of his encounters in which he tried to explain and defend the pro-life position to government officials and legislators. He has worked behind the scenes on Capitol Hill, and many times has testified before the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate, as well as state legislatures.



Richard Doerflinger, left, was awarded the Evangelium Vitae Medal by Holy Cross Father Wilson Miscamble, right, and Professor David Solomon, center.

“There are times that I have felt myself during these years to be in contact with something very close to ultimate evil,” Doerflinger said, adding that the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being.

“The (life) issues put us in touch with one aspect of humanity: They show what we are capable of when we lose our moorings, when we are not guided by clear thinking on right and wrong,” thus harming ourselves and others by acting out some “very bad ideas.”

The “bad ideas” Doerflinger enumerated included: 1) promoting abortion supposedly to obtain freedom and equality for women; 2) authorizing doctors to assist suicide allegedly to promote personal autonomy of suffering patients; and 3) deciding that human embryos are expendable because they have few of the qualities we respect in a person.

Universities, the government and the world need people who will see through “these facades of glittering words and superficially-cultured thinking to see

the sheer madness they have let loose into people’s minds and hearts,” Doerflinger said.

The Catholic Church, “with its respect for clear thinking and common sense” and “long tradition of careful moral reasoning and its patience with human frailty and our capacity for self-deception,” is the likeliest place to nurture people for this task, he continued.

Doerflinger related that after 30 years of promoting the pro-life philosophy, he has come to realize that people who really investigate the evidence generally don’t find the pro-life message flawed. Rather, they realize how much their lives would have to change if they were to live by that message, so they rationalize continuing to live as they wish.

“Changing their lives, changing our society will require debates and arguments, but in the end, this struggle is not so much like winning a debate as like sparking a conversion, healing

illness of the soul,” Doerflinger noted.

“So our critique of today’s bad ideas must always be expressed in love and accompanied by a tremendous willingness to reach out with compassion to those who are frightened, confused, desperate or alone, the victims, if you will, of the sexual revolution and the revolution in modern thinking that gave us the crazy idea that it is our job to weigh different people and then decide who lives and who dies.”

Helping people turn away from bad ideas is part of the task of a great Catholic university, Doerflinger continued, saying

that because Notre Dame relies on so many scholars and thinkers who embrace that task, “It is an especially great honor for me to receive this award.”

The Evangelium Vitae Medal given by the Notre Dame Fund to Protect Human Life henceforth will be given annually to an individual who has made an outstanding effort to affirm and defend the sanctity of all human life. The winner will be announced on Respect Life Sunday in the fall and the medal and cash prize will be awarded at a banquet at Notre Dame the following spring.

The fund is chaired by David Solomon, Notre Dame Professor of Philosophy and director of the university’s Center for Ethics and Culture. In his introduction of Doerflinger, Solomon explained that the fund was created by several Notre Dame faculty and staff members to support pro-life initiatives on the campus and put in

place a comprehensive pro-life educational effort at Notre Dame. Solomon also thanked Notre Dame alumnus Bill Dotterweich and his wife, Peggy, for making the initial financial contribution to the fund.

Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, who could not attend the event, sent written greetings and expressed his hope that the Evangelium Vitae Medal “become as esteemed and noteworthy as Notre Dame’s Laetare Medal and other nationally prestigious awards.”



PHOTOS BY TOM EVERETT

The Evangelium Vitae Medal, commissioned by the Notre Dame Fund to Protect Human Life, has a profile portrait of a young Pope John Paul II on the front and a depiction of the Visitation on the back.

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Heavenly hosts: Popes aren't automatically saints

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Considering the fact that they are elected to lead people in prayer, mission and good works, surprisingly few popes have been beatified or canonized, especially in the last 500 years.

From St. Peter to Pope Benedict XVI, there have been 265 popes; 78 of them are saints, and Pope John Paul II's beatification brings to 11 the number of popes known as blessed.

With all those holy popes — including the first 35 bishops of Rome — it would seem that the beatification of Pope John Paul could not set any records or be a first of any kind.

Yet his is the quickest beatification since 1588 when the modern sainthood process, regulated by the Vatican, began. Many of the "blessed" popes were beatified on significant

anniversaries of their death like Blessed Victor III, who died in 1087 and was beatified in 1887, or Blessed Urban V, who died in 1370 and was beatified in 1870.

Pope John Paul was set to receive the recognition six years and 29 days after his death. His process was shorter than the beatification process for Mother Teresa of Kolkata by about two weeks.

Both causes benefitted from a papal exemption from the Vatican rule that five years must pass between a person's death and the opening of his or her sainthood cause.

Pope John Paul set the precedence by waiving the five-year waiting period for Blessed Teresa's cause; Pope Benedict set aside the waiting period for Pope John Paul's cause.

In newspapers, on televi-

THE VATICAN LETTER

CINDY WOODEN

sion and on blogs leading up to the May 1 ceremony, the short time lapse between Pope John Paul's death and his beatification became a topic of debate. The "pro" side generally argued that the late pope's holiness was so clear to so many people that the Vatican had to respond to the "sensus fidelium," the sense of the faithful. The "con" side

LETTER, PAGE 17

Early Christians totally committed



THE SUNDAY GOSPEL

MSGR. OWEN F. CAMPION

3rd Sunday of Easter Lk 24:13-35

Again, as is usual for weekends of the Easter season, the Acts of the Apostles provides the first reading for the Liturgy of the Word.

This reading recalls an event similar to several others in Acts. Peter preaches, in the name of all the 11 surviving Apostles. His remarks, or at least those recorded in this passage, are brief and crisp.

The term used by biblical scholars is that the selection is "kerygmatic," drawing from "kerygma," the Greek word for "message." It means that Peter's message contains the basic information about Jesus and about God's plan of salvation.

Despite the small number of Christians at the time, and in spite of the facts that the Jewish culture and the effects of Roman domination were overwhelming, the Apostles still felt the responsibility to speak aloud about Jesus.

Their interest revealed their trust and faith in Jesus, as Savior and as Son of God. The world desperately needed Jesus. Only Jesus could fill what the world, then and always, needs. Remembering last weekend's first reading that described both the early Christian community's love for the Lord and its outreach

to the troubled and needy, this reading shows that the first followers of Christ saw informing others about the Redeemer as a loving service.

Note also, here, as elsewhere in Peter, even though the other Apostles were present, Peter, and Peter alone, spoke in their behalf.

The First Epistle of Peter supplies the next reading. Scholars debate the authorship of this epistle. Was Peter the author? Or, was someone writing in Peter's name the author? (Unlike today, when signing another person's name would be regarded as deceptive and highly inappropriate, the custom long ago was this was the greatest compliment.)

In any case, the reading shows how totally committed to Jesus the Savior the early Christians were, and how aware they were that salvation had come through the Lord's death and resurrection.

The last reading, from Luke's Gospel is the powerful and lovely story of the Risen Lord's walk to Emmaus with two disciples. The Emmaus narrative appears only in Luke. However, it still is one of the most renowned and beloved pieces in the New Testament.

Important in its message is the fact that, regardless of their devotion to Jesus, the disciples still do not understand everything. They need Jesus, even in their sincerity and their faith. Secondly, Jesus meets this need. He teaches them. Thirdly, Jesus is with them. They have faith. Finally, as they celebrate the meal, with its Eucharistic overtones, Jesus is the central figure presiding as they "break the bread." Certainly a major point in this reading is its reference to a holy meal when the journey was completed. The connection with the Eucharist is too strong to overlook.

Reflection

Beginning with the Scriptural readings for Easter itself, and continuing this weekend, the Church expresses to us forcefully and clearly its unflinching belief that after crucifixion and death the Lord Jesus rose to new life.

With equal vigor, and equally strong faith, it insists to us that Jesus did not rise and disappear. Instead, the Lord was with the Apostles, showing to Thomas the wounds and blessing those who believe. It tells us in these readings that Jesus never left us. He still taught during the trip to Emmaus. He still gave life in the Eucharist at Emmaus.

The use of the technique of kerygma in a way presents us with a question. While essential to the continuance of salvation, and in the divine plan, points such as the role of the Apostles come only after the basic question has been answered. Who is Jesus? What does Jesus matter for me?

The Church proclaims that the Lord lives! But, we must accept Jesus.

READINGS

Sunday: Acts 2:14, 22-33 Ps 16:1-2, 5, 7-11 1 Pt 1:17-21 Lk 24:13-35

Monday: Acts 6:8-15 Ps 119:23-24, 26-27, 29-30 Jn 6:22-29

Tuesday: Acts 7:51-8:1a Ps 31:3cd-4, 6-7b, 8a, 17, 21ab Jn 6:30-35

Wednesday: Acts 8:1b-8 Ps 66:1-3a, 4-7a Jn 6:35-40

Thursday: Acts 8:26-40 Ps 66:8-9, 16-17, 20 Jn 6:44-51

Friday: Acts 9:1-20 Ps 117:1-2 Jn 6:52-59

Saturday: Acts 1:15-17, 20-26 Ps 113:1-8 Jn 15:9-17

Pro-life Miss America shows wisdom of 18

Being Miss America is a lot of pressure for 18-year-old Teresa Scanlan.

But then, when her mom was 18, she faced a lot of pressure too: She was pregnant and unwed.

Teresa learned this last September, when the Nebraska native was preparing for the 2011 Miss America pageant. Her half-brother, Jerod, had called unexpectedly. It was his 31st birthday, his wife was expecting their first-born, and it seemed like a good time to reach out.

Teresa was working in her basement office when her mom, Janie, came down to tell her the news. Janie had gone on to get married and have six children, whom she had never told about Jerod, assuming she would never hear from him and that it would be easier on them that way.

Teresa was stunned.

"It was strange for me to even imagine that," she told me. "I thought, 'There's no way. This has to be some kind of joke, some kind of misunderstanding. All you know of your family for 17 years has suddenly changed.'"

The news offered Teresa insight on her mother. It hadn't been easy for Janie being Catholic, pregnant and 18 in Wichita, Kan., and the pregnancy was kept a secret, even to relatives. With her parents' blessing, Janie decided to give the baby to the Catholic Adoption Agency. She wanted him to have a stable, loving family and every opportunity for success.

When Jerod was born, Janie held his tiny hand, wrote him a letter and said goodbye. "It was so, so hard for her," Teresa said. "I have all the more respect and love for her understanding that now."

Shortly after Jerod's phone call, he and Janie decided to meet at an Olive Garden in Lincoln, Neb. ("When you're here," says the chain's slogan, "you're family.") Janie brought three of her daughters, and when they spotted Jerod, they engulfed him in hugs.

Over breadsticks and pasta, they talked for hours, landing on tidbits from three decades, studying each other's faces and lives.

"When he smiles, there are my



TWENTY SOMETHING

CHRISTINA CAPECCHI

mom's dimples," Teresa said.

Soon the big-hearted teen was viewing the situation for what it was: evidence of God's providence, that Jerod would be raised by such devoted Catholic parents and that he would be reunited with his birth mom and her vibrant, faith-filled family.

"I'm just excited to be a part of his family and for him to be a part of ours," Teresa said. "I always wanted a bigger family. I didn't think six was enough."

In January Teresa became Nebraska's first Miss America, the youngest in decades to claim the title. "I finally realized that it is those times when we're least prepared, when we're least ready, when we have those doubts and fears — that's when God uses us," she said. "He takes our feeble little attempts and turns them into amazing things."

One week after being crowned Miss America, Teresa became an aunt. Jerod's wife delivered a healthy baby girl named Marilyn, who has an incredible tiara-toting role model. Teresa hopes to one day become a Supreme Court justice.

Meeting Jerod changed her. She is a young woman raised in a pro-life family who has now lived it.

Being pro-life is an intimate experience, one that rewires families, homes and hearts — a shuffling of bedrooms and priorities, a clutching of faith. And it's founded on a beautiful thing: hope for the future.

When you think of Teresa and her delicate niece, how can you feel anything but?

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. She can be reached at www.ReadChristina.com.

With profound appreciation

Your Excellency,

With profound appreciation, I wish to acknowledge receipt of the check in the amount of \$24,000 as a contribution for the support of the Holy See from the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend for the year 2011, in accordance with the provisions of Canon 1271.

On behalf of His Holiness, I thank you for this concrete expression of generosity, and I assure that the sum has been forwarded to the Secretariat of State.

May God continue to bless you and the faithful you serve.

With prayerful regards this Easter Triduum, I remain

Sincerely your Christ,

Pietro Sambi
Apostolic Nuncio
Washington, D.C.

Remembering Pope John Paul II

ROME — Strange as it may seem, I've been vaguely worried about the beatification on May 1 of a man with whom I was in close conversation for over a decade and to the writing of whose biography I dedicated 15 years of my own life.

My worries don't have to do with allegations of a "rushed" beatification process; the process has been a thorough one, and the official judgment is the same as the judgment of the people of the Church. I'm also unconcerned about the fretting of ultra-traditionalists for whom John Paul II was a failure because he didn't restore the French monarchy, impose the Tridentine Mass on the entire Church, and issue thundering anathemas against theologians and wayward politicians. No, my worries have to do with our losing touch with the qualities of the man. When the Church puts the title "Blessed" or "Saint" on someone, the person so honored often drifts away into a realm of the unapproachably good. We lose the sense that the saints are people just-like-us, who, by the grace of God, lived lives of heroic virtue: a truth of the faith of which John Paul II never ceased to remind us.

So what would I have us remember and hold fast to about John Paul II?

First, I hope we remember that everything he did was the accomplishment of a radically converted Christian disciple. His resistance to the Nazi occupation of Poland; his abandonment of his youthful plans in order to enter an underground seminary; his dynamic ministry in Cracow as priest and bishop; his philosophical and literary work; his efforts at Vatican II; his epic pontificate and its teaching; his role in the collapse of European communism and in the defense of the universality of human rights —

all of this flowed from his radical conversion to Christ.

Why is this important to stress? Because it's his connection to the rest of us. There are over a billion Catholics on this planet; very few of us will enjoy the range of intellectual, spiritual, literary, athletic and linguistic gifts that God gave Karol Wojtyla. Because of our Baptism, though, all of us share with him the possibility of being radically converted Christian disciples. All of us can be Christ's evangelical witnesses in our families, our work, our neighborhoods. All of us can live as though the truth John Paul II taught — that Jesus Christ is the answer to the question that is every human life — is at the very epicenter of our own lives.

That was why he created

"Divine Mercy Sunday."

That is why we should

remember that he was

beatified on that day.

The second thing I hope the Church holds onto, as it enrolls John Paul II among the blessed, is the significance of the date of his beatification: Divine Mercy Sunday. John Paul's fondness for the Divine Mercy devotion, and his designation of the Octave of Easter as Divine Mercy Sunday, struck some as a Polish imposition on a universal Church. Those who thought this were mistaken.

he reduced the number of miracles needed to one for each step.

The May 1 beatification also marked the first time in almost 1,000 years that a pope beatified his immediate predecessor, according to Giovanni Maria Vian, a Church historian and the editor of the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*.

Pope Leo IX, who died in 1054, and Pope Gregory VII, who died in 1085, were recognized as saints immediately upon their deaths, he said. Unlike the entries for later saintly popes in the Vatican's yearbook, the "Annuario Pontificio," the listings for those two popes do not contain specific canonization dates. However, some sources say Pope Leo wasn't formally canonized until 1082 and Pope Gregory wasn't confirmed a saint until 1728.

In what passes for quick at the Vatican, St. Celestine V was canonized only 19 years after he died, but two popes had served between his death and his rec-



THE CATHOLIC DIFFERENCE

GEORGE WEIGEL

John Paul II had an acute sense of the gaping holes that had been torn in the moral and spiritual fabric of humanity by the murderous cruelties of the 20th century. A century that began with a robust human confidence in the future had ended with a thick fog of cynicism hanging over the western world. As he wrote in his striking 2003 apostolic letter, "The Church in Europe," Christianity's historic heartland (and, by extension, the entire western world) was beset by guilt over what it had done in two world wars and the Cold War, at Auschwitz and in the Gulag, through the Ukrainian hunger famine and the communist persecution of the Church. But having abandoned the God of the Bible, it had nowhere to turn to confess this guilt, seek absolution and find forgiveness.

That, John Paul II was convinced, was why the face of the merciful Father had been turned toward the world now. The insight came from Poland; the need was universal. That was why he created "Divine Mercy Sunday." That is why we should remember that he was beatified on that day.

Thank God for such a life, in our time.

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

ognition as a saint by Pope Clement V in 1313, Vian wrote.

The earliest popes were martyred for their faith, which the Catholic Church takes as a clear sign of holiness.

But once the persecution of the Church ended and the papacy gradually gained political influence and, then, actual temporal power, the clusters of pope's names with the title "Saint" before them gets thinner and thinner.

And, in fact, St. Pius X is the only pope who served after the modern saint-making process began in the late 1500s to have been declared a saint. He died in 1914, was beatified in 1951 and canonized in 1954.

In the year 2000, Pope John Paul beatified Popes Pius IX (who died in 1878) and John XXIII (who died in 1963). The sainthood causes for Blessed John's two successors, Popes Paul VI and John Paul I, is continuing, as is the cause for Pope Pius XII, who died in 1958.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for May 8, 2011

Luke 24:13-35

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for the Third Sunday of Easter, Cycle A: the journey to the village of Emmaus. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

- | | | |
|----------|---------------|--------------|
| VILLAGE | EMMAUS | RECOGNIZING |
| MIGHTY | CHIEF PRIESTS | HOPED |
| ISRAEL | THE TOMB | MORNING |
| ANGELS | CHRIST | ENTER |
| GLORY | MOSES | STAY WITH US |
| EVENING | TABLE | BREAD |
| BROKE IT | ELEVEN | RISEN |

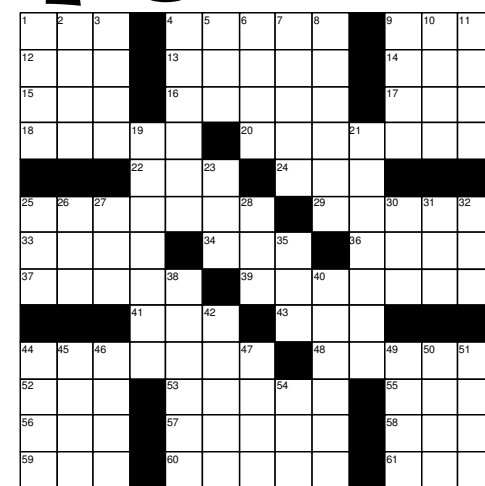
STAY WITH US

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

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The CrossWord

May 8 and 15, 2011



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Based on these Scripture Readings: Acts 2:14, 22-33; 1 Pt. 1:17-21; Lk 24:13-35 and Acts 2: 14a, 36-41; 1 Pt. 2:20b-25; Jn 10:1-10

ACROSS

- 1 Forbidden food animal
- 4 Psalmist king
- 9 New York City
- 12 Terminal abbr.
- 13 Delete
- 14 Note of debt
- 15 Portray another
- 16 Beer mug
- 17 Separate
- 18 Gone astray like ____
- 20 Miracles
- 22 Undergo corruption
- 24 Men's neckwear
- 25 British musical venue
- 29 A thief does

33 "Whoever ____ my flesh"

- 34 Talk incessantly
- 36 Canal
- 37 Master of ceremonies
- 39 Twister
- 41 Sacrificial animal in Bible
- 43 Soggy
- 44 Binds
- 48 Prince of Apostles
- 52 Canoe propeller
- 53 Swap
- 55 American Cancer Society (abbr.)
- 56 Metric weight unit

- 57 Incite (2 wds.)
- 58 All Saints month
- 59 Spelling contest
- 60 Respond to stimuli
- 61 Gross national product (abbr.)

DOWN

- 1 Pod vegetables
- 2 What a mosquito bite does
- 3 Sheep enter by
- 4 Evil ruler
- 5 Alternative (abbr.)
- 6 Scene
- 7 Fool
- 8 ____ the Short, calendar monk
- 9 French city
- 10 Biblical "thy"
- 11 Snips
- 19 Pencil ends
- 21 Lessening hostility between nations
- 23 Attempt
- 25 Ball holder
- 26 One of Noah's sons
- 27 And so forth
- 28 Consume food
- 30 Epoch
- 31 Succor
- 32 Popular papal name
- 35 Captured soldier
- 38 Paschal holiday
- 40 Regret sin
- 42 Join
- 44 Jesus rose from
- 45 Run
- 46 Recommend
- 47 Epic tale
- 49 Zest
- 50 Economics abbr.
- 51 Please respond
- 54 M.D.

Answer Key can be found on page 19

LETTER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

tended to argue that an acclamation of holiness needs to stand the test of time and six years just isn't enough.

In the causes of both Mother Teresa and Pope John Paul, the Vatican said the waiting period was the only part of the normal process that was skipped. Eyewitnesses — including those with doubts — were interviewed, writings were studied, a massive biography was prepared and the Vatican looked for miracles to confirm that both were in heaven and able to intervene on behalf of the faithful.

Interestingly enough, though, both causes benefitted from some streamlining of the sainthood process ordered by Pope John Paul in 1983. Instead of two miracles for beatification and two more for canonization,

Spring into a good book

BY KAY COZAD

The following are recently published books that have been sent to *Today's Catholic* that can touch the fancy of Catholic and non-Catholic readers alike. Each book is reviewed using publishing house press releases and includes publisher name and ISBN number for ease of purchase.

"Parenting Your Adult Child," by award-winning writer and speaker Susan V. Vogt begins with 15 virtues the author feels are needed to parent adult children, from ingenuity and listening to wisdom and unconditional love. The chapters are ordered according to young adult life transition and cover topics such as life after college and choosing a mate. The chapters conclude with reflection questions and prayer to inspire insight. St. Anthony Messenger Press, ISBN: 978-0-86716-972-0

"Friar Jack's Favorite Prayers," by award-winning journalist and Franciscan Friar Jack Wintz explores

several styles of prayer with the author's own personal reflection on each. The collection includes traditional prayers, such as the Our Father and Hail Mary, as well as prayers from St. Francis, St. Clare and many more.

This little book can guide readers on the road to discovering the style of prayer that best suits them. St. Anthony Messenger Press, ISBN: 978-0-86716-991-1

"Living the Sacraments: Grace in Action," by accomplished author Bert Ghezzi explores the

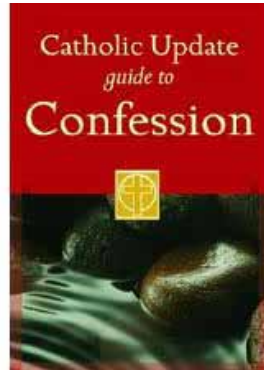
seven sacraments with personal stories, the writings of saints and pertinent Scripture and offers easy-to-read explanations on these seven gifts and how to experience them more powerfully. Each rich chapter closes with thought-provoking reflection and group discussion

questions. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-0-86716-993-5

"Happy Catholic: Glimpses of God in Everyday Life..." by blogger Julie Davis is an intriguing assembly of quotes ranging from saints to *The Simpsons*, each with an insightful

reflection that "draws back the veil" and shows us God in everyday life. It's an interesting read and a continuation of the blog this particular happy Catholic offers. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-0-86716-974-4

"Catholic Update Guide to Confession," is one in a St. Anthony Messenger Press series edited by Mary Carol Kendzia that offers an easy to read up-to-date resource on the sacrament of Penance. The 41-page book is packed with a concise explanation of Confession, tips on how to prepare for Confession, prayers, and a step-by-step guide to participating in Reconciliation. St. Anthony Messenger Press, ISBN: 978-1-61636-003-0



guidance to the changes in the Roman Missal in addition to being a practical resource for anyone returning to the practice of the faith or who are catechizing others about the faith. St. Anthony Messenger Press, ISBN: 978-1-61636-004-7

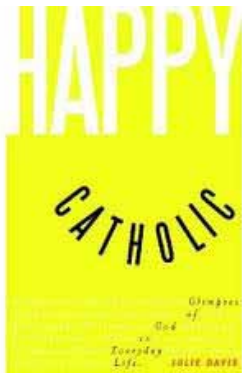
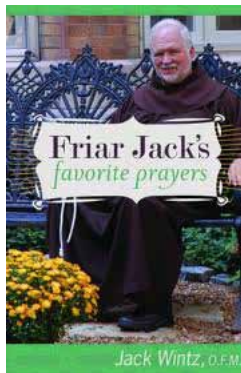
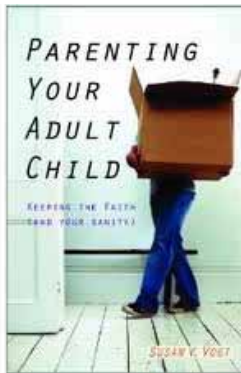
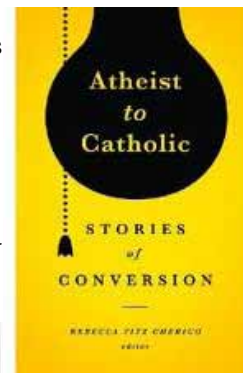
"Marriage: Small Steps, Big Rewards," by Dr. Ray Guarendi is an honest little book packed with straightforward advice from this clinical psychologist and syndicated radio show host of "The Doctor Is In."

Each chapter includes one simple step to a better marriage, common excuses for disregarding the step, scenarios illustrating real life situations concerning the step with commentary by a therapist, and a final word about the step under consideration. The simple strategies in this book offer a way to have a happier marriage. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-0-86716-985-0

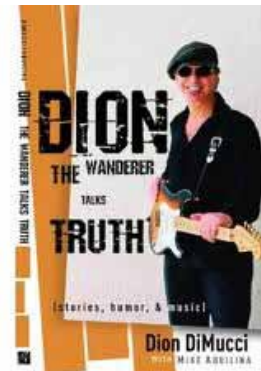
"Dion the Wanderer Talks Truth," by multi-platinum recording artist and Grammy Award winner Dion

DiMucci with Mike Aquilina is Dion's story of his rise to fame and subsequent return to his Catholic roots. His hard won wisdom is told and retold throughout the chapters of this tale. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-0-86716-999-7

"Atheist to Catholic: Stories of Conversion," edited by Rebecca Vitz Cherico is a copulation of personal conversion stories that will inspire anyone. The former atheists in these pages sought the truth and found themselves at home in the Catholic Church. Servant Books, ISBN: 978-0-86716-957-7



"Catholic Update Guide to The Mass," is another in the St. Anthony Messenger Press series edited by Mary Carol Kendzia that answers common questions about the Mass. It offers clear



The Catholic Cemetery of Fort Wayne

invites you to attend

the blessing of our statue of

Saint Mother Theodore Guerin

and our plaque of

Our Lady of Providence

designating the chapel

in the Guerin Mausoleum

as Our Lady of Providence Chapel.

Bishop John M. D'Arcy, presiding

Saturday, May 21, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

at the Catholic Cemetery, 3500 Lake Avenue

Light refreshments will be served after the Blessings.



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Fort Wayne, Indiana



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Qualifications:

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- Commitment to maintain strong Catholic identity
- Eligible for Indiana Administrative License

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS OFFICE

915 South Clinton Street • Fort Wayne, IN 46802

Tel: 260-422-4611 Fax: 260-426-3077

Applications available online at: www.diocesefwsb.org/cso

Applications will be reviewed beginning May 13, 2011

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.

Run for the Rams dinner and auction
Huntington — Huntington Catholic School will have a Run for the Rams on Saturday, May 14, at the Huntington P.A.L. Club. The doors open at 5 p.m. and will include fine dining, an open bar and silent and live auctions. Tickets are \$60 and can be purchased at the school office. All proceeds benefit Huntington Catholic Schools. Call (260) 356-2320 for information.

Matthew Kelly to speak
Granger — The Catholic speaker and author of "Rediscover Catholicism" will be at St. Pius X Tuesday, May 24, from 7:15-8:30 p.m. (doors open at 6:45 p.m.) Tickets are \$10, limited ticket sales. See the website for more details: www.stpius.net/MatthewKelly

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

All-School Reunion planned
Fort Wayne — Central Catholic High School will have an All-School Reunion on June 25 at Clancy's Catering and Event Center, 4832 Hillegas Rd, begin-

ning at 3:30 p.m. For more information, contact Leanne at (260) 485-0290 or Mary Lou at (260) 485-6164.

Women's fertility workshop offered
Fort Wayne — A revolutionary approach to network women's procreative health with their general health called NaProTECHNOLOGY will be presented Saturday, May 21, from 9:30-10:30 a.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in the Mother Teresa room. Contact Theresa Schortgen CFPC at (260) 494-6444 or at chartdaily365@frontier.com. Reservations are required.

Natural Family Planning offered
South Bend — An introduction to Natural Family Planning will be offered Friday, May 13, from 6-8 p.m. at the South Bend Clinic physician's lounge, 211 N. Eddy St., presented by Cathy Rakowski, Ph.D., and is sponsored by Natural Family Planning of St. Joseph County. To register contact (574) 234-5411 or nfpstjoseph@catholic.org. Additional classes will be held on June 3, July 8, Aug. 12 and Nov. 18 at the same location.

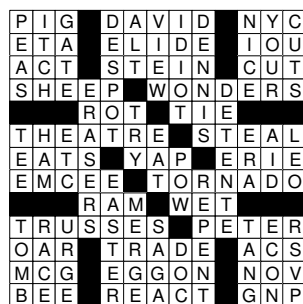
Spring concert presented
Fort Wayne — The Bishop Luers performing arts spring concert will be Sunday, May 15, at 3 p.m. in the gymnasium. No charge.

Inaugural "Nun Run" 5K road/trail race set for May 28

Huntington — The "Nun Run: A Race Like Nun Other!" 5K run/walk will be held Saturday, May 28, featuring a course through Memorial Park, St. Felix Friary and Victory Noll. The run/walk begins at 8 a.m. near the tank at Memorial Park. Awards will follow. The entry fee is \$15 before May 25. The cost then goes to \$20. Registration forms are available at Huntington Catholic School main office, Victory Noll Center and the Huntington YMCA fitness desk. Forms may also be requested by contacting Andy Zay at (260) 356-1588 or by e-mail at azay@sbcglobal.net.

The CrossWord

May 8 and 15, 2011



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REST IN PEACE

Angola

Robert J. Herber, 88,
St. Anthony of Padua

Scott L. Dornte, 45,
St. Anthony of Padua

Auburn

Robert D. Manon,
80, Immaculate
Conception

Fort Wayne

Florence C. Halley, 94,
St. Charles

Dorothy Marie
LaFontaine, 90,
St. Therese

Virginia C. McKenzie,
87, St. Charles

Thomas J. Suelzer, 90,
St. Charles

Karl T. Reed, 85, St.
Elizabeth Ann Seton

Donald E. Harris, 80,
St. Therese

Donald D. Rondot, 85,
St. Peters

Granger

Samuel F. Belardinella,
75, St. Pius X

Mishawaka

Carl Armentrout, 36,
St. Joseph

Shirley M. J. Shafer, 86,
St. Monica

Mary E. Conrad, 92,
St. Bavo

New Haven

Wilma T. Haman,
St. John the Baptist

John George Sladen,
55, St. Louis Besancon

Notre Dame

James P. Seymour, 64,
Basilica/Sacred Heart

Plymouth

Raymond T. Pierson,
85, St. Michael

Clement C. Fox, 85,
St. Michael

South Bend

Clement J. Grall, 94,
St. John the Baptist

Frank A. Ebel, 92,
St. Casimir

Helen M. Golubski, 83,
Little Flower

Helen B. Setter, 98,
Our Lady of Hungary

Sylvester Brown, 87,
St. Augustine

Mary K. Hamann, 50,
Holy Cross

Anna Frigyesi, 85,
Our Lady of Hungary

Warsaw


Pacita P. Franada, 87,
Sacred Heart

DIRECTOR OF CCD

St. Joseph Parish (South Bend) seeks a Director of Children's Catechetical Development (CCD). This part-time staff position furthers the mission of St. Joseph Parish through direction/oversight of the formal religious education of children between the ages of pre-kindergarten through seventh grade who do not attend Catholic school, including of those children preparing for reception of Sacraments. The Director attends to all aspects of the program, including administration, catechist recruitment and support, parent communication and formation, and the planning of events and service opportunities. The Director of CCD also oversees all aspects related to annual four-day-long summer Vacation Bible School for children. Qualified applicants will have a solid grasp of Catholic belief and teaching, strong interpersonal/communication skills, strong organizational skills, and the ability to work well and effectively with children, youth, and adults. A bachelor's degree is required (theology or related field preferred). An advanced degree in theology, ministry, or catechetics is preferred.

For a complete position description, please visit our website at www.stjoeparish.com.

Qualified candidates should send a cover letter and résumé with references to:

 **St. Joseph Parish**
226 N. Hill Street
South Bend, IN 46617

Questions may be directed to
St. Joseph Pastor,
Fr. John DeRiso, CSC,
at (574) 234-3134, ext. 20
or via email at
jderiso@stjoeparish.com.



Development Associate

Priests of Holy Cross currently seeks qualified applicants to fill the *newly-created*, full-time position of Development Associate in the Holy Cross Mission Center. In this position you will work directly for the Mission Center and Development Office to: coordinate/process daily gifts and business reports, maintain the donor database, assist with fundraising operations and the creation of various materials, and provide all administrative support. A Bachelor's degree with two years or an Associate's degree with four years experience is strongly preferred; high-level administrative /technical proficiencies may be considered in lieu of fundraising/development experience. Proficiency with MS Office 2007, outstanding communication skills, the ability to foster relationships with people from diverse cultural backgrounds, and the ability to advocate the goals of the Congregation of Holy Cross is required. Proficiency with fundraising software is strongly preferred. In return for your efforts, we offer a personally rewarding environment considerate of work-life balance and an outstanding compensation/benefits package.

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Priests of Holy Cross, Attn: Human Resources
P.O. Box 774, Notre Dame, IN 46556, (574) 631-5655
or phendri2@nd.edu EOE

BEATIFY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

whom he proclaimed saints and blessed during the almost 27 years of his pontificate," the pope said in his homily.

Pope John Paul during his pontificate beatified 1,338 people and canonized 482 — more than all of his predecessors combined. The beatification of Pope John Paul just six years and a month after his death in 2005 was the fastest beatification in some 500 years.

Pope Benedict said that even at the moment of his death people "perceived the fragrance of his sanctity and in any number of ways God's people showed their veneration for him. For this reason, with all due respect for the Church's canonical norms, I wanted his cause of beatification to move forward with reasonable haste."

After the Mass, Pope Benedict went into St. Peter's Basilica and knelt in prayer for four minutes before Blessed John Paul's casket, which was set in front of the main altar. After the pope left, the concelebrating cardinals filed up to the wooden casket, touching it lightly and kissing it.

Eventually, the Vatican opened the basilica to the general public and planned to keep it open either until the faithful stopped coming to pay their respects or until preparations had to be made for the official Mass of thanksgiving for the beatification May 2.

Thousands of people spent a chilly, damp night camped out near the Vatican in an attempt to find a place in St. Peter's Square when



CNS PHOTO/PAUL HARING

Pope Benedict XVI prays at the casket of Pope John Paul II in front of the main altar in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican May 1, the day Pope Benedict declared his predecessor blessed.

the gates were scheduled to open at 5:30 a.m. for the 10 a.m. Mass. The crowds were so large that police began letting people in at 2 a.m., according to news reports.

Thibaut Cappe, a 23-year-old from Paris, got up at 3 a.m. and managed to find a spot half way up the boulevard leading to St. Peter's Square. He said Pope John Paul "is an example of simplicity in the way of being a Catholic. It's not always easy to be a Catholic in our world. He was doing it in a way that was understandable for everyone."

Alongside the altar in front of St. Peter's Basilica, priority seating was given to official delegations from more than 80 countries, the European Union and the Palestine Liberation Organization. The United States was represented by Miguel Diaz, the ambassador to the Vatican, and by his predecessors, Francis Rooney and Jim Nicholson.

King Albert and Queen Paola of Belgium led the list of royalty present and 16 heads of state attended, including Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski and Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

Valeria Buonpastore, who is from Charlotte, N.C., said Pope John Paul "transcended nationalities. He was universal, that's what made him so great. He was loved by people of other nations, religions. A lot of my Protestant friends loved him, too," she said.

Also in the square was Sister Marie Clarice, a 30-year-old member of the Little Servants of the Sacred Heart from Madagascar.

She said she remembers when Pope John Paul came to Madagascar in 1989; she was only 7 or 8, and the image that has remained is of a person who cared about the weak and powerless. "I remember the way he welcomed the poor. He embraced them, like



CNS PHOTO/L'OSSERVATORE ROMANO VIA CATHOLIC PRESS PHOTO

A Swiss Guard stands at attention as Pope Benedict XVI celebrates the beatification Mass for the late Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican May 1.

this," she said opening her arms in a wide hug.

Speaking briefly in Polish in his homily, Pope Benedict said of his predecessor: "By his witness of faith, love and apostolic courage, accompanied by great human charisma, this exemplary son of Poland helped believers throughout the world not to be afraid to be called Christian, to belong to the Church, to speak of the Gospel.

"In a word: he helped us not to fear the truth, because truth is the guarantee of liberty," the pope said.

Pope Benedict read the formula of beatification at the beginning of the liturgy after Cardinal Agostino Vallini, papal vicar for Rome, petitioned the pope by saying, "I humbly ask Your Holiness to inscribe the venerable servant of God, John Paul II, pope, among the number of blessed."

The pope responded by saying that after consulting many bishops and members of the faithful and after having the Congregation for Saints' Causes study the matter, "the venerable servant of God, John Paul II, pope, henceforth will be called blessed" and his feast will be Oct. 22, the anniversary of the inauguration of his pontificate in 1978.

The crowds burst into sustained applause, many people cried and brass players intoned a fanfare as soon as the pope finished reading the proclamation.

Polish Sister Tobiana Sobodka, who ran Pope John Paul's household, and French Sister Marie Simon-Pierre, whose cure from Parkinson's disease was accepted as the miracle that paved the way

for his beatification, carried a relic to Pope Benedict and then to a stand near the altar. The relic was a clear glass vial of Pope John Paul's blood held in a reliquary of silver olive branches.

Reading a brief biography of the late pope, Cardinal Vallini said he "had lived through the tragic experience of two dictatorships" — Nazism and communism — "survived an assassination attempt on 13 May 1981 and, in his later years, suffered grave physical hardship due to the progression of his illness. However, his overwhelming optimism, based on his trust in divine providence, drove him to constantly look to the horizons of hope."

In his homily, Pope Benedict also spoke of Pope John Paul's suffering and his battle with Parkinson's disease, which eventually crippled him.

"There was his witness in suffering: the Lord gradually stripped him of everything, yet he remained ever a 'rock,' as Christ desired. His profound humility, grounded in close union with Christ, enabled him to continue to lead the Church and to give the world a message which became all the more eloquent as his physical strength declined," the pope said.

"Blessed are you, beloved Pope John Paul II, because you believed," the pope prayed at the end of his homily. "Continue, we implore you, to sustain from heaven the faith of God's people."

Contributing were John Thavis and Carol Glatz at the Vatican.



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—Sister Adele Beacham (formerly Sister Joseph Therese)

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